

**Education Retirees Association of Ottawa
AGM Meeting Minutes
Algonquin International Restaurant
Date: Wednesday May 22, 2024**

Item		Decision/Action
Call to Order	1:20 pm	
Executive Members Present	President: Chris Borzecki Vice President: Vacant Secretary: Vikki Zulpo Treasurer: Horst Dannehl Registrar: Cheryl Cavell, regrets Social Committee Chair(s): Shelley McDonald ERAO Online Chair: Rick Chataway, regrets House Convenor: Sue Peter-Weeks Past President: Horst Dannehl Members at Large: Margaret Bryan, regrets Stuart Fraser, regrets Vacant, Vacant	
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve agenda by Sue Peter-Weeks Seconded by Shelley McDonald	Passed
Approval of Previous Minutes	Last year's AGM minutes were posted on our website and available for the membership to read. No additions or corrections were needed. Motion to approve by Vikki Zulpo, seconded by Sue Peter-Weeks	Passed
	The annual reports by executive members are attached as an addendum at the end of these minutes. Printed copies were available at the AGM and the executive received email copies of all reports prior to the meeting. The following "report section" will highlight any questions that arose from the reading of these reports, otherwise will indicate only their approval and acceptance.	
President's Report	Motion to approve the President's Report by Chris Borzecki, seconded by John Harding	Passed
Treasurer's report	Horst presented the Treasurer's report and noted that it as yet, has not been audited. He also welcomed Sue Peter-Weeks as taking over this position for the upcoming year. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Horst Dannehl, seconded by Vikki Zulpo	Passed
Secretary's Report	Motion to approve the Secretary's Report by Vikki Zulpo, seconded by Jan Hynes	Passed
Social Committee Chair's report	A brief discussion of the declining numbers attending our activities took place. It was noted that of over 400 members, only approximately 3% are participating, and most of them are the same members. The last few blast emails however have been opened by all members! This situation will be discussed at a future time, however there was the suggestion of inviting all of the Social Committee members to that meeting, and possibly sending out a survey in order to see if we can increase participation in our activities in the future. Motion to approve the Social Committee Report by Shelley McDonald, seconded by Donna Edwards	Passed

Registrar's Report	<p>It was noted in the report that we have gained new members, and that some have retired from boards other than local ones, indicating perhaps that our new webpage is making it easy for newcomers to find us.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Registrar's Report by Vikki Zulpo, seconded by Ron Conboy</p>	Passed
House Convenor's Report	<p>Sue noted that the filing cabinet in Room 102 needed cleaning out, and probably needs replacing as it no longer can lock.</p> <p>Motion to approve the House Convenor's Report by Sue Peter-Weeks, seconded by Shelley McDonald</p>	<p>Sue will do the cleaning/reorganizing of the filing cabinet</p> <p>Passed</p>
ERAO Online Chair's report	<p>Motion to approve the ERAO Online Report by John Harding, seconded by Horst Dannehl</p>	Passed
New Business	<p>Tribute to John Harding</p> <p>Recognition of the many years of John Harding's contributions to OPERA was summarized beautifully by Jan Hynes. The enormous amount of work that he did to transition us from using BEAM and First Class with OCDSB, to "operaonline.ca" (running classes even to teach us how to use the new system) was particularly noted. He has contributed many years on our executive. And even now, in our next configuration as ERAO, he continues to contribute daily with keeping our Facebook page active and up to date. These are just a few of his accomplishments, which were spoken about by long time friend, colleague and fellow ERAO member Jan Hynes. In tribute, John was given a small framed certificate of thanks, and a donation to a charity of his choice. John chose our own ERAO to be the recipient of that donation. Thank you John!</p>	
	<p>Cheryl Cavell has tendered her resignation as Registrar. We thank her for her participation and especially with her help in the revision of the Constitution. We welcome two new Members at Large, Donna Edwards and Ron Conboy.</p>	
Nominations for 2024-25 Executive	<p>President: Chris Borzecki Vice President: Vacant Past President: Horst Dannehl Secretary: Vikki Zulpo Treasurer: Sue Peter-Weeks Registrar: Vacant Social Committee Chair(s): Shelley McDonald ERAO Online Chair: Rick Chataway House Convenor: Sue Peter-Weeks Members at Large: Margaret Bryan Stuart Fraser, Donna Edwards Ron Conboy</p>	Acclaimed
Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:43pm</p>	

President's Report

ERAO AGM, May 22, 2024

It's my pleasure to have served you for a second term in my position on the Executive. In the past year we've seen our numbers grow both in terms of membership, and in terms of people signed up for our Facebook page.

