



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

**HILTON MEADOWVALE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE
NORTH STUDIO 3
10:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	OLA President (Chairperson)
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Jim Bomhof	VP Junior - Major
	Joe Hiltz	VP Field
	Mike Varanesi	VP Development
	Sharon McKeachnie	Senior B
	Dave Vernon	Junior B
	Sue Powless	Senior Women's Box
	Glen Flippance	Senior Men's Field
	Josh Briscoe	Minor Field
	John Mayo	OWFL
	Shelly Nobile	Zone 4
	Tina Manning	Zone 6
	Jenn Matheson	Zone 7
	Dave Wilson	Zone 9
	Andrew Ecclestone	OLRA President
	Bruce Codd	Technical Director
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
With Regrets:	John Doherty	OLA Past President
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Laurie Hansen	VP Minor
	Lynn Orth	VP Promotions
	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching
	Doug Luey	Major Series Lacrosse
	Dean McLeod	Junior A
	Lisa Cartman	Junior C
	Mike McKay	Zone 5
	Nicole Roe	Zone 8
	Wendy Bennett-Costante	Zone 10
	Mark Scheutzkowski	Junior Men's Field

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 7, 2017**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 10:06 AM.

President's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group, thanked everyone for attending and extended congratulations on a great 2017 season so far.
2. Marion encouraged everyone to use their off-season time responsibly to prepare for 2018. Governors are urged to work with their executives to prepare initiatives to raise the profile of their leagues, zones and associations to increase the overall participation in lacrosse next season.

The OLA Board of Governors shall accept the minutes of the May 7th, 2017 meeting, as presented.

M/ Josh Briscoe

S/ Jenn Matheson

CARRIED.

Zone 9 Report (Dave Wilson)

1. Dave reported that Zone 9's associations had not experienced significant issues aside from the consumption of alcohol at events within the zone.
2. Dave suggested that player release hearings continue to be a time-and-resource-consuming process which raises the stress levels of volunteers at the beginning of the season. Teleconferencing is recommended for future hearings to expedite the process.
3. Dave thanked the OLA staff members for their continued efforts to administer the sport, and commended the zone directors for their assistance and backing throughout the 2017 season.

Junior B Report (Dave Vernon)

1. Dave reported that the Junior B Council had not formally met since March, but that the OJBLL's 2017 season was incredibly successful. Most playoff series after Round 1 required the full five games in order to be decided. The defending Founders Cup champion Orangeville Northmen

represented Ontario in Saskatoon, and retained the championship title by defending the Red Deer Rampage. The 2018 Founders Cup Championship will be hosted by the First Nations Lacrosse Association and will be played in Allegany, NY. The FNLA has agreed to secure work permits for the referees to attend.

2. Dave shared concerns about an increase in referee's fees and the number of referees who were required to officiate double-header games during the portion of the season where all five leagues were in operation.
3. Dave announced that the Wilmot Wild Junior C franchise has applied to enter a team into the OJBLL. The Board of Governors will be advised if the Ontario Junior B Council chooses to approve this bid.

Senior Men's Field Lacrosse Report (Glen Flippance)

1. Glen updated the Board of Governors on the OSMFLL's participation in the CLA's 150th Celebration of Lacrosse in Montreal. Players from the league formed a team (called the "Toronto Lacrosse Club") which competed against players from Quebec (called the "Montreal Lacrosse Club"). The attendance during these games was more than expected.
2. Glen stated that the OSMFLL's 2017 season had begun, with Six Nations as the newest team in the league. The 2017 Ross Cup National Championship will be played in Brampton during Thanksgiving weekend, and will feature one team from British Columbia, one team from Quebec and two teams from Ontario.

Zone 7 Report (Jenn Matheson)

1. Jenn announced her intention to withdraw from involvement as the Zone 7 Director, effective in November. Jenn asked Dave Wilson to provide the September 9th Minor Council Report to Laurie Hansen, which includes questions for clarification from Minor Council.

