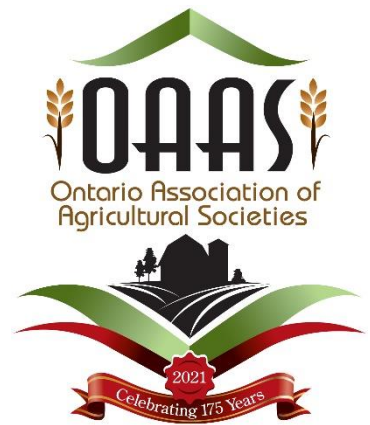


Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
Spring Zoom Board Meeting
April 3 & 4, 2020



Present: Valerie Allen, Carol Cann, Randy Creighton, Heather Dillon, Beth Howell-Vervaecke, Rodger Lyster, Grace Mullen, Linda Murray, Liz O’Gorman-Smit, Heather Owens, Wayne Pfeffer, Zach Prescott, Leonard Riopel, Bart Scherpenzeel, Brian Slaughter, Glen Syme, Brenda Tipping, and Doug Yeo

Staff: Vince Brennan, Kathryn Lambert

Other: Mike Dupuis – Director - District 10

Time: 7:00 pm. and Saturday meeting at 1:00pm.

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm sharp
2. Welcome/Introductory Comments – Brian Slaughter
3. Roll Call – share one key point that you noticed in convention survey
4. Appointment of Action Sheet Recorder – Heather Dillon
5. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion** by Brenda Tipping to accept agenda as presented
 - Seconded** by Linda Murray
 - Carried**
6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none
7. Approval of March 17, 2020 Minutes
 - Motion** by Doug Yeo to approve minutes as emailed
 - Seconded** by Beth Howell-Vervaecke
 - Carried**
8. Any Business from the minutes
9. Review Action Sheet
10. Correspondence Received
 - Article in IAFE magazine

Committee Reports

- Motion** by Liz O’Gorman-Smit to receive reports as circulated
- Seconded** by Leonard Riopel
- Carried**

Program Committees

- First Impressions/Strategic Implementation Program
 - Committee has suggested First impressions put on hold for this year
 - Motion** by Liz O’Gorman-Smit to put First Impressions on hold for 2020
 - Seconded** by Leonard Riopel
 - Carried**

Strategic Plan –the presentation is ready, putting together a letter to go to coaches to do session of training, will include Provincial Directors in mailing to see if they want to do it.

Will be online – some Fairs have requested to do it already.

- Youth - Hasn't met

Standing Committees

- Finance – report
 - Motion** by Liz O’Gorman-Smit that the signing authority for 2020 be left the same as the names currently on file.
 - Seconded** by Valerie Allen
 - Carried**
- Sponsorship – no report
- Governance – report
 - Dealing with Policy 6.1
 - Role of District Director - need more discussion at next meeting
 - Current policy clarification
 - Rates for travel will be reflected in the Travel form rather than in actual policy
 - Motion by** Leonard Riopel that the OAAS Provincial Director be responsible for ensuring that the District Executive members comply with the Police Check Policy (Vulnerable Sector Check) in order to continue in their position.
 - Seconded** by Carol Cann
 - Carried**

Need to add having a police check (vulnerable sector check) added to District Director roles
 Do Districts have it listed in their policies? If the District doesn't enforce it, then we don't pay them mileage.
 Valerie - can you share your info so that Districts can have consistent policy; Carol shared it in an email
 These directives need to go to the Districts prior to elections in the Fall so Districts know before elections.
 Should Society Executive have to have police checks? District Boards have to have, and Secretary and Treasurer are included in District Boards.
 Share samples of policies with the Districts re police Checks
 Priority that Districts must review their policies

Motion by Brenda Tipping that the Provincial Board direct all Districts to update their policy guidelines to reflect the mandatory requirement of all executive members of the District to have a vulnerable sectors check on file.
Seconded by Glen Syme
Carried

Convention Committees

- Ambassador – no report
- Auction – no report
- Speaker/Sessions – no report
- Registration – no report
- Competition – no report
- Hospitality – no report

Ad-hoc Committees

175 Anniversary – report

Ideas from Guy Scott at meeting

Motion by Doug Yeo that Guy Scott be appointed as a non-Board member of the ad hoc 175th Anniversary Committee

Seconded by Leonard Riopel

Carried

Motion by Doug Yeo that each Board Member and staff member if they wish with a 175th shirt to wear at all OAAS, District and Society events

Seconded by Carol Cann

Defeated

Motion by Rodger Lyster if they wished a 175th shirt that each Board Member and staff member would purchase their own shirt.