This past year, thanks again to our wonderful members of the Social Committee, we continue to have engaging and interesting Zoom presentations and in-person activities. Breakfasts, lunches, and walks are some of the other activities brought to you.

Our website is dynamic and current and as members of ERAO you receive timely emails with announcements of upcoming activities. In those same emails we've provided you with links to recent Zoom presentations in case you couldn't attend at the time or simply want to watch them again.

ERAO has some 400+ members. However, we typically have less than 10% of the membership participating in the various activities, whether it be social outings, social clubs such as the book club or to attend the Zoom presentations. The question(s) that begs to be asked is are we meeting your expectations in terms of what you want to see as members of ERAO? If not, what would you like to see? If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@erao.ca.

Finally, a big thank you to my colleagues on the Executive, who, along with other key members, volunteer their time on behalf of ERAO to provide the exceptional offerings that you benefit from as members.

We are always looking for members to help in various roles including the Executive. I encourage you to step forward and let me know if you are interested. You can reach me at info@erao.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Borzecki

Secretary's Report

ERAO AGM May 22, 2024

As a new constitution was drafted and approved May 31, 2023, the business year for ERAO has been moved from having been July 1st to June 30th, to the new time frame of September 1st to August 31st of the following year.

Keeping the change of our business year in mind, this particular report from the secretary will include the summer months of 2023.

For the extended business year of July 1st, 2023 to August 31st, 2024 the secretary took minutes for the executive meetings on the following dates: August 8, 2023, October 10, 2023, December 12, 2023, February 13, 2024 and for the AGM meeting May 22, 2024. The April 2, 2024 minutes were graciously completed by Member at Large Sue Peter-Weeks in my absence.

Compilation of executive members' committee reports and printing of same for the AGM was completed and added to the AGM minutes.

All minutes have been duly approved, and uploaded to the ERAO public website in a timely manner. As we are now free of Covid restrictions and using the clubhouse room at Confederation again, printed versions of executive minutes for the past 3 years are now again being filed in that room.

Respectfully submitted,

Vikki Zulpo

Treasurer's Report
ERAO May 22, 2024

Bank balance as of May 12, 2024:	\$3 039.25
Long term investment due in June 2024:	\$3 171.04
Total:	\$6 210.29
Expenses in past 12 month:	
Insurance:	\$1 392.12
Tech Help:	\$ 500.90
Zoom Registration:	\$ 132.32
Honoraria:	\$ 305.40
Camera Club:	\$ 30.85
Book Club:	\$ 68.69
House Keeping:	\$ 28.24

Banking fees and interest gains are not included.

The Restaurant accounts are not listed as they are mostly financed 100% by members attending the various events.

Respectfully submitted:

Horst Dannehl, Treasurer

Social Committee Report

ERAO AGM May 22, 2024

The decision was made to continue our presentations in Zoom. We did hold in person events for To Hell With the Bell - we had 48 people attend and then our Christmas Luncheon - 25 people. We had two authors speak at two breakfasts - Roy MacGregor (24) and Charlotte Gray (38).

The Social Committee held zoom meetings and planned a number of events. The zoom presentations included: Learning About Bees, Arctic Climate Change, two different cruise presentations, Carp River Conservation Area, Vikki Zulpo's bike/barge presentation, Artificial Intelligence, and Preparing Your Financial Umbrella. We also did a tour of Beechwood Cemetery, a walk near Burritts Rapids and a walk across the Commanda Bridge and LRT ride. Lunches were held at Chances R and The Cheshire Cat.

