

# VOYAGEUR COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Minutes



November 8, 2014



**Call to order and Welcome**

**Jim Peverley**

**Reaffirmation of Scouters Promise**

**Devon Staff**

**Minutes from 2013 AGM**

**Heather Shore**

**Motion** to accept the minutes from the November 2013 meeting: Sarah Smith, seconded by Werner Liedke.

**Vote:** All in favour, no oppositions, no abstentions, Motion carried.

**Reports:**

**Council Commissioner**

**Jim Peverley**

Voyageur Council continues to provide outstanding growth and development opportunities for our youth members through the efforts of an extensive and dedicated volunteer base. Training for volunteers, leadership opportunities for youth and of course adventure remain hallmarks of Scouting in Voyageur Council.

Recognition of our volunteer base reflects the excellent work done by Scouters day in and day out. A large number of certificates of commendation have been presented as well as many milestone awards such as the Medal of Merit and Silver Acorn. Additionally there have been some significant youth awards presented recognizing exceptional achievement

Program quality is maintained at a high standard across the council. Remarkably though there have been relatively few program quality awards presented which is not reflective of the real situation. The national goal of 80% of sections receiving the program quality award is achievable and is something all groups and areas should be striving for in the next Scouting year.

Senior sections within Voyageur Council represent a significant achievement for the council. With one of the largest senior section enrolments in the country it is important to continue with the outstanding program opportunities for our senior youth.

Training is an important activity in the council. With many in-person Woodbadge Part 1 courses offered, various courses designed to provide practical application of material identified in on-line training the council is dedicated to providing the skills needed by our scouters to deliver a quality program. As a council we continue to be committed to providing advanced training through the Woodbadge Part 2 courses. Everyone who has taken this training is comments on the value of the material covered.

Growth is an area where we did not do well in the past year. For the first time in nine years we did not grow overall. This has an impact on the cash flow of the council as fewer members does mean

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less money available to run the program, but more importantly it means we are not providing the outstanding program that is Scouting to as many youth in our region as we could be. As a council we need to concentrate on growth opportunities.

We have many exciting challenges in the coming year, not the least of which is the gradual implementation of the new program, *The Canadian Path*. To many of you the changes implemented this year are in fact nothing new. Youth led, Adventure, Plan-Do-Review and SPICES (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character Emotional and Spiritual) are not new concepts to the majority of you who have been running superior programs for many years. This is the year for all of us to review how we do things and keep Scouting as the valuable youth program that it is.

The past year has provided some challenges but the council is in good shape overall with about 5,000 youth experiencing what scouting has to offer. As scouters we must continue to provide the opportunity for our youth to grow as leaders for Canada.

**Council Youth Commissioner**

**Devon Staff**

Since the beginning of this Scouting year, I have had the privilege of representing the youth of Voyager Council as the Council Youth Commissioner. Over the past year, our council has faced numerous challenges, especially related to our decrease in membership. However, I am optimistic about Scouting in Voyageur Council and across Canada. Our Youth Network in Voyageur Council has never been stronger. We currently have an Area Youth Commissioner for every single area without our vast Council. Something that has never before been achieved. Our Council Youth Network is helping to deliver youth training and leadership opportunities all across the Council. Within some of our recent events, we have involved youth from Kingston all the way to Gatineau, spreading knowledge and youth leadership across our whole Council. Our Youth Network has committed countless hours to improving the lives of our youth, and I would like to thank all of the Leaders, Mentors, and Advisors that have lead us and the youth of Voyageur Council along this path. I would also like to thank all the Parents and other supporters who have helped us along the way and driven us to the store after we forgot the bread and eggs and bacon for our camp. The success of our council was paved by all those who have helped us achieve our goals. Thank you!

**Council Executive Director**

**Jon Wiersma**

Report of the Council Executive Director (CED)  
Scouters,

Having transitioned into the role of CED for Voyageur Council in March of this year, it has been a pleasure working with the Scouters in Voyageur Council. I have had the opportunity to be on the road visiting Area meetings and a Camporee, along with some time at OPE this past summer. I can say that our Scouters in Voyageur Council are very passionate about Scouting, offering Great, Safe Scouting Adventures, to thousands of young people across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.

I want to thank Ian Wilenius and now Devon Staff and Jim, my Key 3 counterparts on the Council Key 3. A good relationship is KEY to making a KEY 3 WORK! It has been FUN working with these dedicated Scouters.

