

OSOMM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Colonel By Room , Ottawa Carleton Center, 111 Lisgar, 27 May 1995

Attendance List:

Ellie White
Chantal Fortin
Barbara Godsman
Joyce Stothers
Stella West
Marilyn Andrews
Helen Sywyk
Bonny Yull
Sheree Clark
Shelly Breedan
Wendy Trethewy
Lucie Laliberte
Catherine Stevens for Sarah Stevens

Lucie Laliberte chaired the meeting.

Adoption of Minutes:

Chantall Fortin moved that the minutes of the annual general meeting (May 14, 1994) be adopted.
Marilyn Andrews seconded the minutes.
All members were in favor. The minutes were adopted.

Financial Statement

Chantall Fortin presented the attached Financial Statement.
Chantall expressed concern that our loss of \$100.00 means we are exceeding our budget. She stressed that the financial statement does not accurately reflect OSOMM's expenses due to the many donations made by numerous members of the group throughout the year.

A Big Thank you to all of the following:

1. all members who have contributed baking for the monthly pension group meetings and the book launch.
2. Betty Alce for the use of her house and coffee for the monthly meetings and expenses she has incurred for postage and telephone use. A big Bravo for her fine work in organizing the Book Launch and book sales.
3. Kudos to Loraine Whillans for her efforts with the Live it up Sales.
4. To Lucie's firm Pothier and Gahrns .
5. To Joan Woodward for her donation of flowers for the Book Launch.

Chantall also presented a comparative statement for the years 1994 and 1995. Since the year 1995 reflected a shorter time span, our annual fund raising garage event has not taken place. (this event is one of our major sources of income.) Chantall noted that memberships had dropped by more than half. She felt it was time to raise our fees and to increase the number of paid members.

Joyce Stothers moved to approve the "Statement of Income for the period September 1st, 1994 to May 31, 1995.

Ellie White seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The statement was approved.

Report from Lucie Laliberte

A. OSOMMs track record

Lucie said we need to be proud of our accomplishments of the past year.

1. OSOMM gained immense credibility by our presentations to Treasury Board for changes to the Pensions Benefit Act. Our credibility was entrenched with presentations to the House of Commons with our one on one meetings.
2. The book has had an impact on cases defining work
3. OSOMM has discovered a flaw in the changes to the PBDA . We informed Treasury Board that we would be blocked from having our own valuation completed. The issue was sent to committee. Further changes to the regulations will be made in the fall to allow spouses access to information to have their valuation completed. (otherwise spouses would be requires to have a court order at additional expense)

B. Court Case

The case is moving slowly. One of the difficulties we face is distance i.e. our lawyer is located in Toronto. Carol Walker will no longer be a plaintiff in the case as her ex husband died in January. We need to find another plaintiff with similar circumstances to Carol.

The plaintiff needs to have been divorced prior to March 1986 and did not receive the pension as an asset.

C. Focus on The Future

A weakness we face as a group is developing a bigger vision of the group as a whole.

We have been neglecting the area of spouses whose husbands still serve in the military. Many feel that the focus has been on pension issues and former wives.

Difficulties that contribute to the small membership:

1. concern with the management of the Family Resource Centers
2. population consists of young women with young children
3. lack of continuity of membership due to moves

What should our role be?

Ideally we should be a Watch dog for

- a) family resource centers
- b) policies in the military

What should be our goals?

1. increase membership base
- Ideally each base should have a representative of current spouses and former spouses
- 2.. we should continue to deal with pension issues and issues of violence
 - 3.. we need to look at issues facing military communities
 - a) changing role of the military such as down sizing and NATO (families are dealing with post trauma stress and depression) We should be able to have some say internally and externally re. type of counseling services available for families and military members.
 4. we need to look at the resource centers and why military spouses are not hired versus the hiring of males with no understanding of military life.
 5. we need to get funding... we would be a credible group to receive funding from the province and federal governments because we have looked at pension and violence issues. This would enable us to establish an office to make us more visible/accessible. We currently receive all information on women e.g. gun control.
 6. we need to get on the internet

Recommendations for the next board:

1. need a litigation subcommittee (lawyers)
 - i.e. pensions may vary according to which province the marriage breakdown occurs
 - change Family Law Act in Ontario re: termination value added method
 - i.e. we need to intervene in the Best vs. Best decision Weir and Foulds our lawyers would intervene but we would need Court Challenge money to do this
 - i.e. Dept. of Defense won't enforce arrears and the Family Support Plan is 18 months to two years behind
 - i.e. recommendations re complaints/negligence against lawyers re: bad advice on pensions

Charitable Status:

Papers will be submitted by the first week in June. By the next A.G.M. we will have charitable status hence income tax receipts could be issued.

AGM Date

Marilyn Andrews moved that "our annual general meeting will now be held by the end of any given year instead of May of a given year voting on a change in the constitution and or by-laws." Joyce Stothers seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Board Members

Joyce Stothers moved that "the board members remain the same in the interim". Ellie White seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion passed.

Membership Fees

Membership fees and structure is to be tabled for the October meeting.

Thibodeau Case

Joyce Stothers moved that "OSOMM make a public statement to be circulated at the national press gallery opposing the decision in the Thibodeau case and supporting the recommendations made by Minister Rock for proposed changes in the legislation." Ellie White seconded the motion. After much discussion Joyce Stothers and Ellie White withdrew their motion.

At 1:05 Marilyn Andrews moved "to adjourn the meeting". Bonny Yull seconded the motion.