

FIRA General Member Meeting March 19, 2023

Minutes

President's Message

- ~ Cindy Woodrow opened the meeting with a welcome for our first 2023 General Member meeting and introduced this year's Executive Board.
- * This is FIRA's 41st year of fun, food & friendship at the FIRA clubhouse! We have built a great FIRA community, so lets keep it going!!
- * A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers for support and dedicated hours in accomplishing our mission. We are a member driven organization and volunteering is the key to our success! We encourage new members to get involved and for everyone to continue to share knowledge, expertise & ideas.
- * This year, your FIRA club has a full schedule of activities and events for the members, including new activities, darts, line dancing, etc.... We'll keep you informed with emails and dates & times on the newly updated website & calendar at firahall.ca.

Previous Business

~ Approval of Minutes:

- * The September 25, 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes were approved with a motion made by Dianne Kelly and a second by Bill Odell. The motion was carried.

~ Hall Improvements:

- * Carrie DiFrancesco reported that there is approximately \$1,500 to use for the remainder of the Phase 1 hall improvements. Some of this will be used for wall decor which include photos & signs using different materials. Laura Golbeck and Carrie hope to have most, if not all, of it up by the Pancake Breakfast.

~ New website update:

- * Cindy introduced and thanked Francis Pilon who did most of the technical work to create and update the FIRA website. The website is now more user friendly with new photos, color scheme & contains plenty of information.
- * Joe DiFrancesco showed clips of the various website pages while Cindy provided a description of the various pages. Francis is hoping to train "the team" to work the site and that knowledge be passed to future board members.
- * Also, we extend a big thank you to Ken Loney for all of his years in providing FIRA a website.

~ Clubhouse rental:

- * Joe spoke with FIRA's insurance agent and we are covered when renting the hall as long as FIRA does not serve alcohol.
- * To rent, the charge is \$50, plus membership fees if not currently a member.

Financial Update - Joe DiFrancesco

~ The 2023 Budget and YTD results were presented next to prior years results.

- * Dues collections are coming very timely this year with about 70% collected so far and we expect about \$8,800 for the year.
- * Fundraising should total over \$4,000 if we do Club 200 along with the Meat Sale, Pancake Breakfast, Craft Sales and Pig Roast.
- * Expenses are as expected and should be covered by dues collections.
- * We have \$1,500 remaining to spend from last year's approvals for hall improvements, which will go towards wall decor and some other items.
 - * If there are larger Capital Improvements needed for replacing windows or better floor insulation, we could pursue a grant. Jeff Vanderkuur is looking for a committee to help with grant proposals. Let Jeff know if anyone has experience and would volunteer to help: jjeff.vdk@gmail.com.
- * Unless further expenditures are needed, we expect our funds to be just over \$26,000 at year end, up a few thousand from 2022.
- * A question was raised on getting a push button phone vs the existing rotary dial. The issue has been the added cost for an upgraded commercial line over the \$82/month we pay now. A push button phone would allow easier use for calls going to an automated attendant and open up the possible use of the hall for Radio Bingo. Joe will check with Bell on our options. It is noted that reliable cellular service becoming available in the area would also change this situation.
- * Joe has had requests to make payments via e-transfer but our banking agreement does not allow it since the by-laws require two signatures. He suggested seeing if other controls can be put in place such as President and/or VP immediate notification from the bank for all e-transfers that would provide adequate protection in lieu of a second signature like we have for cheques. There was no objection so he will check out our options. Any change would require a by-law modification approved by a member vote.

Fundraising

~ Carrie and Joe reviewed the fundraisers for this year:

- * **MacGregor Meat Sale** - Graham Newton has agreed to again conduct this annual sale. The product lists will go out to members around April 15th, orders will be accepted up to the week before the May 24 weekend

and products pickup will be at the hall the Thursday before the long weekend.

