

Minutes COC 2015 AGM

The meeting was held at the Terrace room of Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth St W., Saskatoon, SK. The meeting started at 10AM, CST (=12 noon EDLST) of March 29, 2015

Present in person were:

Executive: Calvin Wong, Marlene Young, Peter and Inge Poot

Delegates: Monica De Wit, Bob Lucas, Denise Nelson, Dave Nixon, Faithe Prodanuk, Abu Salleh, Marguerite Salsberry.

Present electronically were:

Jerry Bolce, Louise Holt, Terry Kennedy, Roxanne L'Ecuyer, Kyle Lucyk, Joyce Medcalf, Gail Schwarz.

Elisabeth Markus from the Richmond Orchid Club intended to attend electronically, but she never signed on.

Roll call was conducted by the secretary:

Present were:

Calvin Wong, president

Marlene Young, first vice-president

Inge Poot, secretary

Peter Poot, past president

Central Ontario Orchid Society (Jerry Bolce)

Eastern Canada Orchid Society (Roxanne L'Ecuyer)

Essex County Orchid Society (by proxy to Peter Poot)

Foothills Orchid Society (Margaret Salsberry)

Fraser Valley Orchid Society (Abu Salleh)

Manitoba Orchid Society (Kyle Lucyk)

Niagara Region Orchid Society (by proxy to Calvin Wong)

North Okanagan Orchid Society (Faithe Prodanuk)

Orchid Society of Alberta (Monica De Wit)

Orchid Society of Nova Scotia (Gail Schwarz)

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation (Dave Nixon)

Ottawa Orchid Society (Joyce Medcalf)

Pacific Northwest Judging Centre (Abu Salleh)

Regina Orchid Society (Denise Nelson)

Saskatchewan Orchid Society (Bob Lucas)

Southern Ontario Orchid Society (Terry Kennedy)

Toronto Judging Centre (Terry Kennedy)

Vancouver Orchid Society (Calvin Wong)

Windsor Orchid Society (Louise Holt)

Absent were:

Andre Couture, treasurer

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society

Durham Region Orchid Society

Kingston Orchid Society

Les Orchidophiles de Quebec

Orchid Society of the RBG
P.E.I. Orchid Club
Richmond Orchid Club
South Okanagan Orchid Society
Toronto Artistic Orchid Association
Victoria Orchid Society

Quorum and Notice: Notice of the meeting was sent to all the members by e-mail. 23 voting members were present in person, electronically and by proxy and since 10 is the minimum, we had a quorum.

Minutes of the 2014 AGM were circulated electronically. (Attached)

Item arising from the minutes:

The IT committee was not appointed. It will consist of the president Calvin Wong, Marlene Young, Jerry Bolce and any volunteers that come forward. They must come up with recommendations before September.

Marlene Young moved acceptance of the minutes and the IT direction, seconded by Peter Poot. Passed.

President's report (attached) by Calvin Wong gave a summary of accomplishments for the last year and future goals.

Peter Poot moved, Abu Salleh seconded that the president's report be accepted. Carried.

Vice-President's Report (attached) by Marlene Young

We are on a waiting list to get a 50% off the for-profit price on the GOTOMEETING software, since CITRIX only gives a certain number in a given time period. This software will also allow us to do webinars. AOS would love to share our webinars. These webinars would replace expensive speakers for societies. She has a co-ordinator almost lined up.

New content for the web-site might include information on growing hardy terrestrial orchids and How-To articles such as a reprinting of an article by Greg Allikas on "Secrets of Display Judging"

Marlene had a show publicity meeting after the AGM.

Abu Salleh moved and Monica De Wit seconded that the vice-president's report be accepted. Passed

Treasurer's Report and a covering letter by Andre Couture was circulated to member societies by e-mail (Report Attached)

The covering letter needed to be corrected, since there was indeed an AGM in 2014 whose minutes were distributed electronically and accepted above. SOOS picked up all the costs associated with the AGM and this contributed to the healthy financial position COC finds itself in now.

Peter Poot moved that the audited report and corrected covering letter be accepted, seconded by Denise Nelson. Passed.

Andre Couture proposed that we continue with the present auditor for the next year. Moved by Calvin Wong, seconded by Peter Poot that we continue with the present auditor. Passed

Andre Couture suggested that we give the auditor a \$100 gift since he does not wish to be paid. Peter

Poot moved, Abu Salleh seconded that we authorize Andre Couture to purchase a gift for about \$100 for our auditor. Passed.

Insurance:

It worked well this year and Dianne Gillis and Andre Couture thank all societies for their timely submissions. Andre sent the secretary the following COC membership numbers:

2012 2,229 members, 2013 1980 members, 2014 1888 members, 2015 1776 members.

Travel Grants:

Gail Schwarz reported that as in past years, three societies only have applied for the travel grants. They are Windsor OS, Fraser Valley OS and ECOS. All applicants for 2014 have completed the required documentation. Two more spots are available this year, preferably for societies who have not availed themselves of a grant before.

