

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Minutes

Special Olympics
Alberta



Saturday, October 17, 2020

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

The Special Olympics Alberta Annual General Meeting is called to order at 10:06am

Quorum is confirmed with **19** of **23** Affiliates & Community Programs in attendance, representing **2668** of **3406** athletes.

2.0 Review rules for Special Olympics Alberta 2020 Virtual AGM

The AGM will follow the special rules that were distributed in advance of the meeting.

3.0 Roster of Affiliates in Good Standing

We are pleased to report that **23** Affiliates and Community Programs are in good standing for the purpose of voting at this meeting.

Affiliates and Community Programs that are in attendance:

- Airdrie & District - Representing 79 Athletes – Chairperson, Dale Foreman
- Brooks – Representing 19 Athletes – Chairperson, Janet Cormack
- Calgary – Representing 755 Athletes – Chairperson Karen Saunders
- Camrose – Representing 120 Athletes - Chairperson, Carol Wideman
- Edmonton – Representing 487 Athletes – Chairperson, Anita Norris
- Foothills – Representing 59 Athletes – Chairperson, Terina Cybulski
- Lac La Biche – Representing 31 Athletes – Chairperson, Sue Ristau
- Lacombe – Representing 49 Athletes – Chairperson, Dwayne Campbell
- Leduc – Representing 25 Athletes – Treasurer, Alain Lefevre
- Lethbridge – Representing 164 athletes – Chair, Blaine Stodolka
- Lloydminster – Representing 78 Athletes – Chairperson, Mark Witzaney
- Medicine Hat – Representing 56 Athletes – Chairperson, Jaelynn Funk
- Olds & District – Representing 117 Athletes – Chairperson, Karen Mengersen
- Red Deer – Representing 283 Athletes – Chairperson, Jerry Tennant
- St. Albert – Representing 160 Athletes – Chairperson, Chelsee Pedwell
- St. Paul – Representing 39 Athletes – Chairperson, Donna Goddard
- Spruce Grove & District – Representing 105 Athletes – Chairperson, Louis Babin
- Wetaskiwin – Representing 53 athletes – Chair, Sheanna McDermott
- Wood Buffalo – Representing 35 Athletes – Chairperson, Christal Ford-Grant

Affiliates and Community Programs not in attendance but in good standing:

- Bow Valley – 15 athletes
- Crowsnest Pass – 3 athletes
- Grande Prairie - 154 athletes
- Vegreville - 48 athletes

We are pleased to report that **18** Affiliates and **5** Community Programs are in good standing for the purpose of voting at this meeting.

The communities of **Strathcona County, Drumheller, and Lakeland** are not in Good Standing, and are not to be included as a part of weighted voting roster for the purposes of this meeting.

We would like to welcome **Wood Buffalo** as a new community program.

Motion: To accept the roster as presented.

Moved: Calgary

Second: Medicine Hat

Carried

4.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve agenda as presented.

Moved: Lethbridge

Second: Edmonton

Carried

5.0 Approval of 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Moved: Red Deer

Second: Edmonton

Carried

6.0 Honouring Members

Special Olympics is a family and we are deeply saddened by the loss of our members.

Name	Position	City
Lonnie Kodrowski	Athlete	Camrose
Bryan Johnson	Athlete	Lacombe
Sue Leslie	Coach	Lethbridge
Brian Tomlinson	Volunteer	Lloydminster
Penny Hawrluk	Volunteer	Grande Prairie
Laurie Loiseau	Volunteer	Grande Prairie
Melvin Chonkolay	Volunteer	Grande Prairie
Laura Wilson	Athlete	Foothills

7.0 Annual Reports

7.1 Chair's Report, Deborah MacPherson

This has been one of the most tumultuous and challenging years in Special Olympics Alberta's history. Although almost half of our year has been mired by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have many accomplishments to be proud of and celebrate.

In Alberta, we have 920 volunteers and coaches running 21 sport and fitness programs in 26 affiliate and community programs serving over 140 communities.

We reached over 3,300 athletes and 6,100 athlete participants allowing them to experience the transformative power and joy of sport. We were very excited to be once again serving athletes in the Wood Buffalo region.

When Covid-19 hit and we were required to suspend programming, we knew the athletes still needed us. So in collaboration with chapters from across the country we delivered virtual programming to our athletes through sohealthyathome.ca

Healthy at Home is a place where athletes, coaches, families, and supporters congregate online for ongoing resources, events, and connection opportunities. Special Olympics Alberta was able to deliver virtual opportunities, and by collaborating with other chapters, athletes are able to attend a weekly schedule of fitness, health, and strong minds sessions. Our athletes stayed active, connected, informed, and positive through virtual programs like the daily Special Olympics Alberta-Calgary Facebook Live Workouts, Steve Topham training sessions, Sobeys Wellness Wednesday nutrition sessions, and Social Club.

