

## O.P.T.A. Board Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023, at 7:30PM

**Attendance:** Beau Douglas, BJ Jackman, Emily Brown, Lori Cantelo, Mathew Tyhurst, Ron Rowe, Peter Tsementzis. Absent: Derek Scrimshaw.

BJ called the meeting to order at 7:33pm via Zoom conference call.

1. Mathew made a motion to accept minutes of the October 24, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting minutes, with one edit of the attendance to indicate “All present”. Ron seconded. *All in favour. Carried.*

2. Business Arising from Minutes:

**1. Provincial Tasks:**

Mathew and Peter have been working on the list of tasks for the upcoming Provincial shoot. They will continue to work on it, and present at our next meeting. There will be no major changes, other than removing the Youth Shooting Clinic from the Schedule of Events. Peter emphasized his willingness, along with the rest of the board, to help/mentor any of our shooters during the shoot. A discussion followed regarding the availability of coaching at the Hamilton Gun Club. Peter emphasized that we are trying to maintain our focus as members of the OPTA board, and not of individual gun clubs, although there are definitely challenges with recruitment and coaching at our various clubs. Emily said that we should be trying to encourage as many shooters as possible to shoot trap.

**2. OPTA Memberships to Winter Leagues**

Emily presented an outline of her suggestion that the OPTA offer complimentary memberships to some of our Winter League shooters. A discussion ensued about how to allocate them, as well as how they would be presented. A suggestion was to provide 5 OPTA memberships to each of the 6 leagues presented (Bronze, Intercounty, Quinte, Silver Horseshoe, Southern Counties, Southwestern Ontario), and award them as they deem appropriate, with a focus on awarding them to new shooters. Emily made a motion to present a total of 30 OPTA memberships (5x6 leagues). Lori seconded. *All in favour. Carried.*

### Monthly Finances

**1. Review of current year-to-date financial results:**

Bank: \$47,742.41. Lottery: \$8,486.46. OPTA Handicap Purse: \$1,088. There have been a Couple deposits for registered shoots at Dresden. One shooter to pay his OPTA/ATA dues. Lori suggested we move the \$2,000 donation out of our lottery account and into our general account. We have a GIC with a value of \$26,376 maturing in January. Beau suggested that we re-invest it and have it mature in 2027, so that we continue to have at least one GIC maturing each year. Beau made a motion to approve our draft financials for the year ending August 31, 2023. Lori seconded. *All in favour. Carried.*

## **New Business/Discussion**

### **1. OPTA Strategic Plan Update**

Lori presented our Strategic Plan, with updates for the current year. We continue to grow as an Association, holding more registered shoots than the last couple years, as well as an increase in the number of targets thrown. We have also maintained a balanced budget, grown our membership to almost 350 shooters, as well as being laser-focused on our various directives within our Strategic Plan. People agreed that there are always challenges within our shooting landscape, especially in terms of rising costs. Several board members commended our affiliate clubs, as most of them are trending to hosting more shoots, and subsequently throwing more targets for our members. We will continue to encourage some of our “dormant” clubs to throw ATA targets in the coming year. Lori reminded everyone that over the past couple years, we have started more initiatives and promotional ideas than many years past. Peter thanked Lori for her efforts on this presentation, as well as her work on the trophies using the laser engraver over the winter.

### **2. Ontario Council of Shooters Update**

Emily presented some historical information on the Ontario Council of Shooters, and our evolving involvement with the organization. BJ asked a question regarding the funding for the upcoming year. A lengthy discussion ensued about the specifics of the funding for the member organizations, as well as the use of the funds by the OCS for the Toronto Sportsmen Show (TSS), which they are choosing to hold back from member groups, rather than collecting the money after distribution of funds. The funding for this year, as outlined by the OCS documents sent out, is approximately \$5,900 this coming year, rather than approximately \$12,000 in recent years. Several questions were asked for clarity on the amount of money available, and the uses for said funding, especially the OCS committing \$12,000 to a TSS booth. BJ asked if we had voted in support of this endeavour, and Emily stated that she did not remember the OCS having a vote on this. Mathew asked how the OCS determined how much is held back by the OCS annually, and Emily stated that the OCS decides based on the needs of the organization on year-by-year basis. Beau said that within the “Work Plan” moving forward, any allocated funds must be spent and accounted for by the Ministry, or they may be taken back by the Ministry. BJ stated that we need to make sure that we are current and up to date in the information that is presented to us by the OCS through our representative, Emily. A lengthy discussion followed about the TSS, and the process that the OCS went through to allocate the grant money provided, for example, if it is the OCS Executive, or the member organizations who make these decisions. Lori stated that if we have issues with the OCS, we should approach them directly, and that we need to stay focused on continuing to receive funding from the OCS. *\*\***Note:** An email sent by the OCS on 11/29/2023 stated that there had been a clerical error in their calculations, and that the amount sent to each Member Organization to be \$8,336.00, and not \$5,918.50 \*\**

### **3. Unpaid ATA/OPTA Memberships**

Beau asked if anyone had any ideas for collecting unpaid ATA and/or OPTA Membership dues. It seems like there have been a growing number of members who shoot at registered shoots without a current ATA membership. In the end, the OPTA loses this money, as the ATA withholds the membership cost from our annual ATA rebate cheque. Beau does keep an accurate list of paid OPTA memberships, and we do collect the funds from most unpaid shooters. Discussion followed about sending clubs a list of paid members, which Beau does periodically, and the focus on the obligations of clubs to collect membership dues as part of their duties to host a shoot. BJ suggested that we could perhaps collect the money from the clubs who allow a shooter to shoot without a paid membership.

**4. OPTA Website**

Beau had been in touch with our webmaster about the potential of updating our OPTA website. He had detailed that we are getting closer to needing an overhaul of our editing program and overall website. Will has offered to re-do the site to create something that will continue to work better in the future online, at an approximate cost of \$3,000. Lori said that we should keep current with our website, especially since we are collecting payments within the website, etc. Emily said that if the site has reached the end of its utility, then we should explore this option, perhaps sending the job out for tender, although Will has always been great to work with. She stated that there have been 17 Buy & Sell ads posted in the past month. The Board agreed that we should seek out a formal estimate from Will for the process. Beau will do so and present at a future meeting.

**3. Update from Ron**

Smith Falls has passed their CFO inspection and Ron will work with the club to start throwing registered targets in the spring.

**4. OPTA Shoot Dates**

Beau will email out the OPTA shoot dates to the board to look over, although there are no conflicts.

**5. CTA Update**

Emily said that Vancouver has signed the contract, so the 2024 CTA Championships will be hosted there this year.

6. Next meeting date – January 16, 2023, at 7:30pm

7. Adjournment. Beau made a motion to adjourn. Lori seconded. All in favour. Carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

➤ Items on hold for future discussion