



Annual General Meeting

October 14, 2020 by Zoom

In attendance: there were 37 members present including Board members. The requirement for a quorum was met.

Board of Directors: John Schaeffer (Chair), Liz Aldrey, Nancy Brown-Brunton, Marilyn McDermott, Marilyn Micucci, Lynda Morgan-Murdoch, Valerie Neely, Sue Pratt, Margaret Thurston.

1. Welcome and review of the agenda

John called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone on the Zoom call. He thanked the members for joining and acknowledged that we were all in learning mode around this new technology.

Bill Fulton moved that the agenda be approved. Geoff Brooker seconded the motion. Passed.

2. Greetings from the College – Gena Dureault, Senior Development Officer, Planned Giving and Awards

Gena was standing in for Trish Loomis, who sent her regrets, and read a report Trish had prepared. Trish commented on some of the academic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic on the College. She was happy to report that 90% of students were able to complete Winter 2020 semester courses. About 1100 students were brought back for summer courses to ensure completion of the academic year. Over 4000 students registered for face-to-face instruction in the Fall 2020 semester over 51 programs. Virtual instruction was chosen by the rest. A similar combination of face-to-face and virtual options will be offered in the Winter 2021 semester. The College is proud of how well the faculty and students are handling a very difficult situation.

Trish noted that the President's Breakfast, the Alumni of Distinction Awards and convocation would all be conducted virtually this year.

She also noted how delighted the College was to have signed the Memorandum of Understanding with RAMC and mentioned Marg Thurston's tireless involvement in that process.

In response to Gena's call for questions about Trish's report, Kate Kemp suggested that RAMC send a note of congratulations to the College for their handling of the pandemic. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Gaye Yachetti suggested that retirees might be interested in watching the Alumni of Distinction awards and Gena promised to find out how to access.

3. Discussion of bursaries and donations – Gena Dureault, Senior Development Officer, Mohawk College Foundation

Gena continued her presentation with a focus on her area of responsibility. She informed that the Foundation's former home, the M-wing portable, had been leased to St. Joseph's Hospital for use as a COVID19 assessment centre. All Foundation staff were working from home. Gena went on to discuss the new emergency funds which the Foundation established in Spring 2020 to address a variety of emergency financial situations which students might encounter. These were primarily funded by the Mohawk Gift Catalogue and were **exhausted in three weeks!** Student financial need has skyrocketed! Many students were unable to work during the summer. Parents of some students lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. Technology became an essential requirement for virtual learning during the pandemic. It is forecast that the second wave of the virus will put even greater financial pressure on students.

At this point, Gena acknowledged and thanked RAMC for establishing a bursary in 2016 which is set up as an open entrance award. She read a thankyou letter from one of this year's recipients.

There was some discussion of a new COVID emergency fund and the possibility of RAMC contributing to it. Upon questioning from Marilyn Micucci, Gena clarified that all donations to this fund go into a central pot. There is no mechanism for any formal recognition of the donor, which is an important piece for RAMC as that allows members to see more clearly where their membership dollars are going.

Gaye Yachetti noted that Mohawk's first fundraising campaign was launched in 1987 and that 2022 would be a 35 year milestone for that event. As they retired, Dorothy Gordon and her cohorts were among the first to set up bursaries and donations to support students. Bursaries set up at that time have run out. Elizabeth Crouch (Nursing) asked how one would find out about these awards. Discussion ensued about the history of these smaller awards and what might have happened to them.

4. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held June 11, 2019

Moved by Donna Dunlop, seconded by Geoff Brooker. Carried.

5. Treasurer's report & Membership

Margaret Thurston acknowledged previous treasurer, Elaine Dunkey, as well as several college staff who have helped her take over the role. Margaret quickly reviewed the financial statement, which

had been circulated prior to the meeting. Margaret is also responsible for membership and noted that she enjoyed her role in renewing memberships.

John mentioned that, as per the financial statement, RAMC has a large surplus and that the BOD will be discussing additional donations to bursaries at future meetings.

Moved by Gene Stodolak, seconded by Lynda Morgan Murdoch that the Treasurer's report be approved. Motion passed.

Cathy Cowley asked a question about RAMC outreach to new retirees. Marg explained the HR process for new retirees as well as how RAMC welcomes new members. In terms of encouraging communication between members, Marg noted that names of new members are listed in the RAMC newsletter and that she will shortly share contact info for members who have agreed to share.

John thanked Margaret for her work and welcomed Marilyn Micucci to the Treasurer's role.

6. Greetings and update from OCRA

Linda Choptiany, President of OCRA, brought greetings and shared a bit of the history of the organization. OCRA was started in 2001 by retirees from 8 of the colleges including Mohawk. Bob Pando was the first president and the founding meeting was held at Mohawk in October 2002 with 70 people in attendance.

OCRA is an advocacy organization for retired members of the CAAT pension plan and other associated groups. It maintains and fosters a collegial relationship with the CAAT pension plan as well as the College Employer Council, which administers the health and benefits plan, and is able to speak to these bodies at a very high level on behalf of retirees.

