



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
ONTARIO SOCIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2009  
TORONTO, ONTARIO**

**MINUTES**

A.09.1.1

**CALL TO ORDER**

R. Lysaght, President, welcomed the membership to the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists. It was explained that this is the AGM for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Introductions of the Executive and the Executive Director were made. The membership was informed that quorum was achieved with 57 voting members present and that the meeting was fully constituted. The importance of proxy votes was acknowledged, and those members who provided proxy votes were thanked. Additional opening remarks were given and voting procedures were outlined.

A.09.1.2

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

ML Boudreau moved, seconded by M. Kennedy,  
***to approve the agenda of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
of the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists as  
circulated.***

**CARRIED.**

A.09.1.3

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF 85th AGM**

MB Bezzina moved, seconded by A. Kuszniir,  
***to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting,  
September 26, 2008 as circulated.***

**CARRIED.**

A.09.1.4

**PRESIDENT' S REMARKS**

R. Lysaght, outgoing President, addressed the membership. Framing her comments around the Society's vision statement *Providing Vision, Voice and Value for Ontario Occupational Therapists*, Rosemary relayed events and accomplishments of the past year  
*Providing Vision*: During 2008-09, a new Strategic Plan for 2009-13 was developed based on the results of an environmental scan of members and key partners, as well as a review of what has been done within the Society over the recent past. The strategic foci of the Society, including a focus on aging (the theme of today's Summit on Aging) were reviewed and members were provided a copy of the strategic plan.

*Providing Voice*: R. Lysaght explained that OSOT has continued to work hard to be an effective voice of Occupational Therapists in Ontario. In the past year OSOT engaged its first government relations

consultant which had many benefits including the development of skill and knowledge amongst our leaders and the development of relationship with key partners and one very big success - a commitment of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to fund OT services in Family Health Teams. This work was not without impact on other Society functions and the impact on staff time and the need to increase our staff resource base to accommodate this type of activity was identified. The development and importance of a strategy to create regional OT strength in a policy world where LHINs have key decision-making roles was highlighted. On behalf of its members OSOT was active in the development and promotion of an OT voice to key policy developments in the past year including; LTC Homes legislation, College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario regulation development, Aging, Ontario's Mental Health & Addictions Strategy consultations, Community based practice, Auto Insurance reform agenda and the review and recommendations for amendment of the *RHPA* and related professional regulations and scopes of practice. The commitment and contribution of OSOT's many volunteers who work to assist in the development of key positions and responses was recognized with appreciation.

*Providing Value:* OSOT continues to strive to provide value through its services, the Office and its roles as voice and advocate for the profession. The importance of providing professional development resources and opportunities and the commitment to filling the role of the PDPS Manager were acknowledged. The Society has been pleased to provide dynamic programming in the past year in such areas the auto sector, mental health, and the co-hosting of the CAOT Conference 2009 in Ottawa.

Rosemary introduced a new "V" in a revised vision statement of the Society - the commitment of OSOT to *provide visibility*. This is in response to members clear direction that they want OSOT and OT to be more visible, that they want the roles of OT to be better recognized by other health professionals, and that it is highly desirable to raise the profile of OTs in the province. A commitment of the strategic plan in the next 4 years is to engage professional assistance in the development of an impactful marketing plan.

The myriad of changes that have taken place in health care and the Ministry of Health, as well as to the economy in Ontario were acknowledged. R. Lysaght emphasized that it will be vital to move forward, and to respond to these changes by committing to flexibly addressing what we do and how we do it, by recognizing the value of being evidence informed, and to be proud to be who we are as OTs and what we can provide. In closing, R. Lysaght acknowledged the privilege and value of being on the OSOT Board over the past years and encouraged members to consider volunteering to be future Board members.

A.09.1.5  
5.1

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

#### **Audited Financial Statement October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2008**

P. Clancy moved, seconded by R. Leyshon,  
***that the audited Financial Statement for the period  
October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008 as prepared by  
Cowperthwaite, Mehta be accepted as presented.***

**CARRIED**

*Discussion:* P. Clancy, Treasurer, outlined the statement of operations and net assets. Revenues for the 2007-08 fiscal year were highlighted, and it was explained that revenues exceeded the amount budgeted as a result of an increase in membership, profits from the conference in Niagara Falls, and high investment income for that year. The membership was informed that expenses for the fiscal year were under-budget due to vacancy in some staff positions. Staffing numbers were discussed. The Reserve Fund, which protects the Society in the event of sudden fiscal hardship, was explained for the information of the membership. It was reported that the year end (September 30, 2008) net assets were \$490 000.00 and that the operating surplus for the year was \$109 000.00

5.2

**Appointment of Auditors**

P. Clancy moved, seconded by R. Leyshon,  
***that Cowperthwaite, Mehta be appointed as auditors for the 2008-2009 audit.***  
**CARRIED.**

*Discussion:* Background to this recommendation of the auditor was provided for the information of the membership. Cowperthwaite, Mehta is a firm familiar with the not for profit sector. OSOT has engaged this firm for many years and have been very satisfied with their services. Their fees and services are competitive.

5.3

**Membership Status**

P. Clancy provided the membership status for 2007-08, explaining that there were 3075 members in that membership year and that this number represents a 9% increase in membership compared to the previous year. It was highlighted that despite a significant increase in registration fees for the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario, 2007-08 recognized an unexpected increase in OSOT membership, demonstrating recognition of the work of the Society. It was indicated that the membership in 2008-09 was 3199, representing a 2% increase over the past year. The membership was informed that there has been a 35% increase in membership over the past six years. P.Clancy reported that 61% of the practicing Occupational Therapists in Ontario are members of OSOT. It was identified that the OSOT target for membership is 70% of practicing OTs over the next three years.

