



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

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2022**

**12:00 – 1:00 pm**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

A.22.1.

**CALL TO ORDER**

OSOT President Milinda Alexander addressed the membership on behalf of the Board of Directors. The Executive of the Board of Directors who would preside at this meeting of members were introduced.

Milinda Alexander began the meeting by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands and encouraging reflection to acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and to consider how we are and can each, in our own way, try to move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Milinda thanked the attendees for participating in the *virtual AGM*.

Quorum achieved

A.22.1.2

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Milinda Alexander moved, seconded by Karen Rebeiro-Gruhl  
To approve the AGM Agenda, September 29, 2022 as circulated.  
CARRIED**

A.22.1.3

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF AGM 2021**

**Milinda Alexander moved, seconded by Martha Bauer  
To approve the draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, September 23, 2021 as circulated with typo correct to end time 1:03pm  
CARRIED.**

A.22.1.4

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Milinda Alexander thanked attendees for joining the 2022 AGM in OSOT's 101st Anniversary year.

"The AGM is a great opportunity to reflect on the past year. Past president Martha Bauer talked about the frustrations we experienced while practicing under COVID during last year's AGM. While our changed world continues to challenge us, I want to focus on resiliency. I do not have any magic solutions or new approaches necessarily to share. When I think of resilience I think of survival and triumph. Living through this pandemic, resilience is not so glamorous. It is hard work, frustration and tackling life one day at a time. As humans, OTs, Ontarians, and all the other roles that we identify with, I am confident that each day our membership is doing its best to be resilient and thrive. Every person and everyday our "best" looks different and that is

okay. One thing that I strongly believe is that life is easier together than it is to manage on our own.

Reaching out to and having each other to support our efforts goes a long way. OSOT board, teams and staff work diligently, often behind the scenes to advocate, provide education and resources to the membership.”

A.22.1.5  
5.1

#### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Audited Financial Statement at September 30, 2021

**Neetu Kumar moved, seconded by Kelly Stewart**

***That the audited Financial Statement for the period October 1, 2020 September 30, 2021 as prepared by Pennylegion Chung LLP Chartered Accountants be accepted as circulated.***

**CARRIED**

Neetu Kumar directed members to the pre-circulated Memorandum to Members, Notes to the Audited Financial Statements 2020-21 and presented highlights of the report.

We are pleased to report that the Society has remained in a strong financial position over the 2021-22 fiscal year which concludes tomorrow, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The strength of the Society’s finances at year end 2021 confirmed an undesignated surplus and has allowed the Board to approve interesting and important special projects.

The Board has been pleased that the financial status of the organization has enabled the development of a financial reserve which puts us in good standing for several large-scale projects in the coming year. This includes: Strategic Planning, Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act - Bylaw review, and development of a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Engagement Task Force and Plan.

The Audited Financial Statement and financial update for the 2021-22 fiscal year will be circulated to members in February 2023.

#### ***Discussion:***

- Special Projects fund - Is there a plan to include compensation for volunteering on teams in the budget? This has been a discussion at board meetings regarding volunteer appreciation and determining appropriate gift to recognize OSOT volunteers. Marnie Lofsky stated that there will be a bylaw review and that the Board will look at the volunteer driven aspect of the organization and updated if needed. It was noted that OSOT currently has a recognition program for volunteers.
- Member stated that it would be helpful to have breakdown of committee/project costs. We do have this information and can share it upon request. Advised to contact the OSOT office.
- Member asked if members numbers have been consistent. Numbers for 2022/23 year to be determined soon but steady increase each year over the past few years.
- Member reported that they are seeing colleagues turn to AON for insurance and not OSOT.
- Career fair for school in Milton –Will this be a volunteer task or compensated? It is the responsibility of all occupational therapists

to promote the profession and this will not be compensated at this time.

- 5.2 Appointment of Auditors  
***Neetu Kumar moved, seconded by Harpreet Buttar  
That Pennylegion/Chung LLP Chartered Accountants be appointed as  
auditors for the 2021 - 2022 audit.  
CARRIED.***

A.22.1.6 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 6.1 OSOT Research Fund Report  
Marnie Lofsky presented information on the OSOT research fund program.

The OSOT Research Fund belongs to the members of the Society and has a long history of supporting occupational therapy research. Currently, the Fund supports two annual Grants: 1) Strategic Priorities Research Grant of \$10,000 that funds research that supports advocacy and advancement of the profession in Ontario and addresses strategic opportunities and priorities identified by the OSOT Board of Directors, 2) Occupational Therapy Research Grant a \$1,000 grant that supports original research to provide an evidence base for clinical or practice related issues with a focus on support of occupational therapist clinician-lead researchers.

OSOT Research Funds are administered by the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation (COTF), in part because COTF is a registered charitable organization and can issue tax receipts. As a manager of our fund, COTF reports on an annual financial audit of the OSOT Research Fund.

- 6.2 Recognition of 2021-22 Board of Directors  
Milinda Alexander recognized the work of the Board of Directors from the previous year and expressed gratitude for the board members completing their terms.

- 6.3 2022-23 Officers and Directors  
Milinda Alexander presented the new members of the 2022-23 Board of Directors.

Board Directors have two-year terms assumed at the AGM. New Directors were nominated and elected by the membership in our spring nomination/election process. The new Directors include:

Shiyen Shu, President Elect  
Neetu Kumar, Treasurer  
Alicia Dean, Director-at-Large  
Lu Han, Director-at-Large  
Laxee Nithiyanthan, Directors-at-Large

- A.22.1.7 ***Milinda Alexander moved, seconded by John Clack seconded 12:49pm  
That the Annual General Meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED***

**MEMBERS' FORUM**

- Suggestion to increase number of research awards. May be worthwhile to evaluate the program.
- Question: How do I join sector groups? – advised to contact Seema Sindwani.

- Suggestion to hold AGM during conference and have virtual option – discussion. Will review bylaws to determine possible timelines as conference falls in the next fiscal year.
- Suggestion to consider running webinar to engage OTs in research.
- activities and get colleges/universities to help, evaluate research program – amounts and numbers

DRAFT