The focus of the Social Committee continues to be to offer a wide range of activities which will encourage members to become more involved with the operation of ERAO as a whole. Other members of the committee are: Nancy Allan, Sandra Hanington, Muriel MacNaughton, Meredith Norman, Kay Baggley, Heather Anderson and Marg Bryan.

Many thanks to Stuart Fraser, who designs and creates the ads for our various events. They are so colourful and eye catching, that they certainly help to get a good response from our members.

Three groups operate under the umbrella of the Social Committee. They are the Quilters, the Book Club and the Camera Club.

The **Book Club** meets in the ERAO Club Room at 1:00 on the last Monday of the month. (January, February, & March, we meet in the IKEA cafeteria at Pinecrest Mall.) The first half hour is a social time for lunch, coffee, or snacks, whichever you wish to bring, and free time to chat about books you are reading or other topics of interest. The actual book presentation and discussion begins at 1:30 pm. New members are always welcome.
Contact: Heather Anderson

Quilters

New members are always invited to join a talented and enthusiastic group of quilters. This group includes beginners to experienced quilters. Individual and class projects are created including small and large pieces. You may choose what you wish to do and there are some great quilters there to help you with your creations.

Nancy Arbogast nancyarbogast@rogers.com

The **ERAO Camera Club** has continued to meet via Zoom, and in October 2023 we also resumed live meetings in room 102 at Confederation HS. Our meetings are usually on the first Thursday of every month at 10:30 am, but we are likely to have a break over the summer. At the meetings we share our photos with a monthly theme. We also share ideas, tricks and techniques about photography and image processing. We like to organize field trips a couple of times each year; this year we had a more unusual event - an evening workshop on long exposure, "light-painting" photography. We are all amateur photographers with a wide range of experience and expertise. What brings us together is our desire to take better pictures and to explore the capabilities of our

cameras and our artistic urges. New members and new ideas are always welcome; please feel free to join us. Check out our posts in the ERAO Facebook group. And look for our Viewers' Choice albums every once in a while.

Contact: Richard Taylor richard@teya.ca

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley McDonald

Registrar's Report

ERAO AGM May 22, 2024

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and current members of ERAO. We are a large group and continually increasing our membership. It is exciting to see new members from various Boards now joining us. We have members from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Ottawa Catholic School Board, Upper Canada District School Board, Western Quebec School Board, University of Technology-Jamaica, and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

As of May 21, 2024, we currently have 467 subscribers. Over the past year we have registered approximately 41 new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Cavell

House Convenor's Report

ERAO AGM May 22, 2024

An inventory of ERAO property in Room 102 at Confederation Education Centre was compiled in November 2023 and updated in February. A hard copy of the inventory can be found in the filing cabinet in Room 102 and both Sue Peter-Weeks and Chris Borzecki have an electronic copy.

In addition, photos have been taken of the room so we have pictures in the event they are required for insurance purposes and both Sue and Chris have copies of those pictures. The inventory list will be reviewed periodically throughout the year by the House Convenor and updated as required. She can be reached at speterweeks@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Peter-Weeks

ERAO Online Report

ERAO AGM May 22, 2024

1. MASS EMAIL ACTIVITY REPORT

We have gained 8 new members in the last 30 days. **Our mass emails now reach the inboxes of 467 recipients.** This is encouraging given that our membership was 434 in April of 2022.

The mass email sent on April 20th garnered a 100% open rate—the highest number yet for an email ad. This ad also informed subscribers that the event “Breakfast at The Ale Restaurant with author Charlotte Gray” was sold out, a nod to the growing popularity of events of this kind.

All ads are first posted on the website before they are created in MailerLite to be sent as mass emails. Ads are also posted on the ERAO Facebook account.

2. WEBSITE ACTIVITY REPORT

In conjunction with regular mass emails and the private Facebook account, the ERAO website continues to be a pivotal communication tool. Ads for events are posted regularly on the website: erao.ca

ERAO has a Zoom account that is used for regular virtual Executive meetings and to host guest speakers.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Chataway
Stuart Fraser