



## American Canoe Association (ACA) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 18, 2017

**Location:** Teleconference

Attendance:

Voting Board Members Present:

Anne Maleady	Robin Pope	Jeff Rouse	David Bell
Kirk Havens	William Irving	Jerry Dunne	Lili Colby
Peter Sloan			

Non-voting attendees:

None

ACA Staff:

Wade Blackwood, ACA Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by President Anne Maleady.

A quorum was established with 9 of 13 voting members present.

Executive Director's Report:

Wade opened by welcoming our new Board members.

At our March meeting, Board members can expect to receive a notebook (both written and digital).

Our audit is in progress. It's not completed, but no problems or concerns have been identified. Wade hopes the auditor will be able to speak to the Board at the February call, and encourages all Board members to participate in financial calls.

We've added two CPAs to our staff, to improve the quality of financial management. We're advertising for three insurance specialists (two part and one full-time) to handle both our Outfitter, Livery and Guide program and our event and instructional insurance program. Wade briefly discussed the OLG structure, noting that it is separated from ACA and that staffing for the two insurance programs will be kept separate.

Kirk asked about the size of groups OLG is insuring. Currently, it's primarily small "mom and pop" programs along with two mid-size programs.

Wade will send out a conflict of interest statement for Board members to complete and turn in no later than the March meeting.

Wade then discussed ACA membership levels. The current membership structure is a bit complex for the office, due to our multiple types of membership (e.g., family, individual, student, instructor, PAC, etc.). He plans to offer a simplified structure at the March meeting.

USACK/ACA partnership continues to move forward. Documentation has been reviewed by legal counsel and several outside individuals. Wade is consolidating their feedback and will distribute to the Board soon (hopefully by Friday this week). He'll include both a clean version and a track changes version for review, along with explanations for changes. Wade would like comments on the material by Wednesday of next week if at all possible.

Kirk provided an overview of some of the challenges facing a merger. Changing ACA bylaws requires a vote of the membership, whereas USACK can change bylaws by a vote of their Board. We hope to change as few bylaws as possible, and then incorporate as much as possible in Board policies. This approach allows ACA to respond and make needed operational changes in the easiest fashion possible. Peter and Jerry provided additional supporting information.

Wade then discussed the plan for March. We plan on a social event Friday evening. We'll meet on Saturday, with a paddle and social event Saturday afternoon and evening. Sunday morning the meeting will continue. If there is interest, we'll do another paddle Sunday afternoon. During the Board meeting, we'll fill out committee memberships. We also need to create a distinct properties committee for the Fredericksburg property. Our current properties include land in Fredericksburg, Sugar Island in the St. Lawrence seaway, and a rented property at Camp Sebago in New York.

Elections for President and secretary (two year terms) and vice president (currently empty, need to fill out a single year term) will be held at the March meeting. All officer positions have a two-term limit.

If anyone has travel issues, please contact Wade or Chris. If anyone needs to ride-share, please let the Board know.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm. Thanks to all who were able to call in, and thanks to our new Board members for joining.

Submitted by,

Robin Pope  
ACA Board Secretary