

**SKI FOR LIGHT CANADA INC**  
**MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 7, 2020**  
WILLIAM WATSON LODGE, KANANASKIS, AB

Meeting called to order at 7:25 pm by Heather Zand

**1. ROLL CALL**

61 people present

**2. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed to remember those who are no longer with us and to send good wishes to those who have health issues.

**3. READING OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

Moved by Monique, seconded by Ron M, all in favour, carried

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Ron M, seconded by Harmon VB, all in favour, carried

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Registrar's report:

Feedback has been that there have been better food choices from the catering.

Participants who make food choices must abide by those choices as the caterers bring the food in and it is very difficult to make changes in the middle of the event.

In the Zone 4 registration, issues with special codes will be worked on.

On registration form, it is important that participants specify rooming partners & ski partners. Assigning partners is a very difficult task for the registrar so assistance is greatly appreciated.

Due to shortage of guides, registration was kept open after Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, however that causes problem for insurance and permits. It is important that this December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline be adhered to in the future.

If you have pictures from this event, please send them to the ski for light email. Anyone with additional feedback can give it to Jan F.

Moved by Jeff H to accept the report, seconded by Maggie L

Discussion followed on finances, fees having remained the same, continued use of WWL and who makes decision for location of future events. Uncertainty of WWL facilities for 2020 is the reason fees remained the same; WWL's full use of facilities only became known 2 days prior to registration opening thus too late to make any changes. Ultimately, it is the board's decision to take into consideration the numerous factors required for determining a location.

Inquiry was also made regarding having a future anniversary event at Castlegar, which was the location of the first SFL event.

Following discussion, voting was done on Business Arising from Minutes & Registrar's Report: all in favour, carried

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT – NADINE JOHNSON**

WWL is an opportunity to replenish the bank account. Last year, we increased the assets from \$29,000 to \$36,000. There was an excess of revenue over expenses of \$13,000.

Bookkeeping is now done in Excel and all government forms are now being done electronically.

Donation receipts are also in electronic format. We have registered with Canada Helps and Paypal for online donations. This year, donations were approx. \$15,000. Donations from Sons of Norway lodges, Sons of Norway Canada & Torskeklubben were \$10,000, remaining donations of \$5,000 were from various sources. Donation was requested from Sons of Norway US and we are waiting to hear on the decision.

Funding model has been developed to assist board in making event location decisions.

Moved by Nadine, seconded by Ron M, all in favour, carried

## **7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – HEATHER ZAND**

Heather thanked the board members for their diligence to get the 2020 SFL event organized.

This past year, policies and guidelines have been drafted to assist current and future boards with the event organization.

Brian M (who could not attend) sends his best wishes to everyone; he hopes we have a good time and he will be back in 2021.

Curt Jensen was recognized for his work on the board for many years; his legacy is the continued survival of SFL; thank you to Curt.

Heather also announced that she is resigning from the board.

Moved by Heather, seconded by Harmon vB

Discussion followed:

Curt suggested a card be sent to Brian M; board has already sent a card & chocolates.

Curt thanked everyone for the help given to him during his medical incident last year.

Peter Q thanked Heather for her work on the board.

Following discussion, vote was done on President's report: all in favour, carried

## **8. SKI FOR LIGHT REPORT**

### **a. Auction report – Tracy M**

Tracy thanked Barry as auctioneer for the event, also thanked Monique for item descriptions & Lloyd as model. Silent & live auctions brought in \$1737 this year.

### **b. 2020 Event**

The SFL 2020 event is going well. There has been lots of skiing as the weather has cooperated.

Food is excellent; cabins are excellent (with the help of a portable heater for cabin 22); track setting is of professional quality.

### **c. Special presentation by Ivar Wigaard**

Ivar is visiting Canada for the first time and wants to share information about Erling Stordahl, the man who started Ski for Light in Norway. Ivar met Erling in 1971 and was so inspired, it changed his life. Erling had a passion for working with mentally retarded and handicapped people; he wanted to assist in bringing up their skills and worked to integrate them with other people. He wanted them to establish a relationship with nature. He believed that we are all handicapped in some way. At Ski for Light, we come together; we ski together – some go faster, some go slower; everyone is a hero, not just the one who came in first.

In 1986, Ivar met Herrman Smith Johannesen, who was 111 years young at the time and lived on the island of Veierland outside Tonsberg in Norway. He could no longer walk by himself, but was in great mental shape and could speak 5 languages fluently. He was born in Norway, was a student in Germany in the 1890's and worked as an engineer all over the world – Panama, California (USA), Quebec (Canada). He taught the indigenous people to ski over the snow and earned the nickname Jackrabbit because he could move so fast over the snow. His meaning of a good life is to use your mind, body, and intellect; to stand up for other people; to be of service to others. At 111, he said that he has had 51 wonderful years after the age of 60 and that he still wakes up each day and asks himself how he can contribute and assist someone who needs him.

**d. Medal presentation for participants leaving early**

10K race results were announced for participants who were leaving early. One gold medal was presented.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to be addressed

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Ski for Light 2021**

Anna B read our SFL Mission statement:

“To host an annual event that provides an opportunity for blind and visually impaired adults to share the wonderful experience of cross-country skiing at an intimate and affordable location in western Canada”.

Anna announced that WWL as a facility is available for 2021 and if the main lodge is not available, the contingency plan prepared for this year's event is already in place and will be used.

Mountain Rose Catering has agreed to return in 2021.

The dates are Mon Feb 1 to Sun Feb 7, 2021.

**b. Additional item**

Question arose regarding vacant board positions. When positions come to be vacant mid-term, an election is not necessary; the board can appoint a replacement.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Ron M, meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

**Clarification provided to participants regarding the AGM - announced on February 8, 2020**

We had a board meeting this afternoon and the board would like to provide the following clarification in regards to the discussion held at the AGM for item 5 Business arising from the minutes:

The SFL board welcomes and encourages feedback and input from participants. As a newer board for SFL, we are finding that certain past practices may not have been aligned with our by-laws. We are in the process of clarifying processes and procedures. For example, a vote was done at the 2015 SFL event in Kamloops in regards to holding the 2016 & 2017 events at WWL to replenish reserves and the 2018 event elsewhere. It appears that participants are now acknowledging the pattern as ongoing for future events; however it was not the wording of the original vote. The board will do its best to work with recommendations and feedback from participants at an AGM, and to incorporate it in future direction.