Monica De Wit moved Dave Nixon seconded that the report be accepted. Passed.

Conservation: (Report Attached)

Marilyn Light's report was circulated electronically.

Marilyn is retiring from her Conservation position. A vote of thanks was passed by all attendees thanking Marilyn for her years of service to the COC. Hers will be big shoes to fill!

Abu Salleh moved and Peter Poot seconded that the report be accepted. Passed.

Loren Heshka has graciously consented to take up Marilyn's role in the COC.

COC Medals:

Andre Couture has the bulk of the inventory and Terry Kennedy and Ingrid Ostrander have some each.

Societies should be encouraged to use them. It is part of the out-reach programme.

Societies using them are asked to send a picture of the winning item to Jerry Bolce to publish in the newsletter. Too few of the pictures are being sent.

Moved by Peter Poot, seconded by Dave Nixon that the report be accepted. Passed.

Newsletter and Web-site: (Report attached)

Newsletter:

A vote of thanks was called for Jerry Bolce to thank him for the hours he spends producing such a great newsletter. All agreed.

Jerry reported that 30% of members are not getting the COC newsletter passed on to them. He urges the recipients in each member society to forward the newsletter to all their members.

The newsletter is at the mercy of the article providers. Inge Poot's speaker transcriptions have helped as have Marlene Young's articles.

Web-site:

Jerry has finished the pull-down menus a year ago. This year he moved the web-site to a different service provider. He moved the site to Word- Press, which uses a different template for the pages and each page has to be fitted into the new format.

Style is a problem. Therefore content has to be edited

The whole thing has to be such that it can be transferred to a new web-master.

Some societies provide minimal information, meaning that Jerry has to spend valuable time searching for the missing information.

Jerry needs direction from the executive committee and from members plus feed-back on how the revamped web-site works.

A plea for IT help for Jerry is going out via these minutes! We are trying to avoid the cost of hiring help and are still hoping for a volunteer! Please let us know of any possible volunteer.

It would cost \$20-25 per hour to hire newly graduated IT students to do this for us. There is however no estimate of the number of hours that would be needed.

The survey that was sent out by our president to get an idea of needs had only 27 responses out of the 100 sent out. It is not enough to get any idea of trends.

Jerry Bolce has agreed to stay on for 6 months to help transition a new editor into the job.

Peter Poot moved, Faithe Prodanuk seconded that Jerry Bolce's report be accepted. Passed.

Calvin Wong stated that the position of **membership liaison** needs to be revived to get a more effective conduit between COC and the members.

The president is to provide a job description.

Core job should be communication. Have a committee doing the various jobs, but have only one person as the identifiable contact person to avoid confusion. At present Gail, Dianne and Jerry and Marlene on social media all do some aspect of the job.

Marlene Young is to re-visit this topic in three months time at an electronic executive meeting.

Calvin Wong moved, Peter Poot seconded that we establish the Liaison position once again. Passed.

Travel Compensation for members of the executive:

Peter Poot presented the results of his investigation of the financial feasibility of this possible action :

First option: is that all 6 members of the executive be reimbursed for up to 50% of their travel expenses (excluding food), up to a maximum of \$500 each. It would require \$3000 that COC does not have in income and could only come out of the reserve fund thus depleting the latter in five years, or a raise in the per member contribution from \$1 to \$2 (that is in addition to the \$1.50/member levied for societies opting into the insurance scheme.) A raise in the per-member-contribution would be vigorously opposed by several societies. Therefore this option is off the table.

Second Option: is that up to two executive members get the maximum of \$500 cost reimbursement. This would require a raise of \$1 of the per member contribution, but would leave the reserve fund untouched. Ottawa OS would support this, but many less affluent societies would not. Or the \$1000 speaker's travel support fund to hosting societies could be substituted for this benefit. However it is hard enough to find hosting societies.

Third option: Is to hold an electronic meeting with or without an associated show. The auction income is gone if no show is associated with the COC meeting. Perhaps an on-line auction is an option. Maybe we could ask societies to hold once-a-year COC- benefit auctions.

Another cost is the GOTOMEETING program. With the not-for-profit discount it costs us \$300 as an initial purchase price. Any meeting/or webinar with up to 100 participants costs \$100 per meeting/webinar with this programme.

This seems to be the only viable option. We should have a face-to-face COC at least every three to four years.

Calvin Wong moved, Dave Nixon seconded that when the meeting is only electronic we should set it to be held in June on a week-end not conflicting with Canadian Judging Centre Dates. Carried.

Calvin Wong moved, Denise Nelson seconded that we have face-to-face COC AGMs at a minimum every three years, more often if we have volunteer hosts. Carried

Webinar sharing with the AOS:

Dave Nixon reported that Orchid Species Preservation Foundation (OSPF) is already sourcing speakers to use in webinars. They want the webinars to be archived to be used in lieu of speakers furthering their organization.