- * **Pancake breakfast** - Carrie agreed to organize the August Pancake Breakfast again as long as there are volunteers to help.
- * **Pig Roast** - Wayne MacKenzie is asking Garth Krieger to see if they are willing to do this again in September.
- * **Club 200** - Graham also agreed to again organize this raffle. The tickets are ready to print and put in books of ten. We need **volunteer ticket sellers** each getting 20 tickets (2 books). Tickets will go out to sellers in the middle of June and hoping all will be sold by September's long weekend. Draws will take place on October, November, and December. Graham would like a **co-coordinator** for two reasons - ensuring an honest draw and someone to carry on as he starts to phase out of the Club 200 draw in 2024.
- * **50/50 potlucks** - we will occasionally do a 50/50 draw at potlucks and / or happy hours.
- * * **All of our fundraisers and activities need volunteers. Contact Carrie at firasecretary@gmail.com or sign up at the hall on the bulletin board!!**

Activities/other committee updates

~ **Board Activity Coordinator** - Carrie explained that the following activities are still occurring and to contact the activity leads for each activity for more information. Activity leads and their emails can be found on the hall's bulletin board and at <https://www.firahall.ca/activities>.

- * **Fitness groups:** Outdoor Walking starts up for Spring on Thursday, April 6, 1:30-2:30, every other week. Line Dancing resumes Thursday, March 30, 1:30-2:30, every other week.
- * **Games** - Monday night Bid Euchre, Thursday night Crisscross Cribbage, Monday afternoon Mahjong are still occurring.
- * **Darts / Happy Hour(s)** - Fridays 4-6pm.
- * Suggestions have been made for other activities like pickle ball & corn hole. Any input and / or help is welcome!!

~ **Wednesday Ladies** - Dianne Kelly reported that there have been great turnouts lately on Wednesday mornings.

- * Dianne noted that they are no longer a quilting group and are now known as the Wednesday Ladies group. Currently, they are participating in various crafting activities and continue to enjoy coffee & conversation every week.
- * Some of their crafts will be sold at the pancake breakfast in lieu of the former Summer Fest (craft & bake sale).
- * Dianne also reported that the **Youth Hub** in town is for kids that need to be somewhere after school. Many are kids in need so Wednesday Ladies

make lap blankets for them and they are very appreciated. They also drop off donated snacks, socks, juice boxes, granola & hygiene products. A collection box is at FIRA for anyone who can donate.

* Also, the ladies make **hats for preemies** at Oshawa General Hospital.

~ **Social Event Coordinators - Lynn Yake & Irene Odell**

* Lynn reviewed the activities we have enjoyed to date. Friday night darts is a popular Happy Hour(s) event. Attempts were made to recognize Christmas and Valentines Day dinner dances but there wasn't enough interest.

* Our **Weekly Summer Happy Hours**, which were very popular last year, will resume on Thursdays from 4-6pm starting in June. A schedule will be posted in May for hosts to sign up.

~ **Special Events (Merron Gottardi)**

* **Defibrillator / CPR course** - Donna Smith, our acting liaison with the local paramedic services, is still communicating with them to provide a full CPR / Defibrillator course for FIRA members. It is an 8 hour course and hopefully they can split it into two 4-hour days.

* **Scavenger Hunt** - joint with HLCA. After 3 years of coordinating the Scavenger Hunt, the organizing committee is stepping down. If there is anyone who would like to form a new committee to conduct the hunt, Carrie, Lynn, Sue Harrison & Evelyn Fenwick will offer guidance and our records.

**** Reminder: Upcoming events can be added to the new FIRA website and calendar**

New Business

~ **The FIRA sign:**

* We are looking for volunteers to form a "Refresh" Committee for the outdoor FIRA sign. We need new words and / or letters for posting events. If you are interested, please sign up on the clubhouse's bulletin board or email Jeff at jjeff.vdk@gmail.com.

~ **Potlucks and Member Meetings.**

* We initially thought to begin regular monthly Sunday potlucks again but attendance is often low when there isn't a member meeting.

* A new idea is to continue to have our potlucks on the Sundays for the months we have Member Meetings and then try Happy Hours on a weekday for the months with no meetings. Feel free to provide feedback!

* Here is the new schedule for 2023:

Sunday Potlucks & Member Meetings

- June 25 + MM
- August FIRA Member BBQ
- September 24 + AGM
(Combine with Pig Roast)?
- November 26 +MM

Happy Hour Events

- April 18 (Tues)
Wine / Beer Tasting 3-5pm
- May 10 (Wed)
- October 25 (Wed)
- December ?

~ Other new business

* We are hoping to have a **bonfire** soon. It may be handy to have a firewood holder. The Chevrefils mentioned there is a covered wood holder at Home Hardware and they will look into the price and availability for us.

~ Meeting Adjourned

* A motion made by Irene and a second by Joe to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried.