

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2021 AGM

**Masters Swimming Ontario
2020 Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, March 27, 2021
Via ZOOM

Minutes

Club Delegates

21 Clubs submitted voting ballots and /or attended the AGM in person.

Linda Vanderhout	Ancaster
Andrea Smith	B-Train
Lynn Marshall	Carleton University Masters
John McIntyre	Downtown Swim Club
Maureen Moustgaard	Laurentian Masters
Bryan Finlay	London Silver Dolphins
Belinda Elysee-Collen	Mississauga Masters
Ryan Saw Manzanilla	Nepean Masters (NSC)
Brad Francis John Scheffer	Norseman Masters
Doug Vanderby	North Toronto
Seth Cole	North York Masters Swim Club (Gators)
Rod Beauprie	Orleans ORCAS
Emi Koyanagi	Ottawa Centre Masters
Dave McMullan	Pickering Masters Swim Club
Eric Piscopo Sharon Wood-Anderson	SOO Polar Bears
Corinne Mott	Stittsville Vicious Fish Masters
Bill Westcott	Technosport

Steve Dafoe	Thunder Bay T-Rays
Brigitte Zirger	TOMS
Christopher Smith	TYMS
Wanda Mathers	Wonder Athletes – Manitoba

Attendees

In addition, 7 swimmers attended the AGM.

Barrie Malloch	Alderwood Teddy Bares
Mike Sweny	MSO Director - Nepean
Phil Rogers	MSO Director - TOMS
Beth Carey	MSO Director – TOMS
Jake Nesovic	MSO Director - TYMS
Sue Weir	MSO Director - TYMS
Chris Cupidio	TOMS

1. Introduction and Roll Call

The AGM was held virtually using ZOOM. All participants were required to pre-register to ensure the integrity of a virtual meeting and only pre-registered participants were sent the ZOOM meeting link on the day prior to the meeting.

A quorum was confirmed.

Note: Club delegates used the pre-registration forms to submit ballots for the various AGM motions before the membership. All ballots were verified, weighted, and tallied prior to the meeting.

In the President's opening remarks, Brigitte Zirger acknowledged the challenges and frustration faced by clubs and swimmers since the arrival of COVID-19. It was also encouraging to see the resilience, humour, enthusiasm, and humanity within the community. While the membership for the new 2020-2021 season is good, despite only half the clubs being able to open. MSO is financially sound and ready to serve all masters clubs and swimmers once we can reopen operations.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was modified by moving "New business" to the end to allow for uninterrupted discussion following the AGM's required business.

Moved by: Brigitte Zirger Seconded by: Chris Smith
Modified Agenda accepted.

3. Acceptance of 2019 Minutes

Accepted unanimously by ballots received via the meeting's pre-registration process prior to the meeting.

4. Business Arising

None

5. Annual reports

President Brigitte Zirger reviewed the events of the year and the impact that COVID-19 had on the 2019-2020 season and continues to have in 2020-2021.

In 2019-2020 thirteen events were scheduled. The season started strongly with a larger *Fast and Furious meet* hosted by Guelph Marlins Masters. A pump failure just 24 hours before the meet led to a new venue and urgent communications to participants. Kudos to meet manager Dawn Larson and her volunteers for pulling off both an age group meet and the masters meet that followed.

The December NYG Pentathlon which had been ongoing since 1978 fell victim largely, but not exclusively, to an SO event of the same format and date. MSO welcomed the return of Downtown Swim Club's *All Out Swim*, a badly needed LCM even in the GTA core. Alderwood celebrated its 45th Anniversary and welcomed the club's founder, Ted Roach, as an honorary starter. MSO took the occasion to publish a tribute to Ted and Thelma Roach on the [This is Us!](#) page of the website.

COVID-19 lockdowns resulted in the cancelation of Provincials, Olympink and the collaborative Milton-Burlington Spring Splash. Despite the loss of the swim portion of the Olympink fundraiser, the organization still raised over \$70K for the Ottawa Hospital's Breast Health Centre.

In response to the surge in interest in Open Water Swimming, MSO released *guidelines for safe open water swimming*. During the summer, MSO offered *Virtual Open Water Challenges* and issued personalized bag tags that identified each swimmer's achievement. Some of the swimmers' stories and photos were included in the Competition Report included in the [2020 AGM package](#). This successful event will be offered again in the summer of 2021.