COC wants to use GOTOMEETING because that is the programme used by AOS and means we can learn from them how to do it.

AOS is very interested in using any webinars we produce.

Calvin commented that we want societies to be able to buy the necessary equipment at Walmart and use it to broadcast our webinars to their members in lieu of a speaker on the topic. This is simpler for them than getting a Power-Point presentation and having someone prepare him/herself to present it.

Some speakers like this innovation. There can even be a plant sale associated with such a presentation if plants are shipped to the meeting.

Tom Miranda working from the Smithsonian would be willing to produce a webinar for us.

We have multiple presentations from various speakers that could be turned into webinars.

Overseas speakers and speakers from the other end of our big country become feasible with this tool.

We could redo these presentations at different levels to fit different audiences from school kids to orchid judges and they can just pick it off our web-site as needed.

Patrick Valberick from the Ottawa Orchid Society would be willing to help smooth the technical end of the webinars. He is bilingual, and an aeronautical engineer. Hopefully he can advise us on appropriate hardware for presenters and users.

The monthly maximum cost for GOTOMEETING webinars/meetings is \$100 or \$1200 is the maximum annual cost of using GOTOMEETING to produce webinars. To reduce costs we would do best if we group all of those uses into just a few months.

Webinars produced by GOTOMEETING are stored on the CITRIX web-site.
The Citrix soft-ware has the best rating at present even though it too has faults.

So far AOS just wants to use our webinars...
We should start off easy!

Peter Poot Moved, Denise Nelson seconded that we purchase the software and seek support and partnerships with other organizations and that we will produce three webinars in the next 12 months. Passed with 2 against.

Next AGM Meeting:

We have no invitation to host the 2016 COC AGM and will therefore plan it for **June 18, 2016 at 1 PM EST**, as an electronic meeting. We have to be sure it does not conflict with any meeting of Canadian Judging Centres.

COC Certificates:

Marilyn Light, our first Conservation chair, who has served continuously in that capacity until now, has resigned. Calvin Wong moved, Joyce Medcalf seconded that she be awarded a COC certificate of Merit. Passed with enthusiasm!

New Business:

Helping local societies:

Marlene Young led a discussion of how to get our member societies more members. Master Gardeners showed an interest in guiding people towards help with growing their orchids.

Calvin Wong moved Abu Salleh seconded that the list of all member societies and a contact e-mail be printed on the back of all of our culture sheets. Passed.

Marlene Young proposes **educational grants** as a way to increase awareness of species orchids and start young people in an orchid interest.

She is running a pilot project for young people in Ottawa schools who need volunteer hours to complete their graduation requirements. They can clerk at shows or help out vendors at shows in return for getting signatures for completed volunteer hours. But the students may need to be supervised.

Commercial Growers Info:

COC was approached by **two large commercial growers** for advice on how to get invited to sell at Canadian shows. Any help will have to be ad hoc since all shows differ in their requirements and these are better communicated directly by the local show committees.

We will supply them with show dates.

We will tell them that all shows in Canada want vendors whose plants are labeled with the proper name, that a diversity of plants be offered for sale and that the plants are healthy and pest free.

In return for the individual help we shall ask these vendors to have the applicable COC culture sheets available for their buyers and these sheets will have the list of Orchid Societies with contact information on the back.

We will warn them that the local show committees decide all details.

Bulk Order of Orchid Wiz:

Calvin reported that he has negotiated with Orchid Wiz that if COC can bring in a minimum of 20 new buyers of their programme then we will get a 50% discount on the initial install and the three updates for that year. That would amount to US\$ 153 or half price. This does not apply to renewals. COOS suggested that Calvin also see if a Society license with multiple uses could be negotiated.

Peter Poot moved, Terry Kennedy seconded that the **Saskatchewan Orchid Society** be thanked profusely for hosting such a great AGM and show. Passed.

A **2015/2016 budget** will be circulated by e-mail.

Election of COC officers for 2016:

Peter Poot, the past president, presented the slate of officers for the next year:

Calvin Wong , president

Marlene Young, first vice-president

Second VP position became open recently

Andre Couture, treasurer

Inge Poot, secretary

Further nominations were called for from the floor, there were none and the proposed slate was elected by acclamation.

2023 WOC:

Dave Nixon announced that The Edmonton Orchid Society is exploring the possibility of hosting the 2023 World Orchid Conference. Sandra Svoboda from WOC is coming in April to see the OSA show and look at the Muttart orchid collection. They will get in touch with (?Andre Poliquin of) Montreal to find out what is involved. This is all just a preliminary investigation.

Adjournment:

Calvin Wong moved adjournment, seconded by Monica De Wit, passed.

Respectfully submitted, Inge Poot, COC secretary