

Ottawa Valley Swiss Club Inc.
Annual General Meeting 2010
Centre communautaire Richelieu
300, rue des Pères-Blancs, Ottawa (Vanier), Ontario
Friday, February 5, 2010 at 5:30 pm

MINUTES

Present:

BOARD: Michel Charles Tadros (President /Chairman), Julia Hay (Vice-President), Luc-André Burdet (Membership Director), Helen Natterer (Treasurer), Robert Weitzmann (Director, Fundraising), Kati Lyon-Villiger, Secretary.

EMBASSY LIAISON: Bernadette Hurschler, First Secretary

SPECIAL GUESTS: His Excellency, Werner Baumann, Ambassador of Switzerland

MEMBERSHIP: 39 Members

Prelude:

A traditional hearty Swiss dinner was served at the start of the evening, and the President, Michel Tadros, thanked Juerg Roth for providing it so generously.

Address by His Excellency, Werner Baumann, Ambassador of Switzerland

Ambassador Baumann reflected on the positive contribution of the Swiss in Canada. He skirted effects of the international financial crises and the ensuing fiscal controversy into which Switzerland is drawn by other nation states and regions. He thanked the Swiss abroad for their continued support and bridge-building between their country of origin and Canada.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The OVSC INC.'s President, Michel-Charles Tadros, chaired the meeting, which he called to order at 07:45 p.m., a quorum (39 members) having been established. No proxy voters were registered, nor identified. M.-C. Tadros then presented the agenda – see **ATTACHMENT “A,”** which the members accepted without change.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (January 23, 2009):

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (January 23, 2009), were approved without change – **ATTACHMENT “A,”** pp. 2 – 6.

Motion: Jost am Rhyn
Seconded: Roger Aubrey
Carried unanimously

3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

Julia Hay and Luc-André Burdet initiated a Power Point presentation to facilitate the structuring of the meeting. Items being discussed were projected on a large screen for members' easy reference.

President's and Treasurer's Report

The Chairman presented Agenda Item 4, “Reports of Directors,” which included the President's Report --- ATTACHMENT “A,” pp. 7 – 9, and the Treasurer's Report

---ATTACHMENT “A,” pp. 9 - 10, which he asked the Treasurer, H. Natterer to present to the members. She pointed out that the figures spoke for themselves, and as a not-for-profit organization, the fiscal year 2009 had been very successful financially. She also referred members to the reviewer’s report in which an external accountant, Mrs. Nancy Graf, stated that nothing had come to her attention that would cause her to believe that the financial statements were not, in all material respects in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. She then responded to a few minor questions and members approved the financial statements as presented.

Motion: Helen Natterer
Seconded: Jules Bruehlmann
Carried unanimously

Remembering the Dead

The Chairman then asked members for a minute of silence to remember the three known members of the Club who had passed away in 2009, and those who were bereaved.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS

Task Force for the Incorporation of the various Sections of the Club in By-Law No. 1

The Chairman presented the revised version of By-Law No. 1 as well as a legal analysis of the proposed document by Me. Claude-Alain Burdet – ATTACHMENT “B”. The purpose of the amendment to the By-Law No. 1 was to recognize the Montagna Singers and the Ottawa Swiss Seniors Club as autonomous units of the Club. Me. Burdet had presented a number of options, and the Board, on the recommendation of the presiding members of the Montagna Singers (Jules Bruehlmann) and the Ottawa Swiss Seniors Club (Kurt Portmann) advised that members consider Me. Burdet’s most cost-effective option, viz. that the revised By-Law No. 1 be sent to Industry Canada for ratification, but if Industry Canada required the text to be changed to comply with legal requirements, the Board be authorized to do so prior to registration of the revised By-Law No. 1. A number of people questioned the text, and Me. Burdet explained that the proposed text was somewhat unorthodox from a legal point of view. The major difficulty that he foresaw was in the lack of adequate definitions of terms, including the term “autonomous.” The motion to approve the revised By-Law was defeated.

Motion: Kurt Portmann
Seconded: Kati Lyon-Villiger
Defeated by a majority of votes

5. 2010 EVENTS

The Chairman presented Agenda Item 6, “2010 Events,” ---ATTACHMENT “A”(p. 11 of 11) and explained that these would be listed on the website for public viewing. He elaborated that the National Holiday event in August, being on a Sunday, would be celebrated on Aug. 1st in collaboration with the Seaway Valley Club. Luc-André Burdet will publish all information as soon as it becomes available; they can also be found regularly in the “*Hofbraeuhaus News*”, the periodic newsletter of our German sister club, where its publisher, Max Bork, announces Swiss events regularly. (www.ottawavalleyclub.ca) site where the sections (Montagna Singers and Seniors Club) are pointers and become sub-website, with their own domain names. Members are always welcome to come up with suggestions they may have beyond what is listed.

6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jost am Rhyn informed the members that all current directors on the Board were willing to let their names stand for another year with the exception of Robert Weitzmann, who will be stepping down to concentrate on his business. He informed the members that Ms. Lise Broadbent had confirmed that she would be willing to stand as a candidate. In addition Dr. Marie-Claire Cordonnier-Segger was named from the floor as a candidate. Members appointed

Lise Broadbent, Luc-André Burdet, Kati Lyon-Villiger, Helen Natterer, and Marie-Claire Cordonnier-Segger (Ms. Bernadett Hurschler as the Liaison with the Swiss Embassy) for the 2010 Club year.

Motion: Juerg Roth
Seconded: Jules Bruehlmann
Carried unanimously

R. Weitzmann was given a vote of thanks for the excellent contribution he consistently made to the activities of the Club and in particular for his fund-raising efforts, and given a plaque to commemorate his tenure.

Jost am Rhyn then presented the re-election of the President. In the absence of any further nominations from the floor, members re-elected Michel-Charles Tadros for another year as President of the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club Inc.

Motion: Lise Broadbent
Seconded by Julia Hay
Carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Council of the Swiss Abroad

The Chairman re-iterated that the Council of the Swiss Abroad (ASO) represents what is often called the “fifth Switzerland” and is like a parliamentary representative liaison to Bern for the Swiss abroad. Ottawa falls under the consular circumscription of the Consulate General in Toronto. Eastern Canada has two representatives filling a 4-year mandate. Their liaison role provides high visibility in Switzerland and a good channel of communication between the Swiss communities abroad and their homeland. This is a voluntary position and all travel and others costs are assumed by the representatives. Having been elected by the members to ASO last year, Kati Lyon-Villiger has attended the initial sessions in Luzern in August 2009. She will be attending the debates in Bern again in late March 2010 and report to the AGM in 2011.

b) Fundraising

A number of events planned for 2010 are funding the activities of the Club, including concerts, dinners and theme lunches organized by the Montagna Singers and the Swiss Seniors Club. Members were thanked for consistently supporting and enjoying these events with enthusiasm.

c) Honours

Ambassador Baumann was honoured with a plaque for his continued and dedicated support and encouragement of the activities of the Swiss in Canada. As the representative from Bern, the plaque featured a Canadian brown bear, the living symbol of the Swiss capital.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The 2009 Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 09:15 p.m.

Michel Tadros
Chairman

Kati Lyon-Villiger
Secretary

Date approved by the Annual General Meeting: