



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO SOCIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
12:00 – 1:00 pm

MINUTES

- A.21.1.1 **CALL TO ORDER**
President Martha Bauer (MB) called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. The Executive of the Board of Directors who would preside at this meeting of members were introduced.
- Quorum was established.
- A.21.1.2 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
Martha Bauer moved, seconded by Jane Cox,
that the AGM Agenda, September 23, 2021 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.
- A.21.1.3 **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF AGM 2020**
Martha Bauer moved, seconded by Kelly Stewart,
that the draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, September 24, 2020 be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.
- A.21.1.4 **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**
OSOT President Martha Bauer addressed the membership and reflected on the past unusual pandemic year with respect and admiration for a membership that demonstrated such capacity and resilience at a time that it has been incredibly demanding to be a health care professional. Identifying the need for OSOT to pivot to provide supports to address the COVID-19 pandemic, she highlighted some of the supportive initiatives the Society has undertaken while at the same time not losing sight of the pressing priority of health system transformation in Ontario and advocacy priorities to position OT as mental health professionals, as leaders in seniors care and to advance our roles in home and community care, long-term care and the Ontario Autism Program. With some pride she recognized the achievement of public funding for OT in Ontario's new Autism Program, the recognition of the need to address allied health (including OT) staffing in long-term care

homes, the interest of several municipal Emergency Medical Services to engage occupational therapy services in partnership with their community paramedicine programs, and the successful launch of a new public facing website www.En-AGE.ca. Martha recognized with appreciation the depth of commitment of staff and volunteers to generate new practice resources, a new virtual format conference, a vibrant professional development program, and advocacy and promotion at a time when office staff have worked virtually over the past year and volunteers have given time and expertise generously on top of the unparalleled demands of the pandemic.

2020-21 has been a special year of quiet celebration of the Society's 100th anniversary of incorporation. While the pandemic has limited social celebrations, our reflection on our early beginnings to OSOT's highest membership growth ever, the level of activity and engagement is assuring that our founders would be proud of the strong professional association they gave roots to. Martha reflected on the promise and potential of the future for OSOT and OT in Ontario and shared her pleasure in having had opportunity to serve as President.

A.21.1.5

TREASURER'S REPORT

OSOT Treasurer Neetu Kumar presented the Treasurer's Report.

5.1

Audited Financial Statement at September 30, 2020

Neetu Kumar moved, seconded by Sylvia Davidson,

that the audited Financial Statement for the period October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020 as prepared by Pennylegion Chung LLP Chartered Accountants be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED.

Discussion

- N. Kumar directed members to the pre-circulated Memorandum to Members, Notes to the Audited Financial Statements 2019-20 and presented highlights of the report.
- The Society is in a sound financial position with net assets of \$619,752 at September 30, 2020.
- A query was raised about whether funds had been allocated to OT Research in 2019-20. C. Brenchley noted that the OSOT Research Grants program had been put on hold during the pandemic, but that donations had been received and would be reported in the OSOTRF Financial Report later in the agenda.
- It was questioned why investment income had not been re-invested in 2019/20. C. Brenchley reported that this was intentional to ensure access to cash flow to support the Society's office move and renovation in summer 2020.

5.2

Appointment of Auditors

Neetu Kumar moved, seconded by Pat Clancy,

that Pennylegion/Chung LLP Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2020 - 2021 audit.

CARRIED.

A.21.1.6

NEW BUSINESS

6.1

OSOT Research Fund Report

C. Brenchley presented the OSOTRF Report which reports on the members' equity that is preserved to support OT research in Ontario. These funds are administered by the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation which reports to OSOT with an annual financial audit.

The year end statements at September 30, 2020 report a fund balance at the beginning of the fiscal year, October 2019 of \$86,096. \$19,533 was received in revenues from donations and interest. There were no expenditures for Grants in 2021-20 as the program was put on hold during the pandemic, however \$1,766 was paid to COTF in administrative fees. The fund balance at year end September 30, 2020 was \$103,863.