OWFL Report (John Mayo)

1. John praised the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse League executive for a fantastic season, with competition among 79 teams (an increase of one team over 2016). In addition to the regular challenges related to weather, the league was also constrained by the loss of its top officials to the Women's World Cup games in England.
2. John announced that, given the OWFL's healthy financial position, the league intends to invest resources into officiating development in 2018.
3. John called attention to the change in the Ontario Summer Games dates for 2018, which will cause the OWFL to move its provincial championships

forward by one week to stay in line with its plans to operate U-17 divisions similar to the 2016 program.

Minor Field Report (Josh Briscoe)

1. Josh reported that the total number of teams participating in the spring OMFLL season had increased by eight, but that the number of players on each team was decreasing.
2. Josh shared that the fall OMFLL season has nine U-16 teams participating and eleven U-13 teams, which is of particular concern to the OMFLL Executive. Marion asked what the OMFLL plans to do in order to encourage participation in the fall program. Josh responded that the fall program will be re-evaluated at the conclusion of the season, but pointed out that the ability to host coaching clinics to certify additional bench staff ahead of the fall field season would be a benefit to the program.
3. The Board of Governors discussed the different issues around releases between box lacrosse and field lacrosse; each sector is separate, but complimentary to the other. Cross-promotion was suggested as an approach to introduce younger players to field lacrosse, similar to the girls box / OWFL partnership.

Zone 4 Report (Shelly Nobile)

1. Report submitted.
2. Shelly explained that the committee that was proposed at the 2016 Annual General Meeting to alleviate potential scheduling conflicts between Festival teams and National teams was unsuccessful in ensuring that competition within the Bantam division did not overlap for OLA and FNLA teams. Shelly asked the Board of Directors to submit a written review of the situation to the Canadian Lacrosse Association, which failed to adhere to its own published guidelines for the scheduling of domestic competition. Ron asked Shelly to document the steps that the OLA and FNLA took to work through the scheduling conflicts so that players did not have to choose which event to participate in, so that the written review of the situation could be submitted to the CLA.
3. Shelly asked for clarification on the suspension process for OLA members; there seems to be confusion when participants are involved in multiple roles (box players / field players / coaches / referees). Marion recommended that Minor Council work with the OMFLL and OLRA to put forward a proposal which will clarify the suspension guidelines for participants.

Senior B Report (Sharon McKeachnie)

1. Report submitted.
2. Sharon recounted the experience of the 2017 Presidents Cup, hosted by the Six Nations Slash Can/Am team. Sharon recommended that the Canadian Lacrosse Association become more involved with the operation and execution of its national championships to promote consistency and efficiency in the implementation of each year's season-culminating event. Aside from the organizational opportunities, Sharon remarked on the quality of athleticism by each of the participating teams.

Zone 6 Report (Tina Manning)

1. Tina announced that Zone 6 is hosting a 2018 Planning Meeting on Saturday, September 16th to prepare for the upcoming season. Zone 6 is set to switch to Sportzsoft for its member registration system along with the rest of minor box for 2018.

OWBLL Report (Sue Powless)

1. Report submitted.

OLRA Report (Andrew Ecclestone)

1. Andrew reported that, despite the decline in registered officials in 2017, the season was still successful from the OLRA's perspective. There has been a high turnover rate among RICs and other referees in positions of authority which has negatively impacted established programs, but the OLRA is optimistic that new involvement will be beneficial to the operation of each program.
2. Andrew reported that the OLRA is currently in the process of selecting award winners for the 2017 season. Marion requested that Andrew forward the names of all award winners to Peter by the September 30th deadline.
3. Andrew reviewed the OLRA's perspective in complying with the CLA's box lacrosse referee helmet mandate. Marion directed Andrew to survey the 50-60 referees who wore helmets during the 2017 to determine whether the experience was positive or negative, and to return to the November 10th Board of Governors meeting to present the results.
4. Andrew outlined an OLRA Executive suggestion to establish a box rules committee that included representatives from the Junior A and Major Series leagues and featured dialogue structured around the rules of the game. Jim Bomhof noted that this type of proposal should not be put forward without a recommendation from VP Officiating Frank Lawrence.

5. Andrew provided the Board of Governors with an overview for the 2018 season, which included a review of the collective bargaining agreement between the OLA and the OLRA. The OLRA is seeking three keys during the negotiating period: clean-slate positive thinking, direct consultation with the leagues and facilitated discussions that will affect the future of the game. Andrew suggested that the OLRA is open to extending the length of the contract period beyond the typical two-year frame in order to provide leagues and administrators with the ability to plan further into the future.

