

QUEER ONTARIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Covering the April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 Fiscal Year)

Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013. 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Place: Buddies in Bad Times Theatre: 12 Alexander Street in Toronto + Online

Members Present: Nick Mulé, Chair; Davina Hader, Vice-Chair; Richard Hudler, Treasurer; Martin Otarola, Secretary; Alana Boltwood, Non-Earmarked Member-at-Large 1; Dwayne Shaw, Events Committee Chair; Peter Morris, Volunteer Coordinator; AJ Lowik; Brian De Matos; Denise Freedman; Casey Or, Vince Ro, Nicole Bo, John Wi, Dave Fo, Andrew Fr.

Regrets: Rob Te, Denis Le

Note: The meeting began at 2:26 instead of the proposed 2:00 because of broadcasting difficulties.

Agenda Item 1	Chair Calls the Meeting to Order, Greets Everyone
	Nick calls meeting to order, welcomes everyone.
Agenda Item 2	Chair goes through the Agenda. The Agenda is Fixed
	Nick goes through the Agenda, asks if there are any questions. No questions.
Agenda Item 3	Announcements and/or Preliminary Comments
	Brian notes that the Toronto Trans March organizers are holding a planning meeting at 4:30 pm today at the AIDS Memorial by The 519 Community Centre. All are welcome to attend.
	Casey notes that he is organizing the Night March again this year during the week of Pride. It will be an unpermitted LGBTQ March starting at City Hall and going wherever the crowd goes. The date for this is Monday, June 24 th , 2013.
Agenda Item 4	Motion to adopt the Minutes of the Nov. 4, 2012 Annual General Meeting
	Mover: Nicole. Seconder: John. Votes: No abstentions. None against. All else in favour. Outcome: The Minutes are adopted unanimously.
Agenda Item 5	Chair delivers the 2012-2013 Annual Report
	Nick delivers the 2012-2013 annual report. The report has been appended to the minutes.
Agenda Item 6	Treasurer presents the 2012-2013 Financials & Proposed 2013-2014 Budget
	Richard presents the 2012-2013 Financials, which have been appended to the minutes. This includes John's audit statement, as well as a proposed budget for the 2013-2014 year.
	Richard thanks John for his auditing work.
Agenda Item 7	Non-Binding Discussion of the Operation and Affairs of the Organization
Setting up a	Nicole: What's the process for creating a sub-committee. More specifically: A committee on

committee?	Community Events to get Queer Ontario more involved? Nick: You can propose a committee to the Steering Committee if you want to start one. We currently have an Events Committee that helps produce Queer Ontario events.
What constitutes Ontario- wide?	Denise: What constitutes 'Ontario-wide'? If Pride Toronto and the Catholic School Board is province-wide, what is our position? Can I start an action in Ottawa? Answer: There is symbolic value on dealing with issues that reach outside of Ontario, but actually affect those in Ontario.
	Alana: Topic: Catholic education and upholding laws such as bill 13. Nick: We are presently looking at a public forum that will deal with these issues.
Meetings in Ottawa Queer Ontario Chapters	Denise: Can there be a monthly meeting in Ottawa? Nick: That raises a question about chapters. Many of us are based out of Toronto and most of our work takes place here; and we are fairly established here in that we have monthly meetings. Our bylaws allow <i>some</i> guidance towards the creation of chapters, so if Ottawa individuals would like to create a chapter, they'd be welcome to work towards one.
	Alana: There was some discussion of this on the QO-Discuss group and Denis L was against the idea because we are thinly resourced. Another option would be that we try to work better as an integrated organization where we all get together to work collectively.
	Brian. The chapter idea is important in that each location has various issues that are specific to them and which we, as Toronto people, cannot necessarily address. The chapter will allow people to address these. Alana: Yes, but we can also get an idea of the issues that need addressing through community outreach and research and work from that.
	Nick: We can also have a hybrid approach where we have local chapters and an online space where we all meet communally.
	Dwayne: Can Queer Ontario ask the approach question and pose it online for people to respond to? This would be a way of working towards a solution, to see what people are interested in. Nick: This needs to be carefully drafted before sending out.
Regions in Ontario Participation	Nicole: How many chapters are there? Nick: We do not have any formal ones yet. Nicole: How many geographic areas does Ontario have? Nick: That depends on how you want to draw the lines. Nicole asks this because she wants to get a list of Ontario events, and to get Queer Ontario members out there and participating, as representatives.
	Martin: The only problem with this is that we only have one banner and a table skirt so sharing might be problematic if things are happening far distances across the province.
	Richard: We have new members on our Facebook Group every day, so can we not try to contact them directly? Martin: We can. Nick: My feeling is that the vast majority of people join because they want to support us and hear about our work, whereas others (a small fraction of them) join because they want to get actively involved.
Comment about Sound Quality	Casey: Asks individuals to come up to the microphone. Denise notes that she does not feel this is an equitable discussion based on the way it is structured, technologically.
	Casey adds that having meetings in another location would be great since not everyone has access to a computer. It would also be great not to carry the brunt of the technological limitations all the time