6.2

OSOT Board of Directors Transitions

6.2.1

Recognition of Directors completing terms of office

C. Brenchley introduced the 2020-21 Board of Directors and invited the membership to extend their appreciation to these leaders. Martha Bauer, Laura Khoo, Carol Peachey Hill, and Kelly Stewart complete their terms of office. Milinda Alexander also completes her term as President Elect but remains on the Board as she moves into the Presidency.

C. Brenchley took a moment to reflect on President Martha Bauer's contribution to the Board, the Society, and members over the past 3 years. The membership joined in thanking and congratulating Martha for her valued leadership.

6.2.2

Appointment of Members to address Board Vacancies

C. Brenchley moved, seconded by Laura Khoo,
that the Board of Directors' appointment of the following members to Board positions to address vacancies be approved:

- ***Charlotte Larry, Director to September 2022***
- ***Neetu Kumar, Treasurer to September 2022***
- ***Fatima Quraishi, Director to September 2022***

CARRIED.

Discussion

Over the past year the Board has regretfully accepted resignations from Directors Jacklyn Pearce, Stephanie Corbin, and Serena Shastri-Estrada. In the case of resignations, the Society's bylaws direct that the Board can appoint Directors but these appointments must be ratified at the next AGM by the membership. The Board took swift action to fill vacancies to assure governance continuity and now places the motion to support the continuing participation of the proposed Board Directors.

6.2.3

2021-2022 Board of Directors

C. Brenchley moved, seconded by Kelly Stewart,
that the date for transition of the 2020-21 Board of Directors to the 2021-22 Board of Directors be extended to October 15, 2021.
CARRIED.

C. Brenchley introduced the 2021-2022 Board of Directors

President – Milinda Alexander
Vice-President/Secretary – Maria Borczyk
Neetu Kumar – Treasurer
Harpreet Buttar – Director
Wajeeha Chatoo – Director
Charlotte Larry – Director
Fatima Quraishi – Director
Shiyen Shu – Director

The rationale for the deferral of transition date was shared. This transition in mid-October enables the current (2020-21) Board of Directors to address review and approve the 2021-22 Operating budget which is generally completed prior to Board transition. This year as a result of schedules, this could not be accommodated in advance of the AGM

6.3 **Incoming President's Remarks**

Incoming President, Milinda Alexander addressed the membership and shared her perspectives on the past year of change, reflecting that in this anniversary year, the degree of change might well be compared to the challenges of the day back in 1921 when OSOT came to be. OSOT was borne of a group of intrepid women who saw the value of occupation as a therapeutic means to restore spirit and function. 100 years later the legend of the phoenix rising from the ashes (the graphic inspiration of OSOT's logo) can be relevant today – what opportunities lie ahead for OT to support restoration after the world's pandemic?

Recognizing the fatigue of the profession at large and the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, Milinda mused that it's ever more important to belong and engage, and be served by a strong association. Out of challenge can come opportunity and Milinda shared a range of opportunities that OSOT is poised to address to ensure continued growth and valuing recognition by the public.

Milinda shared the Board's decision to defer renewal of the Society's Strategic Plan originally scheduled for spring 2022. This is in light of the significant impact the pandemic has had on capacity to address strategic priorities but also because OSOT anticipates significant transition in the year ahead. Noting the upcoming retirement of Christie Brenchley, Executive Director on December 31, 2021, she shared heartfelt thanks to Christie for being the face of OSOT for so many years and extended a warm welcome Marnie Lofsky who will assume the Executive Director role in late November.

To the membership Milinda extended sincere appreciation for the enduring support and shared her enthusiasm for working with members to not only survive but thrive as the realities of our new normal unfold.

A.21.1.7

MOTION TO ADJOURN

M. Bauer moved, seconded by C. Brenchley to adjourn the meeting. While members were invited to linger to pose questions/comments in a members' forum, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.