

# EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## *2004 AGM Minutes*

*16th Annual General Meeting*  
Saturday, October 16, 2004 ~ 6:00 p.m.  
Killarney Community Centre

The Annual Report is a separate document, which is available via the ESSA office at 604-517-1442 or 1-800-910-ESSA or [info@essa.ca](mailto:info@essa.ca).

### **Attendance**

<b>ESSA BOARD</b>	
President	Bryan Larrabee
Vice President	Diana Krimmer
Past President	Larry Pearce
Treasurer	Laurie Pearce
Director	Doreen Myers
Director	Colleen Vaughan
Director	Natalia Skapski
Director	Sheila MacLean
<b>ESSA STAFF</b>	
Executive Director	Joan Smulders
Executive Assistant	Kerry Evans
<b>REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Region 1 Vancouver Island South	Bob Kennedy
Region 2 Southwest – Coast	Debbie Nider
Region 2 Southwest – Fraser Valley	Jackie Kloosterboer
Region 3 Central	Ray Huey
Region 4 Southeast – East Kootenays	Donna Grobell
Region 5 Northeast	Jerrilyn Schembri
Region 6 Northwest	Rachel Minger
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES</b>	
Victoria/Esquimalt ESS Team	Tammy Lata
Victoria/Esquimalt ESS Team	Rob Johns
Surrey ESS Team	Howie Siemens
Photographer	Rhonda Larrabee

### **Regrets**

<b>ESSA BOARD</b>	
Secretary/Director	Bill Andrews
Director	Jean-Francois (J.F.) Landry
Director	Marie Salem
Director	Wendy Bennett
Non-voting Director	Gerry Blitstein
<b>REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
Region 1 Vancouver Island North	Diane Clooten
Region 4 Southeast – West Kootenays	Tracy Barry

## **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

ESSA President, Bryan Larrabee, opened the meeting with introductions of Directors, Staff, & Regional Representatives.

## **2. ADOPTION OF 2003 AGM MINUTES:**

Motion: That the minutes of the 2003 ESSA Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented.

*{Moved: Ray Huey /Seconded: Bob Kennedy}*

CARRIED.

## **3. REPORTS**

### **President's Report – Bryan Larrabee**

Bryan Larrabee's official report is in the Annual Report. Bryan expressed his excitement about the potential for the future. Since beginning his position as President, Bryan remarked on how much detailed reporting was required. Bryan discussed that when he started, there was a working board that was very hands-on. While there is a gradual change towards the Board becoming more of an Advisory Board, there is still a requirement of Board members to commit to committee work. Bryan stressed the importance of Board members actively participating in at least two committees because the committee's work is greatly needed. Bryan explained that although some committee meetings can be held via conference call, there are a number of meetings that must occur in person and that requirement emphasizes the need for locally-situated Board and committee members. Bryan thanked everyone for coming to the AGM this evening.

### **Treasurer's Report – Laurie Pearce**

Laurie Pearce's official report is in the Annual Report. Laurie commented that the past year was not an easy one because of a number of issues, contracts, and delays. The grant from MHR, as per the two year contract, resulted in \$194,000 but because of timing, the regular bank account started with a deficit. Laurie discussed how because of new regulations, the gaming funds were received late due to a previous denial for funding. ESSA then received \$33,000 and then another sum of \$17,000 just before the end of the fiscal year. For the 2004/2005 fiscal year, ESSA has been awarded \$34,000. Donations to ESSA were down last year. Page 25 of the Annual Report, Expense Schedules, shows that we had a deficit but that doesn't take into account the extra gaming funds. Laurie went over the current liabilities and net assets on Page 21 of the Annual Report. The full financial report can be found in the Annual Report on pages 20 through 25, with notes on page 26-27.

Laurie opened the floor to questions. There were none and she requested a motion to accept the Financial Statements.

Motion: That the financial statements for the fiscal year-ending March 31, 2004 be adopted as presented.

*{Moved: Colleen Vaughan /Seconded: Doreen Myers}*

CARRIED.

## **Executive Director's Report – Joan Smulders**

Bryan introduced new Executive Director, Joan Smulders.

Joan Smulders' official report is in the Annual Report. Joan thanked everyone for the volunteer work over the past year. Joan discussed that while it was a challenging first year in the position of Executive Director, she is having a great time. Joan reported that her goal for the next year is to focus more on the black hole communities and hopes that the Regional Representatives representative's are planning to address this issue as well.

## **4. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The sub-committee reports can be found on pages 17-19 of the Annual Report.

Natalia, Newsletter Committee member, stated that the fall newsletter has a new look to it and inquired to whether people liked it or not. She stated that the committee is looking for feedback for the next issue. She mentioned that it is important to incorporate issues, such as lessons learned, into the newsletter for the volunteers. Community interest stories are also valuable.

Diana Krimmer, Regional Representatives Volunteer Support Committee Chair, is very proud of all the hard work that is done by the Regional Representatives representative's year round. The Regional Representatives representative's make the Support Committee's job easy.

The Ways & Means Committee reported that the cost-sharing report wildly exceeded everyone's goals. The money was well spent and a huge number of communities were able to purchase supplies.

