



Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association

Semi Annual General Meeting

Sunday November 2nd, 2025

Zoom

President: John Cresswell

Secretary: Mike Wilson

Directors:

Dave Post	Gary Kehoe
Mike Kyte	Susan Burns
Meghan Blewitt	Sarah Gorman
Lori Beesack	Mike Connerty
Danny Vogler	Geoff Dunn

Absent: None

Staff:

- Rhonda Gifford {via Zoom}
- Jackie Henriques {via Zoom}

Guests:

- Tim Wiseman, C5PBA {via Zoom}
- Jim Sandiford, Kreston GTA {via Zoom}

President John Cresswell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Good morning, and welcome to the O5PBA Semi-Annual Meeting, held virtually via Zoom. I hope everyone enjoyed the extra hour of sleep last night.

Sadly, the outcome of Game 7 was not what most of us hoped for. For those who do not know me, my name is John Cresswell, President of the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association, and it is my pleasure to welcome everyone here to our Semi-Annual Meeting. The 2025-26 bowling season is off to a fantastic start, leagues are underway, membership is beginning to grow, and the tournament season is just around the corner.

As we go through today's meeting, we will cover many topics. There will be updates on previously covered items. Ultimately, we are all here to shape the future of our sport, of organized 5-pin bowling in Ontario. The only thing we can all control is the effort we put in.

At our recent Annual General Meeting in June, a new director was elected to the O5PBA Board. Geoff Dunn brings his extensive experience at the Zone level to the provincial stage, and we look forward to collaborating. I would also like to take a moment to once again thank Brenda Hamilton for all her years of service on the Board and wish her all the best for the future. I will be introducing the full board shortly.

The work the Board of Directors has been doing on behalf of the members since the AGM has produced numerous announcements and updates. Instead of me doing all the talking, it would be better for each of them to tell you themselves.

Secretary Mike Wilson completed the roll call. 44 delegates including the Board of Directors were present.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED FOR THE 2025 SEMI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS PUT FORTH BY SCOTT MCINTRYE; SECONDED BY AIMEE BEDELL.

MOTION CARRIED.

I have mentioned this several times before, but I must emphasize: the Board of Directors and office staff are working on and updating the programs developed over the years for registered members eligible to participate each year.

Please remember that no comment or question is unwelcome, as everyone has the right to their opinion. I ask that we all show respect to one another and listen carefully to each speaker. If the same points are repeated, the meeting chair may ask you to stop speaking so everyone has a chance to contribute.

To those new to this meeting or those who may not know us, I would like to introduce the elected Board of Directors. I ask you to hold your applause until they are all introduced:

Geoff Dunn -	Sponsorship, Information Technology, Back to Bowling
Danny Vogler –	Marketing/Multimedia, Communications & Publicity
Lori Beesack –	Fundraising, and Incentive
Mike Connerty –	Lane Certification, and Technical Director
Meghan Blewitt -	Coaching, Long-Term Athlete Development, Record Scores, and Awards
Susan Burns -	Constitution & By-laws, Audit, and Human Resources
Mike Kyte –	Tournament Director
Dave Post -	Planning, and Recruitment & Development
Gary Kehoe -	Treasurer
Mike Wilson -	Secretary, Bowling School, and Information Technology Co-Chair
Sarah Gorman –	Vice President, Assistant Tournament Director, Average Book, and Membership
John Cresswell -	President

Ladies and Gentlemen, the elected Board of Directors.

The next group I want to introduce is our office staff, who work from home to manage the O5PBA programs. Two very efficient and well-organized staff members. They are Rhonda Gifford, Program Coordinator, and Jackie Henriques, Financial Coordinator.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the office staff.

Delegates and guests, like all of you, the O5PBA Board of Directors is composed of volunteers who do their best and act in what they believe is the organization's best interest. The current board of elected directors is here to serve you the members, and to ensure that the organized sport of 5-pin bowling continues to grow.

None of us is perfect, and it's completely normal to make mistakes. "Your mistakes aren't failures—they're your tuition for future success." I'm really looking forward to hearing from each of the wonderful volunteers here today. Your voices and contributions are truly valued.

With all the introductions complete, let's proceed with the meeting. Remember, the Board of Directors and Office staff are here to manage and oversee the programs of the O5PBA that paid members can participate in. Without your feedback, whether positive or constructive criticism, we can only guess if we are heading in the right direction.

GUEST SPEAKERS

C5PBA President Tim Wiseman {via Zoom}

With us today is the newly elected President of the Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association. He is joining us from his home in Alberta, where it is currently only 7:11 am. Tim Wiseman has been bowling for more than 30 years and has been volunteering since 2007. He is president of the Alberta 5 Pin Bowlers' Association and also a director with the WCBT, helping build elite competitive opportunities for all bowlers.

C5PBA President Tim Wiseman addressed those present on the Zoom call, updating everyone on the measures the new C5 Executive have been addressing since August of 2025, and commended our organization and its volunteers to our going dedication to the sport of 5 pin bowling.

REVIEW OF DRAFT 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING #2

A review of the June 21st, 2025, Draft General Meeting Number Two Minutes was completed. No amendments were brought forward at this time.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21st, 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NUMBER TWO AS PRESENTED WAS PUT FORTH BY WINNIE SPIRES; SECONDED BY AL HAWLEY.

MOTION CARRIED.

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT

Treasurer Gary Kehoe and auditor Jim Sandiford from Kreston GTA spoke about the results of our Review Engagement for the 2024-2025 season.

