

ALBERTA ESTONIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6 May 2023

Location: Kerry Wood Centre, Red Deer

Chair: President Kelly Schuler

Secretary: Rein Pääsuke

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM.

1. Quorum

The quorum was established with 16 members present (9 members needed to form quorum).

2. Agenda

There were no suggested additions or changes to the agenda.

MOTION (Evelin Fodor/Külliva Kangur): That the agenda be adopted as distributed.

Carried.

3. Minutes of last AGM

MOTION (Rein Paasuke/Lorne Hennel): That the minutes of the last AGM be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

4. Reports

A. PRESIDENT:

- i. The AEHS Board held six meetings by Zoom since the last AGM.
- ii. In February 2022, we celebrated the 104th anniversary of Estonian independence via Zoom.
- iii. We continued with the Estonian language course, with 3 teachers and 8 students initially in 2023. During the year 2 students dropped out due to the pressure of other commitments.
- iv. The third AEHS photo contest, organised by Evelin Fodor and Cam Clark, was a success with six photographers submitting 18 entries. The photos were judged by 3 anonymous judges who were blinded as to who the photographers were. The fourth AEHS photo contest, including only photos taken in 2023, is open as of today, with the closing deadline on 31 January 2024.
- v. The President, in her travels within the last year to Estonia and Toronto, was encouraged by reports that AEHS has the best historical documentation of any Estonian organisation in Canada, and that there is greater interest about Alberta Estonians in both Canada and Estonia.

MOTION (Evelin Fodor/Jan Paasuke): That the President's report be received.

Carried.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Presented by Toomas Paasuke (see attached)

MOTION (Bob Tipman/Külliva Kangur): That the Financial Report be adopted.

Carried.

C. BUDGET:

Presented by Toomas Paasuke (see attached)

MOTION (Jan Paasuke/Evelin Fodor): That proposed budget for the current fiscal year (1 March 2023-29 February 2024) be adopted.

Carried.

D. AUDITORS' report:

Prepared by audiors Enn and Pärja Tiislar.

MOTION (John Erdman/Evelin Fodor): That the Auditors' report for the last fiscal year (1 March 2022-28 February 2023) be received.

Carried.

Since the Tiislar have moved permanently to Victoria, BC, they will not be able to carry on as Auditors. Two new auditors need to be appointed.

Meaghan Belfiglio volunteered, and was nominated by Rein and Jan Paasuke.

MOTION (Rein Paasuke/Jan Paasuke): That Meaghan Belfiglio be appointed as an auditor for the current fiscal year (1 March 2023-29 February 2024).

Carried.

There were no other volunteers or nominees for auditor. The Board of Directors will appoint a second auditor.

5. Video Presentation

The Estonian language students have prepared a video of a communal reading of the children's book *Triin ja Päike* (Triin and the Sun) about a little girl's day-long conversation with the sun. Each student read a section of the story. The video was presented alongside slides of the pages of the book.

6. Recommendation from the Board

The Board of Directors recommends that future AGMs be held in different locations in Alberta in the hope that more members will be able to attend. Discussion followed, but no decision was made. The Board may conduct an email poll on this issue.

7. Membership Report

Presented by Lorne Hennel.

Memberships for the last few years:

2019:	40 individual	39 family memberships	total: 79
2020:	31 individual	16 family memberships	total: 47
2021:	total: 52 memberships, including 16 previous members who had not renewed in 2020		
2022:			total: 51

2023: total: 40 so far, including 18 recurring.
There was some discussion about how to increase our membership, particularly how to contact Estonian newcomers to Alberta. Bob Tipman briefly reviewed the history of the Edmonton, Calgary, Stettler, Eckville and Barons Estonian societies, and the establishment of the AEHS in 2005.

It was stated that the best prospects are personal contacts.

MOTION (Evelin Fodor/John Erdman): That the Membership Report be received.

Carried.

8. Election of Board or Directors

(All directors are elected for a one-year term. Maximum number of Directors is 10.)

The following slate of nominations is proposed by the Board:

President	Kelly Schuler
Vice President	Evelin Fodor
Secretary	Rein Paasuke
Treasurer	Toomas Paasuke
Membership Director	Lorne Hennel
Directors-at-Large (4)	Cam Clark
	Marion Collin
	John Erdman
	Heili Strawbridge

There were two other nominations from the floor of the meeting:

Meaghan Belfiglio
Scott Raabis

Since there were 11 good candidates, it was suggested that the By-Law limiting the Board to 10 Directors be suspended for 1 year. John Erdman objected to this proposal: The By-Laws were established for a reason, and we are obligated to adhere to the By-Laws. Suspension of a By-Law is a bad precedent. There was general **agreement** not to suspend the By-Law.

This required an election. Ballots were distributed to the members, who each voted for up to 10 candidates.

The 10 successful candidates were (in alphabetical order):

Belfiglio, Meaghan
Clark, Cam
Erdman, John
Fodor, Evelin
Hennel, Lorne
Paasuke, Rein
Paasuke, Toomas
Raabis, Scott
Schuler, Kelly
Strawbridge, Heili

MOTION (Ben Belfiglio/Evelyn Shursen): That the ballots be destroyed.

Carried.

At this point the meeting was adjourned for a brief period so that the Board could meet.

The Board members present (a quorum of the Board in attendance) voted to co-opt Marion Collin to the incoming Board.

The Annual General Meeting was resumed.

9. Election of Executive (Officers of the Board)

MOTION (John Erdman/Bob Tipman): That the following Directors be the Executive:

President	Kelly Schuler
Vice President	Evelin Fodor
Secretary	Rein Paasuke
Treasurer	Toomas Paasuke
Membership Director	Lorne Hennel

Carried.

10. Jaanipäev Celebration 2023 (24 June)

Evelyn Shursen outlined the plans made under her leadership for the celebration in Stettler.

Events include: Visit to the Estonian House Museum

Tour of the Stettler Grain Elevator Museum

Catered lunch at the Elevator

Slide show of the countryside of Estonia by Pauline Brennen

Train ride from Stettler to Big Valley and supper at Big Valley

Possible trip to Donalda Lamp Museum

Stettler city mayor and county reeve have been invited.

11. Adjournment

The President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM