

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

***2002 AGM Minutes***

*14th Annual General Meeting*  
Monday, October 28, 2002  
At the Century Plaza Hotel  
1015 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC  
Commencing at 6: 22 p.m.

**Attendance:**

**President:**  
Larry Pearce  
**Treasurer:**  
Laurie Pearce  
**Vice-President:**  
Bryan Larrabee  
**Secretary:**  
Doreen Myers  
**Directors:**  
Bill Andrews  
Diana Krimmer  
Jean-Francois Landry  
Mike Andrews  
Doug Kinton  
**Executive Director:**  
Keith Liddiard  
**Office Administrator:**  
Lorie Verrier

**Regrets:**

**Directors:**  
Mike Hardie

**Special Guests:**

**ESS Program Office:**  
Volunteer Coordinator: Maggie Grant  
**Provincial Emergency Program:**  
Director: Merv Harrower  
Regional Manager: Ginny Garner  
Regional Manager: Rod Salem  
**Justice Institute:**  
Heather Lyle  
**ESSA Life Member:**  
Sally Pollock, JIBC  
**ESSA Director** (on leave)  
Colleen Vaughan, JIBC  
**Salvation Army:**  
Major Stephen French

**Other attendees:** Janet Andrews-ESSA Regional Rep. Southwest-Fraser Valley, Tracy Barry-ESSA Alt. Regional Rep. Southeast West Kootenays, Donna Grobell-ESSA Regional Rep. Southeast East Kootenays, Ray Huey-ESSA Regional Rep. Central, Gord Fox-ESSA Regional Rep. Northwest, Bob Kennedy-ESSA Regional Rep. Vancouver Island South, Diane Clouten-ESSA Regional Rep. Vancouver Island North, Angela Wynton-ESSA Regional Rep. Southwest-Coast, Brenda Young-ESSA Alt. Regional Rep. Vancouver Island South, Marie Salem-ESSA Alt. Regional Rep. Central, Betty Aitcheson-Kimberely ESS, Judy Becker-Cranbrook ESS, Debbie Clyne-Burnaby ESS, Janet Cornish-Cache Creek ESS, Clare Fletcher-Whistler ESS, Dodi Lindley-Okanagon ESS, Maureen Nelson-Campbell River ESS, Margorie Price-Kimberely ESS, Angel Richardson-Cranbrook ESS, Barb Shaw-Cache Creek ESS, Marlene Palmer-Creston ESS, Dennis Harvey-Saanich ESS, Pat Harvey-Sunshine Coast ESS, Chris Kizmann-Chilliwack ESS, Brian McConnan-Campbell River ESS, Gabrielle Goudy-Langford ESS, Wendy Bennett-Maple Ridge, Tammy Lata-Victoria ESS, Bev Stenning-Victoria ESS, Jackie Huggon-Maple Ridge-ESS, Shirley Weeks-Chetwynd ESS, Carol Unger-Abbotsford ESS, Ernst Stjernberg-Delta ESS, Rob Johns-Victoria ESS, Sheena Vivian-Langley ESS.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

ESSA President, Larry Pearce opened the meeting with introductions of the Board of Directors, Staff, Regional Reps and Regional Rep Alternates. Larry also thanked special guests, Ginny Garner, Merv Harrower, Rod Salem, Barry Growe, Heather Lyle, and Major Stephen French for attending the Annual General Meeting. Larry acknowledged Colleen Vaughan, who is currently on a leave of absence from the board of directors and thanked her for being able to join us at the meeting.

### **2. ADOPTION OF 2001 AGM MINUTES:**

Motion: That the minutes of the 2001 ESSA Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented.

*{Moved: Bob Kennedy /Seconded: Bill Andrews}*

CARRIED.

### **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Larry congratulated all the volunteers for coming and stated how much the board members appreciate it. Larry's report can be read in detail in the AGM booklet that was handed out and on the ESSA web site.

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Laurie Pearce presented copies of the AGM Report, which included the March 31, 2002 year-end financial statements and September 30, 2002 interim financial statements that had been reviewed by Buchanan & Company, ESSA's accounting firm. Laurie reviewed the statements with the members.

