

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED CHURCH AOTS MEN'S CLUBS

Executive Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2013 – Gander, NL

The meeting of the 2011 - 2013 National Executive was called to order at 3:40pm NLT.

President David Morris offered his thanks on behalf of the Executive to Gary Ross and Ernie Paddock for their tireless efforts in organizing the Executive/Biennial meetings and activities.

President David Morris opened the meeting with prayer.

Attendance at the meeting was 7, with 4 regrets as detailed below.

Executive Attendance (P = Present, R = Regrets)							
David Morris	P	Jim Upright	P	Jim McKibbin	P	Marvin Bildfell	P
Mark Browning	R	Gary Ross	P	Ed MacDonald	R	Harvey Douglas	R
David Adams	R	John Cooke	P	Ernie Paddock	P		

Guests: none

The Agenda for this meeting was discussed and approved.

Motion: Gary Ross/Jim Upright Carried

Approval of the Conference Call Meeting minutes of Sunday, July 14, 2013.

Additional details were noted re the passing of Duncan "Scott" Douglas on July 14 in Campbell River, BC.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected: John Cooke/Marv Bildfell Carried

Treasurer's Report: Marv Bildfell

Marv commented that he has reviewed the last 6 years of AOTS finances as an indication of the future of the organization. Some points of note are:

- Dues are declining indicating declining membership
- Expenses were reduced by eliminating the National Secretary role and reducing the web costs.
- High givings in 2010 reflects \$10k donation to the Dondi project.
- Income & Expenses were more or less equal in 2012 and at a much lower level than previously.
- Hospital Fund was eliminated in the last 2 years.
- Colnett and Youth to Camp Funds remain static
- General Fund is climbing slowly
- National Camp Improvement project – greater than half of the present clubs have not made a donation in 2013. He has heard complaints that clubs are not aware of the Project, yet 2 communications were issued in 2012/13. Ernie P suggested some clubs may be "waiting to see" before making a donation.

Marv indicated he is willing to stay on as Treasurer; but would like to identify a new Treasurer who would transition into the role in the next year. He circulated a role description.

Marv asked for clarification of the procedure for managing Executive expenses for face-to-face meetings.

Marvin's reports are available to all on Google drive. There seems to be general agreement that this is an acceptable approach. Contact Marv if you need assistance.

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President's Report: David Morris

David indicated that looking over the past 2 years the organization has continued to progress. He suggested that we should look forward, not back. He believes we should not get "hung up by the numbers"; rather continue to look after the clubs and individual members we have today. He encouraged us to move forward on the transition to the new Constitution, especially the Regional Council concept as a mechanism to bring Clubs together. He identified communications to all members (tech-savvy or not) as the major issue facing AOTS. He noted that the National Camp Improvement Project will be a good focus for the organization going forward. He thanked Jim McKibbin and expressed confidence in Jim Upright and Gary Ross for their leadership (past and future). Finally, David thanked the Executive members for their support over the last 2 years.

Old Business

1. Constitution Transition Plan Rev 8: John Cooke

Discussion regarding:

- National Council – recommended that this element not be implemented at this time. It was designed to offer broader participation and input; but is likely not needed currently.
- Regional Councils – The Vice Presidents need to focus on this element over the next 2 years. Regional Councils are designed to be flexible structures, not encumbered by geographical or traditional boundaries. Regional Councils don't need to have a formal leadership structure. The focus should be:
 1. Share club activities across the region
 2. Maintain contact with clubs and individual members
 3. Organize regional events (maximum 1 or 2 per year)
- Clarification of membership classes still needs to be attempted.

A revised transition plan will be issued based on this discussion.

2. 2013 Biennial: Gary Ross

Gary & Ernie gave a brief review of the Biennial schedule and logistics.

3. Nominating Committee Report

Jim KcKibbin presented the following slate of officers which will be presented to the National Business meeting.

President Elect	Gary Ross
President	Jim Upright
Past President	David Morris
Western VP	Bill Love
Central VP	John Cooke
Eastern VP	Derek White
Treasurer- Finance	Marv Bildfell
Recording Secretary	Mark Browning

Break for dinner

New Business

1. National Communications Strategy

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David Morris asked the Executive to do a short think-tank session to generate thoughts and ideas regarding the future communications strategy. The outcome is shown in Appendix A. This information will be presented to the National meeting for input and comment by the larger group.

Further actions will be identified at a future Executive meeting.