VP Reports:

1. Joe Hiltz asked, on behalf of Mark Schuetzkowski, whether it is possible to certify field lacrosse coaches prior to the fall field season. Bruce Codd recommended that a clinic be hosted prior to the fall season in a location that is central among the existing field lacrosse associations. Josh added that the OMFLL fall season program would benefit from this opportunity. Marion directed Joe to work with Bruce and Rick Phillips on a proposal to be circulated to the Board of Directors prior to the December 7th meeting.

Staff Reports:

1. Ron provided the Board of Governors with context on the Ontario Summer Games. The dates of the Ontario Summer Games have traditionally been set by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Because the Ministry has had difficulty securing host locations, control (including the setting of dates) of each Summer Games has been turned over to the hosting municipalities. Ron recommended that the Board of Governors work to prepare a letter to submit to the Ministry to explain how the fluctuation of scheduling has negatively impacted each PSO's ability to operate their provincial championships. The Board of Governors agreed that the dates of the Ontario Summer Games should be challenged to ensure that the logical progression of the sport is:
 - a. Qualifiers
 - b. Provincial Championships
 - c. Ontario Summer Games
 - d. National Championships
2. Bruce congratulated the successes of 2017 Team Ontario program:
 - a. Gold Medal: Pee Wee box, Bantam box, Girls Bantam box, U-19 women's field and U-18 boy's field;
 - b. Silver Medal: Midget box, Girls Midget box and U-15 boy's field.

Review of Old Business:

1. Jeramie reminded the Board of Governors that the deadline for submitting their year-end reports for inclusion in the 2017 Convention Booklet would be October 11, 2017.
2. Jeramie shared the Team Canada management team's two-for-one Heritage Cup ticket offer on October 21, 2017.
3. Jeramie shared information regarding the Ontario Lacrosse Hall's Annual Golf Tournament on September 30, 2017.

New Business:

1. Bruce informed the Board of Governors that he had received a joint request from two junior-aged teams in Quebec to participate in the Ontario Junior "C" Lacrosse League. Marion directed Bruce to forward these two requests to Jim Bomhof and Junior "C" Chairperson Barry Trood.
2. Dave Vernon introduced the proposed volunteer gifts which correspond with the membership's adoption of the Creator's Game Award (30 years of volunteer service), Heritage Game Award (40 years of volunteer service) and OLA Golden Stick Award (50 years of volunteer service). Discussion took place regarding the cost of each proposed award.

The OLA Board of Governors recommends that the Board of Directors approve these three awards for bestowment to eligible volunteers beginning in 2017: a wooden plaque for 30 years of volunteer service, a CLA print for 40 years of volunteer service, and a golden lacrosse stick pin for 50 years of volunteer service. Should these awards become unavailable in the future, the OLA VP Promotions is responsible for sourcing comparable replacements.

M/ Dave Vernon

S/ Dave Wilson

CARRIED.

3. Dave Vernon displayed the certificate he received with his Presidents Award marking 20 years of service. Dave suggested the quality of the current Presidents Award certificate did not match the standard of the certificate that he received. The Board of Governors agreed that the current certificate's design should be altered. Marion directed Jeramie to design and print certificates that were similar in design and quality to the certificates that Dave presented.

4. Glen Flippance provided a brief update on the progress of the Hearings Review Committee. The committee is making headway in revising the current process for hearings, and intends to present its work to the membership in time for the 2017 Annual General Meeting.
5. Josh Briscoe proposed that the Ontario Lacrosse Association consider partnering with the You Can Play Program, in connection with the OLA's anticipated inclusion policy. Josh provided the background and scope of YCPP, and spoke about its benefits. Marion directed Josh to prepare a proposal for consideration at the December Board of Directors meeting.
6. Marion asked about the possibility of translating existing OLA resources into other languages, if necessary. Dave Wilson said that he could arrange for materials to be translated.

Closing Remarks (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion thanked everyone for their dedication and service during the 2017 OLA season.

The OLA Board of Governors adjourn its September 10th, 2017 meeting.

M/ Jenn Matheson

S/ Sharon McKeachnie

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.