

**Ontario Guild of Town Criers
Annual General Meeting
June 23, 2013
Thorold, Ontario**

16 Criers were present: Mark Molnar, Jenn Olivero, Doug Turvey, Andrew Welch, David McKee, Bill McKee, Steve Travers, David Vollick, Scott Fraser, John Webster, Ken Templeman, Bruce Kruger, Tony Vandermaas, Chris Whyman, Les Whiting and Tom Pekar.

President Mark Molnar called the meeting to order at 12pm.

Pres. Mark commented that it's been a good year so far and he thanks everyone for their support, ideas and hard work.

Crier Webster commented that Crier Jack Parsons is not well.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Jenn read her report as presented on the agenda.

“Email of minutes of AGM 2012 Kitchener distributed to members shortly after meeting.

Cards and flowers were sent on behalf of the Guild to Roy Wilson's funeral, Charleen Green's funeral, Tom Jones' wife Betty and Bill Malin's family in England and the McKee families.”

Motion to accept the 2012 AGM Minutes as presented.

Ken Templeman, Tony Vandermaas

Carried

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Doug apologizes for the lateness of the membership cards; he is still sorting through everything and getting acquainted with his duties.

Total balance is \$2314.00 and Crier Bill McKee is now paid in full.

*please see attachments for the full report

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Ken Templeman, Chris Whyman

Carried

Committee Reports

Ethics and Discipline – nothing to reportedly

Competition and Rules – nothing to reportedly

Public Relations and Website – nothing to report; though many criers commented the website is out of date and needs updating as soon as possible. Crier Brent McLaren is thanked for his efforts.

Constitution and Bylaws – Crier Jenn presented a brief report on behalf of Crier Brent McLaren

“I learned yesterday that Ontario is introducing its own Non-for-Profit (N4P) Act, expected in January 2014. It will then give Ontario corporations, like the Guild, three years to comply.

There is no need to make any changes to our bylaws at this time. The Canada N4P does not apply to us, nor are our revenues sufficient to flag us under the CRA guidelines ... that said, we need to have very accurate books. The key is that you should not be holding unallocated reserves greater than one year's operating expenses. That part of the Federal Act will apply as of January 1, 2015.

The new Ontario Act will be identical to the Federal Act with two minor exceptions from what I have seen. Our Guild does not have to qualify under the current Federal Act but will have to ultimately adjust to the Ontario Act by 2017-18.

Anyway ... The dates no longer apply so we do not need to make any changes at this time.

Brent"

Motion to accept the report as presented.

David McKee, John Webster

Carried

Old Business

● Guild Liability Insurance

The Guild has paid for the insurance for this year on behalf of the membership. However, the Guild cannot afford to do this every year.

Motion that the Ontario Guild of Town Criers proceed with blanket insurance with coverage amounting to \$2 Million dollars for all criers.

Tony Vandermaas, Bill McKee

Discussion:

-Many venues, business and municipalities are requesting criers provide proof of insurance.
-It was commented that the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers has made it mandatory for all criers to have insurance. A copy of our insurance certificate will be sent out to the membership.

1 against the majority; Carried.

Motion to increase dues by \$20 per annum effective January 1, 2014

Tony Vandermaas, Bill McKee

Carried

● Report on Crier Bill McKee's proposal regarding the use of props.

* for the original document, please see attachment titled 'BmckeepropsDraftProposal.pdf'

Crier Bill presented the amendments to his proposal as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS

Criers, the committee met every day at the nearest mental health institute! In paying attention to the the feedback received,, the following amendments are proposed. Please remember that the purpose of this whole proposal is the someday adopt it as rules or regulations. This, however, is still the first reading stage prior to adoption, and feedback is still welcome

SECTION 3: ATTENTION SEEKING DEVICES

It is suggested that the explanation after Item I be reworded. The original explanation was meant to cover criers who use devices in conjunction with the time period uniform. An additional condition suggests when the device can be used. Therefore it is proposed that the explanation after Item I be reworded to read as follows: *Items A-D are the traditional attention-seeking devices. The others have been used and in order to not be considered a prop, the device should be consistent with the time period of the crier's uniform or older AND used in the regular performance of their duties.*

SECTION 6: ITEM L- CHAIRS, BENCHES, STOOLS OR SIMILAR ITEMS

It is suggested that chairs or stools not be arbitrarily listed as props. This is to protect the tradition of stumping. As one, and often two stools are on stage for the convenience of criers to place their bells in an appropriate and conspicuous spot for retrieval, it is proposed that there be two stools at all times should the crier need one for stumping or a similar purpose. There fore be it further proposed that the words “*except as provided*” be added to this item.

