

**Education Retirees Association of Ottawa (ERAO)
Executive Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom
Date: April 11, 2023**

Item	Decision/Action	
Call to Order	1:05 pm	
Executive Members Present	President: Chris Borzecki Past President: Horst Dannehl Treasurer: Horst Dannehl Secretary: Vikki Zulpo Social Committee: Shelley McDonald, absent Registrar: Cheryl Cavell, absent House Convenor: Vacant ERAO Online: John Harding/Rick Chataway, absent Members at Large: Margaret Bryan Robin Dunbar Stuart Fraser	
Approval of Agenda	Move to accept, by Horst Dannehl, seconded by Robin Dunbar	Passed
Approval of Previous Minutes	Move to accept, by Vikki Zulpo, seconded by John Harding	Passed
Secretary's Report	<p>As the renewal for our new website and Mail Chimp had come due, Stuart requested approval for payment. Given that we were still a month away from our next meeting, and this payment was required, Vikki submitted a motion to the executive via email.</p> <p>Motion on March 18, 2023: " I move that we continue to automatically renew our financial arrangement annually, with ERAO member Stuart Fraser, for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the ERAO website and Mail Chimp until such time as this arrangement requires altering."</p> <p>Motion, Vikki Zulpo. Seconded, Rick Chataway</p>	
Treasurer's Report	<p>Horst reported that the bank account holds \$2,366.66 A GIC for \$3,254.94 comes due April 24 and will be deposited in its entirety to the bank account. A GIC for \$3081.67 which comes due on June 19/23 will be rolled over. Honorariums for Zoom presenters were paid. Stuart Fraser was paid \$500 for the annual maintenance of the website and Mail Chimp. Move to accept, by Horst Dannehl, seconded by Vikki Zulpo</p>	

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Social Committee Report	<p>We have had four events since our last executive meeting. The Wild Bird centre and Mary's gardening presentation were both well attended (20+). We received positive comments on both of these. Barbara Fradkin had about 7 people but we have had her quite a few times. About 14 people had lunch at the Glen.</p> <p>We have two more zoom presentations coming up - electric cars and another author. Then we will stop the online events and do some walks or perhaps more lunches.</p> <p>Stuart has sent out the information for the AGM. I haven't had any response but it is still a long ways off.</p> <p>Move to accept, by Vikki Zulpo, seconded by Margaret Bryan</p>	Passed
ERAO Online Report	<p>John Harding reported that ERAO online is operating smoothly. Previous glitches have been smoothed out, and they are working on improvements for those hosting Zoom presentations to have a less difficult time accessing the system.</p> <p>Move to accept, by John Harding, seconded by Margaret Bryan</p>	Passed
Registrar's Report	<p>N/A</p> <p>Stuart reported that he added 5 new members in the past month.</p>	
House Convenor Report	<p>N/A</p>	
Business arising from previous meeting	<p>a) Reaching out to new retirees:</p> <p>b) Tribute: John Harding has written an article about the outstanding contributions of our first recipient and it will be read to the membership at the AGM. We will present a framed document, of thanks, along with a financial contribution of \$50 to a charity of the person's choice. ERAO will also pay for the recipient's meal (\$40) at the AGM. Following the AGM, with the recipient's permission, the article will be published on our website, and on Facebook.</p> <p>c) Possible alternatives to membership dues: John pointed out that even within the executive, let alone the membership, we do not have a consensus about re-instituting dues going forward. We might lose too many members and then not have enough income to run ERAO. The fact that we have GIC's was to give OPERA a sufficient cushion in case we ever lost the use of the free classroom at Confederation. We spend approximately \$3,000 annually, and at that rate, we can still operate for 2 years with no fees. Again, the discussion of fund raising was mentioned to generate enough money to run the group, however Vikki and Robin commented that we are not a cohesive group, suited to a successful fundraising scheme. We operated with fees prior to</p>	Tabled
	<p>Covid, we could do so again. Vikki suggested that we announce at various times in the next year (and perhaps at this year's AGM) that fees would no doubt be re-instituted in the 2024-25 year. No firm solution has been decided by the executive, however, other than to advise the membership of this financial situation.</p>	

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Business arising from previous meeting (part 2)	<p>a) Who responds to info.erao@gmail.com: Stuart has changed the info request email from info.erao@gmail.com to info@erao.ca which has resulted in an easier way to receive and to respond to inquiries. Both John and Stuart monitor this email address and either respond directly or pass the request to the appropriate person to reply. At this point, unfortunately, the Mail Chimp emails still carry the original info email address, so Stuart needs to still monitor this in case anyone responds through this portal.</p> <p>b) Registering a guest for a zoom presentation: The simplest method for signing up a guest is for the member, upon requesting to sign up themselves, to also pass along the email address of their guest. That allows the Zoom host to recognize the guest when they join the presentation. Zoom presentations are now being recorded with permission of the presenter, and a link to the recording is posted on our webpage. The password for that can be received by clicking on a link. Members are asked not to share those zoom presentations with non-members.</p> <p>c) Political Advocacy: Stuart has added a “Community” link on our website under which there are links to special interests to which our members may be interested, including the political advocacy page of RTO’s webpage.</p>	Stuart will continue to try to rectify this glitch.
New Business	<p>Chris presented the agenda for the AGM on May 31, 2023. Basically it will consist of the executive’s short reports, and the presentation of the new constitution for approval. “Tribute presentation” will be added to New Business.</p> <p>We will wait until Shelley returns to confirm the latest we can cancel our booking with Algonquin College’s International Restaurant. At that time we will make a decision as to the format of the AGM, luncheon or Zoom.</p>	
	<p>Nominations for the 2023-24 year: Horst, as past president will be responsible for nominations. He questioned the present executive as to their intentions for next year.</p> <p>Chris, Vikki, Margaret, Stuart and Horst will remain another year in their present positions.</p> <p>John and Robin will not be seeking re-election.</p> <p>Horst will survey Shelley, Rick and Cheryl.</p> <p>Stuart was asked to investigate Brown Paper Tickets and Event Brite for convenience, ease of use and accuracy for future use in collecting money for events which we may host, including perhaps for the use of collecting fees. He was comfortable with suggesting Brown Paper Tickets provided what we would need.</p>	
Next Meeting	Tuesday August 8, 2023 @ 10 am	
Adjournment	2:30 pm	