

AGM Report 2021- Vice Chairperson - Athletics Ontario Officials Executive Council

When I looked at the Vice chair person's report for 2020, there was mention of 2020 being a year to remember due to Covid and the restriction for all sports and activities. Well, 2021 saw a continuation of these restrictions and how it impacted officiating at AO track meets. I was not able to officiate much in 2021 but I was busy with the paper work side of supporting the sport and our officials.

I would like to thank all the council members for their work and thank you to all the officials who were out on the track and in the field for the many meets this season. It was a long hot outdoor season and you worked some long days supporting the athletes in their efforts to get to Tokyo and AO championship meets. I certainly missed being out on the track this past year.

All of our meetings and town halls have been on a virtual platform and we certainly have gotten use to this technology. The AGM 2020 was on Zoom and the attendance was much better than at most in person AGM 's in the past. Sorry, there was no great luncheon or afternoon clinics just the business meeting, not as much fun or chance to chat with those you have not seen since July or August. The AGM for 2021 will be virtual again due to concerns about indoor gatherings.

The council members have meet via teleconference and zoom and there have been **Officials Town Hall** sessions starting in October 2020 that were well attended and good discussion.

I was recruited by Peter this year to represent the Officials on the **AO Strategic Planning Group**. This group has been meeting monthly since April 2021 on Zoom. It has been an interesting process. This will continue into 2022.

I sat in on most of the weekly **AO Town Halls** hosted by Paul Osland and made the voice of the officials heard when necessary. There have been many of our officials on these weekly, now biweekly calls. **Unofficially Speaking** continued to be published regularly with the help of the AO staff. This was a means of keeping all officials up to date about what is happening (even when it was very little these past 19 months). Emily was a great help with all communications and technical matters. She will be missed but we wish her well at her new position with Raptors 905.

Anthony Biggars, John Stevenson and I put together a simplified **virtual training session, Athletics 101** that was piloted over the summer with the AO interns and some interested new officials. This is available to clubs wanting to train volunteers when they are hosting a meet or new officials. This is a work in progress as there is video and photos available to enhance the dry theory stuff.

Phil Martin, Peter Hocking and I have been meeting with AO staff to collaborate on the mentoring program for our officials. The focus is on encouraging our level 2 officials to upgrade to level 3 so we have qualified officials for the many meets we support all year long.

I attended the NOC meetings on Zoom along side Peter Hocking or as his branch representative through out the past year. NOC has been sharing knowledge with the event specific sessions that have been informative, lots of sharing of experience and expertise.

Next year is already looking like a busy year for athletics, Canada Summer Games, Ontario Summer Games and the usual mix of track meets around the province.

My thanks to Peter Hocking for his sharing of his experience as the chair for AOOEC, and the other council members.

Regards,  
P. Lynn McFerran

