

OSOMM Annual General Meeting

Simard Hall, Ottawa University, 14 May 1994

Morning Session

Brief History of OSOMM - Lucie Laliberté

OSOMM is now ten years old. We see OSOMM's role as being a watchdog operation. We must define our own reality.

The benefits of the military are:

- Security
- Travel
- Lots of acquaintances and/or friends.

"Everytime I distinguish myself from a doormat I'm called a feminist." If you ever wonder about a topic that is being discussed, just ask yourself "who benefits". That will more than likely give you the answer.

OSOMM Constitution is retroactive to 5 April 1989.

A vote is necessary to adopt the constitution subject to changing the objective. "To provide..."

Also eligibility to be changed to include spouses, present, former and surviving.

A motion made by June Haney, seconded by Joan Woodland, that the constitution be adopted with the above changes. The vote was unanimously approved.

Elections

Lucie Laliberté, Gaila Friars and Marnie Draper allowed their names to stand for re-election, for the term of one year. Chantall Fortin, Betty Alce, Catherine Patterson-Kidd are now members of the executive. The motion was made by June Haney and seconded by Joan Woodland. The vote was carried unanimously. The executive members are now:

Administration	Lucie Laliberté
Financial	Chantall Fortin
Internal	Betty Alce
External	Gaila Friars
Statistics	Catherine Patterson-Kidd
Fund Raising	Marnie Draper
Marketing/Advertising	Vacant
Liaison	Vacant

There were no other nominations.

New Business

Lucie explained that our Court Challenge grant of \$30,000 has run out. Nelligan Power of Ottawa had originally agreed to take our case knowing that we only had \$30,000. This has now run out and Nelligan Power has submitted an invoice for \$7,400 over and above the original \$30,000. OSOMM voted not to accept Dougall Brown's (of Nelligan Power) opinion on our case not to proceed. All in favour: unanimously approved.

The firm of Weir Foulds in Toronto has agreed to take on the OSOMM pension case and preparation of charitable foundation status documentation pending the approval expected at the June 2 meeting of the management committee. Weir Foulds are asking for a \$1,500 retainer fee for expenses only as they will work *pro bono*. Betty Alce advised that OSOMM does have some money but that it is presently invested until October 94. The Toronto lawyers may be willing to wait for the money until October.

Lucie will act in an advisory capacity only with Weir Foulds. She will not be on contract, as she was with Nelligan Power, for whom she worked in her legal capacity at one third the usual rate on OSOMM's behalf.

Money available under Court Challenges will again become available in October at which time we will reapply for funding. Provided the criteria remains the same, it is likely that we will qualify.

Moved by Mary Ballantyne that Nelligan Power be replaced on our OSOMM pension court case and be replaced by Weir Foulds of Toronto for expenses only, for approximately \$2,000. Seconded by Muriel Skaalen. As soon as Lucie hears from Weir Fould she will advise OSOMM on their results. They will need an advance of approximately \$1,000. A vote was taken to change lawyers and was unanimously approved.

A junior lawyer from Weir Foulds will do the preparatory work on the OSOMM case, but it will eventually be argued in court by a senior partner. If costs are eventually awarded, the lawyers may get their fee.

Other News

In the Task Force on Violence on Women, OSOMM is the only organization mentioned by name.

Discussion

OSOMM's tentative goals are to:

- apply for Secretary of State funding, and explore other potential fund-raising ventures, the goal being to ensure a financial capability to establish and maintain a national office and hire an executive director;
- run a membership drive;
- make sure that our history as a political movement is documented; we could perhaps find students who are prepared to write their thesis on this subject; and
- continue to work together and lobby effectively on the pension issue. The chair of the pension sub-committee may sit on the executive committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Afternoon Session

A number of individual presentations were made in the afternoon. The following provides a brief outline of each presentation.

Peggy Cameron

Important information regarding finances:

- Have a Power of Attorney
- Have a Will
- Go to Seminars
- Read "The Wealthy Barber"
- Join an investment club
- Spousal RRSP for income splitting
- Income replacement plan
- Term insurance - Personal owned insurance
- Budgeting
- Income splitting - put investments in lower income person
- Find a woman stockbroker

Rudy Loiselle

- Common law representation is a key factor - burden of proof e.g. common address, joint bank accounts, letters from friends.
- Apportionment - number of years

- Bill C-55
- SDB - 2 years of salary
- Retired members - option to take - salary or age of retirement.
- Average retirement age - 60 years
- Pension reform - recognize marriage after age 60 - can now be bought.
- PBDA - methodology - Office of Superintendent of Government
- Concerns of OSOMM - bias of people writing formula - based on "member/male/lifespan"
- Selected within the legislation - one methodology only and the division of up to 50/50
- Locked-in deferred or life annuity.
- Must be locked-in.
- Can be left as an RRSP as long as possible or maximum age of 71.

Gaila Friars

- Primary population - military wives
- Military wives - isolation, leaving behind family and friends.
- e keep trying to get connected. We do this over and over again.
- Is there more violence in the military community?
- One feature in isolation is the battered wife.
- We should really listen, get connected.
- Resource Centres happened because women wanted it to happen.
- We need to know where the resources are.
- Who helps the most - usually the woman next door.

