

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
Board Meeting
January 21, 2020 at 7:30pm



Present: Jane Armstrong, Heather Dillon, Beth Howell-Vervaecke, Rodger Lyster, Judy McFaul, , Liz O’Gorman-Smit, Zach Prescott, Brian Slaughter, Glen Syme, Brenda Tipping, Janet Torrance, and Doug Yeo
Valerie Allen, Grace Mullen

Staff: Vince Brennan, Kathryn Lambert

Absent: Carol Cann, Randy Creighton, Linda Murray, Wayne Pfeffer, Colin Pool, Leonard Riopel, Bart Scherpenzeel

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:32 pm
2. Welcome/Introductory Comments - Doug Yeo

Now that we are in the heart of winter, it seems more comfortable staying in and contentedly not being too concerned about fair business. This actually is the time for all the planning and creating goals for the coming year. It is pleasing to see so many OAAS meetings carry on to complete as much as possible before the Convention following which the new committees are formed. I do have your background sheets filled in from last year. I will try to remember to bring them to the Convention and you can see how successful you were with your goals from last year.

Most of the forms are in so the annual report and all the upcoming pamphlets can be sent to print. Do follow up on ensuring all District Directors have their police checks completed soon – remember it was voted on to not cover any travel costs without the police checks completed and filed with Vince.

It is also that time when anyone who would like a taste of experience on the executive should consider contacting Judy who is on the Nomination Committee. You participate on Executive Meetings whenever they are called.

It is a good time of the year to drop by and speak with your local politicians about the importance of Ag Societies in the community and how much the support of the OMAFRA Grant means for those Societies.

We always need to evaluate ourselves as an organization, as a decision making body, and as Board individuals. This annual activity guides us into better practices as an organization, decision making body and as individuals. Please take the time to reflect on the questions and give the organization your feedback. As a Provincial Director, your role is to provide input on the issues before us and evaluation is one of the important ones. This needs to be done promptly so the tally of the results can be pulled together and be ready for our Wednesday night meeting in Richmond Hill. Thanks for your attention to one of the finals tasks for this term.

Once again thanks for your efforts attending Society AGMs, District Meetings and our OAAS work. It at times seems overwhelming yet it is making a difference for the Societies. Your efforts are appreciated.

Welcome Grace and Valerie, Heather had her home Fair meeting unable to attend.

3. Appoint an Action sheet recorder – Beth Howell-Vervaecke
4. Roll call - Approximately how many meetings did you as a Provincial Director attend in your District in 2019 - *not attendance at fairs?*
5. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Judy McFaul to approve agenda as presented
Seconded by Janet Torrance
Carried
6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none
7. Reminder of Code of Conduct signed
8. Review Action Sheet – Doug Yeo
9. Approval of Minutes of Dec 10, 2019 meeting
Motion by Brian Slaughter to approve minutes as presented
Seconded by Jane Armstrong
Carried
10. Any Business Arising from the minutes?
11. Board Correspondence Received
 - Health Plus Coverage & Rates – Judy McFaul
Motion by Brian Slaughte that we don't proceed any further and respond to the company that we are not interested in pursuing this any further
Seconded by Beth Howell-Vervaecke.
Carried
Action – company be contacted that we have received their package and are not interested at the present time
12. Manager updates – Vince Brennan
 - New 175 Logo – have a couple preliminary ones – going back for tweaking
 - Website update – deadline has come and gone – one proposal submitted. Other firm wouldn't put a quote in because of lack of information from AssistExpo and felt this would have to be a custom build
 - Finance –
Overview of Convention finances compared to this time last year.
 - Stats – advertising down but it was up a lot last year similar to 2018
 - Affiliation fees – down abit this time compared to last year
 - Service members – the same as last year
 - Ambassadors – same number registered so far
 - Governance 22 so far – 26 last year
 - Covention registration – down a bit so far – lot pending – awaiting checks
 - Showcase is up
 - Tradeshow comparable

- Family showcase – comparable
- Partnerships – up from last year

Reviewed Income and expenses spreadsheet

- Received preliminary audit reports back – new person – spent more time than usual having to explain our business to them

Will be looking at a different firm for next year

Motion by Brian Slaughter to approve Financial Report as presented

Seconded by Judy McFaul

Carried

Motion by Brenda Tipping to direct Vince to explore alternative Financial Reviewer for next year's books

Seconded by Rodger Lyster

Carried

Action – Vince to contact firms for tender. Will ask Financial Committee for assistance if required

- Judging update

Homecraft Judging Handbook – will be ready for Convention

New look – double the number of pages

Ag & Hort done by Judging Schools

- Board member end of term Review/Evaluation

New company for survey – didn't like Google survey reports.

Many new questions this year from last year.

Will be coming out in the next couple of days

13. Convention Administrator updates – Kathryn Lambert

Numbers rolling in

Waiting for a few bios for speakers then can send that info to printers

Convention booklet at printers setting up ads

Introducing Directors – on Friday morning – put pictures on the screen

Saturday meeting – introduce new Board before AGM starts

Quite a few volunteers signed up already

- New convention app overview

Let Kathryn know if you find any issues or ideas for change

Suggestion to promote it at Registration – i.e. Sticker on back of name badge with App info

Going live on FB tonight – updates will be live

14. Committee Reports –

- First Impressions
- Strategic Planning- attached
- Youth – report coming

- Sponsorship
- Nominations
- Finance –

Motion by Brian to financially cover the expenses for Vince to attend IAFE zone meeting

Seconded by Roger

Carried

Action: Beth to pass on current recommendations to new Finance chair

- Executive – see attached
- Governance – see attached

Several recommendations for next year committees

Beth suggest that current committee chairs meets with incoming chairs to pass on any recommendations from 2019

Social Media policy – Doug doesn't feel language doesn't match with other Policies.

Jane – top part of policy refers to the person that is posting – you refers

Motion by Jane Armstrong that the Social Media policy be approved as posted

Seconded by Glen Syme

Carried

Action: Jane to meet with new committee member to pass on current recommendations that were being referred to next year

- Ambassador – meeting next week
- Speaker/Sessions
- Registration
- Convention Competitions
- Hospitality
- Auction

15. Adjourned

Motion by Brian Slaughter

Next meeting Feb 12th 2020