



**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE**

In Attendance:	Marion Ladouceur	President
	John Doherty	Past President
	Joe Hiltz	VP Field
	George MacDonald	VP Finance
	Lynn Orth	VP Promotions
	Jim Bomhof	VP Major
	Laurie Hansen	VP Minor
	Frank Lawrence	VP Officiating
	Michael Varanesi	VP Development
	Ron MacSpadyen	Marketing Director
	Stan Cockerton	Executive Director
	Bruce Codd	Technical Director
	Jeramie Bailey	Promotions Director
With Regrets:	Rick Phillips	VP Coaching

**ONTARIO LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2017**

**MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM.

Chairperson's Welcome (Marion Ladouceur)

1. Marion welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending.
2. Stan thanked everyone who participated in the very successful 2017 Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum's annual golf tournament at Glen Abbey Golf Course in Oakville.
3. Stan announced that the OLA has secured its funding from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for an additional two years. Detailed action plans have become an emphasis for the Ministry, and all directors will be encouraged to focus their efforts on revising and executing their responsibilities. Marion added that each director should be prepared for the 2018 OLA Planning Meeting, which will be held February 2-4<sup>th</sup> in Niagara Falls.

*To approve the previous minutes dated June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

M/ Lynn Orth

S/ Laurie Hansen

**CARRIED.**

VP Finance (George MacDonald)

1. George presented the Audit Committee report from Beckett, Lowden and Read for the Board of Directors to review.

VP Development (Michael Varanesi)

1. Michael reflected on the successful operation of the Team Ontario Program during the 2017 season. Initial feedback from associations indicates that the program has gained credibility and effectiveness in its operation. With Bruce now completing his first full year of employment with the Ontario Lacrosse Association, the Team Ontario Leadership plans to increase the number of planning and preparation meetings it hosts throughout the year. Michael stated that he intends to leverage the success of the Team Ontario program to compete with for-profit programs whose operations conflict with the Ontario Lacrosse Association's club schedules.

### VP Major (Jim Bomhof)

1. Jim congratulated the Peterborough Lakers (MSL), Six Nations Arrows (Junior A) and Orangeville Northmen (Junior B) on their Canadian Championship wins, as well as the Grand River Attack (OWBLL), Six Nations Rivermen (Senior B) and Brantford Warriors (Junior C) on their Ontario Championship wins.
2. Jim indicated that he has begun to review the submitted responses related to the Akwesasne Senior Women's Tournament situation and would provide a report on his findings to the Board of Directors.
3. Jim explained that Lisa Cartman has decided not to return as Commissioner of the Junior C Lacrosse League in 2018. Jim is working with the league to find a suitable replacement, but in the meantime, all correspondence should be directed to Junior C Lacrosse Chairperson Barry Trood.

### VP Field (Joe Hiltz)

1. Joe spoke to the declining numbers in both OMFLL and OJMFL fall field leagues. Marion asked if clubs are contacting players who are not returning to determine the cause. Joe responded that anecdotal feedback indicates that for-profit organizations are cutting into the OLA.
2. Joe shared that the OWFL has completed its post-season planning meeting, which includes a reprise of the 2016 Summer Games model featuring the formation of six teams comprised of the league's top U-17 players. Although there were some issues in 2016, the OWFL is confident that these issues can be addressed prior to the 2018 season through communication with league commissioner John Mayo. Marion directed Joe to bring a revised proposal for this model to the December BOD meeting.

### VP Minor (Laurie Hansen)

1. Laurie announced that Brockville Minor Lacrosse Association wishes to resume operations ahead of the 2018 season. Laurie has provided initial instructions to the group in Brockville, who have indicated that they are aware that outstanding debts have been left by the previous group of volunteers. Laurie asked whether the Board of Directors would review debt forgiveness opportunities once the specifics of the outstanding debt are researched. Marion directed Laurie to include Ron in all communications with the Brockville Minor Lacrosse Association.
2. Laurie shared that the tournament committee plans to meet on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the 2017 season. The deadline to apply to host a 2018 tournament is published: Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The intended release date of the 2018 tournament schedule is January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

3. Laurie asked for clarification to the procedure for an association who wishes to leave one zone to join another zone. Marion responded that the process must take place prior to October 31<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to competition in the new zone.

#### VP Officiating (Frank Lawrence)

1. Frank shared the challenges he faced in filling junior – major assignments during the 2017 season. Although the season began on a sour note with senior referees opting not to return, there were relatively few (valid) complaints from teams related to the quality of the officiating.
2. Frank announced that initial preparations have been made for the 2018 certification clinics. While dates for each zone have been determined, locations will not be finalized until the new year in accordance with insurance permit schedules. The NOCP will meet in Hamilton during the October 20-22 weekend to discuss materials. Frank encouraged Jim to check with league commissioners to determine whether or not any rule change requests are necessary.
3. Frank expressed concerns related to the OLA / OLRA collective bargaining agreement negotiation process. John offered to assist Marion through the process. Marion encouraged Frank to begin sooner rather than later.

