



THE MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (MEAO)

DIRECTORS' REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 2nd, 2018

The Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association of Ontario (MEAO) last held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 15th, 2017. This report details the major activities from that meeting to present.

MEAO'S GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS:

The MEAO board has been very active on your behalf since the last AGM, especially in updating the By-laws and policies and procedures. With the by-laws that you have all had an opportunity to review and to give feedback on, you will see that we have made good progress.

Membership Renewal Process:

- As you know from our letters, the key change was to move the membership renewals to an annual process. This will enable your volunteer board to manage this process in a more efficient manner.
- Three notices were sent to anyone who had been on our list for the last two years so ample notification was provided to people to renew.
- Thank you to everyone who renewed or became a brand new member. We had a great response.
- Going forward, members can join MEAO at any time during the year and their membership will run to the end of the current year as per the new annual process.

By-Laws:

- Since the last AGM, the MEAO board, in consultation with a lawyer specializing in not-for profit corporations, has approved a new By-Law. In mid-January we sent the new by-law to all registered members and gave ample time for feedback from the membership.

- We thank you for your feedback. We then sent out a copy of the by-law with questions and feedback noted very clearly together with a clean copy of the amended by-law.
- At today's AGM, you will be asked to confirm the new by-law

MEAO Objects

- The current objects for MEAO as stated in the Letters Patent were approved in 1992. They are very outdated and need a refresh. However, this will take time and require consultation with our members. Once approved by the members, it will then need to be approved by the government bodies.
- In 2018-19, MEAO Board intends to do the work required to refresh the objects of MEAO along with its mandate and mission.
- Therefore in the meantime, today we will present a Resolution to acknowledge the current scope of MEAO work. All the work the Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association of Ontario (MEAO) has conducted over the past ten years, has focused on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), fibromyalgia (FM) and environmental sensitivities/multiple chemical sensitivity (ES/MCS) including:
 - holding annual events at Queens Park calling policy and legislative attention to people living with these three conditions; and
 - conducting and developing the report funded by Trillium entitled, "Recognition, inclusion and equity – The time is now: Perspectives of Ontarians living with ES/MCS, ME/CFS and FM";
 - developing a business case calling for centre of excellence including full recognition ME/CFS, FM and ES/MCS as medical conditions and appropriate system of care to ensure people living with these conditions have their needs met; and
 - representing MEAO on the Taskforce for Environmental Health on behalf of people living with all three medical conditions;
- Therefore today, we are asking the MEAO membership approve a resolution that recognizes and officially acknowledges that MEAO is an association that provides voice and support to individuals, their families, caregivers who are living with complex, chronic environmentally-linked medical conditions, focused on by not limited to myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), fibromyalgia (FM) and environmental sensitivities/multiple chemical sensitivity (ES/MCS) in Ontario.

Call for Nominations:

Part of the board's work this year was developing a Call for Nominations form which included attributes that a nominee should ideally have. The Declaration of Consent and Commitment and the Code of Conduct was also attached to the form. All nominees interviewed prior to the AGM.

According to the Bylaws, the Board has the authority to appoint vacancies. After the AGM, if any member is interested in joining the board, please contact the newly elected MEAO Board of Directors.

Financial Statements:

MEAO's financial statements for the year ending 2017 were distributed to all members and will be further discussed at today's AGM.

UPDATE ON THE TASK FORCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Denise Magi, President of MEAO is your representative on the Task Force for Environmental Health
- MEAO is doing very important work on behalf of the over 550,000 Ontarians who have myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), fibromyalgia (FM) and environmental sensitivities/multiple chemical sensitivity (ES/MCS).
- As your representative on the Task Force for Environmental Health, Denise is very active on the Task Force, attending meetings of the whole task force in addition to meetings on all three working groups, which are the Care Working Group, the Education Working Group and the Research Working Group.
- A most important piece of work was the request to the Minister pertaining to the public release of the Task Force on Environmental Health Interim Report which was done as of September 29th, 2017.
- The Taskforce is working hard on the final report of the Task Force which is tentatively due in November, 2018, which is earlier than previously anticipated. In the meantime, we continue to push for action on the recommendations of the Interim Report

MEAO'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY AT QUEEN'S PARK

MEAO's Community Engagement Day took place on March 20th, 2018. The purpose of the day was to give an update on the interim report of the task force, *but also more crucially*, with all political parties in attendance, to send a strong message to all parties that whichever party gets elected in the upcoming June provincial election, we expect action on the work of the task force. We therefore, expect from whichever party is elected that the recommendations in the interim report together with the recommendations in

the upcoming final report of the task force to be implemented quickly and without delay so that the patients of Ontario with ME/CFS, FM and ES/MCS will at long last have the medical care and social services they urgently need and so they will no longer feel neglected by the medical system.

All three parties spoke in favour of the recommendations in the Interim report and indicated that they were eagerly awaiting the final report.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE and THANK YOU TO DONORS

In December, 2017 we did a successful membership drive and we wish to thank all new members to MEAO. As of April 30th, 2018, MEAO has 74 members. We also send a heartfelt thank you to all those who made separate donations to MEAO; your support to MEAO lets us go farther in our work.

THANK YOU to MEAO's Board of Directors:

We wish to thank the board of 2017-2018 for all their hard work, contributions and support to MEAO:

Denise Magi, Adrianna Tetley, Keith Deviney, Therese Dineen and Irene Turrin.

Due to other commitments, Irene Turrin and Therese Dineen will not be standing for election for another term as a Director on MEAO. Due to personal circumstances, Jeanne Samonas was not able to participate in the Board in 2017-18. We wish Jeanne all the best.

MEAO's Website:

<http://www.meao.ca/>

The joint website of MEAO and AOHC being a Campaign for the Ontario Centre of Excellence in Environmental Health:

<http://recognitioninclusionandequity.org/>

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