

O. P. T. A. Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 8 2021 at 7:30 PM EDT

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Lori Cantelo, Beau Douglas, BJ Jackman, Bill Drikos, Ron Rowe, Verne Higgs, Pam Muma

Absent: Peter Tsementzis, Emily Brown

Bert called the meeting to order at 7:38pm via Zoon conference call. He welcomed Beau Douglas back to the Board as the Secretary/Treasurer

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Bill made a motion to accept the June 1, 2021 Board meeting. BJ seconded. All in favour. **Carried**
- Bill made a motion to accept the June 15, 2021 Board meeting minutes. BJ seconded. All in favour. **Carried**
- BJ made a motion to accept the June 29, 2021 Board minutes. Seconded by Beau. All in favour. **Carried**
- July 20, 2021 Board meeting minutes: Question asked about OPTA Handicap champion trophy. BJ is working on sending Shamrock bags back to get them re-faced and potentially use them for awards. Verne made a motion to accept the minutes. BJ seconded. All in favour. **Carried**
- Pam made a motion to accept the August 4, 2021 Board meeting minutes. Bill seconded. All in favour. **Carried**
- BJ made a motion to accept the Annual General Meeting minutes. Verne seconded. All in favour. **Carried**

2. Business arising from minutes

1. **Website/Facebook/Twitter**

- Lori raised a concern about the OPTA online presence relying too heavily on one person to run the website and Facebook page. She suggested the more people able to contribute to them, the better. She is wondering if Emily would be willing to train others to be able to contribute to the online presence.

2. **Ontario Council of Shooters**

- Shooting Federation of Canada has their annual meeting coming up. Pam mentioned that all clubs were sent out \$1500 from the OCS. Bert said he was sure the OPTA was receiving money as well shortly, but was unsure of the amount.

3. **New Shooter/OPTA promotions:** Nothing to report

4. **Meet the All-Star Clinic:** This has been pushed back to the spring of 2022.

5. **Shooting in Ontario**

- BJ pointed out that there are 3 OPTA shoots on Sunday the 12th. There was a concern that clubs are jumping on other club dates. Bert reminded everyone that the ATA guideline is that there shouldn't be two shoots within 50 miles of each other. There are no concerns on our end as all the clubs throwing targets on the same day are a fair distance apart.

3. **Monthly finances**

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

- There is one outstanding invoice from Shamrock Leathers to pay that will be paid shortly. We are waiting on the August bank statement to send off the package to our accountant for review. Lori mentioned that she wanted to know a final figure on the trophy cost for the Provincials. After the invoice is paid, we will update financial records accordingly.
- There is a GIC that is maturing in November. Pam suggested splitting it and re-investing it so that time periods match up to have our various GIC investments maturing on a rolling 1 year basis. Board agreed that this made sense and would revisit our options in October.

4. New business

OPTA All Star team

Bert stated that an All-Star team this year simply doesn't make sense. There were only 5-6 shoots and essentially no shooters would have met the target requirements. BJ made a motion to cancel all average related awards for the year, but keep the Mike Fulop award. Lori seconded. All voted in favour. **Carried.**

Open Discussion

- Bert voiced concerns about him and Verne being verbally accosted at a recent shoot over OPTA finances, specifically sponsorship money and transparency with our financial records. Pam has worked hard to maintain accurate and complete financial records available to members. Perhaps there is room to simplify them for member review.
- Bert recommended that a document or chart be created that shows the expenditures and revenue of the OPTA. Our normal financial position at the end of any year is a deficit (aside from cashing in GICs to stay afloat, or the proceeds of our prior legal case).
- Lori stated that the trophy package for the OPTA shoot is more extensive than any other province, in that we offer more Open and Category trophies to shooters. This comes at an increased cost and is a huge change from when members complained about the poor trophy package years ago.
- Bert stated that we cut the majority of sponsorship awards because, in the end, it was not growing our membership or encouraging any further participation. The position of the Board at that time was that running a deficit each year was not a sustainable plan for the Association. Beau will work to come up with a document that shows why the changes were made.
- Bert reminded everyone that \$10 of each OPTA membership goes to the Ontario Council of Shooters, which is returned to us (plus more) as a grant from the Provincial Government.
- Verne mentioned that a shooter had approached him with concerns about the potential for the OPTA Handicap purse to become a mandatory option. While this doesn't amount to much money over the course of a shooting year, Verne suggested that we have information more readily available for members to see so that there is less confusion and so that we can avoid these confrontations in the future.
- Verne suggested an idea to help clubs would be to incentivize them to both bring in new members, as well as have their club members attend the bigger shoots.
- BJ reminded the board that there have been several ideas to get people to shoot more, such as doubles sponsorship, and covering some costs for new shooters who compete for a whole target year.
- Lori reminded us that there is money in the Lottery account. Bert stated that the money can *only* be used for youth shooters, and not the general population.
- Bert suggested using a pool of money to pay clubs a per person or flat rate who are not hosting the OPTA Provincial shoot for the number of shooters who come and shoot. This would give clubs an incentive to promote the shoot, as well as use the money for their own needs. There are several clubs with lots of shooters that do not compete in registered shoots, and there is a great opportunity to get people to join and participate.
- Bert stated that there is a concern out there that shooting takes too long and that our shoots need to become more efficient in terms of signup, classification, payment, and the running of the shoot. There are ways to speed things up throughout the day, which may keep more people around longer and have them shoot more.
- Verne said that clubs could re-evaluate how they run their shoot (perhaps going back to a 4 trap bank system). Members of the board are hearing from people that they sometimes do not attend ATA shoots because it simply takes too much time. Discussion ensued about the viability of pre-squadding, pre-classifying, pre-paying for various clubs. These services are not free and could lead to increased shooting costs or daily fees. Pre-squadding used to be a revenue source for clubs, but with lately it has become somewhat of the norm to have clubs simply absorb that cost to provide a convenience to shooters.
- Bert reminded the board that although it is somewhat of an archaic process at times, classifying shooters manually is necessary for accuracy and fairness to all competitors.
- Lori suggested that the board could improve its visibility at shoots, in terms of actively promoting participation and community within our ranks. There have been many actions by board members in the past year to get to know more new shooters, which has been very well received.

- BJ asked if there was any feedback from clubs who have not participated in the provincewide Handicap purse. Pam stated that there have only been 4 clubs participate. Pam said that she has sent reminder emails to all clubs
- BJ mentioned that there have been payout issues with the Canadian Championships. He is waiting for a comprehensive payout report from the CTA. He also mentioned that there have been some incorrect scores reported to the ATA from a Hamilton shoot. Pam said they could be changed but that will take some legwork to get done.
- Verne brought up the date of the Provincial shoot and keeping it in the month of June. It lines up to have our champion shooters attend the Canadians and the Grand American events, sometimes with sponsorship money from the Provincial and Federal Government. Many years ago, the Provincial shoot was held at the same time as the Canadian Championships, which was a challenging time for all parties. Lori stated that hosting the shoot over a long weekend is easier for some people because they must take less time off work. The board will continue to discuss the dates moving forward.
- Verne and Lori stated that it is really important for the board to remember to listen to the clubs and their members. Our mandate is to look after our paying members and the clubs in the province. However, if we changed the date to conflict with the CTA, we would likely be excluded from the CTA shoot.

5. Next meeting date – Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:30 pm EDT.

6. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

- Items on hold for future discussion –
 - Strategic Plan
 - Hall of Fame Building/Home Grounds

Action required from previous Board Meeting

1. Develop list of grant money or sponsorships available to organizations