#### VP Promotions (Lynn Orth)

1. Lynn advised the Board of Directors that compliance information is being recirculated since clubs are making preparations to host their annual general meetings.
2. Lynn shared that initial planning for the 2018 OLA SAGM has begun. Marion encouraged Lynn to establish a committee, including Ron, Fiona and Jeramie and some additional volunteers to assist in making preparations.

#### Past President (John Doherty)

1. John revealed that the CLA's AGM was scheduled for November 16 – 19 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. John is now the CLA Director at Large.

#### Staff Reports

1. Bruce presented the draft outline of the OLA's House League Manual. Bruce has begun preparing the content, and intends to submit a budget at the January OLA Planning Meeting to complete the project. Stan directed Bruce to determine whether or not Coaching Ontario and/or Coach Canada may offer funding for this project.
2. Bruce shared that bid requests to host the 2018 U-15 and U-18 national field lacrosse championships had been circulated.

3. Ron presented the 2018 OLA Registration Model, which calls for expansion of the current online registration system to all minor box zones within the province. A letter to the system provider has been prepared which details the remaining outstanding issues related to online registration from the OLA's perspective. Included in this registration presentation were the preliminary details of the online training sessions that will take place for club registrations during the AGM weekend. Ron recommended that Regional Registrars be hired to facilitate the approval process at the OLA level. Stan indicated that it is necessary to prepare a job description and circulate it to the membership in accordance with the established hiring protocols. Stan also announced that, when Ron was ready to proceed, that it would be necessary to strike a hiring committee which includes members of the Board of Directors to conduct interviews. Ron suggested that the online registration system is intended to be open to the membership by mid-December, and may include fees other than insurance. Stan asked Ron to inform George if this would be the case. Ron proposed that Junior-Major also be included in the online registration process for the 2019 season. The Junior-Major platform will look different than the minor platform to account for the specific regulations applicable to these divisions.
4. Ron recounted the successful introduction of the Try Lacrosse program. Joe asked whether this initiative could be expanded to include women's field. Ron responded that women's field was a priority for Try Lacrosse, and that he would work to introduce the OWFL to the program.

#### Review of Business:

1. Stan advised that the Board of Directors that all lawsuits have been successfully defended against. In conclusion, the OLA's insurance company was awarded costs associated with litigation.

#### New Business:

1. Jeramie shared an email from the Team Canada Management Team requesting OLA support to increase the awareness of the event among OLA clubs. Ron expressed concern about whether email advertising directly to the membership was something that the OLA should be exploring. John responded that the OLA is a Member Association of the CLA, which is a very different type of partnership from any other advertising that the OLA might encounter.

*To authorize a one-time advertisement to be circulated to the OLA Membership Email Database with a specific 2-for-1 offer for OLA members, granted on behalf of the Team Canada Management Team.*

M/ John Doherty

S/ Laurie Hansen

**CARRIED.**

3. Laurie presented Zone 5's letter of support to recognize Tyendinaga as a full member club with the OLA for competition in 2018. Laurie expressed concern regarding Tyendinaga's fulfillment of their compliance requirements and other responsibilities. Marion directed Laurie to ensure that Tyendinaga had completed all outstanding requirements prior to October 31<sup>st</sup> before reintroducing their request at the December 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting.
4. Laurie presented Lacrosse In Motion's submitted House League proposal. The Board of Directors recommended that Zone 6 approve the proposal prior to its approval at the Board of Directors level.
5. Ron shared that he had been contacted by groups in both Strathroy and Woodstock about introducing lacrosse programs within their community. Marion asked Ron to continue his work with both contacts to prepare a proposal for the Board of Directors to review. Ron indicated that he would include Laurie in all formal discussion.
6. Jeramie presented the Board of Governors approved motion related to the articles to be given out to recipients of the Creator's Game, Heritage Game and OLA Golden Stick Awards. The motion recommended that the proposed articles be accepted as awards on an annual basis. Should a particular article not be available in a given year, a comparable substitute will be sourced.

*To approve the awarding of a wooden plaque for recipients of the Creator's Game Award, a CLA Print plaque for recipients of the Heritage Game Award, and a golden lapel pin for recipients of the OLA Golden Stick Award, to be instituted beginning in 2017.*

M/ Frank Lawrence

S/ Michael Varanesi

**CARRIED.**

5. Marion reviewed a code of conduct complaint submitted by an OLA member. The Board of Directors discussed the complaint, and determined that it did not merit further investigation based on the details provided.

Proposed Amendments Review:

1. Twelve (12) amendments were submitted by the membership for review.
2. Zero (0) amendments were excluded because they lacked appropriate signatures.
3. Zero (0) amendments were excluded because they were not submitted on or before the published deadline.

*To approve the twelve (12) submitted amendments that adhere to the published guidelines for dissemination and discussion at the 2017 Ontario Lacrosse Association's Annual General Meeting.*

M/ Lynn Orth

S/ Frank Lawrence

**CARRIED.**

*To adjourn the October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.*

M/ Joe Hiltz

S/ John Doherty

**CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10PM.