



Ontario Camps Association

Board of Directors Meeting – March 29, 2017

10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

OCA Office – 70 Martin Ross Avenue, Toronto, ON M3J 2L4

MINUTES

Present: Eric Shendelman, President
Jonathan Nyquist, Vice President
Rob Carmichael, Vice President
Leon Muszynski, Secretary/Treasurer
Christina Bonner, Director
Jeff Brown, Director
Mark Diamond, Director
Julie Gallie, Director
Karen Hartnett, Director
Brandon McClounie, Director
Kelly Mathews, Director

Regrets: Mike Stewart, Director

Staff: Jen Gilbert, Membership Coordinator and Heather Heagle, Executive Director

1. **Welcome & Introduction**

Eric welcomed all Board Members to the meeting.

2. **Confirmation of Agenda**

Eric added Archives Committee to the President's report.

3. **Approval of the February 28, 2017, Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion #1: Recommend, That the February 28, 2017, Board Meeting Minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by: Brandon McClounie

Seconded by: Julie Gallie

CARRIED

4. **President's Report**

Eric Shendelman

i. Board Liaison/Committee Chair Meeting – Wednesday, April 26th

Eric reminded the Board of the Board Liaison/Committee Chair Meeting taking place at the April 26th Board Meeting beginning at 12:30 pm with lunch followed by the meeting at 1:00 pm.

ii. Archives Committee

Eric informed the Board that Janet Adamson had stepped down as the Chair of the Archives Committee after many years of service. The Board recognized and thanked Janet for all of her work and support for the Association.

Action Item: An email will be sent by the OCA office to Members informing them of Janet's retirement and asking if any Members are interested in becoming the chair of this committee.

iii. Marketing Video

The marketing video project is on hold until the fall. Eric would like to investigate the possibility of creating a sponsorship team which would seek funding from local sponsors where camps are located and also sponsors in Ontario who would benefit from the relationship.

iv. Board Liaison/Committee Chair Positions

Eric reviewed the list of openings for Board Liaison positions. The Nominations Committee position was open and filled by Mark Diamond.

Special Needs Resource Committee

Julie Gallie advised the Board that in September the Special Needs Resource Committee will be looking for a new co-chair to assist with that committee.

*New - Social Justice Committee

In September, Christina Bonner will be contacting Members and the OCA Board asking for their input regarding the responsibilities of this new committee and for committee members.

*New - Outdoor Education Committee

Brandon McClounie will begin to develop the terms of reference for this committee in the near future.

iv. Tri-State Conference

Eric outlined ideas from the Tri-State Conference that could be implemented for the 2018 Annual Conference. Michael Brandwein was one of the biggest draws. Eric stated he had brought these ideas to the Conference Committee this month. The OCA Board and Conference Committee will review OCA's fee structure, a different food schedule, how many delegates are commuting, removing complimentary liquor tickets and other items that impact the budget. Leon informed the Board that the Finance Committee was meeting next week to review the proposed 2017-18 Budget and will report back to the Board in April.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Leon Muszynski

i. February - Financial Report

Leon reported that revenues are higher this year than proposed in the budget. There is still approximately \$28,000.00 of revenue still to be received from events this year. The conference expenditures were higher than expected; therefore, the net forecasted for this year's budget will be lower than expected.

ii. Government Lobbying Budget

Mark Diamond detailed that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program's (TFWP) progress was very positive and he expected that the issue camps had with this program would be resolved in the very near future. The CCA Advocacy Committee is expecting costs to be reduced. There will be charges for monthly reports that will identify any changes by government ministries and there will also be two calls per year with the committee. CCA has committed funds in their current budget to cover these expenses.

Mark also alerted the Board to the possibility of the Ontario Government opening the Labour Standards. This issue has been on the government's radar for a few years. Some OCA Camp Members have already or are in the process of looking at hours worked and preparing to pay minimum wages to their camp staff.

The Board thanked Leon for all of his work and support.

6. **Executive Director's Report**

Heather Heagle

i. Educational Programs

Heather outlined that the Educational Programs happening in April and May now have live registration for the following programs:

Campfire of Inclusion - April 20th, Toronto Botanical Garden

Mental Health First Aid for Adults - April 22nd and April 23rd - OCA Office

Refugee Summer Program - www.refugeesummer.ca

Health Care Conference - May 13th - Bayview Glen Upper School

Counsellor Conference - May 27th and May 28th - Seneca College, King Campus

ii. Meetings with tripping camps and the Mushkegowuk Community in Timmins have taken to discuss the possibility of organizing a canoe trip with aboriginal youth and tripping camp youth for the end of August. Heather will report the progress of this initiative to the Board at the April Board Meeting.

7. **Business Arising**

i. Canada 150th Anniversary Celebrations & Logo

The Board agreed to ask all OCA Camp Members if they would hold a camp-wide singing event, OCA Sings, where they could sing any song they chose, or their camp song, or they could sing O' Canada or Happy Birthday. Camps would be encouraged to take videos and stills of the event and send them to Historica Canada. The camp songs would take place from July 1st to July 7th. The Board would like to provide an item to all camps, at a very low cost, that can be worn by campers for this event the day of OCA Sings so that all of the camps would be identified as an OCA camp.

Action Item: a. On behalf of the Board, messages will be sent by the OCA office to the camps asking them to get involved in OCA Sings.

b. Heather will contact all of the Preferred Vendors, who have the Canada 150 logo, and ask them to provide possible items and costs. Information will be provided at the April Board Meeting.

ii. New Committees – see the above President's Report – Outdoor Education and Social Justice

iii. CCA Government Advocacy Budget – see the above President's Report - Government Advocacy

8. **Committee/Event Reports:**

Awards

Jeff Brown

Jeff reported that the Awards Dinner was well attended. However, the venue is too small for the number of people attending. More space is required to accommodate people's movements and pictures. It may be possible to still have the Annual General Meeting separate and followed by something that is entertaining or educational.

