

**Ottawa Public Education Retirees Association
Executive Meeting on: Jan. 15 & Jan. 21, 2021
via: Zoom, hosted by Nancy Arbogast**

Item	Decision/Action	
Call to Order	10:30 AM hosted by Nancy Arbogast, via Zoom	
Executive Members Present	Nancy Arbogast, Horst Dannehl, Marg Bryan, Rick Chataway, John Harding, Jan Hynes, Shelley McDonald, Vikki Zulpo	
Approval of Agenda	Nancy presented an agenda to discuss the Continuation of Moratorium, our finances, insurance, and the need to write a Constitutional Amendment to prepare for potential closure of Opera.	
	<p>Discussion on moratorium of Opera's activities: It was noted that the Camera Club is still operating monthly zoom meetings with 5 to 8 people in attendance. Chair Richard Taylor hosts a Zoom meeting for the group. Suggestion put forward to offer some presentations via Zoom from the Social Committee, eg. a gardening presentation by Mary Reid perhaps, Marg Bryan offered to find an author, and Vikki Zulpo offered to do a travel presentation . Rick pointed out that it may be a good idea in order to remind members that the group does still exist. To have a paid subscription to Zoom costs approximately \$250 annually which Opera can afford to pay for if we want it.</p>	<p>Shelley McDonald will ask her social committee if they were willing to try this, and if anyone could host the zoom session</p> <p>Unanimous decision to leave moratorium of activities in place until we hear from Shelley's social committee.</p>
Secretary's Report	n/a	
Treasurer's Report	<p>Horst reported that our chequing and savings accounts combined hold \$7,180.43 We presently have 2 GIC's for a combined total of \$6,202.50. One GIC comes due April 24/21. The other comes due June 19/21</p> <p>Motion: That the April 24th GIC be rolled over into the best interest rate possible for a 1 year term only. Moved: by Horst Dannehl Seconded: John Harding,</p> <p>The executive decided to leave the decision re the June GIC until after our spring meeting. We might need those funds to be in cash in order to operate in the fall, to still offer subsidization of some events.</p> <p>Horst spoke of our insurance. Last year's insurance expired mid December 2020. In September of 2020, a motion was passed to renew our insurance in December even though we were in a dormant stage. (refer to minutes of Sept 29/20). At that time, the group's thought was that we'd be able to start up again shortly thereafter.</p>	<p>Passed Horst will arrange for the roll over of the GIC in April</p> <p>Horst did not renew our insurance for the 2021 year as we are still in a moratorium and the Covid pandemic has us in a full lockdown again. Executive agreed with his decision.</p>
Social Committee Report	Shelley personally is unfamiliar with Zoom for arranging presentations, however she will approach her committee with the suggestion.	
		After contacting her committee, Shelley will report back to the executive at our next meeting.

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<p>Discussion re the motions put forth in New Business in first half of meeting</p>	<p>John Harding commented that if we went ahead with the addition to the OPERA Constitution of the previously approved motion re a method of dissolving OPERA , it might result in the probability of a self-fulfilled prophecy. Discussion ensued.</p> <p>Our present constitution doesn't say anything at the moment, re shutting down the organization. No one on the executive was yet willing to give up attempting to attract new blood to the executive. We are presently in a moratorium because of the Covid pandemic, perhaps no action at this time was necessary.</p> <p>Whenever it appears that OPERA would need to dissolve, for lack of an executive, then at that time, the President could call a General Meeting. It would be at that General Meeting, a motion to amend the constitution could be put forth to clarify the steps necessary for dissolution OR, further efforts could be made to continue the organization. The general consensus was that we didn't need the amendment at this time.</p> <p>Following this discussion a motion to rescind was researched and explained, and deemed appropriate to use in this instance.</p> <p>MOTION TO RESCIND the following: <i>If it is apparent that the organization is no longer viable because 50% of vacant executive positions cannot be filled, then a general meeting will be called to inform the membership of the possible dissolution of OPERA. In the event the decision is made to dissolve OPERA, the executive will be responsible for the closing down and dispersal of funds and property.</i></p> <p>Motion to Rescind: moved by Rick Chataway seconded by Jan Hynes</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>John will NOT be sending out a mass email notifying the membership of a motion to amend the constitution as it was rescinded.</p>
	<p>Shelley is still looking for someone to host group Zoom meetings for possible presentations. Marg has an author willing to do one.</p>	
<p>Continuation of New Business</p>	<p>Nancy Arbogast has tendered her resignation as President, Vice President and House Convenor due to heavy upcoming family commitments. She was thanked for her years of service to Opera, and we hope that she will be able to join us again at some time.</p>	<p>Horst Dannehl, a past president, agreed to fill in as President until a permanent solution could be found.</p>
	<p>It was noted that the executive was formally in need of 5 positions: President, Vice-President, House Convenor, and two Members at Large. Also noted that John Harding has previously expressed his wishes to drastically scale back his multiple duties as chair of Opera Online, so those too will need to be filled.</p>	
	<p>John mentioned that there were 4 new members this month! We all agreed that we should continue to work towards attracting new retirees, hoping to generate new blood to the executive.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday April 14, 2021 at 2pm</p>	
<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>2:40pm</p>	