SECTION 6: WHAT CONSTITUTES PROPS

It is suggested that props include anything that is neither consistent with the time period of the crier's uniform now used in their regular performance of duty and is somehow attached to the crier. Therefore it is proposed that Section 6 become two clauses. *Clause A would be what is already written and Clause B would read: Anything attached to, carried by or hanging for the crier that does not meet BOTH of the following conditions : (i) consistent with the time period of the criers uniform or older and (ii) part of the accessories used in the everyday performance of duty.* Please note that a crier may be penalized for using an unacceptable prop.

SECTION 7: ITEM A-WHEELCHAIRS, OR SIMILAR ITEMS FOR THE CHRONICALLY DISABLED CRIER

It is suggested that the word “*chronically*” be removed since by definition it meas to recurring or long term, and therefore eliminates a crier from this exception of they have sustained a short term debilitating injury prior to the competition. It is therefore proposed that rather than remove “*chronically*”, the words “*or temporarily exceptional physical circumstances*” be added.

SECTION 7: EXECPTIONS

It is suggested that under this section a further exception be added. It is therefore proposed that the following exception be added:

H. at the discretion of the host crier, cries specifically intended to promote the goods or services of contemporary vendors or sponsors.

I thank all the criers who have submitted suggestions. This report is respectfully submitted by Bill McKee, Chair, on behalf of William G. McKee, William McKee and W. G. McKee

Motion to accept proposal as presently presented

Bruce Kruger, David Vollick

Carried

●Crier Bill also presented amendments to his proposal “Guidelines on Uniform Judging”

*please see attachment for the original proposal “GuidelinesUniformJudging.pdf”

AMENDMENTS TO GUIDELINES

As uniforms have changed and developed over the centuries, various devices and materials have been used to the make clothing. Perhaps a brief history of fasteners might assist.

History of fasteners: There is evidence dating back to prehistoric times that rope was being developed in what is now Europe.

The button is known to have existed as far back as 2800 BC, mostly as ornaments and seals. Functional buttons were found in the tombs of 9th century Europe by the conquering Hungarian tribes.

Bodices and the accompanying lacing were most popular in the 16th century, with string as an alternative for the lacing. The lacing material varied over the years.

What was called the Crochet and Loop Hook was first used in the 14th century Britain and the modern term Hook and Eye in 1697.

Elias Howe received a patent for an Automatic Continuous Clothing Closure in 1851 and in 1893, Whitcomb Judson developed that clasp locker. Gideon Sundback in 1913 patented the modern zipper.

The dome fastener was patented in Germany in 1885, although the Chinese terracotta army used a form of it in 210 BC.

On day in 1948, George de Mestral returned from a hike covered in burrs. After examining the properties of the burrs and his clothing, he combined velour and crochet into one word, Velcro, patenting it in 1955.

With respect to consorts themselves, there is no mandatory judging. If a person wants to be judged, then they should be allowed to be. If not, then that is quite acceptable. It is human nature for colour and design to psychologically influence judges so there is likely always some objectivity lost.

I hope this clears up some of the confusion on this. There is still a long way to go on this, but it's a start.

Respectfully, Bill McKee .

Discussion:

- the job of a Town Crier is not of a reenactor.
- Do judges really notice or care?
- These are guidelines and only meant as such; it will be up to the host crier in competition.

Thanks is given to Crier Bill for his efforts.

New Business

● President Mark Molnar calls Crier Scott Fraser forward to receive his 20 year service bar.

The following Criers were awarded medals and service bars at the previous nights dinner:

10 year Service Bar -Crier Bruce Kruger

-Crier Bill McKee

-Crier Jenn Olivero

-Crier Steve Travers

-Crier Tony Vandermaas

-Crier Les Whiting

15 year Service Bar -Crier Ken Templeman

20 year Service bar -Crier David McKee

-Crier Doug Turvey

25 year Service Bar -Crier John Webster

-Crier Chris Whyman, plus Charter Member Bar

Crier Allan Freeman received a Charter Member Bar

Thank you to Crier Ken Templeman for his efforts and a big congratulations to all of the recipients!