## **5. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVESRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

### **Vancouver Island (South) – Bob Kennedy**

Bob Kennedy, on behalf of his Alternate, Brenda Young and himself, spoke of his Region's ongoing plan; the idea of reconnecting with the First Nations community in the South Vancouver Island; making better use of the resources, such as recruitment, offered by Volunteer Victoria; working with the newly formed ESS Teams that need lots of support and encouragement; the possibility of holding mini-workshops on a regular basis; and the idea of holding an exercise that addresses what happens in the 2-3 days after disaster strikes.

### **Vancouver Island (North) – Diane Clooten**

Diane Clooten was absent but her report can be found in the Annual Report.

### **Southwest (Coast) – Debbie Nider**

Debbie is stepping down at the end of December 2004. She does hope that more people in the Region will be attracted to joining ESS Teams. There is a lot of work that can be done in the Region and she hopes that whoever takes over will continue to educate the ESS Team members and create public awareness. She also stated that Emergency Social Services Directors need to recognize volunteer efforts, big and small.

### **Southwest (Fraser Valley) – Jackie Kloosterboer**

This is the first year that Jackie has been acting as a Regional Representatives but she has already made a lot of plans and put some of them into action. There is a lot of training planned over the next year. There

are two new Emergency Social Services Directors: Mission and Chilliwack. Southwest Fraser Valley is hosting a seminar in Langley on Volunteer Retention on October 20<sup>th</sup> and they are planning a table top exercise for the Spring.

**Central** – Ray Huey

There are 36 ESS Teams in the Central Region. Ray made mention of his the two excellent deputies, Beryl Itani and Joan Van Norman, that have been a great help to him. He hopes to visit every ESS Team community in the next year. There are some new Teams developing and he plans on assisting them. Ray gave thanks to the Mobile Support Team for all their assistance. The Central Region plans on holding their Regional meeting in February 2005.

**Southeast (East Kootenay)** – Donna Grobell

There have been lots of changes in this Region. Donna mentioned that thinking about the next year's goal was a really good way to help gain focus. There are teams in all of the communities in this Region. Donna stated that thanks to the Justice Institute, they will have two new trainers soon. Donna is already trying to find someone to follow in her footsteps when the time comes. Lastly, she noted that while the Region is a small, unpopulated area, there are a lot of great people.

**Southeast (West Kootenay)** – Tracy Barry

Tracy Barry was absent but her report can be found in the Annual Report.

**Northeast** – Jerrilyn Schembri

Jerrilyn reported that she holds conference calls within her Region every so often that are very successful, with up to 16 people in attendance. There are ten member communities in this area. The Regional District is on board. She continues to try to make the meetings and seminars interesting enough that they create a buzz and, in turn, promote good attendance.

**Northwest** – Rachel Minger

Rachel plans on focusing on black hole communities over the next year. Deas Lake is an important black hole community that will be focused on. She thanked Joan and the ESSA staff for help along the way.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Doreen Myers began by explaining the procedure and stated the following directors are up for election and seeking nomination: Diana Krimmer, Gerry Blitstein, and Laurie Pearce. She also stated that a total of four (4) spots are available.

She opened the floor to nominations.

\*Larry noted that there is no salary or travel costs to attend a Board meeting for a Board of Directors' position.

Doreen Myers called for nominations a second and a third time. No further nominations were put forward. The three names were put forward and accepted. There is still one voting position available. The Board can appoint someone at any point to fill the vacancy.

Nominations Closed.

## **7. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

No amendments were put forward. A committee will be struck to review the constitution and bylaws.

## 8. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- Timing of the AGM

Bryan Larrabee: Last year the EP Forum, EP conference, and the AGM were held at the same time which allowed the Regional Representatives representative's who traveled to attend all the activities. This year ESSA decided to move the AGM apart from the EP conference.

Laurie Pearce: Under the society act, the AGM should be closer (within six months) to the end of the fiscal year. This has been a struggle in the past. People should think about when they feel the best time to hold the AGM should be.

Bob Kennedy: Does that mean six months within the beginning of the fiscal year?

Laurie Pearce: Yes, and though it is not a serious issue, it is something that should be looked at.

Rob Johns: Commented on the lack of attendance at the AGM. When scheduling the AGM, should it be looked at what the goal of the AGM is? It is usually held on a non-social night of the EP conference, not on a Saturday night. And why aren't there any Support Organizations present?

Joan Smulders: No Support Organizations were able to attend for various reasons.

Bryan Larrabee: Traditionally, the Organizations would give a talk. Last year it ate up one hour of the AGM. If Support Organizations are able to attend in the future, let's acknowledge them without speaking time.

- Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

Larry Pearce: Wanted to pay tribute to Joan for being able to take over as Executive Director amidst the chaos and to pull things together. To be able to do that and organize the AGM and come up to speed is just fantastic. Thanks to Bryan Larrabee and Diana Krimmer for being willing to take over when it was time for Larry to take a step back. His decision to stay on the Board is because of all the support he received.

## 9. PRESENTATIONS

Bryan Larrabee called Larry Pearce to the floor. Larry was presented with a gift of appreciation for all his hard work and to acknowledge his past Presidency. Bryan and Larry shared some fond memories. Larry thanked the Board.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

*{Moved: Natalia Skapski/Seconded: Debbie Nider}*

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2023 hrs.

CARRIED.

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Bryan Larrabee, President

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Diana Krimmer, Vice President