Evelyn Drescher

- Every mother is a working mother - Mothers are Women (MAW)
- Access to pension is denied to women at home.
- Statistics Canada
- Value unpaid work - \$26,000 to replace women and one child at home.
- We should not only be fighting for *his* pension, we should be fighting for *our* pension.
- Work is work, is work.
- Part of the partnership - pressure government to count us. We must convince government.

Dr. Wendy Cole

- Teaches at Ottawa University
- Careers - having to start over each move creates frustrations.
- Society recognizes money
- Some very real boundaries set us in military life
- Living with a black and white security

- Member will try to settle arguments same way he carries on in the military
- One in three are battered
- Fewer than 50% are charged
- Absolute financial and emotional barriers
- Access to finances are very difficult
- There is a history of condoning violence against women

Deborah Harrison

The book *No Life Like It* is being published by Lorrimer and will be ready this fall. A book launching will be nice in Ottawa. Perhaps OSOMM might be able to help.

It was agreed that we will offer our speakers a copy of Lucie and Deborah's book when it comes out.

General De Chastelain, Chief of Defence Staff - New Advisory Committee, Ministry of Defence. The first meeting was just held, the next meeting is on 25 May.

Betty's notes

"Family Life in the Military - Human Life of the Family" - A book launching.

Brief History of OSOMM by Lucie Laliberté

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OSOMM sees its role as being a watchdog operation.

The benefits of the military are:

1. Security
2. Travel
3. Lots of acquaintances and/or friends.

We must define our own reality.

AGM Meeting:

Acting Directors: Lucie Laliberté
Marnie Draper
Gaila Friars

The OSOMM Constitution is retroactive to 5 April 1989.

A vote is necessary to adopt the constitution subject to changing the objective. "To provide.....

Also Eligibility to be change to include spouses, present, former and surviving.

The constitution is adopted with the above changes. Nominated by June Haney and seconded by Joan Woodland. Vote: unanimously approved.

Nominations:

Administration:	Lucie Laliberté
Financial:	Chantall Fortin
Internal:	Betty Alce
External:	Gaila Friars
Statistics:	Catherine Patterson-Kidd
Fund Raising:	Marnie Draper
Marketing/Advertising:	Vacant
Liasion:	Vacant

Other nominations: No, No, No.

All in favour: unanimously approved.

A vote was called for re Dougall Brown of Nelligan Power not to accept their opinion on our case not to proceed.

Noted
Weir-Fould of Toronto will take on our case pro bono. This will be subject to approval by management to meet on 2 June. They will also obtain a charitable foundation status for us, do education.

It was moved by Mary Balantyne that Nelligan Power be replaced on our OSOMM pension court case and be replaced by Weir Fould of Toronto for expenses only for approximately \$2,000. It was seconded by Muriel Skaalen. As soon as Lucie hears from Weir Fould she will advise OSOMM on their results. They will need an advance of approximately \$1,000. A vote was taken to switch lawyer and unanimously approved.

We understand that the Court Challenges will be up and running this October. We will be applying for discretionary funding. We also hope to apply to the Secretary of State for funding an office with someone to look after it.

In the Task Force on Violence on Women, OSOMM is the only organization mentioned.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Afternoon Session of the AGM

Peggy Cameron

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military.

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Deborah's book when it comes out.

De Chastelain, chief of Defence Staff - New advisory Committee,
Ministry of Defence

First meeting just held - next meeting on 25 May.

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New Business: Lucie explained that our Court Challenge grant of \$30,000 has run out. Nelligan Power of Ottawa agreed to take our case knowing that we only had the \$30,000. This has now run out and Nelligan Power have submitted a bill for \$7,400 over and above the original \$30,000. *Typical.*

The Firm of Weir Fould's, Toronto has agreed to take up the OSOMM pension case and preparation of charitable foundation status documentation pending the approval expected at the June 2 meeting of the management committee. Weir Foulds are asking for a \$1,500 retainer fee for expenses only as they will work pro bono. Betty has advised us that OSOMM does have some money but that it is presently tied up in investments until October 94. The Toronto lawyers may be willing to wait for the money until October. Money available under Court Challenges will again become available in October at which time we will reapply for funding. Provided the criteria remains the same, it is likely that we will qualify.

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A junior lawyer from Weir Foulds will do the preparatory work on the OSOMM case, but it will eventually be argued in court by a senior partner. Eventually if costs are awarded, the lawyers may get their share. The motion to hire Weir Foulds of Toronto to represent the OSOMM pension case and to prepare documentation for charitable status was made by Mary Ballantyne, and seconded by Muriel Skaalen. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Discussion: OSOMM's tentative goals are:

- 1 Apply for Secretary of State funding, and explore other potential fund-raising ventures. The goal being the financial capability to establish and maintain a national office and hire an executive director.
- 2 Membership drive.
- 3 Making sure that our history as a political movement is documented. Perhaps finding students who are prepared to write their thesis on this subject.
- 4 The pension issues are still very much a concern, and the pension sub-committee will

continue to work together and lobby effectively. The chair of the pension sub-committee may sit on the executive committee.

Respectfully submitted

Gaila Friars