

Annual General Meeting 2016
Saturday, November 5, 2016 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

St. John's - Health Sciences Centre, PDCS Room 1
Grand Falls Windsor – ASNL Office, 7 High Street

Clarenville – G.B. Cross Memorial Hospital
Corner Brook – Western Memorial Hospital

Minutes

Attendance:

ASNL Staff:

Avalon Region: Alex Collins, Tom Taylor, Kendra Lane, Tess Hemeon, Greg Knott, Scott Crocker (R)

Eastern Region: Treshana Gosse

South Central Region: Jeannette Coates

Western Region: Genevieve Brouillette

Members:

Avalon Region: 12 (Joe McKenna, Suzanne Kenny, Matthew Dove, Kim Maher, Tom Jackman, Anthony Jackman, Patrick Martin, Carolyn Rideout, Dave Vardy, Janet Vardy, Kim French, Elinor Morgan)

Eastern Region: 2 (Ed Byrne, Colin Hodder)

South Central Region: 0

Western Region: 3 (Mark LaCosta, Angela Decker, Shawna Matthews)

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The President called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Item 2 was moved to Item 5, following Business Arising. Two items were added under New Business: a) Remarks by Dave Vardy; b) Remarks by Patrick Kennedy

Motion AGM-2016-001: Angela Decker motioned that the agenda for AGM 2016 should be adopted with amendments; seconded by Suzanne Kenny; Carried.

3. Adoption of Minutes of AGM 2015

No errors or omissions were noted.

Motion AGM-2016-002: Kim Maher motioned that the minutes of AGM 2015 should be adopted as presented, seconded by Angela decker; Carried.



4. Business Arising from Minutes of AGM 2015

There was no business arising from the minutes of AGM 2015.

5. President's Report

Joe McKenna, the outgoing president of the ASNL Board of Directors (member for past 4 years, treasurer for 3, President for 1) delivered his Report and thanked directors and management for their support. The theme was 'Celebrating Our Successes'.

1. Outreach to First Responders: more than 700 reached in 17 communities to date; completing the Avalon and moving to Labrador in coming weeks and months
2. Raise Your Hand Election Campaign 2015: significant advocacy with commitments from all parties re elimination of IQ 70; creation of Provincial Autism Strategy; and Needs-Based Allocation of Student Assistants
3. Needs Assessment 2015: first research of entire ASD community in NL identified priority needs; these formed the basis for present Strategic Planning for 2017-2019
4. Adult Programming: significant growth with re-organization of Transitions Program; addition of Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) jobseeker's database; addition of RWA's 'Students Transitioning into Employment and Post-Secondary Education (STEP Program); addition of EmploymentWorks Canada (Worktopia), a pre-employment program for adults with ASD (64 over 3 years)
5. Governance Model: work on ASNL's Governance Model has started and continues, in an effort to make the organization more responsive to needs in the community while ensuring sustainability

Two significant challenges are facing ASNL:

1. Too many needs and too many demands from an organization with too few resources
2. Multiple points of view as to how best to move forward; reaching consensus is difficult

6. New Business

a. David Vardy

Mr. Vardy congratulated the BOD and management for great advocacy work during the year and highlighted the continuing contributions of Elaine Dobbin, Patron and Honorary Board Member.

- i. **Research:** stressed the need to further cultivate and develop a strong relationship with researchers at MUN, and with the NL Centre for Applied Health research. He believes a board member should be chairing such an effort rather than staff and operations
- ii. **Engagement:** expressed a desire to see more opportunities for engagement of the membership (i.e. regular meetings, events, guest speakers, etc.)



b. Patrick Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy agreed with the comments by Mr. Vardy but went on to question the “*accessibility*” of ASNL to the membership and public, stating that fees and conference registration costs are too high; the Executive Director reminded Mr. Kennedy and those present that the membership fee is \$10 annually, and the program fee is \$5 per hour; some programs are free; these very low costs have been maintained at a time of increasing demand and cost while revenues are declining; conference registration fees are based on the associated costs (i.e. speaker fee, travel, accommodations, meals, hotel conference room rental, coffee/nutrition/lunch, regional staff transportation costs, etc.); 6 low-income parents were given free access to the conference (lottery draw); the President reminded Mr. Kennedy and those present that financial controls are in place, with quarterly reports to the membership and audited financial statements provided to the general public regularly; great efforts are made to be completely transparent; Treshana Gosse, staff member in Eastern Region and mom of a young girl with ASD stated that all costs she has encountered with ASNL are surprisingly low and yet the programs offered, and trained staff, are superb

7. Treasurer’s Report

Matthew Dove delivered the Treasurer’s Report to the assembly, Describing the financial position of ASNL as strong, enabling it to continue delivering on its mission. He explained the difference between the General Fund and the Restricted Fund, and the intended purpose of each (significant exterior repairs and maintenance of the Centre was used as an example of cost covered by the Restricted Fund in the past year). There were no issues or concerns. The Audited Financial Statements were presented.

Motion AGM-2016-003: Angela Decker motioned to approve the Audited Financial Statements, Fiscal 2016; seconded by Kim Maher; Carried.

8. Approval of Auditors for 2016-2017.

The Finance and Risk Management (FARM) Committee recommended **Harris Ryan** be contracted again as the Auditors for 2016-2017.

Motion AGM-2016-004: Matthew Dove motioned to approve Harris Ryan as the ASNL auditors for 2016-2017; seconded by Dave Vardy; Carried.

9. Nominations Report from Executive Director

There was no Nominations Committee for this AGM as no election was necessary; vacancies were filled by acclamation.



10. Directors Acclaimed for 2016-2017

Angela Decker
Colin Hodder
Anthony Jackman
Patrick Martin

Shawna Matthews
Carolyn Rideout
Eastern Region Representative: Edward Byrne

11. Announcement – Board of Directors 2016-2017

Angela Decker
Matthew Dove
Colin Hodder
Anthony Jackman
Suzanne Kenny
Kim Maher
Patrick Martin

Shawna Matthews
Chad Perrin
Eastern Region Representative: Edward Byrne
South Central Region Representative: Vacant
Western Region Representative: Mark LaCosta
Self-Advocate Seat: Tom Jackman

12. Adjournment

Motion AGM-2016-005: Suzanne Kenny motioned to adjourn the Annual General Meeting; seconded by Matthew Dove; Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

List of Motions

Motion AGM-2016-001: Angela Decker motioned that the agenda for AGM 2016 should be adopted with amendments; seconded by Suzanne Kenny; Carried.

Motion AGM-2016-002: Kim Maher motioned that the minutes of AGM 2015 should be adopted as presented, seconded by Angela Decker; Carried.

Motion AGM-2016-003: Angela Decker motioned to approve the Audited Financial Statements, Fiscal 2016; seconded by Kim Maher; Carried.

Motion AGM-2016-004: Matthew Dove motioned to approve Harris Ryan as the ASNL auditors for 2016-2017; seconded by Dave Vardy; Carried.



Motion AGM-2016-004: Matthew Dove motioned to approve Harris Ryan as the ASNL auditors for 2016-2017; seconded by Dave Vardy; Carried.

Motion AGM-2016-005: Suzanne Kenny motioned to adjourn the Annual General Meeting; seconded by Matthew Dove; Carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

All AGM meeting minutes must be ratified. Only minutes that are reviewed at the next AGM meeting and are signed by two (2) members of the new board will be considered ratified.

Member #1

Member #2

Date

Date

