

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday May 29, 2022, 9:00 a.m. (ET)

Location: Montreal, QC - Le Centre Sheraton Montreal

1. Call to order 9:04
2. No additions to the agenda.
3. Approval of agenda. Moved by B. Jolly, seconded by H. Rodriguez. Carried.
Agenda approved.
4. Approval of [2021 AGM minutes](#). Moved by C. Rosner, seconded by H. Rodriguez. Carried. Minutes approved.
5. Chair's report (verbal) - Z. Schwartz
 - a. The chair presented the plan for a move to a new membership management system and a brief discussion regarding this took place.
 - b. Approval of verbal report: Moved by B. Jolly, seconded by P. Schneidereit. Carried
6. President's report
 - a. Membership numbers have increased substantially since the lowest point of the 2008-2013 period. President highlighted the motion made by the CAJ board to bring CAJ members on to committees to encourage engagement. President highlighted successes of the year and the continued interest in the organization and growth of the organization. President pointed to a major goal of gaining charitable status for the coming year and of the interest by members in the CAJ being legally active on the advocacy front. A point was made related to development of opportunities to engage student members and how to keep them engaged and continued members of the CAJ.
 - i. Question about the use of pro bono lawyers for advocacy work, with general discussion about such; discussion about the potential creation of a legal defense fund as a way to partially or fully fund the legal advocacy work of the CAJ; discussion of establishment of a legal network across Canada to aid in situations where journalists require legal assistance and the opportunity for cross industry collaboration related to such. It was noted that many lawyers are interested, in general, in aiding the CAJ in its work. Further discussion ensued related to educating CAJ members on the legal

issues (such as the responsibilities of journalists' employers vs that which might be taken on by the CAJ) and the point of ensuring that outlets/newsrooms have lawyers on retainer, where possible.

- b. Approval of verbal report: Moved by C. Rosner, seconded by A. Moore. Carried.
7. Treasurer's report
- a. [Financial statements](#), as prepared by Corporate Controllers Inc., were presented
 - b. 2021 was a great year, financially. The "Rainy Day Fund" goal of \$100,000 was met and exceeded and the year was finished in a strong financial position including a \$40,000+ surplus.
 - i. Question posed: CIRA grant and where it stands - on track
 - ii. Question posed: Diversity Survey grant - on track
 - iii. Question posed: Possibility of full-time staff/ED for the 2022 year - treasurer wants to assess at end of the year
 - iv. Question/point: Series of surpluses for past few years and what, if anything, would be done with the funds - to be assessed
 - c. Approval of verbal report: Moved by B. Jolly, seconded by C. Rosner. Carried.
 - d. Motion to adopt the year end financials - moved by B. Jolly, seconded by K. Pugliese. Carried.
 - e. **Motion to re-appoint accounting firm:** That CCI Accounting of Halifax, N.S, be re-appointed as the CAJ's accountants for 2022-2023, with the condition that charity status may require the CAJ to retain accountants able to complete audited financial statements, which CCI Accounting is not. Moved by B. Jolly, seconded by F. Syed. Carried.
8. [CRO report](#)
- a. Q: regarding engagement/voter turnout. Response provided related to larger voter base resulting in lower percentage of votes but similar number of votes to previous years.
 - b. Motion to accept the CRO report - moved by H. Rodriguez, seconded by J. Markusoff. Carried.
9. Other business. None arising.
10. Motion to adjourn moved by B. Jolly, seconded by J. Markusoff.

Meeting adjourned by 9:45