Seconded by Brenda Tipping

Defeated

Committee looking at making different styles and colours, male and female styles available for purchase.

Motion by Doug Yeo that the two 175th competitions be approved and shared with the Districts and Societies with all the other materials from the Spring Meeting.

Seconded by Leonard Riopel

Carried

- Judging Panel - no report

11. Financial report – Vince Brennan

- Review Statements, Balance sheet, Income and Expense, 2020 Budget

Motion by Linda Murray to accept financial reports as presented

Seconded by Grace Allen

Carried

- Finance – report

Motion by Liz O’Gorman-Smit that redesign of the OAAS website be postponed to 2021 and the existing website receive a facelift.

Seconded by Heather Dillon

Carried

Motion by Liz O’Gorman-Smit the travel budget for fair visits by District Directors and District travel by Provincial Directors be reduced by 50%.

Seconded by Doug Yeo

Carried

Need to inform Ag Societies that we were considering increase in Convention fees – delaying it for this year,

Motion by Liz O’Gorman that the OAAS delay implementing an increase in the Convention registration fees until 2022.

Seconded by Doug Yeo

Carried

12. AODA – Randy

- Planning training – many have done it at work – send out documents to do on line and
- Training can be done on line,

13. Follow up from Board Evaluation- top 3 topics

- Info from Board Evaluation
- COVID is now a top concern
Communication on all levels – District through to Minister

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm until 1 pm tomorrow.

Saturday 1 PM

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Staff: Vince Brennan, Kathryn Lambert

Other: Mike Dupuis

Board evaluation –

Motion by Beth Howell-Vervaecke to take what we have from our Board as recommended points for our strategic plan process in 2020 and link them to our document as our Strategic Plan for 2021 and send it out to everyone as a draft.

Seconded by Rodger Lyster

Carried

14. Board Goals and Strategic plan for 2020 - to be carried over to May meeting

15. Manager’s Report

- Updates (housekeeping)

Directories and Brochures

I have heard back from 73 fairs regarding supplies of passports, Directories and Brochures

Directories – average of 9

Brochures – average of 30 – some didn’t want any or very few – disappointing as this is a product we provide to the Ag Societies to help promote their fairs in their area.

Service Member Brochures – 22 fairs asked for brochures – that is promising

63 Fairs accept passports,

3 have no fee

1 Ag Society doesn’t accept passports and did not request passports.

Looking to decrease the number of Directories to approximately 2,500 from 3,500. Brochures – probably 15,000 to 17,000 instead of 22,000

Outstanding Accounts

3 fairs at this time

What is our policy re providing service?

Motion last time re removing Ag Society from Directory, website, email list, etc. if they have not paid

- COVID-19 Webinar update

Went well – few glitches but positive feedback

Fairs appreciate it

Series happening – next one re Sponsorship – how to ask, going forward

Webinar for Fairs that are not going forward as compared to those that are carrying on

Webinar with District Directors later

Brian – thanks to everyone that attended – if you are able to attend please do

Doug – How much time is COVID-19 taking of your typical day – what percentage?

2 focuses of Board – Convention, and be support and guidance for Ag Societies

How do we give support to our staff and protect them from burnout?

Communication a major part of our support for our Ag Societies

Directors need to step up and volunteer for the gaps because of COVID -19 or find finances to bring in support for Vince and Kathryn. We need to protect our staff

Liz - is there anyplace you see that we can take on some of that?

Fairs looking for us to answer their questions and these are decisions that they need to make themselves

Glen - Blanket email sent to everyone to stop some of the emails.

Will be sending emails on a regular basis with updates

- Website update

Working with our website designer to freshen our current ontarioagsocieties website. Freshening up the layout, organizing files to make it easier to find information

Will save money when we move to new website – old files will be gone and don't have to transfer or remove them then at a higher rate or cost.

