



50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
YOUTH SCIENCE CANADA

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair, Len Reimer welcomed everyone to the 50th Annual General Meeting, including Lorne Heslop, Carole Charlebois, Anita Luszczak, Elaine Ma, Amberly Dooley and David Mitchell from Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Regional Science Fair, who joined by conference call.

Len announced that he would be Chairing the AGM today and noted that the reason for the AGM being a conference call is that the Board of Directors just had a face to face meeting in Pickering on November 5&6, 2011 and it seemed an unnecessary expense to fly everyone in again a few weeks later.

Lori Murray will record the minutes.

2. Report of the Scrutineer

Reni Barlow, acting as Scrutineer, tabled a report that three (3) Members were present in person with twenty-nine (29) Members represented by proxy for a total of thirty-two (32) Members eligible to vote. Reni reported that the necessary quorum of 15 required for conducting the business of the Annual General Meeting was in place.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting of Members

The Chair asked if there were any questions about or amendments to the minutes. No changes were forthcoming.

The Chair asked for approval of the following motion:

By Lorne Heslop:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE 49th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

2nd: Anita Luszczak
CARRIED

4. Chair, Board of Director's Report

A warm welcome to everyone on the line and in the office of Youth Science Canada.

This year has been very significant for our organization and the people involved. Youth Science Canada celebrated its 50th anniversary during the Canada Wide Science Fair in Toronto. This had several firsts attached to it:

- it was the largest Fair to date;
- it was hosted by the Youth Science Canada itself as we unveiled a new model for future fairs;
- and, it created a new direction for CWSFs where YSC sponsors the core elements of the Fair and allows Host Committees of the future to concentrate on highlighting their city, region and culture.

This new model has generated considerable support across Canada with several cities considering hosting the Fair with committed proposals having been submitted for the next few years.

YSC is strongly supported through the tireless efforts of our Executive Director, Reni Barlow. He, in turn, is supported by an all-star team with Lori Murray as office administrative assistant and Dominic Tremblay, Eric Ma and Michael Newnham.

YSC is excited to work with Mike Newnham in supporting teachers to bring inquiry science learning to classrooms through the “Smarter Science” Program. This program began with Mike in Ontario and is now spreading to a number of provinces across Canada, notably PEI, the host of CWSF 2012. Dominic is creating and managing “SMARTS” which is bringing the youth science community together through this social media interface. Eric works on programs to invigorate students in their classrooms across Canada and at the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF).

These programs mark a wider perspective for Youth Science Canada and reflect a strategic planning initiative of the Board through the adjustment in the goals or, in organizational theory-speak, the Ends of our organization. For this, their leadership and consistent dedication I thank the members of the Board of Directors.

At the Special General Meeting during the 2011 CWSF, we welcomed four new Directors:

- Anita Luszzak where she works for Devon Energy Corporation, from Calgary, AB;
- Jaymie Matthews, the Department Head of Astrophysics at UBC in Vancouver, BC;
- Malcolm Butler, Dean of Science at Carlton University in Ottawa, ON; and
- Mayur Gadhia, Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Toronto, ON as Treasurer.

The returning members of the Board are:

- Antoine Garwah from Timmins, ON;
- Carole Charlebois from Montreal, QC;
- Lorne Heslop from just outside Ottawa, ON;
- Peter Calamai from Ottawa, ON;
- Steve Karrel from Truro, NS;
- and myself, Len Reimer from near Vancouver, BC.

Together with the energy and commitment of the members of Regional Committees and the young people and their teachers across Canada we have an exceptional team. Thank you to everyone and may we work together to continue to build an even stronger future.

5. Executive Director's Report

There have been numerous milestones during this past year.

2011 saw the relaunch of our new website – 7 actually which highlights our programs, which includes news and stories. It is much more engaging and interactive.

Launched SMARTS at CWSF2011. There is participation from finalists from every province and territory. SMARTS has become a platform for teachers too.

Carole Charlebois has retired from CDLS. In recognition of her many years of service to youth in science and to YSC, on behalf of the Board, Carole was awarded an Honourary Life Membership. Congratulations Carole!

Smarter Science is going to PEI and conducting teacher training for all grade 8 teachers in the province. There have also been workshops in BC and Manitoba. Youth Science Canada is applying for funding to expand this program.

Team Canada-ISEF went to Los Angeles in May and had their usual high percentage of award winners. Congratulations!!

In partnership with various provincial organizations, Team Canada-MILSET went to Bratislava, Slovakia this past July with a team of 57.

The European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) was in Helsinki, Finland this September and we sent one student, Sandra Dusolt from Thunder Bay.

We also sent two students and a chaperone to Thailand in August for the 4th APEC Youth Science Festival.

Staff change - Sharon Gregory completed her term in May 2011.

Sponsorship has been challenging this past year but our new sponsorship development initiative with T1, a division of TrojanOne, we have signed one new sponsor recently and have many contacts and proposals out to various companies and organizations.

Last fall we launched the seven Canada-Wide Youth Science Challenges which are: Discovery, Environment, Energy, Innovation, Health, Information and Resources.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their work throughout the year, including their extra time as well as the Board for their vision and direction over the last year. I would also like to thank the Members including all our affiliated regions across the country. This has been an exciting year.

6. Financial Report

Treasurer, Mayur Gadhia presented a report on the audited financial statements:

- Deloitte & Touche (D&T) audited the financial statements prepared by management
- The Board received and reviewed the draft financial statements on November 5

I would to thank Reni and Lori for the audit fieldwork.

The financial position and cash has decreased as a result of using Ontario MRI cash funding. \$1M is mostly MRI.

Income statement - revenue has not changed but has been flat.

Use of MRI money has increased and expenses increased as well. This is consistent with economic market conditions. Expenses are in line with the additional costs for hosting CWSF2011 in Toronto.

Next fiscal year – YSC has a choice for accounting policy. The Board has not decided which way to go, either the current standard or international standards. The Board will be looking at what other not-for-profit organizations are doing and then decide if there is a benefit for us to change. We will be deciding by June 30, 2012.

Carole Charlebois made the following motion:

THAT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011 BE ACCEPTED.

2nd: Lorne Heslop
CARRIED

7. Appointment of Auditors

Mayur Gadhia made the following motion:

THAT THE FIRM OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP BE REAPPOINTED AS AUDITOR FOR THE 2012 FISCAL YEAR.

2nd: Lorne Heslop
CARRIED

8. Questions or Comments

Amberly Dooley asked whether there is a reason to be concerned about the deficit that we have run this past fiscal year?

Responses

Len: The Board has not taken this lightly and has given Reni lots to do.

Mayur: The Board is actively working with Reni to address this deficit. Everyone is concerned. T1 is working closely with YSC to follow up on qualified referrals. We are also reviewing the sponsorship model.

Reni: To some extent, the deficit was anticipated since YSC was fully responsible for all aspects of CWSF2011. In the previous year we had a surplus roughly equal to the deficit.

Len thanked those on the conference call for calling in and attending the meeting.

9. Adjournment

Mayur Gadhia made the following motion:

THAT THE 50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS BE ADJOURNED.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.