

FIRA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
September 25, 2022

4pm: Bill Odell called the meeting to order.

All 7 members of the Executive Board were in attendance.

Approval of June 23 Meeting Minutes

~ Joe DiFrancesco made the motion for approval, Dianne Kelly made the second and motion was approved.

Presidents Message

- ~ Bill asked for a big thank you to all the volunteers. FIRA would not exist with out all the efforts of the volunteers including: the executive boards, activity leaders, fundraisers and improvement committee leaders and their teams.
- ~ This year: The hall was renovated and we are enjoying the results today! We had a very successful return of the Pancake Breakfast! Tonight we will enjoy the pig roast dinner! These are all the result of a team of dedicated volunteers.
- ~ A well deserved big round of applause went to all the volunteers past, present and future.
- ~ For FIRA to continue to be actively strong we need more members to step up, specifically the VP position for 2023, so please think about getting involved.
- ~ FIRA's membership is up so let's continue to talk to your friends and neighbours about joining or attending an activity as a guest, or to one of our bonfires this fall.
- ~ This year we celebrate 40 years of activities at the hall. It started with a New Years party December 31 1982.
- ~ Just a reminder our COVID protocols remain the same, they are fluid, and remember: if you don't feel well, don't come to the hall.
- ~ Cindy Woodrow had a fun idea to start calling the hall, "The Clubhouse!"

Treasurer's Report & Propane:

- ~ Joe DiFrancesco reported that we have 16 new members this year and 43 since 2019!
- ~ Our goal is to collect enough dues annually to pay our basic operating overhead costs, and we met that this year even with the dues reduction, however, costs are increasing for next year.
- ~ We raised twice as much as last year on fundraisers. We made \$863 on the meat sale this year and \$1,105 at the Pancake Breakfast.
- ~ We had significant major improvement expenses this year renovating "the Clubhouse" with \$4,000 authorized at last year's AGM and another \$12,000 plus \$1,700 to remove two danger trees at the June meeting. Including the new deck and doorway a few years ago, we invested almost \$20,000 over the last 4 years.
- ~ Due to growing membership and fundraising, we are still financially healthy projecting to end 2022 just a few thousand dollars less than where we started in 2019.
- ~ 2021 finances were audited by Cindy & Bill and determined to be accurate.
- ~ The Propane Program with Budget Propane and Kelly's Propane currently has 91 member properties participating, more growth over last year! Propane prices are up, but the program does fix the price for the winter season so it cannot change. If participating members did not receive an email or letter from their supplier, email Joe at firatreasurer@gmail.com.

Old Business:

FIRA Improvement Committee:

- ~ Laura Golbeck reviewed the work that has been completed at the hall and thanked everyone for all the hard work. This included new chairs, card tables, utility table, mahjong & cribbage games, TV &

soundbar, interior paint, trim, lights, door handles, electrical outlets/switches, clock and bathroom mirror, plus a 10'x20' tent and fire pits for outdoor events

~ She explained that the next items to complete will be:

- * Paint storage room (after Thanksgiving)
 - * Purchase and install dart boards and new DVD player (after Thanksgiving)
 - * Decisions on wall decor - lots of ideas are being considered, including a photo gallery
- ~ In the future, some items to be evaluated further for needs and cost:
- * Curtain or sliding barn door for storage room?
 - * Rolling stand?
 - * New florescent lights and/or just covers?

Committee/Activity Reports:

Current Activities:

*** Group fitness & games:**

~ Carrie DiFrancesco reviewed the current activity schedule. She reminded everyone that activities are member generated so please reach out to Carrie if you would like to start a new one.

~ We are always looking for more exercise opportunities / instructors.

Mahjong: Mondays 1:30pm. Activity Lead: Bonnie Beaudoin

Bid Euchre: Mondays 7pm. Activity Lead: Brenda Carey

Zumba DVD: Mondays and Thursdays. Activity Lead: Carrie DiFrancesco

Cribbage: Thursday evenings. Activity Lead: Sue Mason

Darts: Planning for Fridays 4-6pm. Activity Lead: Irene Odell. Start TBA

Crafts: Wednesdays 9:30 - noon. Activity Lead: Dianne Kelly

Walking DVD group: Tuesdays 10am. Activity Lead: Barb Taylor

Outdoor Group Fitness: Planning kayaking/walks. Activity Lead: Cindy Woodrow

Instructor Led Fitness: Vacant after Jane left. Activity Lead: Open

Instructor Led Yoga: Hoping to find instructor. Activity Lead: Open

*** Crafts:**

~ Dianne Kelly reported that new members have joined the Craft Ladies and many people have been participating on Wednesdays.

~ There are new craft activities coming up. She has emailed a list and there is one located on the bulletin board.

~ There is plenty of wool available. Typically the group knits premie hats and they are donated. Also, quilt squares are made to turn into blankets for the youth hub kids. Knitters and crocheters are welcome to help themselves to the wool in the storage room.

*** Social**

~ Irene Odell reported that a potluck schedule will be put up on the bulletin board. We do need people to volunteer for set up if we would like to have potlucks. Also, let Carrie know if you will be setting up so we can announce an upcoming potluck.

