

**Education Retirees Association of Ottawa (ERAO)
AGM Meeting Minutes
Algonquin International Restaurant
Date: May 31, 2023**

Item		Decision/Action
Call to Order	The 2022-23 AGM was called to order at 11:52 am by Past President Horst Dannehl, who chaired the meeting for Chris Borzecki. Due to an error on Algonquin's part, they did not have our reservation and so we could not have our luncheon there as planned. They did provide us with a small meeting room where we conducted the following AGM, and arranged for us to get a group table at the Chances R restaurant.	People who paid by cheque will have them returned as they were not as yet cashed by Shelley. Horst will return the e-transfers.
Executive Members Present	President: Chris Borzecki, present via Zoom Past President: Horst Dannehl Treasurer: Horst Dannehl Secretary: Vikki Zulpo Social Committee: Shelley McDonald Registrar: Cheryl Cavell, regrets House Convenor: Vacant ERAO Online: John Harding Rick Chataway Members at Large: Margaret Bryan, regrets Robin Dunbar, regrets Stuart Fraser, regrets	
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve agenda by Vikki Zulpo, seconded Rick Chataway	Passed
Approval of 2021-22 AGM Minutes	Last year's AGM minutes have been posted for the year on our website and available for all the membership to read. No additions or corrections were needed. Motion to approve the 2021-22 AGM minutes by Nancy Allen, seconded by Vikki Zulpo	Passed
	<p><i>The annual reports by the executive are attached as an addendum to these minutes. All except the Treasurer's Report, have been posted to our website for 2 weeks, and printed copies, including the Treasurer's report, were given to members present at the AGM for perusal. The following "report sections" will highlight any questions that arose from the reading of these reports, otherwise will only indicate their approval and acceptance.</i></p>	
President's Report	Motion to approve the President's Report by Horst Dannehl, seconded by Sandra Hanington	Passed
Secretary's Report	Motion to approve the Secretary's Report by Vikki Zulpo, seconded by Shelley McDonald	Passed
Treasurer's Report	Horst handed out copies of the Credit Union's bank statement for the time period of May 25, 2022 to May 29th, 2023 and then explained the key expenses of ERAO. A GIC for \$3,328.18 came due April 24 and the funds were deposited into our chequing account. A GIC of \$3,081.67 that comes due in June will be rolled over. As of May 29, 2023 our chequing account balance stands at \$5,427.86, giving ERAO the total funds of \$8,509.53.	

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Treasurer's Report Continued	<p>This will be augmented shortly by the return of the Algonquin luncheon deposits. Since June 24,2022 we paid about \$600.00 in honoraria for Zoom presenters. \$1,367.28 was paid Sept. 27 for 1 year's insurance now that we're using the classroom at Confederation again. We spent about another \$900.00 on web administration. The Hell with the Bell breakfast made a profit of \$180.68. The Christmas Luncheon made a profit of \$1.35 Each month minimal interest was earned, while minimal service charges were paid out.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Horst Dannehl, seconded by Rick Chataway</p>	<p>Passed</p>
Social Committee Report	<p>Motion to approve the Social Committee Report by Shelley McDonald, seconded by Nancy Allen</p>	<p>Passed</p>
ERAO Online Report	<p>Rick Chataway thanked John Harding for the years of work he has put into the daily operations of our organization, from the original OPERA site on the school board's First Class platform with opera.ncf.ca email addresses, sending out mass emails, then the huge undertaking along with Jan Hynes to convert to the operaonline private website when the school board stopped using First Class, and more recently updating and posting to our Facebook page and cohosting Zoom calls.</p> <p>Nancy Allen asked that in future, her contact information be included immediately in the advertisement for the walks (with luncheons) that she arranges. This was missing in the first few mass emails for the Tulip Walk, and she felt that this resulted in fewer people joining.</p> <p>Motion to approve the ERAO Online report by John Harding, seconded by Rick Chataway.</p>	<p>Passed</p>
Registrar's Report	<p>Motion to approve the Registrar's Report by Vikki Zulpo, seconded by Sandra Hanington.</p>	<p>Passed</p>
House Convenor Report	<p>N/A at this time</p>	
New Business	<p>a) Revised Constitution The draft of a constitution, made necessary by the change in our name from OPERA to ERAO has been posted on our public website since March, 2023. In addition, printed copies were distributed to the members present at this AGM. No comments, or changes were requested. Chris thanked his committee members, Cheryl Cavell and Shelley McDonald for their work in preparing this new constitution.</p> <p>Motion to approve and accept the newly drafted constitution (v7) by Chris Borzecki, seconded by John Harding.</p> <p>b) Tribute This has been tabled as the person to be recognized was not present.</p>	<p>The new constitution will be posted to our website.</p> <p>Passed.</p>

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<p>Nominations for the 2023-24 Executive</p>	<p>Of the 455 members in ERAO, no one, new, volunteered to take a position on our executive. And so the following positions were graciously accepted for yet another year.</p> <p>President: Chris Borzecki Vice President: Vacant Past President: Horst Dannehl Treasurer: Horst Dannehl Secretary: Vikki Zulpo Social Committee Chair: Shelley McDonald House Convenor: Vacant Registrar: Cheryl Cavell ERAO Online Chair: Rick Chataway Members at Large: Margaret Bryan Stuart Fraser Vacant Vacant</p> <p>Motion to accept the return of this slate of officers for the ERAO executive by Horst Dannehl, seconded by Vikki Zulpo</p>	<p>Passed</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Shelley McDonald</p>	<p>The 20 minute AGM adjourned at 12:10</p>

Report of the President to the AGM May 31, 2023

This past year has been a very active one for your Executive which as provided new opportunities for you as members of the Education Retirees Association of Ottawa (ERAO).

