



**COPA Annual General Meeting  
By Video Conference  
27 June 2020  
2 pm EDT**

## **A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm EDT by the Chairperson of the COPA Board of Directors, Bill Mahoney.

## **B. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The chairperson noted that the 'Notice of Meeting' to the COPA members had been in the COPA Flight magazine, included with the e-flight newsletter, and posted on the website.

## **C. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Secretary Jim Bell confirmed that there was a quorum in attendance. Directors Jonathan Beauchesne, Jim Bell, Larry Biever, Debbie Brekelmans, Mathieu Delorme, Kevin Elwood, Kate Dlassen, Bill Mahoney, Clark Morawitz, Brian Pound, Lloyd Richards, Bram Tilroe, and 130 regular members were in attendance.

## **D. REGISTRATION OF PROXIES**

No proxies were received.

## **E. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion to accept the agenda..

MOVED: Bram Tilroe

SECONDED: Debbie Brekelmans

RESOLVED: Carried

## **F. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting, held in Innisfail, AB.

MOVED: Brian Pound

SECONDED: Jonathan Beauchesne

RESOLVED: Carried

## **G. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business from the 2019 AGM minutes.

## **H. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

The Chair's report is attached at the end of the minutes.

Bill noted the amount of change in COPA over the last several years, including our logo, many members of the board, and now our CEO. Shane Armstrong acted as our chair for much of 2019. David Black was also a dedicated member of the board who resigned earlier this year. Larry Biever, Brian Pound, and Bram Tilroe have completed their terms. Thank you to all for your service. Bernard has served five years as CEO. Christine Gervais will be taking over as CEO. COPA is well positioned to continue to grow and serve as an advocate on your behalf.

## **I. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's report is attached at the end of the minutes.

Moved that the reports be accepted.

MOVED: Mathieu Delorme

SECONDED: Brian Pound

RESOLVED: Carried

## **J. TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Moved that the 2019 audited financial statement be accepted.

MOVED: Frank Ervin

SECONDED: Bram Tilroe

DISCUSSION: Question : why were convention expenses higher in 2019 than in 2018? Answer: there were four events in 2019. Question: what percentage of membership fee goes to SAF? Answer: about \$8 per membership year goes to the Special Action Fund. Question: is the IAOPA convention cancelled? If so, what about cancellation fees? Answer: the event was postponed to 2021 and all expenses will carry over. No cancellation fees were charged. Question: did we lose money on the Wings Gala? Answer: a donation is expected from the Westjet Pilots Association that will create a profit. Question: why do investments show a loss? Answer: the loss has mostly been made up and we are down only 3.11 percent in 2020.

RESOLVED: Carried

## **K. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2020**

Moved that the Frouin Group be appointed as auditors for 2020.

MOVED: Jonathan Beauchesne

SECONDED: Kate Klassen

RESOLVED: Carried

## **L. PRESENTATION OF THE INCOMING BOARD**

The following directors have been elected by the membership.

Alberta and Northwest Territories

- Henry Vos
- Ken Zachkewich

Saskatchewan

- Candace Pardo

Northern Ontario

- Lloyd Richards

Maritimes

- Debbie Brekelmans
- Brian Pinsent

Jim Bell, representing Manitoba and Nunavut, and Bill Mahoney, representing Newfoundland and Labrador, continue in office by acclamation as there were no contenders for their positions.

Kevin Elwood and Doug Ronan continue on the board as Ontario directors, and Jonathan Beauchesne and Mathieu Delorme continue on the board as Quebec directors. The BC director position is vacant until a by-election can be held to replace David Black.

## **M. AGM GENERAL BUSINESS**

Incoming CEO Christine Gervais addressed the members.

Bill reminded members about the September by-election for the open BC director's seat.

Question: how much have we lost on the Wings Gala and how much is the (now unlikely) recovery from WJ Pilots Assn? Answer: we lost \$45,000 on the gala. If the Westjet Pilots Association gives its donation of \$100,000, then the gala would be profitable.

Question: will 50 year pins be issued to qualified pioneer members? Answer: we will recognise long serving members.

Question: What is the position of Mrs Gervais about the decision of Marc Garneau, Minister of Transportation, to refuse to let promoters build an Aerodrome at St-Roch de l'Achigan ? Will COPA continue fighting this decision? Answer: Christine will receive a briefing on the situation so that she will be in a position to answer this question. Bernard is investigating what options exist so that the fight can continue.

Question: will COPA's Strategic plan be published on the website? Answer: yes.