Linda spoke to the importance of Officers' and Directors' Liability insurance and noted that OCRA had joined Volunteer Canada in order to get a discounted rate on Under Our Wing insurance coverage for OCRA board members. She also noted that the OCRA website is designed to provide retirees with updates and contact information related to pensions and benefits. OCRA also liaises with college HR departments to ensure that their staff are aware of OCRA activities and can share with employees embarking on retirement.

Linda noted that RAMC collects and submits OCRA membership fees for all of its' members and that OCRA appreciates this approach. She also noted that lifetime memberships in OCRA are available, priced on a sliding scale based on age.

John thanked Linda for taking time to inform Mohawk retirees of OCRA activities.

7. In memoriam

A slide with the names of 28 Mohawk retirees who had died since the last AGM was presented and a moment of silence was observed in their memory.

8. Year in review

John Schaeffer spoke to a slide noting RAMC highlights of the past year including: revitalization of the Board and events organized and proposed pre- and mid- COVID.

He noted that RAMC sought member input around event ideas at the last AGM and asked again for input ... especially about activities that could bring the membership together during COVID.

John congratulated and thanked the newsletter committee for doing such a great job and declared that the RAMC newsletter was the best in the College system!

John reviewed the student bursary contributions made by RAMC over the last year and noted the letters of appreciation received from this year's recipients, which will be included in the next newsletter.

John thanked the outgoing board members and welcomed and introduced the new members and their roles.

Memorandum of Understanding – John went over the provisions of the MOU and the benefits to RAMC. As part of the MOU, the College has agreed to host the RAMC website as a page off of the main College site. Nancy Fleming has been the point person on this initiative.

Another provision of the MOU is that the College has agreed to pay up to \$1000 to help RAMC purchase Officers' and Directors' Liability insurance and noted that Margaret Thurston has been working on getting quotes for this.

Lynda Morgan-Murdoch has agreed to be the RAMC liaison with the College around all aspects of the MOU.

Motion: that the Memorandum of Understanding between The Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology and Retirees Association of Mohawk College dated August 12, 2020 and signed by Ron McKerlie, President & CEO, The Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology and John Schaeffer, Chair, Retirees Association of Mohawk College be approved as circulated.

Moved by Nancy Fleming, seconded by Gene Stodolak.

Donna Dunlop asked if the MOU would have any impact on the current charter and by-laws of RAMC. Margaret noted that everything stands in its' present form until revised and that the by-laws are in need of revision because they are so dated.

Gaye Yachetti wondered if it might be appropriate for RAMC to formally recognize the four founding members still alive (Keith McIntyre, George Pal, Bill Stafford, Al Dalsto) in some way, especially now that the MOU has been signed. This is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Board. Maureen Price suggested that we add something to the next newsletter about the founding members.

Motion passed.

John thanked Gaye Yachetti, an adjunct member of the Board, for all of her work on e-mail communications for RAMC.

John asked for ideas for events for members during COVID. Some virtual events of possible interest have already been included in the newsletter. Other ideas included: bowling, curling, golf, Zoom book club, fundraising for individuals with special needs.

Gaye noted that 2022 is a milestone year for Mohawk College: 20 years for OCRA, 35 years for the Foundation and 30 years for RAMC. Jackie noted that her husband, Bob, was the first president of Local 240. Elizabeth Crouch mentioned that 2023 will mark 50 years since the migration of the Schools of Nursing to the college system. Gaye suggested that a newsletter totally devoted to these milestones might be a good project to consider. John suggested that this item be discussed at a future BOD meeting with Gaye as an invited guest.

Slate of new Board of Directors was posted for approval.

John Schaeffer, Chair
Liz Aldrey, Past Chair and Newsletter
Valerie Neely, Vice Chair
Marilyn McDermott, Secretary
Margaret Thurston, Membership
Marilyn Micucci, Treasurer
Sue Pratt, Newsletter
Lynda Morgan Murdoch, College Liaison
Nancy Brown Brunton, Newsletter

Moved by Donna Dunlop, seconded by Bill Fulton. Approved.

Other business:

Kathryn Cowley asked if RAMC does anything to support diversity/inclusion/BIPOC initiatives. Lynda Morgan Murdoch noted that supporting equity, diversity and inclusion is a major expectation in all departments of the College but that nothing specifically is expected from RAMC. Kathy asked if we should/could target a bursary towards this?

Donna Dunlop read through the MOU and noted that there is no language in it currently that covers this topic.

There was a subsequent discussion around this and Marilyn Micucci confirmed that Financial Assistance staff always take diversity and inclusivity into consideration when making decisions about awarding bursaries so it was decided to leave this level of decision making to the College staff.

Liz Aldrey reminded that newsletter content was required. Jackie Donnelly asked if RAMC might consider doing something for students around Christmas. Initiatives discussed included: holiday hampers, adopt-a-family, Neighbour to Neighbour foodbank, MSA foodbank, Mohawk gift catalogue. It was suggested that some content around this be added to the next newsletter, especially around methods to donate during COVID. John noted that there would be further discussion of RAMC contributions at the November Board meeting.

Moved to adjourn the AGM by Nancy Brown Brunton, seconded by Liz Aldrey.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. with thanks to all who attended our first virtual AGM.