~ We would love to have some themed parties, like Halloween, Christmas, New Years, etc.... But really need people to step-up to organize some of these types of events.

~ For the last few Christmas parties, Irene, Carrie, Lynn Yake & Evelyn Fenwick organized. This year, Irene and Carrie will not be able to. If there is anyone who would like to take over, please let Carrie know. One idea is to see if Till Death BBQ could cater.

~ Bonfires will be organized this fall and winter and we can always make them holiday oriented.

~ Once we are ready, Darts & Cornhole fun will take place on Fridays from 4-6pm.

DeFib / CPR - Carrie - Update:

~ Carrie reported that Donna Smith is our liaison to the local paramedic services and she is working with them to provide a full CPR / Defibrillator course for FIRA members sometime this winter. It is an 8 hour course and she may be able to split it into two 4-hour days. I need to get her a list of

interested people this Fall so please email Carrie at firasecretary@gmail.com if you would like to be included. I have heard from 11 people so far.

New Business:

Website Enhancement:

- ~ Cindy Woodrow asked that we thank Ken Loney for his continued work on maintaining our FIRA website. While Ken still updates the site, we are interested in evaluating possible revisions to the site in the future.
- ~ Cindy is researching to see what we would like to see on our site. Keeping the original but maybe update to make it more user friendly.
- ~ If there is anyone with the experience and ability to help on a project such as this, please email Carrie (firasecretary@gmail.com) or Cindy Woodrow (cmwoodrow@live.ca).

Dues 2023:

- ~ Joe led the discussion on what FIRA dues should be for 2023. Dues were lowered in 2022, partially due to the COVID limitation of activities at the hall. We would like dues to continue to cover the annual expenses for the hall and we will have had increases in propane and other expenses, plus regular cleaning now that we are fully open. We also try and keep an adequate balance for large replacement expenses that could be needed.
- ~ After much discussion, a motion was made by Joe to raise the dues for 2023 by \$10 to cover rising costs, which would be \$70 for a 1 person membership and \$120 for a couple. The \$10 per household discount for members of local lake associations would be continued.
- ~ Irene and Glenn Scott seconded the motion and it was approved by member vote.
- ~ **REMINDER:** Non members are welcome to participate in activities as a guest up to 3 times, then they would be expected to either join as a member or pay a \$5 donation when they attend an activity to contribute to the overhead of the Clubhouse.

Clubhouse use:

- ~ Irene brought up that we are currently allowing use of the hall for events for a \$50 donation by members. It was suggested non-members donate a higher amount, such as \$100.
- ~ Questions were raised about our insurance coverage for non-member use. Joe states we have a new broker this year and he will have a conversation with this new agent about liability.
- ~ Part of the additional cost for a non-member event use could be considered membership for the year and require the person making the request to sign a Membership form and liability waiver.
- ~ Irene motioned to ask for a higher donation for non-member requests, Dianne Kelly seconded and the motion was approved.

Executive Board 2023 nominations

- ~ The 2023 proposed slate of the Executive Board is as follows.

President: Cindy Woodrow

Vice President: OPEN No one came forth at the meeting to fill the VP slot for 2023, therefore we still need a nomination for VP in 2023, which would become President in 2024 and Past President in 2025,

Past President: Bill Odell

Treasurer (2 yr term) - Joe DiFrancesco will stay on for second year of term in 2023.

Secretary (2 yr term) - Carrie DiFrancesco will stay on for second year of term in 2023.

Members at Large (1 yr term) - Lynn Yake & Wayne MacKenzie will stay on for 2023. There were no other nominations for these positions.

- ~ There was discussion that we continually have a hard time finding a new Vice President. It was noted that a position on the Board is a great way to meet new people and be involved in new activities. The positions do not involve a significant amount of time with only 4-5 Executive meetings per year and there is plenty of support from other Board members, including the Past President's guidance. It was proposed that if we can't find someone to fill the VP slot by December 31, we will

continue with the same Board positions as 2022 so that we do not start the year with a vacancy. A motion was made to accept the new Board positions, assuming we fill the open VP slot by December 31, and if we do not we will maintain the 2022 Board in 2023. The motion was seconded and passed. If you are interested in being the VP for 2023, email Carrie at firasecretary@gmail.com.

~ Subsequent to the AGM, Jeff Vanderkuur volunteered to serve as VP in 2023! THANK YOU, Jeff! We will accept any other interested candidates for the VP position through Friday, October 7. If you are interested, contact firasecretary@gmail.com by that date. If we do not receive any other candidates by that time, the Board will gladly accept Jeff's nomination as the VP for 2023.

~ Thank you to Andy Valickis for stepping up during COVID and remaining president for 2.5 yrs as President, 1 year as VP and 1 year as Past President. Thanks also to Glen Smith for the extra recent years of Past President he served. In addition to terms as President and Past president, he served 9 years as Treasurer, just one of the many volunteers who served extended terms as Board members, creating a great legacy for others to follow.

Motion to adjourn

~ A motion to adjourn was made by Irene and seconded by Jamie Brown and the motion was approved.