Motion: That the financial statements for the fiscal year-ending March 31, 2002 be adopted as presented.

*{Moved: Ray Huey /Seconded: Dennis Harvey}*

CARRIED.

Interim financial statements were also presented to the members for the first six months of this fiscal year. In compliance with the societies acts request that financial statements be presented within the first six months after the year-end. Laurie reviewed the financial statements with the members.

Motion: That the interim financial statements for the six-month period ending September 30, 2002 be adopted as presented.

*{Moved: Gord Fox /Seconded: Judy Becker}*

CARRIED.

Dennis Harvey asked how the association planned to balance the financial statements when the association had taken a reduction in the government grant. Laurie responded that there have been cuts made in staff wages and web production and that these reductions reflect the amount of the government cutbacks. Dennis also asked how they planned to make up the loss showing on the financial statements for the six-month interim financials. Laurie explained that this loss was due to the fact that the gaming revenue was received in the last fiscal year and that the expenses were then applied in the new-year.

## **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Keith thanked everyone for coming. This is a record attendance at the Annual General Meeting. Keith's full report has been included in the AGM booklet. Keith highlighted a few of the accomplishments of the association in the last year. The ESSA contract was not automatically renewed this year, but the Program Office has extended our contract while the ministry is preparing the RFP. Our current contract ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. Jeff is hoping to extend our current contract to the end of this fiscal year. ESSA received additional gaming revenue in the last fiscal year.

Thanks to the Ways and Means Committee for the community cost sharing program. This allowed for an injection of more than \$20,000 into the ESS program.

*mESSAges* newsletter is now being produced every three months with direct mailout to more than 3500 volunteers and agencies across the province. Please send in your addresses to the ESSA Office to ensure that the members of your team are receiving copies. This is a good way to keep them connected.

We have had no changes of staff or regional reps in the last year. Lorie is leaving at the end of this week and I would like to thank her for her commitment over the last 18 months.

ESSA has sponsored 22 seminars, more than twice our contractual obligation with the MHR Program Office. Thanks to Barry Growe for the "Managing Catastrophe" forum and "Lessons Learned from Ground Zero" that were presented around the province. Also, our thanks goes to EPICC for the joint "9/11" forum.

Keith thanked Ginny Garner, Barry Growe, Stephen French, the board, staff and Regional Reps. for their commitment and diligence in the last year.

## **6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairs from the various ESSA Committees outlined what their committee has accomplished over the past year and what their plans are for the future. The reports of the Committee chairs were published in the AGM Report, it was noted, should anyone wish more detail about the Committees' activities.

- a) **Newsletter** – J.F. Landry reported that the mESSAges newsletter was now available to all in PDF format on our website. J.F. thanked Keith and Esther for all the hard work they do on the newsletter. Thanks to the committee members for their support over the last year. The committee appreciates all the volunteers who have submitted articles and please keep sending in stories for us to include in the newsletter. J.F. also, thanked the MHR Program Office for the support and funding of the newsletter. J.F. challenges the volunteers to help promote advertising via the newsletter.
- b) **Regional Representative/Volunteer Support** – Diana Krimmer expressed how impressed the committee was with all the Regional Reps. Each and everyone whose term expired this year is now running again for another two-year term. Keep up the good work. You are an awesome team.
- c) **Seminars** – Keith reported on behalf of Bill Andrews for the seminar committee. Keith reported that the seminar committee reviews submissions and prepares the seminar catalogue, which is now available. The committee has added two new seminars this year. Rosanna von Sacken, Demystifying School Emergency Plans and Dr. Clement Persaud, Bioterrorism. The seminar catalogue enhances education that is not offered through the established training institutions such as the Justice Institute. Most of the presenters offer free seminars through their dedication to ESS volunteers. Please let the seminar committee know of any seminars you would like to have included next year.

Dennis Harvey asked if the committee works together with other partner agencies? Keith responded that he and Doug Kinton were already working on this.