2. AOTS Future Operations Proposals - Marv Bildfell (see Appendix B). Based on the discussion the following actions were agreed:
 - a. Discussion of the Colnett Fund resulted in the following motion: Whereas the terms of the fund are very restrictive, and the recent experience has been very limited response to the scholarship, and the Colnett Fund is now not relevant to the National AOTS, moved by Marv Bildfell, seconded by Jim McKibbin that the Executive will reorganize the Colnett Fund to more appropriately deal with these funds in light of current issues and funding demands. Carried
 - b. Discussion of the Youth to Camp Fund resulted in the following motion: Whereas the Executive recognizes the hard work and financial support that clubs contribute to youth camping, moved by Marv Bildfell, seconded by Jim McKibbin, that the Executive investigate the feasibility of transferring the YTC Fund to the National Camp Improvement Fund. Carried
 - c. It was agreed to review the remaining issues at a future Executive meeting.

Roundtable:

David Morris closed the meeting in prayer.

Adjournment at 9:00 pm

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APPENDIX A

Communications Strategy Think-Tank Output

Includes input from the National Business Meeting participants

What Do We Want To Communicate?

- Focus on the National Project
- Less on AOTS stuff
- Invite men to participate in the project
- "AOTS" brand
- Tell the National Camping Association about us
- Need a strategy that addresses both internal & external communications

Current Communication Methods

- Handshake last issued in 2012
 - 3 letters/yr. from Marv to clubs, individuals, exec
 - Clubs are pretty good at keeping Marv up to date regarding contacts
 - Individual members drop off quickly – likely don't see a purpose
 - We are having problems opening attachments to emails
- Bottom Line - We are not reaching the grass roots

Possible Future Actions

- Ensure material is distributed on a timely basis ("Just do it") including pictures and text. Executive needs to identify someone to do this. (e.g. Biennial report)
- Club contacts
 - Make sure lists are up to date
 - Clarify the role of club contacts
 - Strengthen relationship between Club Contacts & VP's
 - Get a listing of all men's clubs in UC congregations to allow communication to key contacts on possible participation in AOTS events and initiatives
- VP's contact clubs. Options include:
 - Phone calls to club president's
 - Communications to Club contacts
 - Visit clubs (in person or Skype)
 - Ensure regular contact with Individual Members (need a listing of who these folks are)
- Communicate with Conference Reps (or Regional Council Reps)
 - Consider direct communication or conference call
- National Communications
 - New AOTS Brochure - in development
 - New generation Handshake - electronic newsletter
 - Canned presentation with audio to clubs, consider a video
 - Submit news articles to the Observer
 - Submit information to the UC Info Pak for distribution to all Churches
 - Get an update on the Dondi project including financials to support any clubs planning fundraisers
 - Publish an item in each local paper advertising AOTS with a link to the web-site
- National Camp Improvement Project
 - Pictures of kids on camp project promotions
 - Provide information on what was impacted or improved

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APPENDIX A (Cont'd)

Communications Strategy Think-Tank Output

Includes input from the National Business Meeting participants

- Website
 - Revamp website
 - List of clubs on the website
 - Set up a “member only” access to the web site to give access to member information. Encourage people to submit information.
 - News about activities at the club level (what have they done)
 - Publish National Executive Minutes
 - Expand web-site to allow each club and/or conference to have a location to display a) member information and b) highlights of events/initiatives

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Appendix B

AOTS Future Operations Proposals - Marv Bildfell

Falling Revenue and Club support indicates that we need to do something to change this trend. What is the problem? In corporate terms we would be diagnosed as needing to improve our brand. We need to be known as supporting something specific and meaningful. We also need to make the Club presence more visible in congregations and area events.

There are few (if any) applicants for the Colnett Fund and it is not easy to administer. The Youth to Camp monetary reward system to Clubs has never been very successful or continuously administered.

The new Camp Improvement fund has been strongly supported and gives us the chance to convert the majority of our outreach effort to this. We would have a strong, focused message to present to our clubs.

I propose we discuss the following:

1. Create a plan to make all future face to face executive meetings and Biennials revenue neutral.
Possibilities:
 - Commit to future Biennials as part of Eastern Roundup event.
 - Change Executive travel support to include mandatory donations back to Second Mile.
 - Reduce level of travel support.
 - Determine if face to face Executive meetings are needed.
2. Contact the families who set up the Colnett fund and the Youth to Camp Fund and propose that they be closed and the remaining funds be transferred to the Camp Improvement Fund and the principal depleted over a maximum of 10 years.
3. We will be set up to promote Camp grants and administer distribution. Seek agencies which have funds for this activity and encourage matching grants to multiply our effort.
4. There are a limited number of items like aprons, crests and ties available to wear as indications of membership. Consider facilitating ordering of other items such as shirts and jackets so members of clubs can increase club visibility.