



Annual General Meeting
Friday October 13, 2017 6pm
Vera Perlin

Minutes

1. Welcome

6:10pm

SONL Board Chair Mark Dawe welcomed the group and brought the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. Mark thanked all the volunteers who needed to travel for coming to St. John's for the meeting. He introduced himself and introduced newest staff member, Sandy. He welcomed Kim McDonald-Wilkes back from leave.

2. Roll call of voting members

1. SO St. John's Club – Patricia Parsons
2. SO Mount Pearl Club – Paul Peddle
3. SO Labrador West Club – Shelley Blackmore
4. SO Happy Valley-Goose Bay Club – Susan Lamond
5. SO Bay St. George Club – Rosie Ryan
6. SO Corner Brook Club – Sidney Hillier
7. SO Exploits Club – Connie Lidstone
8. SO Gander Club – Marg Byrd
9. SO Bonavista North Club – Dave Crocker
10. SO CBS Club – Gail Baker
11. SO Placentia Club – Joyce Walsh
12. BOD Vice Chair – Susan Collins
13. BOD Director – Juleah Lunden
14. BOD Director – Ken Marshall; Proxy by Juleah Lunden
15. BOD Director – Jamie Roche; Proxy by Juleah Lunden
16. BOD Treasurer – Lynn Healey
17. BOD Kate O'Neil – Proxy by Lynn Healey
18. BOD Parent Representative – Patricia Daly; Proxy by Lynn Healey
19. BOD Director – Amanda Hancock
20. BOD RLC Chair - Joe Philpott
21. BOD Director – Carmel Casey
22. BOD Director – Paul Currie
23. BOD Athlete Representative – Heather Miller; Proxy by Shirley Miller

3. Attendees

1. Mary Holloway
2. Everett Russell
3. Betty Lou Russell
4. David Hanames
5. Regina Somers
6. Bob Howard
7. Hubert Spurrell

8. Stephen Ash
9. Velma Mueller
10. Colleen Collett
11. Sherri-Lynn Ash
12. Doreen Bradbury
13. Janet Hawkins
14. Bonnie Evely
15. MaryLou Battcock

4. Approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 2016 Meeting.

Moved: Patricia Parsons

Seconded: Rosie Ryan

5. Board Chair Report

What a fabulous year SONL had! One of our great successes was four of our athletes, Floressa Harris, Justin Dodge, Sandra Smith, and Crystal Young, attending Special Olympics World Games in Austria this past winter. The success of these athletes lifted the image of SONL particularly with all the media attention. Our athletes were fantastic ambassadors for SONL, they were very well received at the Confederation Building meeting with the Ministers and Premier. Our athletes had roads named after them in their communities and even though it was right after Team Gushue's win, it was not lost in the excitement.

We have had a lot of new growth, Labrador West came on as a club. We started Unified sports in four schools in the Tri-Con region that are teams of generic athletes and Special Olympics Athletes which is great inclusion and all four schools had tremendous success running the programs.

Mark Peddle went to Toronto and co-hosted 2016 Special Olympics Canada National Awards with TSN's Vic Rauter. It was a great event and Mark Peddle represented himself very well.

During the last 5 years of the strategic plan we experienced tremendous growth with athletes, volunteers and coaches.

We attended Hill Day last year to talk about our marvellous growth, how wonderful our clubs are and what fabulous volunteers we have.

Our Summer Games 2017 had fabulous energies at both opening and closing ceremonies. We are making it not just a qualifying event but we want this event to be the pinnacle of events, just as important as going to Nationals or World Games. It is THE Olympics for our athletes. We have more athletes attended games than most Provinces, double what some Provinces have attend.

Our program is a grassroots organization. Our volunteers and the people in the room of the AGM are the people who make it all happen. We are so successful due to our volunteers, we need to make sure we thank everyone for their dedication and effort. We have a great board. They make sure we have the funding to do what needs to be done. Our festival is a big event that is always a Must Attend event raising funds for our programming, the success of which relies with the board.