- d) **Ways and Means** – Doreen acknowledged that the committee's greatest achievement was the cost sharing grant between communities. More than 31 communities received everything from reception centre kits to first aid kits. The committee hopes to be able to sponsor this program again in the New Year if more gaming revenue is received. Doreen thanked the committee members for their support in the last year.

## **7. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**Vancouver Island (South)** – Bob Kennedy announced that the Island had some outstanding events this year. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, we hosted lessons learned with Chamber of Commerce with well over 300 people attending. MLAs for the region and the Solicitor General attended the event. We had an excellent turn out. We had a presentation by Dr. Jack Poe on his involvement New York and in Oklahoma City. New partnerships for the region include Esquimalt and Victoria, and Langford and Colwood. South Islands (outer gulf islands) have employed an EC for this area. Thanks, to Brenda Young as my alternate, we do everything together. For EP week next year, we are hoping to put together a special conference for the Vancouver Island emergency response community under the banner, "Partnerships."

**Vancouver Island (North)** – Diane Clooten reviewed seminars and regional meeting for the last year. Diane’s next seminar on November 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Becket. Kelli McReynolds, Red Cross will be doing a Family Reunification in Courtney this February. Newly amalgamated teams include Parksville and Qualicum Beach, now known as Oceanside ESS, covering all the smaller communities. There is a new ESSD in Sayward, Barb White. Berdette Williams of Courtney has stepped down and they are looking for a new ESSD. Denman Island is starting up a new team. Diane has been reappointed as ESSA Rep for the next two years. Thanks to the communities in my region. Everyone, without hesitation, helps out in the communities when called upon for assistance.

**Southwest (Coast)** - Angela Wynton was unable to present her report. Angela’s report is included in the AGM Booklet.

**Southwest (Fraser Valley)** – Janet Andrews advised that the Fraser Valley is working on electoral areas; they are concentrating on planning; the communities are now starting to back emergency social services. Carol Unger is currently working to set up little teams of 1 or 2 people to cover the electoral areas. The Abbotsford Air Show, attended by some 50,000 to 60,000 people every year is now setup with ESS. Family assistance is in place with hospitals. Janet also recognized Maple Ridge as a small team who has been doing a lot of training.

**Central** – Ray Huey now has two alternates, Beryl Itani and Marie Salem. There are two blackholes, Clinton and Spences Bridge. Ray is currently working with training coordinator. Kamloops will be training; and more central locations of Penticton or Kelowna will increase numbers of volunteers that have access to training. Teams were on standby for flood threat in Merritt, but no flooding occurred.

**Southeast (West Kootenay)** – Tracy Barry, Regional Rep Alternate, presented Vicky Elliott’s report. Tracy reviewed the seminars and training attended this year. Cranbrook held a Disaster Child Care workshop. Tracy did some ESS /PEP presentations. There are still many blackholes in our region: fortunately, some are filling up with new ESSDs. Vicky will give training to ESSDs in the spring.

**Southeast (East Kootenay)** – Donna Grobell reviewed her report in the AGM booklet.

**Northeast** – Lori Ackerman was unable to attend this year’s AGM. She has recently taken on new employment and her current demands have not enabled her to attend the meeting. Lori’s report is included in the AGM Booklet.

**Northwest** – Gord Fox reported that this has been the busiest year. Flooding in Houston required topping up of the dykes. The Mobile Support Team was brought into Terrace. There could have been anywhere from 20 –200 evacuated overnight if there was flooding. Fortunately none was required. SAR in Kitimat had their largest response. ESS volunteers fed all SAR responders from all over the province. The response to the search was a great success. The search itself did not have a good outcome as no one was saved. A few weeks ago the Prince Rupert team supported Port Ed in providing feeding to more than 1000 Natives in the community.

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

*Provincial Emergency Program – Merv Harrower, Director:*

Merv thanked everyone for the opportunity and invitation to speak at this year's AGM. Merv had just completed a meeting with the board of directors of the EP Conference on where they are going in the future. Merv requested feedback on the EP conference from the volunteers. Larry responded that it was vital in the way that ESS and such must make people aware of what is happening in the world. It would be a mistake to lose this opportunity. Merv asked how could the board of the EP Conference make it more meaningful from the perspective of the ESS volunteers. There is currently a need for some new people on the board for the EP Conference.