It was suggested that having the Awards Dinner on Wednesday night, at the conference, would provide the needed space, allow more people to attend the event and provide for less travel time for Members.

Educational Events

Karen Hartnett

Karen reported that all events for April and May were organized and ready to go.

OCA Annual Conference

The Board discussed extending the 2018 Annual Conference. It would begin on Tuesday, January 23rd with a program for new delegates, a new Directors program and a Senior Camp Staff program, Super Staff SuperVision (Skills Lab), presented by Michael Brandwein.

Eric suggested that the memorials for members who passed away would take place at one of the keynote presentations. The Awards Dinner, Memorials and Honourary Life Member recognition could all be part of the 2018 conference.

As noted above, the Awards Dinner, Memorials and Honourary Life recognition could take place on Wednesday evening at the 2018 conference. Thursday's social event will still include a casino night as it seems to be overwhelmingly popular.

Most of the Conference Committee will remain to organize the 2018 Annual Conference. There are approximately 11 members interested in joining the committee.

To make the Kindred Meetings a success at the conference, more planning needs to take place prior to the event to have quality discussions. Prior to next year's conference, a survey will be sent to the Kindred groups asking for their topics or issues they would like to have discussed. Many of the Kindreds meet only once a year at the conference. The social foundation is missing for each group. Kindred leaders will be encouraged to do more with their groups to build the connections members want. Timing for the Kindred Meetings will also be reviewed. Guests such as International Delegates and OCA Affiliates will be greeted and assisted by the Community Engagement Committee.

Government Advocacy

Mark Diamond

i. Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Jonathan Nyquist

Jonathan informed the Board that great progress has been made after two and a half years of continual discussion with government representatives. In the next few weeks more information and clarity on exemptions and fees for camps will be provided by the government. This is a huge win for camps in Canada and in Ontario.

The Board recognized the work, time and personal commitment of Jonathan and the Government Advocacy Committee. This program is crucial to so many camps. The Board thanked everyone involved.

Action Item:

A survey is to be developed to find out the number of camps who take their campers to the United States as part of their programs (includes day and overnight excursions).

Marketing

At this time, a report was not presented.

Mentorship

Brandon McClounie

Brandon will begin the process of developing a program for 2017-18 with the office in the near future.

Special Needs Resources

Julie Gallie

Julie reported that this is the first year the committee will be charging a fee for the Campfire of Inclusion. The half day fee is \$10.00 per person and the full day fee is \$15.00 per person. Delegates may bring their own dinner or they may order a box dinner when they register. A phone tree has been organized to call all OCA Accredited Camps to remind them about this event. The Campfire of Inclusion is also supporting the Health Care Committee by providing information about the Health Care Conference and the Counsellor Conference – AVRON is providing financial support in the amount of \$100.00 and they will be demonstrating products at the event. The afternoon program is from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm and the evening program is from 5:45 to 8:00 pm.

Standards

Jen Gilbert

Jen stated that the Standard Committee had met on March 7th and matched 120 camps with Visitors for this summer's Standards Visits process. There are six Standards Training dates which have been provided to everyone. All of the Standards information for camps and visitors will be sent by March 31st. Jen reported that this year the Association had more than enough Senior Visitors and had a good number of Junior Visitors attending the Visits.

The Board thanked Jen and the Standards Committee for their work.

Canadian Camping Association (CCA) Rob Carmichael

i. CCA Marketing Initiatives

Rob informed the board that the Canadian Camping Association's (CCA) marketing initiative, thankstocamps.ca, is now live. Information will be sent to camps to provide the details of how to be involved in this important program this summer. Thankstocamp will illustrate that camp is more than just fun through videos and still pictures. The next initiative, becauseofcamp, will start in the fall of this year. OCA's video content may come from some of the videos that are part of the CCA's initiatives.

ii. International Camp Directors Course

The International Camp Directors Course (ICDC) will be hosted by the YMCA Camp Elphinstone (Gibsons, BC) from November 22nd to 26th, 2017. Registration has begun for this event.

iii. Government Advocacy Budget

The Government Advocacy Committee has contacted the other provinces asking for their financial support. Due to the current positive approach the government is taking with the Temporary Foreign Worker Program this issue may be ending; therefore, Tactix's cost may decrease. CCA committed \$20,000.00 to their 2017 Budget for Government Advocacy.

It was suggested during this discussion that the OCA look at forming a Corporate Sponsorship Committee and also investigate the possibility of approaching the Ontario Government for Lottery funding.

iv. National Leadership Forum (NLF)

CCA will be hosting the NLF in British Columbia at the YMCA's Camp Elphinstone beginning November 20, 2017. Part of the program this year will include an Indigenous Round Table.

9. New Business

i. Internet Issues Leon Muszynski

Leon explained that many camps during the summer months have issues with consistent internet service. At this time Leon is researching communication providers and in particular one company, Iridium Satellite Communications. They work with businesses to increase internet capacity. Leon said he will try to negotiate an industry-wide based solution for camps with this company.

ii. April Board Meeting Attendance


Mark Diamond and Jeff Brown stated that they would not be able to attend the April Board Meeting.


- 10. Next Meeting Dates:** Wednesday, April 26th
Wednesday, May 17st
Wednesday, September 27th

11. Adjournment

Moved by: Jeff Brown - 12:15 pm

Date the Draft Minutes are approved: April 26/17

Signatures: 
OCA President


Executive Director

