

Minutes of 2nd Annual General Meeting Thursday March 20, 2014

Call to Order: Barb Pickworth, Acting Chair, welcomed the members, announced that the necessary quorum was present and called the meeting to order. Copies of the annual report were made available, and members were asked to ensure that they had signed in before they left the meeting.

Members of the various committees introduced themselves.

Facilities Committee: Penny Hersh was not able to be present, but Barb Pickworth summarized this committee's work. It is responsible for venue selection, refreshments and management of volunteers assisting at presentations. She noted that there had been a 4% increase in fees charged by the Burlington Art Centre for the 2014 year. Ampersand, who provide refreshments, have moved the location of these refreshments to the hall outside the meeting room and plan to continue this arrangement next year. She thanked the BAC for all their help with the series this year.

Membership and Website Committee: George MacRae reported that this committee continues to fulfil its mandate by collecting, monitoring and distributing membership information to Board members as necessary, processing registrations for our presentations, communicating with registrants and maintaining a list of contacts for publicity purposes. He noted that a membership lasts for one year after payment for a series. Membership numbers remain relatively steady at 322 due to the limited seating capacity of our venue.

The website committee maintains our website which provides information about our sessions, manages registrations, provides email services and more. There is a new section on our website which provides information from our presentations including slides, when authorized by the presenter, and related internet sites. This committee has also been working with the program committee to provide on-line tools to help manage program development and to create and analyze on-line surveys to assist with future planning. George noted that the website committee is seeking new members to assist with programming and developing our website, particularly someone who has skills with php.

Program Committee: Mairi Fulcher reported that this committee has produced two very successful series this year, "Is Democracy at Risk?" (Fall 2013) and "How Healthy Can We Be?" (Winter 2014). Both were sold out and were extremely well received. There was an enthusiastic response to the Fall 2013 membership survey. Response to these surveys has increased and hopefully will continue to do so. The program committee has lost 2 members this year, and gained 4 new ones for a total of 7. As 10 would be an ideal number, Mairi encouraged anyone who was interested to contact a member of the committee and express their interest. She explained that each series has a coordinator with a subgroup to assist, and an online database to track series development. A coordinator's manual and speaker checklist are being reviewed and updated. Registration for September 2014 will occur in early May and members will be notified online. The next membership survey will be sent out in September or October of 2014.

Treasurer's Report: Barb Pickworth reported on our operating budget for May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014. We had a budgeted income of \$16,000 with an actual income of \$18,800 giving us a variance of \$2800. She explained that our expenditures include costs for website, post office rental, series refunds, venue rental, small equipment, postage, publicity, office supplies, honoraria, speaker travel and contingencies. The budget for these costs was \$12,565 and the actual expenditures totalled \$12,730. She anticipates that costs will increase next year.

Questions: There was one question from the floor as to whether we were a non-profit organization, which Barb answered in the affirmative.

George MacRae queried the audience as to whether they would use a system which allowed them to pay online in the future, and the majority of members agreed that they would.

A member of the audience expressed appreciation to the Board for all their hard work.

The meeting came to a close at 1:55 p.m.

The list of officers for 2014-2015 is as follows:

Board Chair	Barbara Pickworth (Acting)
Secretary	Susan Savage
Program Committee	Mairi Fulcher
Marketing Committee	Barbara Pickworth/Penny Hersh
Membership Committee	George MacRae
Website Committee	George MacRae
Facilities Committee	Penny Hersh
Treasurer	Barbara Pickworth