

# BLUEGRASS MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held November 19, 2011 at Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville, Ontario, declared open at 9:34 a.m.**

## **President's Address – Denis Chadbourn, President**



Denis opened the meeting with a general synopsis of what projects the Board of Directors had taken on over the year. Many were a continuation of the previous year that included the following:

1. Bandswap – under the leadership of Director Murray Hale. Murray will be continuing to forge through with this worthwhile endeavour to great a meeting of the minds between Bluegrass Clubs and various bands that may be interested in performing outside of their area.
2. Membership Website – under the leadership of Gord DeVries. Gord has set up an automatic renewal system that sends out renewal notices prior to the membership expiry date. This has generated a 50% renewal. Gord has also set up a Paypal account for those wishing to take advantage of the convenience of renewing through the internet.
3. Website – also under the leadership of Gord DeVries – Gord is re-building the website to separate it into 5 areas within Canada so members can check out what is happening in and around their own area.
4. BMAC Notes – under the leadership of Leann Chadbourn. Leann advised that the magazine name has now changed to The Bluegrass Magazine of Canada now that BMAC has become a National Organization. She also noted that we are starting to get article submissions from the Eastern provinces and hoping to move that forward with other provinces to make the magazine truly national. Leann also noted the deadline dates for the publications which are January 15, April 15, July 15 and September 15, 2012.
5. Treasurer's Report – under the leadership of Rolly Aucoin. Rolly presented the report and discussed how the 2 and 3 year membership renewals will be noted in the accounting. Basically, they will be shown as a liability.
6. Grants – Leann noted that she is currently looking into a grant to assist with the publication costs. We will also look into hiring a professional grant writer. Requesting funds/grants is very time consuming as well as detailed.
7. Festival representation – All Directors attempt to attend as many festivals as they can to represent BMAC. Rolly Aucoin, Don Tarte and Bill Blance have been the main representatives to assist us in building up the membership.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSIONS**

Denis brought forward the idea of putting together a pamphlet on how bands can promote themselves as well as one on one booking. The idea is for BMAC to assist bands/members in promoting themselves. Bands are now marketing for 2013 and need to plan their marketing for the long term.

Bill Blance noted he is new to the group and on a learning curve. Voted in, in absencia and Denis thanked him for his innovative ideas and noted that we appreciate all of his efforts. It is great to have new people and ideas on board.

Murray Hale noted that it would be good to see more representation from Canada at IBMA. The Spinney Brothers are promoting themselves very well and performed at a showcase. Denis advised that Rick Jeinsen, with the European Bluegrass Music Association and Tom Nechville, of Nechville Banjos have offered BMAC an opportunity to sponsor a Canadian Band to showcase. We will have to look into the costs at the next board meeting and discuss what exactly BMAC would/could contribute financially as well as how to decide what band would be represented. Further discussions will be required. The main vision of BMAC is to market Canadian Bluegrass to the world at large.

Dave Porter – of the Ottawa Valley Bluegrass Association noted that he was at IBMA this year and intends to go every year. He is more than willing to help BMAC out with promoting BMAC at IBMA.

Murray also noted that you can go to IBMA as a volunteer which cuts the costs exponentially. As a volunteer you are given free passes to most of the conference. Special Showcases and the awards are of course items that you would have to pay for.

Denis noted that there is a huge concern regarding the Annual General Meeting as we do not have many members out for the meeting. We need to look at either another time or venue. Consideration will need to be given to changing the time or even the venue. Some of the ideas are as follows:

- A. Gord DeVries spoke about the possibility of changing the venue in order to reach out to the East and West portions of Canada to be inclusive with the National Board.
- B. Barb Duncan suggested that we have a dinner meeting for next year, either Friday night or Saturday.

These ideas will have to be put on agenda for the first Board meeting.

Dave Porter noted perhaps we could somehow get together with movers and shakers from other music Genres. Denis Chadbourn advised that he has negotiated to get a bluegrass showcase on the CCMA Awards show. Hoping at that time to attract movers and shakers. Denis asked if Dave has contacts that could lead to making relationships – in a quest to develop the network west of the Manitoba border. Murray Hale suggested BMAC sending a representative from the board to go out to a bluegrass festival.

As noted above, the board has discussed contacting a professional grant writer – Larry Johnston had been searching through various websites to understand what will be required to get financial assistance, however this is a very long procedure and we need to look to professional guidance in order to achieve this goal. Garry Hubbard noted the organization with the most money is FACTOR who is 50% funded. We do have targets in sight and are hoping for results.

Gord DeVries led a discussion of what should be done with respect to the magazine name change from BMAC Notes to Bluegrass Canada. Jerry Switzer gave us a general synopsis of the difference between Trademark and Copyright. The board should make the decision of which route they want to take. Gord also brought up the fact that BLUEGRASS CANADA is being used by an individual as a facebook page and should there be concern. Again, this is a discussion that will have to be brought forward to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Ron Bartman noted that we should start teleconferencing to get Directors onto the board.

Dennis McCarthy advised that he has taken on a promotion of the Seldom Scene for October 26, 2012. It will be held at a 500 softseat performance hall. Gord DeVries will be doing an interview with Denis for the July issue of Bluegrass Canada.

**All members of the Board resigned and elections commenced.**

#### **Election of Directors**

Denis Chadbourn, Leann Chadbourn, Gord DeVries, Rolland Aucoin, Dave Porter, Donald Tarte, Murray Hale, Barb Duncan and Bill Blance were nominated for positions on the board; all accepted.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:46am.**

# B M A C C

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

as at NOV. 17/11

\$912.53

OPENING BALANCE	Nov. 20/10	Q 3	Y.T.D.	
REVENUE	MEMBERSHIPS:			
	INDIVIDUAL	1,574.00	6,612.00	
	ORGANIZATIONAL	450.00	1,800.00	
	ADVERTISING	0.00	1,163.75	
	Outstanding Deposit			
	TOTAL	2,024.00	9,575.75	
DISBURSEMENTS	OFFICE SUPPLIES	0.00	282.26	
	SOFTWARE	0.00	134.92	
	NEWSLETTER	1,931.26	3,774.08	
	NSF	0.00	70.00	
	MEETINGS	0.00	272.48	
	AWARDS SPONSOR-OVERALL GROUP	269.00	269.00	
	IBMA MEMBERSHIP	0.00	209.00	
	Music Biz	0.00	400.00	
	BANK & PAYPAL CHARGES	51.06	136.88	
	MEMBERSHIP BIITZ	0.00	1,943.51	
	Legal	0.00	366.54	
	Supplies	0.00	154.94	
	TOTAL	2,251.32	8,013.61	
	OUTSTANDING	CHS.		\$519.42
	BANK BALANCE	AS AT NOV. 17/11		\$1,955.25
	PAYPAL BALANCE			48.78
	BOOK BALANCE			\$2,004.03