

2012 QUEER ONTARIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR)

Sunday, November 4, 2012. 2:00 - 3:38 pm. Rm. 201 at The 519 Community Centre in Toronto.

Members Present: Nick Mulé, Chair; Casey Oraa, former Vice-Chair; Richard Hudler, former Treasurer; Martin Otarola, Secretary; Davina Hader, Member At-Large; Alana Boltwood, Research & Education Chair; Dwayne Shaw, Events & Fundraising Chair; Philip Morris, Volunteer Coordinator, Vince R,

Member Regrets: Robert T., John W.,

Guests Present: Susan G., Paris, Stephonknee W., Brian D.

1. Greetings from the Chair.

Nick Mulé greets everyone, calls the meeting to order. Welcome, everyone!

2. Review of the Agenda

Nick goes through the agenda. No amendments or additions can be made.

3. Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the Nov 5., 2011 Annual General Meeting.

No amendments or additions to be made. Davina moves the motion. Alana seconds it.
No Objections. No Abstentions. The minutes are adopted unanimously.

4. Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the Apr 18, 2012 Special General Meeting.

No amendments or additions can be made. Dwayne moves the motion. Casey seconds it.
No Objections. No Abstentions. The minutes are adopted unanimously.

5. Delivery of the Annual Report (Nick Mulé)

Nick reads out the Annual Report. The report has been appended to these minutes.

6. Delivery of the Financial Report (Richard Hudler)

Richard reads out the Treasurer's Report, as well as John Wilson's audited statement.
Both these items have also been appended to these minutes.

7. Non-Binding Discussion on the Affairs and Operations of the Organization

Dwayne points out that Transportation costs are listed at \$0.00, but that we agreed to pay for TTC token as the October meeting. Richard: While this is true, it does not fall within the 2011-2012 fiscal year which ended April 31, 2012; so it will not be reflected in the financial report currently being considered.

Paris asks who named the organization, expresses discomfort with the use of the word 'queer'. Nick points out that the organization's founders agreed to the name and the use of the word 'queer' in 2009, after a long and arduous process. Alana notes that we have an explanation on our website as to why 'queer' was used, points out that it has a definition that goes far beyond -- and in large part *because of* -- its derogatory use.

Alana notes that the Outreach line does not have much of an external connection budget. She would like to propose that we allocate real money -- in the hundreds if not the thousands -- for outreach, be it for online technologies and transportation, or other outreach events and activities.

Brian notes that, ideally, on paper, Alana's suggestion sounds good; suggests that partnerships would be a good means of seeing what is going on in the community rather than to try and do this alone. Brian also points out that 'queer' is a very Toronto-centric term, and that 'queer' may be a problematic word moving outside of Toronto. Peter feels that organizational outreach is an integral part of reaching out and getting the information we want. It will certainly affect funds, membership and volunteers.

Davina feels that having partnerships with other communities is probably the best way to go. Because we are centred in Toronto, which is a hub for government advocacy, we can make sure that we represent the needs and interests of individuals living outside of Toronto, who cannot make it down to Toronto to fight for their issues.

Stephonknee would like to work with Alana. Shows us the link to the Canadian Nursing Students' Association bulletin board; says she can do something similar for Queer Ontario.

Susan asks for clarification on what the motion is. Alana reiterates: That we designate a financial budget to facilitate Queer Ontario's physical outreach activities. Martin intervenes and points out that motions cannot officially be made at an AGM because it disadvantages those members who could not make it today and inform their proxy how to vote on the motion. Understood.

Susan thinks that physically being in other cities is important. Thinks Ottawa makes sense, especially since Committee Hearings on Bill C-279 are coming up on Nov. 27, and Third Reading will likely be in the Spring. Davina notes that the efforts of Queer Ontario has been made to push efforts of Trans Lobby Group forward.

Brian asks us to remember that Queer Ontario is privileged and that it is not the only organization doing work around the province. Queer Ontario can experience resistance because of our sense of self-entitlement, so it is important that we be approachable. Brian points out that a number of organizations have representatives in other cities; that they have other branches.

Davina: There is no question that networking is the way to go. We are doing this to some extent, but we need to expand. Nick: Most definitely, but we also need support to expand -- not only financial, but also bodily support -- word of mouth and whatnot.

Stephoknee: Trans Access team is a good resource because they train individuals for activism and outreach work in their hometowns. It would be good to have a package to hand out to them that they can use to speak to individuals and inform people in their communities about us. Dwayne: We can put a toolkit together.

Peter asks where the Salons fit into our expenses. Richard: They are currently under projects, but that if it's a regular thing, we can make a separate line for it. Agreed.

8. Motion to Adopt the Annual Report and the Financial Report

- (1) Motion to adopt the Annual Report. Davina moves. Peter seconds.
No Objections. No Abstentions. The Annual Report is adopted unanimously.
- (2) Motion to adopt the Financial Report. Casey moves. Alana Seconds.
No Objections. No Abstentions. The Financial Report is adopted unanimously.

