

Nova Scotia Debating Society

MINUTES of 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Saturday, October 5th, 2013. Time: Commenced at about 1:05 p.m. A.D.S.T.

Place: Ecole du Carrefour, 201A, avenue du Portage, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Provincial Co-ordinator Brian Casey called the meeting to order and presided in the chair for its duration. Secretary John Filliter took minutes of the Meeting. Mr. Casey reported that a **Notice** of the Meeting had been e-mailed to all members at least two weeks prior to the meeting as required by Article 5, Paragraph 3 of the By-Laws of the Society.

The Chairman conducted the **Roll Call** with the following members present at the outset or at some time during the meeting (voting representatives listed):

Middleton Regional High School – Lauren Perry (coach) and Sarah Nyenhuis (student)
Sydney Academy – Harold Kyte (coach)
North Nova Education Centre -
Memorial Composite High School –
Sacred Heart School of Halifax – Kathryn Bjornson (coach) & Catherine Burke (student)
Fountain Academy of the Sacred Heart – Brian Casey (coach) and David Sapp (student)
Gorsebrook Junior High School -
Cobequid Educational Centre – Paul Millman (coach) and Brie Dukeshire (student)
Ecole du Carrefour – Agnès Malouf (coach) and Nicholas Doiron (student)
Halifax Grammar School – Joshua Judah (coach)
Dr. J. H. Gillis Regional High School – Effie Boutilier (coach) and Will Fraser (student)
Truro Junior High School – Sarah Millman (coach) and Eamon McCarron (student)
Halifax West High School – Andrei Dezsi (coach) and Chris Abraham (student).

Other observers were present, including Patricia Donnelly, Alyson Duff and Gabriel Duguay.

Mr. Casey calculated that since 13 schools and no individuals had affiliated with the Society as of the time of the meeting, six voting representatives of Institutional Members would have to be present in person or by proxy in order to attain the 20% **Quorum** required by Article 5, Paragraph 5 of the By-Laws. On the basis of the above attendance, the Chairman calculated that a quorum existed and so declared the meeting to be duly constituted for the transaction of business.

The Chairman then asked if there were any objections to the proposed **Agenda** that had been circulated by mail. UPON MOTION duly moved by Mr. Kyte, seconded by Ms. Boutilier and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the Agenda as circulated.

The Chairman then asked if there were any errors in or omissions from the **Minutes** of the 2012 Annual General Meeting which had been circulated to members by e-mail, but none were pointed out. UPON MOTION duly moved by Ms. Boutilier, seconded by Mr. Kyte and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve of the Minutes as circulated.

The Chairman then presented the 2012-2013 **Financial Statement** of the Society to the meeting, which had been audited by him and Mr. Judah. The Chairman asked if anybody had any questions about the finances. UPON MOTION duly moved by Mr. Duguay, seconded by Mr. McCarron and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adopt the Financial Statement as presented.

The Chairman then presented the Proposed **Budget** for 2013-2014, which had previously been circulated to members. The Chairman asked whether anybody wished to propose any changes to the proposed Budget but none were offered. UPON MOTION duly moved by Mr. Millman, seconded by Mr. Duguay, and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adopt the following:

Budget for the 2013-2014 Society Year

REVENUES

School Affiliation Fees	\$600.00
Tournament Registration Fees	2,000.00
Workshops and Sales	50.00
Charitable Donations	400.00
Grant from McLeese Foundation	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total:	\$4,050.00

EXPENSES

Administration and Communications	\$350.00
Travel (Seminar and Junior High Nationals)	1,500.00
Instruction Clinics and Materials	500.00
Facilities	Nil
Printing	600.00
Publicity	Nil
Equipment and Office Supplies	100.00
C.S.D.F. Affiliation	100.00
National Seminar Adult Registration Fee & Travel	450.00
Junior High Nationals Adult Registration Fee& Travel	<u>450.00</u>
Total:	\$4,050.00

The Chairman then explained that any proposed amendment to the By-Laws of the Society had to be adopted by a **Special Resolution** supported by at least three-quarters of the members present at a duly constituted general meeting of the Society, of which proper notice had been given, in order to be valid. He reported that notice had been given of the following proposed Special Resolution to amend the By-Laws of the Society and that it would require a three-quarters majority in order to pass. UPON MOTION duly moved by Mr. Duguay, seconded by Ms. Bjornson and carried 16-0-0, it was resolved as a Special Resolution to amend the Society By-Laws as follows:

1. Move the last sentence in Paragraph 7 of Article 8 to Article 5, to form Paragraph 10 of Article 5, to read as follows:

“10. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this by-law, any resolution consented to by all of the members shall be as valid and effective as if passed at a meeting of the members duly called, constituted and held for that purpose.”