● Possible Long term Service Medal?

It has been brought to our attention that some criers feel left out as they do not qualify for the Exemplary Service Medal and feel that the Executive has awarded themselves this medal.

Discussion:

- The Exemplary Service Medal represents service to the Guild and meant as a 'thank you'. Service indicate years served.
- If Criers wish to be recognized solely for their years as a crier, perhaps their municipalities could under take this.
- Crier Ken remarked that he wears a maple leaf of his sleeve for every three years as a crier. He purchases these leaves from Fischer Regalia in Barrie. They supply many similar items to police, EMS and firefighters. <http://fishersregalia.com/>
- Anyone can join the executive, as most of the meetings take place over the phone.
- Criers are invited and encouraged to participate and get involved.

● New Crier Admittance

The Village of Elora has a new Town Crier, Shayne Coffin. He has paid his dues and initiation fee.
Motion to accep Shayne Coffin as a member of the Guild.

John Webster, David Vollick

Carried

● Possible Crier Handbook?

It has been suggested that a Town Crying Handbook be made available.

Discussion:

- A digital copy of the Guilds Constitution needs to be made available to every crier.
- Crier John Webster commented that it would be nice if members starting going to Councils to welcome new criers and show support for them.
 - Crier Steve Travers reminded all that that would fall under the Public Relations and Website Committee.
 - It was suggested a sub-committee be formed to make sure new criers receive a show of support.
 - Criers Bill McKee, Doug Turvey, Rob Misener and David McKee have volunteered.
 -
- Crier Ken Templeman asks for \$50 dollars petty cash to mail service bars to those criers that were unable to attend the AGM.

Motion is made for Crier Templeman to receive \$50 pettycash to mail service bars to the receipients.

Tony Vandermaas, Bill McKee

Carried

Elections

Let it be recorded that no nominations were received prior to the AGM, though we welcome and encourage participation from all our members.

Pres. Mark turns the floor over to Past Pres. Les Whiting for the election of new officers to serve a 2 year term.

Past Pres. Les asks for nominations:

Steve Travers nominates Rob Misener for Director
Seconded by Bill McKee

Rob Misener will stand

John Webster nominates Bruce Kruger for Director
Seconded by Bill McKee

Bruce Kruger will stand

Doug Turvey nominates Tom Pekar for Director
Seconded by David McKee

Tom Pekar will stand

*Motion to close nominations.
Bill McKee, Chris Whyman*

Carried

Past Pres. Les closes the floor and hands it back to Pres. Mark.

*Motion of appreciation thanking President Mark Molnar, First Vice Shaun Kruger, Second Vice Tony Vandermaas, Past Pres. Les Whiting, Treasurer Doug Turvey, Secretary Jenn Olivero and Directors Jenn Olivero, Rob Misener, Bruce Kruger and Andrew Welch and that a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Guild be sent to the above criers home communities.
John Webster, David McKee*

Carried

*Motion to utilize the horseless carriage built and provided by Crier Tom Pekar where ever possible and to be included under the Guild insurance.
John Webster, Bill McKee*

Discussion:

- At the time we applied for the insurance, we didn't have this carriage available. What will it do to our costs?
- We are often classified as a 'walking group' and we are often not charged an entrance fee for the parades we attend as a group, but having a motorized vehicle may change that, and the fees are substantial.

Pres. Mark Molnar recommends that motion remain open for discussion.

Motion to close meeting.

Doug Turvey, David Vollick

Carried

The next Annual General Meeting will take place in Port Perry, On in 2014.

Known Upcoming Activities:

Muskoka Escapades, Bracebridge, July 14 2013
World Invitational, Kingston, August 1-5, 2013
Ingersoll Harvest Festival, Ingersoll, August 24 2013

Crier Bruce Kruger
Crier Chris Whyman
Crier Doug Turvey

Niagara Grape and Wine Parade, September 28, 2013,
Oktoberfest Parade, Kitchener, October 14, 2013

Crier Mark Molnar
Crier Scott Fraser

Provincial Competitions:

2014 Bill McKee, Port Perry

2015 Bruce Kruger and Shaun Kruger, Bracebridge

2016 Brent McLaren, Perth

**AND REMEMBER THAT THE SECOND MONDAY IN JULY IS
INTERNATIONAL TOWN CRIER DAY!**