Reopening the pools in the summer of 2020 was uneven across the province and continues to be a patchwork in the new 2020-2021 season. MSO published a *Return to Swimming Guidance*, issued new waiver forms and worked with returning clubs as they negotiated swimming protocols with local facility owners. MSO lowered annual swimmer fees to encourage early registration and to provide even a small amount of assistance. In the absence of in-person competition, MSO offered the *Not-Quite-Nationals Virtual Pool Challenge*, a series of times swims reported back in three-week cycles. The Challenge was intended to allow clubs to jump in as they gain pool access.

Treasurer Mike Sweny presented the corporation's financials for 2019-2020 fiscal year and the status 6 months into the new fiscal year. Expenses were for the most part in line with budget projections in 2019-2020. While revenue was down slightly so were expenses. The result was a net income of \$1,702 versus a projected budget loss of \$633.

One item of note is an entry in the Statement of *Operations and Changes in Net Assets* of \$7,307 labelled "Over accrual of prior years' affiliation fees". This relates to a 2017 dispute with Masters Swimming Canada regarding MSO's final payment. The disposition of those funds following the resolution of the dispute with MSC was put to the membership as a motion at the 2017 AGM. The disputed funds were booked in the Accounts Payable. The time period for MSC to pursue that claim has expired which resulted in this credit of \$7,307 and the significant reduction in the Accounts Payable shown in the *Statement of Financial Position*.

The effect of the COVID-19 lockdown on MSO's 2019-2020 finances was small. The lockdown occurred on March 13th just two weeks prior to MSO's Provincial Championship and the pre meet surge in membership registration was not realized. Following Provincials, membership registration is normally low but in 2019-2020 this was effectively zero. MSO incurred some

unplanned COVID-related expenses, e.g., the purchase of the Provincials medals from the host club following the cancellation.

Looking forward to 2020-2021, the impact of COVID-19 is more significant. Clubs unable to open and restricted numbers allowed in the pool have resulted in registration numbers being approximately half of normal levels. In addition, MSO decided to offer two “early bird” periods of reduced registration fees in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Additional budgetary highlights and the full financial statements are found on the [MSO website and in the 2020 AGM package](#).

Discussion:

Q - Is there potential to cut expenses? A – MSO's current expenses relate to infrastructure such as websites, communications, and insurance. Professional fees relate to database maintenance and financial oversight. Otherwise, we are volunteers and there are no “staff” expenses per se.

One member commented that while MSO will sustain a loss this year that is the point of having a healthy bank balance. If the organization can survive the pandemic, that will be a success.

6. Notices of Motion

Two motions to amend the MSO Bylaws were accepted unanimously by ballot prior to the meeting. The first motion brings the Bylaws into line with the *Ontario Corporations Act* and current MSO practices. It removes the requirement in the Bylaws to audit the corporation's financial statements. Instead, they can be reviewed by an external accountant. The second motion simply removes the requirement to locate the Head Office in the City of Toronto.

7. Election of Directors

There was one nomination to fill two vacant positions on the Board. The membership was asked if there were additional nominees. No other candidates were identified. Therefore, Rod Beauprie was re-elected by acclamation for a two-year term.

Discussion: Chris Smith referred to the Bylaws which require half the Directors to run for re-election one year and the other half to run for re-election the following year. How did we get out of synch? A: We got out of synch in 2016 when the entire board stepped down and was replaced. Chris suggested that the half the Board should have been elected for a two-year term and the other half for a three-year term. MSO agreed to investigate how to get itself back on cycle before the next AGM.

8. Re-appointment of External Accountants

The motion to re-appoint Schwartz Levitsky Feldman as external accountants of MSO until the next AGM was unanimously passed by ballot prior to the meeting.

9. New business

Chris Smith, TYMS, commented that September 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the introduction of masters swimming into Ontario and indeed, into Canada. It was brought to Canada by Hud Stewart and Al Waites after they attended the second annual US Short Course Championship in Amarillo, Texas. They formed the first official Canadian masters club, the U of T Masters. Chris asked if MSO was planning to recognize this anniversary in any way.

Steve Dafoe, Thunder Bay, commended MSO for the service provided to Thunder Bay and the community, and the strength of the organization especially during these troubled times. He supported previous comments that MSO's financial situation is strong and will allow it to come out of the pandemic well.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM