



2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2023

BOARD REPORT

Board Meeting Schedule Since Last AGM

1. December 3, 2022
2. January 25, 2023
3. April 12, 2023
4. April 29, 2023
5. August 2, 2023
6. October 25, 2023
7. November 08 – Upcoming (as of date of report)
8. December 2, 2023 – Upcoming (as of date of report)

Board Member Attendance

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|---------------------|-----|
| Stephanie Anselm | 6/6 |
| Petrina Dolby | 5/6 |
| Lyndsay Harrington | 5/5 |
| Dean Hustwick | 6/6 |
| Meshell Lynch-James | 6/6 |
| Brian McClelland | 5/6 |
| Patti Moore | 6/6 |
| Boris Nevelev | 6/6 |
| Dayna Ward | 6/6 |

Summary of Activities and Accomplishments

Following the 2022 AGM, Lyndsay Harrington was appointed and welcomed to the Board of Directors as a new member and replaced Scott Currier as Treasurer.

I am very pleased to share with our members that we are making some very positive progress on our strategic priorities following last year's approval of our new Strategic Plan. As you may recall, our Plan now focuses on better engaging the estimated 750,000+ Ontarians who participate in our sport each year and providing them with enhanced value.

After last year's AGM, we held our very first planning retreat between the Board of Directors and staff. The purpose was to identify realistic priority initiatives and actions that would advance our Strategic Plan in 2023. The result was new investments in three key areas:

- Increase our **Road & Trail** memberships by:
 - Improving in-person engagement through enhanced presence at well-contested events;
 - boosting AO's online community engagement; and

- expanding AO's presence and exposure across the road and trail community with a new Athlete Ambassador Program.
- Increase our youth memberships by enhancing and expanding our **Grassroots & Youth Initiatives** by:
 - improving existing and developing new youth development initiatives;
 - hosting regional Rising Stars Festivals in partnership with member clubs; and
 - providing member clubs with financial grants to support community outreach projects
- Offer a modernized and more exciting in-person **Awards Gala and Hall of Fame Ceremony** after three years of virtual events due to the pandemic. It was a fun-filled evening of celebration at the Toronto Grand on October 21st. It was well attended and everyone seemed to have a great evening. We also learned a lot that will help us to create even better events in the future.

With a little more than half of our fiscal year over, we have already made excellent progress on all three of these initiatives. Nevertheless, we are already starting to plan for the next fiscal year, our next round of priority initiatives and the 2024-25 Budget.

Safe Sport remains a top priority of Athletics Ontario and we are absolutely committed to dealing swiftly and, if necessary, harshly with inappropriate behaviour. Sadly, no matter how much education and training we provide, antiquated behaviours and attitudes continue to result in complaints, investigations, sanctions, appeals and lawsuits, which draw scarce human and financial resources away from much more valuable activities and programs for our sport.

Our Board Committees, which includes both Directors and some non-Directors, continue to support the regular operations of the Board of Directors and drive forward many important activities and initiatives. Each Committee has its own report on the AGM agenda so I won't reiterate their many achievements here. However, I do want to thank all members of those committees for their efforts and contributions.

The Athletics Canada (AC) Annual General Meeting was held in Whitehorse, Yukon in June, after a three-year delay due to the pandemic. The land of the midnight sun is a beautiful, and sparsely populated part of this great country and an excellent reminder of how important it is for athletics to be a strong, united and collaborative national organization that represents people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and financial means. One of the key agenda items discussed between AC and the provincial and territorial branches was mutual long-term financial sustainability, including membership fees. Since then, a working group has been developing options that will be presented to the AC Semi-Annual General Meeting in Ottawa in December.

As always, I want to express my profound gratitude to the staff, Board of Directors and all of our members and volunteers for working tirelessly, and passionately, to support athletics, and our athletes, in communities across this huge province.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean A. Hustwick
President and Chair of the Board of Directors