We are thrilled to be launching our latest virtual program this coming week. I hope that you register and get involved in PEAK.

Just before the country went into lock down, Thunder Bay hosted an amazing National Games from February 25 to 29. Team Alberta was made up of 97 athletes and 34 coaches and mission staff representing 24 Alberta communities from Grande Prairie to Medicine Hat. The squad united under the Wolfpack moniker and the symbol of the wolf, howling for each other at their various sporting events throughout the week. The Wolfpack earned 34 golds, 26 silvers, and 26 bronze medals for a total of 86 medals in eight winter sports: 5-pin bowling, alpine skiing, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoe, and speed skating.

We had some outstanding community events over this past year as well. Our skaters took to the ice with Olympic medalists in the Rock the Rink Series. The northern floor hockey league brought together five affiliates to for quality competition and camaraderie.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (or LETR) smashed their participant record with 590 incredibly brave people taking the plunge across Alberta - raising \$194,000 for Special Olympics athletes. LETR also proudly accompanied our Team AB athletes to Thunder Bay with Alberta Correctional Service Officer, Thomas Cleal, carrying the flame of hope in the National Games Final Leg.

Motionball continued to amaze. Although they were unable to host their spectacular in-person events in 2020, they united the country hosting a one hour Marathon of Sport that was broadcast online and live on TV through Sportsnet. We look forward to when we will be able to return to these amazing events in person once again.

We want to properly celebrate this past year in style, and we hope you will be part of that celebration with us. Please join us on November 19th when we present our Annual Awards and celebrate a challenging but amazing year.

Although we are returning to some limited programs, we know the year ahead will also be challenging. We are eager to get back to our sports, but we will not rush this process. Our priority will always be the safety of our athletes and volunteers. Thank you for your commitment to our programs and for being part of an amazing team of volunteers, athletes and staff that will ensure Special Olympics will remain a strong vibrant part of our communities.

7.2 Athlete Report, Dallas Sorken

The Athlete Leadership team had their most active year yet.

Even though the Athlete Leadership Conference had to be cancelled in early 2020 due to Covid, the team has been working hard to ensure that our Alberta athletes are still able to access some of the training they were looking forward to. While in-person training wasn't possible, new programs were developed or existing programs altered so that they could be delivered online. Through this new virtual training, over a dozen sessions have been delivered, training over 70 athletes in two main areas: Sharing and Connecting Online (focusing on social media, video chat options, and safety online) and Photography and Videography Training.

Aside from these formal training sessions, our Athlete Leadership Input Council has had its most active year as well. This group of athletes, comprised of leaders from affiliates across the province, have embraced their roles as influencers, helping to encourage others to take part in Athlete Leadership and to stay connected even though we're not able to be together in-person. This is so important since isolation is common amongst those with intellectual disabilities as it is, never mind adding a pandemic! These leaders continue to be relied upon as the link to our athlete population – including promoting the brand new PEAK Program to their fellow athletes.

Another large endeavour that the Athlete Leadership team has been working on is rolling out a plan to have all Affiliate Management Committees have an athlete in their athlete rep position by the end of 2022. A pilot project is already under way with select affiliates that already have athletes on their AMC to ensure the supports we offer during this roll out are effective and helpful. Stay tuned for more information on the November Athlete Leadership Zoom call.

7.3 Financial Report, Melissa Klebeck

The 2019/20 Audited Financial Statement were presented.

8.0 Approval of 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2020

Motion: To approve 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Moved: Wetaskiwin

Second: Calgary

Carried

9.0 Appointment of Auditors for 2020/2021 year

Motion: To appoint Ernst & Young as Special Olympics Alberta's auditors for 2020/2021 year.

Moved: Medicine Hat

Second: Red Deer

Carried

10.0 Nominating Committee Report

You have been provided with a slate of nominations to the Board of Directors.

In accordance with bylaws, nominations are not accepted from the floor and the slate is closed.

Additions: **Chief Deal LaGrange, Caroline Barham, Dave Findlay**

Motion: To accept the slate of nominees as presented in its entirety and elect these individuals to the Board of Directors.

Moved: Lethbridge

Second: St. Albert

Carried

At this time, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of three Board Members who will not be returning to the Board this year. On behalf of the organization, we would

like to express our sincere thanks to: Paavo Montandon, Kirsten Kirwer and Gerry Lorente for their service to the Organization.

11.0 Meeting Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn meeting.

Moved: Medicine Hat

The meeting adjourned at:10:33am