Merv advised that the province is suffering with fiscal reality and expressed his concern about PDA removal. Merv said he was surprised the Minister selected PDA for removal from the 2004 budget. Currently there is a flurry of letters going back and forth from the desks of interested parties – all expressing their concern about the proposed cut. A decision will not be made on PDA now. Merv said he cannot guarantee anything, but he will put the ESS "case" to the Minister. Feedback and letters to the Minister will show him just how important this issue is to the emergency response community. Jeff Cornell and his staff are fighting very strongly to retain this valuable program. Rod Salem said that in the Central Region, Red Cross is facilitating the PDA program. The question of whether it is possible that the Red Cross would take on all PDA province-wide was asked. Barry Growe, of the Red Cross said that there are all sorts of non-profit agencies who could provide PDA assistance. Colleen Vaughan requested that everyone be clear that PDA is ESS in the smaller sense, apartment fire or house. Doreen Myers said that PDA is also training for ESS volunteers and that there is a need to for the volunteers to be engaged. Volunteers drift away if they are not used and inspired. This program gives them some real-life experience and a chance to help.

Maggie Grant noted that ESS teams, not the Red Cross volunteers, handle PDA. The Program Office believes strongly that PDA funding would continue and that there are other alternatives for funding. Barry Growe said PDA is not a Red Cross monopoly; there is a multi-agency response, and in the beginning the first right of refusal was given to ESS directors, alternates and volunteers. This has been handled differently in every community. This is the only province that provides government funding of PDA. Red cross could not currently fund it. Barry noted that BC does not have to do what other provinces are doing. Rob Johns, Victoria, said that the BC Liberals' philosophy is like that of ESS. The government is getting tremendous support from the volunteers, and unbelievable value of volunteers' services; BC's ESS is a leader across Canada, there is nothing else like it in the country. Those individuals who require PDA would just walk into MHR offices for assistance, if the program were stopped, he suggested.

Motion: That the emergency social services community continue to lobby government for the continuation of PDA and small incident funding and that concerted effort be put forth to emphasize the importance of PDA response opportunities for ES volunteers around the province.

*{Moved: Laurie Pearce /Seconded: Angel Richards}*

CARRIED.

It was asked to Merv if there were going to be more changes and cuts in training. Merv responded that the JI will be losing \$215, 000 in training by 2004, April. Merv said that it is difficult to get the government to change their opinion of what they are cutting.

Larry advised Merv that the board would get back to him about this discussion and thanked the volunteers for showing their support in the program.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Bryan Larrabee, chair of the Nominating Committee, opened the floor for nominations.

Nominated were: Wendy Bennett, Director of Operations with the Care Institute of Safety & Health Inc. and a resident of Maple Ridge; Larry Pearce, a current board member and president; Laurie Pearce, a current board member and treasurer; Doreen Myers, a current board member and secretary; Diana Krimmer, a current board member; Marie Salem, ESSD for Kamloops; and Natalia Skapski of Surrey ESS.

Natalia Skapski was unable to attend the meeting but had indicated her willingness to stand in writing. Bryan Larrabee advised the members of Natalia's current and past roles.

There being only 6 seats available on the board, a vote would be necessary to determine which six of the seven nominees would be elected. Lorie Verrier, Sally Pollock and Ginny Garner were appointed as electoral officers. Sally Pollock announced the results: Larry Pearce, Laurie Pearce, Doreen Myers, Diana Krimmer, Marie Salem and Wendy Bennett being elected to the board of directors.

Motion: to destroy the ballots.

*{Moved: Ray Huey /Seconded: Dennis Harvey}*

CARRIED.

## **7. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

No amendments were put forward.

## **8. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

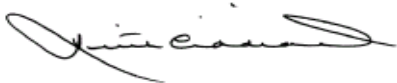
None.

## **12: ADJOURNMENT**

*{Moved: Janet Andrews /Seconded: Angel Richards}*

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned at 8:56 pm.

CARRIED.



Keith Liddiard, Executive Director



Doreen Myers, Secretary