(This text should be removed from Paragraph 7 in Article 8.)

2. Replace Paragraph 4 in Article 10 with the following:

“The Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe, appoint or alter, the Society banker and any other Society financial arrangements except for its Fiscal Year.”

3. In Article 12:

(a) replace the first “of” in the fifth line of Paragraph 1 with “or”; and

(b) insert “by” between “permitted” and “him” in the third line in Paragraph 2(a).

The Chairman asked if there were any proposed amendments to the existing **System of Regional Representation**, which had previously been approved by the C.S.D.F. Board of Directors, or Nova Scotia **Rules of Debating** but none were raised. After some discussion, UPON MOTION duly moved by Mr. Dezsi, seconded by Mr. Duguay and carried 13-2-0, it was resolved to adopt the following changes to the Society’s **Policies on Coaching, Judging Debates and Conducting Tournaments**:

(a) junior high students could choose, on a tournament by tournament basis, which debating category (junior or senior high) they participate in for provincial tournaments;

(b) in future years, the English language delegates to the National Seminar will be the top two debaters at the previous provincial junior high championships, who are otherwise eligible, and the top two debaters at the previous provincial senior high championships, who are otherwise eligible and are returning to school;

(c) to correct a mistake in not offering Ecole du Carrefour a position last year, the school teams eligible to represent Nova Scotia at the 2014 Senior High Nationals will be Ecole du Carrefour and the top four school teams at the 2013 Impromptu Championships.

Time ran out to discuss the following Agenda topics: Novice and Advanced?; Bracketing; 2014 Impromptus – 6 rounds.

Time didn’t allow discussion of the proposed **Tentative Schedule** for 2013-2014 that was circulated to those present. The tentative Schedule had proposed Team Canada Try-Outs be held January 26th or March 30th; that the 2014 Junior High Championships be held at Sacred Heart School of Halifax on February 22nd, and that the 2014 Senior High Championships be held at Cobequid Educational Centre on March 28th-29th, subject to the confirmation of these dates and facilities. The Chairman invited other schools to offer to host events and proposed to continue discussion of this after the adjournment.

The Chairman then called for **nominations for the Executive Committee** for the 2013-2014 Society Year.

Harold Kyte was nominated to be **Cape Breton Regional Representative**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after calling three times for further nominations, the Chairman declared Mr. Kyte to have been elected.

Andrei Dezsi was nominated to be **Metro Regional Representative**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after calling three times for further nominations, the Chairman declared Mr. Dezsi to have been elected.

David Stewart was nominated to be **Rural Mainland Regional Representative**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after calling three times for further nominations, the Chairman declared Mr. Stewart to have been elected.

Eamon McCarron and Gabriel Duguay were nominated to be **Junior High Student Representative**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after conducting an “ostrich vote”, the Chairman declared Mr. McCarron to have been elected.

Alyson Duff and Nicholas Doiron were nominated to be **Senior High Student Representative**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after conducting an “ostrich vote”, the Chairman declared Ms. Duff to have been elected.

Evan Hatfield and Patrick Ross were nominated to be **University and/or Alumni Representative**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after conducting an “ostrich vote”, the Chairman declared Mr. Hatfield to have been elected.

Agnès Malouf was nominated to be **French and Bilingual Co-ordinator**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after calling three times for further nominations, the Chairman declared Ms. Malouf to have been elected by acclamation.

Bonny Hubley was nominated to be **Director at Large**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after calling three times for further nominations, the Chairman declared Ms. Hubley to have been elected by acclamation.

Patricia Donnelly was nominated to be **Provincial Co-ordinator**. No further nominations were forthcoming, so after calling three times for further nominations, the Chairman declared Ms. Donnelly to have been elected by acclamation.

The Chairman reported that no new **Banking Resolution** would be necessary at this time.

The Chairman noted that it was necessary to adjourn until after the next two rounds of debating, when the Schedule and any **Other or New Business** would be dealt with.

At about 1:45 p.m. A.D.S.T. the meeting was adjourned until after the next two rounds of debating, but it was not resumed at that time.

Verified and Approved by:
Provincial Co-ordinator

Respectfully submitted by:
Society Secretary