- District Spring Meetings

Regular spring meetings not an option this year.

Should we be looking at subsidizing cost of Zoom software to Districts so Districts and Ag Societies can use it to continue to have District and Ag Society meetings.

Motion by Beth Howell-Vervaecke that on behalf of the OAAS we are reaching out to our Fairs by providing them 50% of coverage for Zoom for the year 2020.

Seconded by Heather Owens

Carried

- Judging Schools

Vince noted that he had received requests from several people and Districts that the OAAS consider holding online or virtual Judging Schools. The discussion that followed raised many varied points regarding the feasibility of the option.

Motion by Doug Yeo that OAAS does not support conducting Judging School by electronic means at this time.

Seconded by Wayne Pfeffer

Motion by Leonard Riopel that we send a letter to Greg Torrance indicating that we thank him for his offer as per the above motion.

Seconded by Liz O'Gorman-Smit

Carried

- Cancelled Fairs etc.
If any of your fairs have cancelled – please have them contact me ASAP – so I can mark them cancelled in the Fair Dates Brochure.
- Emergency contact information
 - Still waiting on some of them
- Showman's League
 - Vince was approached by Andrew from Showman's League and wanted us to join with them and provide money to lobby the government for COVID-19 assistance.
Motion by Roger Lyster that the OAAS is not interested in committing employee or financial resources to a lobbying campaign with the Showman's League as our objectives are not the same.
Seconded by Leonard Riopel
Carried

TREIM -

Was to be done by this meeting

Any I received, I will send to Provincial Directors

Questions and info have changed since last year – if Ag Societies did it last year, they need to redo it this year.

Beth will ask Cheryl to send out template.

Not all small fairs don't have people come from outside 40 kms

Not a priority at this time for next 3 months

- Judging School
- Website
- Convention component at the time

16. Convention Administrator Report

- Ambassador Survey maybe for Sat meeting agenda – only 8 people did survey

Linda -They did a pro and cons survey on the room – they were told they had to do the Ambassadors survey, but many didn't do it

- Convention Survey maybe for Sat meeting agenda and use the information from roll call

Key finding –people keep coming back to Convention

People look forward to it

Stats – Website and FB – about 85%

Instagram – 22 %

Need to do more on Instagram

App 63% filled out survey

1st year – build on it next year

Some people didn't know it was available

2019 and 2020 stats for attendance similar

District 8 had 100%o fairs represented at Convention

64 tradeshow

18 live & 8 video show cases

- Updates etc.
- Hotel Agreement for 2021

Curious to see difference between May 1 this year and last year for room bookings
Room rates increasing by at least \$5 per room
8 hospitality suites - booking through OAAS for 2021
Convention committee should be looking to organize meetings in next month
Can Kathryn book rooms for Directors for ahead of May 1st?
Credit cards – directors will have to call into the hotel with their information to confirm their rooms
Any rooms left over this year? - think any empty rooms were booked at last minute
Hotel won't do waiting list
Sandwich cart – they were happy with it. Line ups – worked well will do it again next year.

Motion by Doug Yeo that the Board recommend that Vince make the Judging Program, Convention and updating website less of a priority for the next 3 months.

Seconded by Leonard Riopel

Carried

Motion by Doug Yeo that the Board allow Vince the ability to hire contract assistance with the communications for OAAS COVID-19 responses up to \$5,000 and anything beyond requires Board approval.

Seconded by Linda Murray

Carried

Motion by Brenda Tipping that the Board provide employee assistance program to staff members should they require it.

Seconded by Heather Owens.

Carried

- Convention Reg rates
Seminars – great meeting this morning

Brian - Ambassadors Committee to meet next month or so

Linda – 2 Fairs have cancelled – looking at how to select items to go to District competitions. Perhaps neighbouring fairs could hold separate classes for cancelled fairs.

Take back notes will be sent to Districts and Agricultural Societies

Send any cancellations to Vince so he can update OAAS website

District Director Zoom Meeting – pick a date and let Vince know

Adjourned

Next meeting May 19