A.09.1.6

**OSOT ANNUAL REPORT**

The OSOT Annual Report for the 2007-08 year was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. R. Lysaght, President, highlighted that the year saw a greater than anticipated growth in membership; the importance of a strong membership base was emphasized. Though now dated, the report highlights the important work that was completed in 2007 – 2008 to lay the foundations (staffing structure, governance restructuring, etc) for a stronger Society – *Investing in a strong future!*

A.09.1.7

**NEW BUSINESS**

Out-going President Rosemary Lysaght introduced and welcomed Gail Teachman, incoming President. The official gavel was transferred.

7.1

### **OSOT Strategic Plan 2009 - 2013**

G. Teachman, President (2009-11) shared highlights of the new OSOT Strategic Plan developed for 2009-2013 with the members. The membership was encouraged to become involved in the achievement of the new strategic plan, as all involved in OSOT are the leaders able to make the plan a success across the province of Ontario. Key strategic foci of the plan were emphasized and linked to the importance of maintaining mindfulness and vision for the future. All were informed that we need to ask ourselves how we can be leaders and innovators and embrace new ideas. The value of creating opportunities for the profession was highlighted and the need to be ready to take on new responsibilities and ensure we have the resources to do so was indicated. The importance of professional development and practice support to the membership was indicated and acknowledged as a valued component of the strategic plan. Strategies to achieve the new plan were highlighted and the importance of committing to the plan to enable achievement was indicated. The theme of leadership for all Occupational Therapists was emphasized as a commitment of OSOT and the value of the leader in all of us was acknowledged.

7.2

### **OSOT Awards**

7.2.1

#### **OSOT Student Awards**

OSOT honours and recognizes one student at each Ontario school that demonstrates leadership, commitment and strength in areas that lend strength to the professional leadership of occupational therapy – professional promotion, advocacy, leadership, professional issues. The 2008 recipients were

**McMaster University** - Colleen McGrath

**Queen's University** - Chelsey A. Wyrstok

**University of Ottawa** - Stéphanie Drouin

**University of Toronto** - Megan Trueman

**University of Western Ontario** - Stephany Berinstein

7.2.2

#### **OSOT Research Awards**

It was explained that the OSOT Research Fund Awards program is on hold, pending finalization of the review of the Fund Awards. The membership was informed that it is anticipated that the new Program will be re-launched during the 2009-10 membership year.

7.2.3

#### **OSOT Volunteer Awards**

G. Teachman outlined the purpose of the OSOT Volunteer Awards, which acknowledge the generous, outstanding commitment and longstanding contribution to the work of the Society. The commitment and importance of all volunteers to the Society was emphasized. It was announced that April Belbeck, Wayne Halenda, and Laurie Macdonald, were the recipients of the 2009 OSOT Volunteer Awards.

7.3

### **2009- 2010 Officers and Directors of OSOT**

The 2008 – 2009 Board of Directors were introduced and those Directors completing their Terms of Office were identified and acknowledged.

*Rosemary Lysaght – President – **completing term***

*Laurie Macdonald– Vice-President Secretary – **completing term***

*Pat Clancy – Treasurer – **completing term***

*Gail Teachman – President-Elect*

*Lynda Batist- Freidman – Director*

*Mary Beth Bezzina – Director – **completing term***

*Danielle Carile – Director – **completing term***  
*Iona MacRitchie – Director*  
*Andrea Thompson – Director – **completing term***

On behalf of L. Klinger, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, C. Brenchley, Executive Director, announced and introduced the 2009 - 10 Board of Directors

*Gail Teachman –President*  
*Rhysa Leyshon – Vice-President Secretary*  
*Pat Clancy - Treasurer*  
*Lynda Batist-Freidman - Director*  
*Alice Kuszniir – Director*  
*Iona MacRitchie – Director*  
*Karen Rebeiro– Director*  
*Cathy Vandersluis – Director*

Gail Teachman addressed the membership as the President of OSOT for 2009-11. R. Lysaght was thanked for her leadership, example, knowledge, and availability, and it was emphasized that under her special commitment to OSOT, the organization has thrived. C. Brenchley, Executive Director, was acknowledged for her fortitude and endurance; appreciation for her work and dedication was indicated and it was emphasized how valued and respected she is by members, colleagues, and so many others. G. Teachman reported that she was pleased to have been provided with the opportunity to serve Occupational Therapists and indicated the importance of the opportunity to work and meet so many people with whom she will be able to learn and network. The outgoing Board members were acknowledged for the boldness of the new Strategic Plan and affirmed commitment to carry out this plan; achieving the objectives of the plan will move OSOT closer to its mission and vision. All members were encouraged to share enthusiasm for the Strategic Plan and its achievement and to become involved with what speaks to them within this plan. The importance of acknowledging the various types of leadership was indicated and members were encouraged to seek leadership opportunities.

7.4

#### **Members Forum**

The purpose of the membership forum was explained and those present were invited to raise any issues and pose questions for discussion. No discussion resulted from the invitation.

A.09.1.8

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

G. Teachman moved, seconded by ML Boudreau,  
***that the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists be adjourned.***  
**CARRIED.**

**Approved for circulation to the Members by the Board of Directors, Nov. 28, 2009  
To be approved by the Members at OSOT AGM 2010 – Friday September 24, 2010**