Question: With the currently political climate and efforts by organizations and businesses around the to become more diverse and inclusive, what are COPA's plans to make the org more diverse and include more representation for BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of colour)? Answer: we encourage diversity. We now have several women on the board, and a woman as CEO. We welcome everyone as a COPA member.

Question: with the need for further recruitment, what are COPA's plans concerning the nextgen initiative? Answer: COVID-19 has stalled our plan for now, but the COPA Ottawa flight has taken the lead by encouraging younger pilots to attend events.

Question: would assisting Flights to have virtual meetings be a good investment as help with flight web presence was offered a few yrs ago? Answer: the national office has already had several national online meetings to allow members to more easily interact with members. We can provide assistance to flights so that they can hold online meetings.

Question: might there be future regional meetings conducted with local Flights to help to draft plans to help grow our membership, especially in the younger cohort of new pilots? Answer: yes, directors can help arrange meetings with flights.

## **N. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED: Kate Klassen

RESOLVED: Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm EDT

After adjournment, Director Brian Pound presented awards to dedicated volunteers.

Bernard Gervais announced the President's Award to Cameron Boekhoff.

Bill Mahoney announced the Chairperson's Award to David Sprague.

The Editor's Award was presented to Jean-Pierre Bonin.

The first John Bogie Memorial Award was presented to the Vimy Flight Team 2017.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Five years ago in 2015, I came to my first AGM in a hangar, in Manitoba. That's where I first met you, the members, in person. Who would have known that five years later, we'd be doing this over ZOOM, remotely, and reaching an even wider audience.

Just goes to show how things evolve over time, that change is a fact of life and we need to embrace change to adapt and survive, even as an organization.

To go over certain achievements over the years, we can note:

Modernizing communications with members, which saw COPA Flight go from a newspaper format to a full-colour magazine format, and for half the cost of the original publication;

A very successful weekly newsletter (eFlight) with an open and click rate unsurpassed in the industry with an average of about 50 percent, which is most enviable in the field;

We updated of platforms more in tune with our times (Facebook and Instagram);

An invitation to Chris Hadfield to become our official spokesperson, someone who greatly appreciated and supported our initiatives, including the creation of our more modern and forward-looking logo;

The development of a modern online store with Red Canoe, which is five times more active than the previous one;

An Invitation by TCCA to work with them to put the General Aviation Safety Campaign in place, a project based on training, culture change and NOT on more regulations;

And many other changes that have brought us success, financial stability and an increase in membership by having around 30% of all civil aviation licensed people in the country as members of COPA, representing about 50% of all non-commercial pilots. The best COPA has ever had.

I am leaving a very capable team of professionals in the office and I want to thank my staff over the years, for their dedication, support, collaboration and professionalism, always eager to join in the changes and innovations. They are friends.

I am leaving them in the very capable hands of our new President and CEO, Christine Gervais, who you will meet later on.

I'd like to thank the board for the work they do for COPA and for their support over the years.

But mostly, I want to thank you, the members, for giving me the most challenging, rewarding and let's say it, the most beautiful 5 years of my professional life. I will miss you.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

It was a Greek philosopher, who said, "Change is the only constant in life." He could have been a COPA member. COPA has been in a state of change and transformation for a few years now. We have been evolving and adapting to the ever changing conditions around us. We have changed the way we deliver information and communicate with our members, we have changed our brand including our logo, and generally we have changed the way we do business. The pace has been fast and demanding.

As a consequence of all of this change, a number of our people have changed as well. I assumed the Chair from Shane Armstrong in December. Shane provided steady and strong leadership for most of 2019 and did so at great personal sacrifice, as he was going through some medical challenges at the time, so we thank him most sincerely. David Black from BC and the Yukon has resigned and there will be an election to replace him this summer. David was an exemplary COPA director, and we acknowledge and thank him for all he did. At this year's AGM we will also see three directors complete their terms: Brian Pound, Larry Biever and Bram Tilroe. All of these gentlemen provided thoughtful insight and guidance at the board table and unwavering representation of their respective regions. We owe them a great deal of gratitude.

We will also see change at our national office with the retirement of Bernard Gervais. This month will mark 5 years since he became President and CEO at COPA and he has been responsible for much of the change I referred to earlier. On behalf of all members, I would like to thank Bernard for his tremendous contribution to making COPA a better, more relevant organization in our mission to advance, promote and protect our Canadian freedom to fly. I would also like to welcome Christine Gervais, as our new President and CEO. Christine comes to COPA with a broad range of knowledge and experience and is well positioned to continue on our path of excellence. I'll introduce her more probably a little later in the agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, I firmly believe COPA is well positioned to evolve and grow to be a stronger and more effective advocate on behalf of its members, and I look forward to being part of that process.

Thank you.