



Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



Memo to: Provincial Sport & Recreation Presidents and Executive Directors/Chief Operating Officers

From: Holly Abraham
Chair, **sportalliance** Board of Directors

Re: February 2010 "Update"

ParaSport Ontario Winter Games January 22-24, 2010 - Kingston

This past month I had the opportunity to attend the ParaSport Ontario Winter Games in Kingston Ontario. I appreciated the athleticism of the athletes in all the sports I was able to attend. It was great to see how intense the competition was and to learn the rules of each of the sports. The staging of the event and the host organizing committee was superb. The piper that led the athletes into the venue for the opening ceremonies was a great way to welcome them to the event. The Minister of Health Promotion is always supportive of sport and we know Minister Best enjoyed the event. I have gained a new appreciation for athletes with a disability and look forward to watching the 2010 Paralympics in Vancouver especially with Blair McIntosh leading the team as Chef de Mission.

2015 Pan and ParaPan American Games

Since the announcement of the Games, the SAO Board and staff have been busy seeking out opportunities for collaboration. We have met with other stakeholders, had two members' meetings on the topic, and had meetings with the Ministry of Health Promotion and most recently with Minister Margaret Best. We have also contacted the Chair of the Board of the 2015 Games to introduce ourselves and detail how we may be of assistance in this process. Our goal is to provide information to all on potential opportunities for collaboration with those interested in sport in Ontario. We know it is the beginning stages and we are keen to assist in the development of a legacy for sport and recreation in this province. We will ensure that the Sport Alliance of Ontario continues to work in your best interests and we will provide ongoing communication on this most important event.

New Board Member

I would like to welcome Molly Killingbeck to the Board of Directors as the Minister's Representative. Molly as you know comes with extraordinary experience in sport and we appreciate the opportunity to work with Molly on our Board.

Strategic Plan 2010-2013

Marg Strus of Strus and Associates is the chosen consultant to lead the strategic planning process.

- At the January members' information meeting the CEO spoke to the members about moving forward and ways that the SAO can engage them.
- The date for the planning session is Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25, 2010. Location to be determined.

Board Items

The following items were discussed at our most recent board meeting:

Whistleblower Protection Policy

The Board approved a new policy designed to provide an opportunity for an employee to seek assistance on serious allegations that affect the operation of the SAO. We will finalize the details once we have had it reviewed with our Human Resources Consultant.

Circulation of Minutes of Board Meetings

A question came forward at the last AGM regarding the circulation of board minutes. The Board decided not to post the minutes as it was felt it may hinder active discussion and debate.

The Board is not obliged nor is it required under the *Corporations Act* to provide the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors to the members. The membership is entitled to receive the financial statements and to attend the Annual General Meeting and ask whatever questions the members consider appropriate and pressing.

As far as the ratification that is asked for of the membership for the actions of the Board throughout the year, the actions of the Board are, of course, reflected in the Annual Report. To that extent, the membership is aware of and can see through the Annual Report and also whatever monthly reports and monthly meetings are provided to the membership precisely what the actions of the Board were that require ratification.


Benefits of Membership

The Communication and Marketing Committee recently put together the attached document describing what the benefits of being a member of the SAO would entail. We are hoping to recruit more sport and recreation organizations this year so the representation at the Pan and ParaPan American Games discussion are inclusive of all interested sport organizations.

If you are not already a member and are interested in membership, please contact our CEO Jim Bradley or complete the membership application and forward to the SAO.

Please contact the CEO Jim Bradley if you have any questions, concerns, ideas regarding the SAO. jbradley@sportalliance.com or I can be reached at habraham.sportleadership@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Holly Abraham
Chair
Sport Alliance of Ontario