9. Election to fill the following positions:

- (a) Vice-Chair.
- (b) Treasurer / Financial Coordinator.
- (c) Member At Large (Not Earmarked)
- (d) Member At Large (Member Residing Outside of Toronto)
- (e) Member At Large (Member Residing Outside of Toronto).

(1) Martin goes through the nomination and election procedures, noting that an individual must have at least majority approval in order to be sworn into the position they are running for. Martin begins the election procedures.

(2) Martin calls for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Davina puts her name forward for the position of Vice-Chair. Davina is a Participating Member; therefore, Davina's name goes on the ballot.

Given that Davina is currently serving as Member At Large (Not Earmarked), Casey asks: Does this mean Davina is resigning from her position as Member At Large (Not Earmarked)? Davina says yes.

Alana asks: Given that the Member At Large (Not Earmarked) that has up until now been filled by Davina is now empty, does this mean this position is available to be filled at this Annual General Meeting as well.

Discussion ensues, Martin checks the bylaws. The bylaws say nothing about the availability of a position upon resignation at an Annual General Meeting. Given this, Casey recommends that the position remains vacant so as not to make up bylaw rules and procedures on the spot. All agree that this is the best solution. Therefore, the position of Member At Large (Not Earmarked) that was filled by Davina shall remain vacant until the next election. Casey adds that Steering has the authority to appoint a Participating Member to any unfilled Steering Committee position, but that the appointment ends at the following AGM unless the appointed individual is ratified by the membership via an election.

Martin makes three final calls for the Vice-Chair position. No one else makes a nomination. Therefore, the nominations for the Vice-Chair position are closed. Good luck to Davina on her run.

(3) Martin calls for nominations for the position of Treasurer / Financial Coordinator.

Richard nominates himself for the Treasurer / Financial Coordinator position. Richard is a Participating Member; therefore, Richard's name goes on the ballot.

Martin makes three final calls for Treasurer / Financial Coordinator nominations. No one else makes a nomination. Therefore, the nominations for the Treasurer position are closed. Good luck to Richard on his run.

(4) Martin calls for nominations for the position of Member At Large.

Susan nominates Stephonknee to run for Member At Large. Martin points out that Stephonknee is not a Participating Member; therefore, Stephonknee cannot run for an elected position on the Steering Committee. Susan accepts this, but asks the Steering Committee to waive that criteria for the next Annual General Meeting. Request duly noted.

Alana nominates herself for the Member At Large position. Alana is a Participating Member; therefore, Alana's name goes on the ballot.

Martin makes three final calls for Member At Large nominations. No one else makes a nomination. Therefore, the nominations for the Member At Large position are closed. Good luck to Alana on her run.

(5) Aside from Gary Kinsman, who is not present at the meeting and has not been nominated for a position, there are no other Participating Members residing outside of Toronto who are eligible for the two Member At Large (Member Residing Outside of Toronto) positions. Therefore, these two positions will remain vacant until the next Annual General Meeting.

Martin notes that, as of today, we have a second Participating Member residing outside of Toronto -- in Ottawa to be exact! This individual will be able to run for an elected position on the Steering Committee at the next Annual General Meeting, should they wish to do so. Martin notes that this non-Toronto opportunity became possible with the bylaw amendment the Membership made back in April, where we began counting volunteer hours towards Participating Member status. It is recognized that this is a significant development in Queer Ontario's history.

(6) Now that the nominations are over, Martin goes over the election procedures, including the proper way of voting so as not to spoil one's ballot. Everyone understands. It is noted that Martin is serving as a Proxy for Participating Member Robert Teixeira.

(7) The Scrutineers are selected:

- (a) The Internal Scrutineer will be Martin
- (b) The External Scrutineer will be Stephonknee
- (c) The Extra Scrutineer will be Brian.

(8) The elections begin:

- (a) Stephonknee takes the ballot box and shows that the ballot box is empty.

- (b) Stephonknee seals the ballot box.
- (c) Martin declares the ballot box open for voting.
- (d) When no more ballots come forward, Martin declares the ballot box closed.

(9) The ballots are counted:

- (a) Stephonknee, Martin, and Brian leave the room to count the ballots.
- (b) Stephonknee, Martin, and Brian return with the empty ballot box.
- (c) All ballots have been inserted into an envelope, which has been sealed and signed by one of the Scrutineers -- in this case, Martin.

10. Delivery of Election Results

Martin delivers the results.

- (a) Davina has received at least 50% of the vote. Therefore, Davina is sworn in as Vice-Chair.
- (b) Richard has received at least 50% of the vote. Therefore, Richard is sworn in as Treasurer.
- (c) Alana has received at least 50% of the vote. Therefore, Alana is sworn in as an At-Large Member (Not Earmarked)

The three are given a round of applause. Susan makes a motion to destroy the ballots. Nick reminds Susan that motions cannot be made at Annual General Meetings. Martin notes that the Queer Ontario bylaws do mandate the destruction of the ballots, so this motion is not even necessary. Duly noted and accepted.

11. Chair's Closing Remarks

Nick thanks everyone for coming out.

Nick invites new members to take part and get involved.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Davina moves the motion. Vince seconds it.

No Objections. No Abstentions. The meeting is adjourned unanimously.