The same applies at the Area level and we are fortunate to have Heather and Kelly as ASMs (Area Support Managers) for Voyageur. As the title indicates, Heather and Kelly are here to SUPPORT the

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Areas and form an integral part of the Area Key 3, alongside the Youth Commissioner and Area Commissioner.

To the members of the CMAC (Council Management Advisory Committee): the AYCs, ACs, DCCs and last but not least, Heather Shore...thank you for the warm welcome and for what you have done and are continuing to do, supporting Scouting, this past year.

To my colleagues in the Service Center: Corinna, Ladka, Lynn, Pamela and Jeff...Thank you very much, for what you do each and every day, supporting the "Scouters on the ground"...as Rob Stewart (our retired CEO) would say...the "Tuesday night heroes"! Thank you as well to Michel Besner, Kathryn Brown and Lynn Williams, who left us / retired this past Scouting year.

To Theresa and Aaron at Opemikon, (and of course, Keith, Theresa's husband and right hand man), thank you for looking after the Councils' camp. There is a lot of history at OPE and lots to be proud of. We all need to work together, volunteers and staff, to bring OPE to the next level of usage...such as offering theme program weekends, running more training courses and specialty courses, bringing more schools in to fill Monday – Friday's and last but not least, expanding our summer program offerings.

OPE is very fortunate to have the OPE Company and Crew, as well as the Camp Committee...very dedicated Scouters and young people, willing to give their all, to our camp....Thank You!

In conclusion, let's bring more "Great, Safe Scouting Adventures to more youth across the Council and achieve the National Goal of 10 % Full Time Membership Growth....let's Recruit and Train more adults to Scouters and to the Young Adults in our Rover Crews, continue to spread the word, share YOUR passion and Bring a Friend or 2, to our movement...the young people of Canada need YOU! Thank you.

**2013 – 2014 Annual Report**

**A. Approval of audited Financial Statements**

**Jeff Benson**

The financial statements were reviewed.

**Motion:** For the approval of audited financial statements presented at this meeting by Alan Clapp, and seconded by Stewart Ross.

**Discussion:** Why did insurance go up so much? Additional cost for purchase of tractor. School Flyer cost went down, money was saved not producing flyers that were not used.

**Vote:** All in favour, none opposed, 2 abstentions, motion carried.

**B. Motion for appointment of auditors**

**Jon Wiersma**

I would ask that the accounting firm of KPMG be appointed as Council Auditors for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2015.

The motion was made by Jeff Priems, and was seconded by Owen Wiseman. All In favour, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

**C. Confirmation of Acts**

**Devon Staff**

Be it resolved that all acts, proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Management Committee Members since the last Annual Meeting of the Council, referred to in the minutes of this body, of the Annual General Meeting or the Annual Report, or in any way connected with the day to day business of the Council are hereby approved and confirmed.

**Motion** to accept the Confirmation of Acts by Doug Hall, seconded by Stephen Mihorean.

**Vote:** All in favour, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

**Retention/Growth Award Presentation**

**Kelly Banks, Heather Lee**

The Mighty Oak award is presented to the Area with the Highest Growth for the previous year (2014). Dave Cunningham accepted the award on behalf of Loyalist Area.

**Installation of Council Officers and Service Team**

**Jon Wiersma, Jim Peverley, Devon Staff**

The Key 3 asked for all Commissioners and Staff to come forward and asked for the team commitment to Scouting ending with the reciting of the Promise. The Key 3 then presented to the assembly the Officers, Youth, and Employees including:

- a. Council Commissioner/CYC
- b. Deputy Council Commissioners
- c. Area Commissioners/AYCs
- d. Guild Members

**Recognition/Appreciation/Presentations**

**Key 3**

The Bar to the Medal Of Merit was presented to:

David Cunningham

Legacy Awards were presented to:

Doug Hall

William Racz

The Bar to the Silver Acorn was presented to:

Michael Burdo

Congratulations gentlemen!

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**Vote of Thanks**

**John Staff**

I ask you to join me in a salute to a special kind of Community Volunteer – a Scouting Volunteer.

They help to make the organization a better place; and they do it because they care about what the world will be like tomorrow and they want to make a difference today.

I move that we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every adult Volunteer Scouter, Committee Member, Support Scouter, and especially our Spouses and Partners, for their service to Scouting and their devotion to accomplishing the Mission of Scouting in Voyageur Council.

**Motion for Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting made by Doug Hall, and seconded by Dave Cunningham.

**Vote:** All in favour, motion carried.

**Conference Notes**

**Dave Cunningham**

**The 2015 AGM is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2015.**  
**Thank you to everyone for coming!**