Other	No other discussion.
Agenda Item 8	Motion to approve the 2012-2013 Annual Report
	Mover: Brian. Seconder: John. Vote: No abstentions; no one opposed. The 2012-2013 Annual Report is approved unanimously.
Agenda Item 9	Motion to approve the 2012-2013 Financial Statement
	Mover: Davina. Seconder: Nicole. Vote: No abstentions; no one opposed. The 2012-2013 Financial Statements are approved unanimously.
Agenda Item 10	Motion to approve the Proposed 2013-2014 Budget
	Mover: Brian. Seconder: Dave. Vote: No abstentions; no one opposed. The 2013-2014 Budget is approved unanimously.
Agenda Item 11	Election for Open Steering and Member-At-Large Positions
Overview, Scrutineers	Martin goes over election process. Martin asks if there are any questions. (No) Andrew and Dave volunteer to be scrutineers.
Candidates	Martin calls up the candidates one by one to present their statements. Martin reads out the statements of the members who are unable to attend in person.
Ballots	Martin explains the ballot-marking process. Martin asks if there are any questions. (No)
Ballot Box	Martin notes that he has four Advance-Vote ballots to add to the total number of ballots. Martin opens the ballot box to show that it is empty. Martin seals the ballot box and declares the ballot box 'open' for voting.
Voting	Members cast their ballots. Martin makes three calls for final ballots. Martin declares the voting box closed from voting.
Counting	Martin and scrutineers head outside to count the ballots. Martin returns with scrutineers and the results. Martin announces the results.
Results	Everyone was elected into their posts with majority approval. Therefore: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nick Mulé is our new Chair 2. AJ Lowik is our new Secretary 3. Brian De Matos is our new Non-Earmarked Member-at-Large 2 4. Denise Freedman is our very first Outside-of-Toronto Member-at-Large (1)
Agenda Item 12	Review of the AGM. Recommendations for next year?
Next AGM date	Richard asks that we get a venue now. Richard suggests that it be scheduled for the last Saturday of April, since most of the Saturdays in May are booked. So -- April 26, 2014.

	Martin notes that this may present a problem if we are to provide 30-day notice of the AGM (that is, on March 26th) and our end-of-year is March 31st. That is: we will not have our Financial Statements or any other reports ready to send out with the notice.
	Casey notes that this is not an issue given that Notices can be just that: a notice, without any reports. Martin is aware of this but says that we should still do this to establish a firm deadline and ensure everyone is making informed decisions leading up to the AGM. Duly noted.
Virtual Meetings	Casey recommends that the next AGM be completely virtual.
	Alana thinks this is a good idea and notes that she has attended phone-in AGMs in the past.
	Martin notes that while phone-in AGMs help equalize member participation, it is still inaccessible to those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Martin recommends conducting the AGM online instead i.e. through email, via phases during the course of a month.
	Nicole opposes the phone-in proposal because it may cause an individual to go over their bandwidth limit. Duly noted.
Forward...	Nick proposes that we discuss the details of this further at the Summer Retreat. Alana requests that we speak about this sooner -- that we not delay this further -- given that it is an issue that keeps coming up at each Monthly Meeting regardless.
	Nick agrees that we can take a bit of the next Monthly Meeting to discuss this. Alana proposes that the entire meeting be designated for this, given that we will not be able to resolve the issue in 20-30 minutes. Nick disagrees with this proposal given that the June Monthly Meeting is one of our busiest in terms of issues and planning.
	Nick proposes a July discussion instead. Martin is more favourable to this idea given that it will allow for more time to research virtual meeting options.
	Casey notes that AJ has left the discussion / meeting because they were having trouble hearing the discussion because members were not moving forward to the microphone. It is evident that remote participation technologies / limitations are an issue.
	Nick agrees to take up discussion at our June Monthly Meeting --- so, June 20th.
	Dwayne points out that the 20th is the AIDS Vigil, which may interfere with the meeting. The Vigil starts at 9pm. Nick: Since our Meetings are from 6 to 8pm, there is no scheduling conflict.
Other	No further discussion
Agenda Item 13	Chairperson's Final Remarks
	Nick would like to take a moment to thank Martin, our now former Secretary, for his hard work and contribution to the group. Invites others to come forward and take part.
Agenda Item 14	Motion to Adjourn the Meeting
	Mover: Nicole. Seconder: Andrew Vote: 1 abstention; no one opposed. Outcome: The meeting is adjourned.