In large part it's thanks to a better understanding of what Covid-19 is, and how it can be controlled that allowed the world, including ERAO, to restart some of the activities that were undertaken before Covid and to take on new ones.

This year, the new website which had been launched last Spring has been tweaked and continues to offer news of upcoming events and current information that we believe to be of value to you. We have a private group Facebook page where members can "talk" to each other. Emails with news of upcoming events have been going out regularly. We've had numerous social activities, in person and online via Zoom.

We also promised at the last AGM that we would review the Constitution and present it at this Annual General Meeting for approval. A lot of work went into updating it and a big thanks to all those who helped with and provided input into the changes.

Finally, a big thank you to the volunteer members of the Executive and those who 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. I encourage you to step forward and let me know if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Borzecki

Report of the Secretary to the AGM May 31, 2023

For the business year of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the secretary took Minutes for the executive meetings on the following dates: October 4, 2022 December 6, 2022 February 7, 2023 April 11, 2023. Compilation of reports and printing of same for the AGM was completed, and they will be added to the May 31, 2023 minutes. All minutes have been duly approved and uploaded in a timely manner to our public website shortly following every executive meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Vikki Zulpo

Report of the Social Committee to the AGM May 31, 2023

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 - 30 people. We also had some lunches together; the Ashton Pub, The Bridge House and The Glen. Nancy Allan led two walks, one in the fall and a tulip walk in the spring.

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 Bagglely, Carol Gusen, Heather Anderson and Marg Bryan.

The Social Committee held zoom meetings and planned a number of events. We had a number of authors speak to us: Ian McKercher, Mary Jane Maffini, Barbra Fradkin and Bob Barclay. Other presentations included: Michael Runtz - photographer, Barry Finlay - climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mary Reid - gardening, Tim Burrows - electric cars, Kate McNeil - Wildlife Centre.

We have been really pleased with the response to these presentations. It has also shown that we could use this method of presentation in January and February when we use to avoid events because of possible bad weather.

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

Unfortunately, the **Book Club** did not function well on zoom but we hope to have the group up and running in the future. New members are always welcome.

Please contact: Heather Anderson heatherjanderson@gmail.com

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. Our meetings are usually on the first Thursday of every month at 10:30 am. 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; last year we visited the Purdon Conservation Area to capture Lady Slipper Orchids at their peak in June and the Eagle's Nest near Calabogie for fall colours. 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 six months or so.
Contact: Richard Taylor richard@teya.ca

Respectfully submitted, Shelley McDonald

Report of the ERAO Online Committee to the AGM May 31, 2023

Of all aspects in the changeover from OPERA to ERAO approximately a year ago in the spring of 2022, the online presence underwent the most radical change. It is due to the meticulous planning of the committee struck 2 years ago to plan the changes, that the experience has been overwhelmingly positive. That is not to say that we have not had to pivot on many details in order to come closer to getting it right, but it is another comment on the initial planning, that the changes could be fairly easily incorporated when necessary. Here is an overview of the online dimension of ERAO at present:

: An attractive, easy-to-navigate and fact-filled website, www.erao.ca that is available publicly, to promote the presence of the Association, attract new members, and keep the membership fully informed of upcoming activities and Association business.

: Regular every-member emailings to keep everyone abreast of Association news and planned Zoom and in-person events.

: The use of a Zoom account plan that allows virtually unlimited Zoom meetings.

: A "Contact Us" email helpline (info@erao.ca) monitored by a few of us to field comments and requests and answer questions.

: A private, secure ERAO Facebook page (separate from erao.ca) where members can share day-to-day postings of thoughts, opinions, the occasional bit of humour, photos and bereavement notices, without the necessity of time-consuming changes to the erao.ca website. Particular thanks are due to Fran Cooper, who for many years has scoured the daily media in order to keep our Bereavements notices up to date.

His awed fellow members of the Online committee would be remiss in not highlighting the patient, knowledgeable, experienced and professional common sense of Stuart Fraser, who created and continues to maintain the lion's share of the ERAO online presence.

Respectfully submitted, John Harding, Rick Chataway, Stuart Fraser

Report of the Registrar to the AGM May 31, 2023

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.

As of May 28, 2023, we currently have 455 subscribers. Over the past year we have registered approximately 55 new members.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Cavell