Law Enforcement Torch Run are one of our sponsors. They work on many events throughout the year raising much needed funding. Mark pledged to dive this year and his goal is to raise \$1000!

Progress Club is a wonderful sponsor. We are very lucky to have people like them come on board and help us.

One of the reasons we can get such great funders and sponsors come back again to our volunteers. Mark can go out to the community and talk about our programs and volunteers and how well we do which makes it easier to get sponsors on board.

Another important part of our board is diversity on the board level. We are fortunate enough to have people come and put their skills to work for us, such as Lynn Healy, who is our Treasurer on the board. She oversees our audit done by Harris and Ryan.

6. Financial Report

BOD Treasurer Lynn Healey presented our financial statements from our audit completed on October 12, 2017. We had a qualified audit with full co-operation and no issues that arose. Our statement does reflect a strong position although while our total assets increased, we did have a decrease in fundraising, we believe largely due to the economic climate in our province. In light of the economic climate we did do well over all, and while fundraising was down slightly, our overall fundraising expenses were down as well.

Lynn opened the floor to questions. Rosie Ryan asked how we can get fundraising revenues higher as it is really important to start finding new avenues now, we have come so far, we don't want finances to have an impact on programming which can happen on we start to lose corporate funding.

Trish Williams responded that the board is looking at implementing a new event. We lost our Golf Tournament due to the change in ownership of the sponsor.

Mark Dawe responded that it was a very tough festival year, in part due to the competition of another fundraiser held shortly before our festival with Smiling Land Foundation. We are working on leveraging current fundraisers as well such as the Polar Plunge. We are also working on a Strategic Plan with the Federal Government to ensure funding continues. The board is always open to ideas for future events, our board is an enthusiastic board who is keen on fundraising.

Lynn responded that the Golf Tournament was a key contributor but the fundraising efforts by LETR has helped make up for that deficiency. Lynn added that while the festival is very important, a moving speech at the sponsor luncheon can also be very powerful.

7. Appointment of Auditor

Harris Ryan has been our auditor for many years. We are pleased with their service. There was a motion to appoint Harris Ryan as the SONL auditors for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Moved: Lynn Healey

Seconded: Paul Currie

8. Open Discussion

Colleen Collett gave Kudo's to the Young Athlete Soccer program that was ran. She said it was a fabulous program with many young coaches helping it run.

Rosie Ryan complemented the province as a whole, as we are doing more to prepare our athletes and increasing the quality of our sports.

Mark Dawe agreed with Rosie saying we completely dominated in sport and won more medals per capita than any other province at World Games this past winter.

9. Evan Ash Builder Award

6:45pm

Evan Ash was a builder of many things; a family, church and Special Olympics program. This year we had 5 nominations; Shirley Miller, Rosie Ryan, Maryanne Walsh, Joe Philpott, and Everett Russell. They are all very deserving of the award. We wouldn't have any of the success we have today without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Stephen Ash, the son of Evan and brother to Andrew was there to present the award to the winner, Joe Philpott.

10. Election of Officers

6:55pm

SONL moves for these directors to remain on the Board of Directors; Mark Dawe, Susan Collins; Lynn Healey, Carmel Casey, Juleah Lunden, and Jamie Roche.

Moved: Marg Byrd

Seconded: Gail Baker

SONL has 4 Directors finishing their terms; Peter Billard; Ben Whelan; Joe Philpott and Patricia Daly. Mark Dawe thanked them for their service.

SONL has 3 people put their names forward for the vacant SONL Board positions; Paul Currie from Canadian Progress Club, Bob Howard as Law Enforcement Representative, and Paul Peddle as RLC Chair.

SONL has an opening for a Parent Representative, to be appointed at a later date.

Moved: Juleah Lunden

Seconded: Connie Lidstone

11. Adjournment

Moved: Amanda Hancock

Seconded: Connie Lidstone