

DRAFT Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS)

Captain William Spry Community Centre.

1:30 pm. Thursday, 9th March 2017.

Colin Stuttard, President, chaired the meeting and welcomed all present. Regrets were received from Susan Hazelwood and Heather Schellinck.

With the Chair's agreement, Rolly Lewis reviewed plans for the celebration of SCANS' tenth anniversary. Cakes, pens and a SCANS History written by Rolly Lewis himself have been featured thus far. A reception is planned for 26th May 2017 at the Saraguay House for members and their guests with fun, prizes, and music by Vladimir Sitnikov.

- 1. Approval of the Agenda:** Approved as distributed
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of 10th March 2016:** Approved as distributed.

3. President's Report:

Colin presented his report (copy attached). He noted the valuable contributions made by board members, particularly the outstanding contributions of retiring board members Elizabeth Salton, Lois Block, and Susan Hazelwood. Also, SCANS has gratefully continued to derive great benefit from the pro-bono web expertise of Alex Handyside.

Member Bosco Loncarevic wished to propose a motion to introduce a new category of membership, a spousal membership, in which one spouse would pay full membership and the other 50% of the annual dues. Colin noted that a proposal to change dues must come to a general meeting with prior notification. Indeed, Mr. Locarevic's proposal had been discussed by the board, and referred to the Finance Committee for assessment of its potential ramifications. Therefore, the suggested motion was out of order.

4. Election of Officers and Directors-at Large: (Roland Lewis)

On behalf of the Nominating committee (Rolly Lewis, Joan Hicks, Valerie Latus) Rolly presented the Board of Directors Nominee List (copy attached) and asked for further nominations. There were no further nominations for officer positions and those nominated were declared elected. There were no further nominations for director-at-large positions and those nominated were also declared elected.

5. Office Manager's Report:

Alison Cullingham presented her report (copy attached). Alison's official days in the office are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday but she can often be found there all day on Mondays as well as various afternoons. In the fall of 2016 Alison booked over 1,000 registrations, the most

ever for that fall period. We have 683 members, a 10% growth over the previous year. Mary Walsh and Joan Hicks have been volunteering help in the office.

6. Curriculum:

Elizabeth Salton, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, spoke of the tremendous learning experience her tenure had been. In order to reduce costs the number of courses in H.R.M had been lowered to twelve, each consisting of six weeks. The proposal to limit free membership to new instructors had been reversed. The more comprehensive evaluation of lectures and courses has proved to be very useful. Elizabeth especially thanked Bill Li for laying out the new brochure.

7. Finance:

Carol Lee gave a detailed examination of SCANS' finances. While the books are currently in balance this will not be sustainable in the long term, given inflation and the need for new office and classroom space. Therefore, a future increase in dues might be required. Our budget is based on an assumption of the number of SCANS members, which might not continue its slight upward trend. Budget challenges in 2017 relate to the formula between the number of members (dues income) and the expenses incurred (share of administration, venues, travel, and honoraria costs) for courses in each Chapter. HRM had 435 members in 2016, but only 357 members would have supported the thirty-six courses given. In Mahone Bay, 98 members are needed to sustain course costs, but at present 85 are registered. Truro needs 87 members and currently has 88. Liverpool needs 56 but at present has only 38. Chester needs 67, but now has only 37. The situation has been alleviated by savings in travel in Mahone Bay, Liverpool and Chester and by the generosity of instructors in Truro.

The small office space continues to be a challenge and the search for an inexpensive alternative continues.

If members would pay membership fees by cheque or cash, we could save expensive Paypal fees (projected to be about \$800 in 2017).

A member asked if we have an inventory of equipment. SCANS has a modest amount of equipment, but some venues have in-house equipment which SCANS is able to use.

Alex Handyside wondered about the extra demands on Alison's time when the self-managed website comes into effect. The President noted that the new website will be more lay-person friendly.

Lois Block and Bill Oland audited the books. They confirmed that the records are in good order, and they have signed off on the financial statements. Lois and Bill agreed to be auditors for 2017 and will report to the 2018 annual meeting.

8. Approval of Reports: Lee Ross moved the reports be approved. Agreed.

9. Any Other Business.

Bill Li suggested an initiative to build up a reserve from donations despite SCANS' lack of charitable status and hence inability to issue tax receipts.

Olga Milosovich suggested an endowment fund for SCANS.

10. Adjournment.

At about 3 pm, Mary Wilcox moved that the meeting be adjourned.