Jim indicated that on page 2 (statement of operations) we were showing a \$32,996.00 loss or deficiency this past season mainly due to the decrease in government grant funding we received and a donation which was made to the Daily Bread Food Bank from our Bingo account.

Gary Kehoe asked if, overall, the O5PBA was in a good financial position. Jim replied that yes, we are in a very good financial position.

Bob Beaucage asked what would explain the huge drop in both revenue and expense sides for tournaments. John indicated that this was because we ran the nationals last year. Additionally, Bob asked about the increase in meeting costs on both sides. Jim noted that this was due to the Hall of Fame being held last season.

With no questions from the floor President John Cresswell asked for a motion to accept the financial report as presented.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE JULY 31ST, 2025 ENDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, WHICH HAD A REVIEW ENGAGEMENT COMPLETED BY KRESTON GTA, WAS PUT FORTH BY MARIA ISTVANIC; SECONDED BY HEATHER HAWLEY.

MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET – GARY KEHOE

Gary noted that under the Annual General Meeting there was a small correction due to a small miscalculation. York Simcoe is listed as having two delegates it should be three. Also, under the Booster, Mike's 5 Pin should have 2 members advancing, not one.

Paul Bauer asked to confirm that in the miscellaneous expenses, the actual from 2024-2025 was the Food Bank donation? Gary indicated yes, it was. On page 5, under lines 5950 & 5960 are lumped together under miscellaneous.

Gary stated that we had received notice from the government stating that our funding would remain the same for this season, and the first installment was

received a few weeks ago. The second should arrive in January, with the final in July.

Bob Beaucage noted that last season's funding was down from the previous season. Will this year's funding be the same as last season or return to the previous amount? Gary indicated it would be the same as what was received last season.

Terry Farrell commented for clarification purposes that Jim Sandiford's comment in the review engagement pertaining to the grant funding, this was from the perspective of last year versus two years ago. The funding amount that was listed in the budget for last season was the reduced amount, but we knew that was the amount we would be receiving.

From the August 2025 C5PBA AGM, Gary indicated that membership in the provinces would be increasing 2.5%, which should translate to an amount of about \$700 to Ontario. Additionally, a new Operational Support assessment of \$75 per bowler advancing to National Open or Inter-Provincial tournaments.

MOTION: TO APPROVE KRESTON GTA AS OUR AUDITORS FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON WAS PUT FORTH BY AL HAWLEY; SECONDED BY SHAWN O'CONNOR.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER REPORT WAS PUT FORTH BY BRENDA FRASER; SECONDED BY DAVIN FLORENT.

MOTION CARRIED.

COACHING and LONG-TERM ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT (LTAD) **– MEGHAN BLEWITT**

There haven't been any major changes to LTAD since the 2025 AGM.

Coming into the start of the season, we had plans to run multiple Introduction to Competitive Coaching courses based on the several requests we received.

We had one planned for the first weekend of September, at NEBs, we had to cancel it due to lack of interest. However, we were able to run one in Ingersoll, September 19-21, where 8 coaches were certified, and we ran another course in Collingwood, October 24-26, where 7 coaches were certified.

We have been asked about running an Online Community Coach course this year and are currently looking at available weekends to offer a course. If we can't find a weekend before the end of the year, we will look at running something early next year.

There is an in-person Community Coach course taking place at Bowlerama Barrie on November 16th.

At the AGM, a motion was passed changing the selection process for the Youth Challenge Nationals coaches. Historically, the coaches have been appointed by O5PBA board of directors, but with the motion that passed, the bowlers who qualify for the national team will select their coaches, 1 male and 1 female, from a list of vetted applicants. The team will not know until after qualifying who the possible coaches are. This is to eliminate any outside input. The coach selection will be made solely by the team with the support of the Team Manager.

The application for Youth Challenge Nationals will be posted to the website after the Zone rounds have completed. To be eligible to coach at Nationals, you must be Introduction to Competitive Coaching certified and selected to coach at Youth Challenge Provincials. All applications need to be sent in by December 31st, 2025, to allow time for review prior to Provincials on January 11th.

Each year, we ask for nominations for the Dave Post Elite Coach of the Year and the Ernie Roggie Grass Roots Coach of the Year.

The Dave Post Elite Coach of the Year is awarded to someone who has shown success in coaching the previous season. This year's recipient has been coaching for over 25 years across all organizations, O5PBA, YBO & the MBOA. They have represented Ontario at Nationals as a player and a coach numerous times, once again, across all organizations. Last season, they coached the Middlesex Elgin Mixed team to Gold at the Ontario Open Provincials and continued their success at Nationals with the team capturing Gold there as well.

We extend our congratulations to Bernie McMillan of the Middlesex Elgin 5 Pin Bowlers' Association, this year's Dave Post Elite Coach of the Year.

The Ernie Roggie Grass Roots Coach of the Year is awarded to individuals who are dedicated to their programs, identified by their youth bowlers, and bring a positive experience to the coaching process. This year's recipient has been coaching for over 25 years, working at all levels, including YBC, Youth Challenge and the Open. They have coached at the Ontario Open four times and have coached six times at Youth Challenge provincials and at two Youth Challenge Nationals. They are active in their local YBO program and have coached several YBO Championship teams as well as coached at the Bowl Ontario Cup. They are instrumental in organizing an annual Strike 13 tournament at Markham Bowl, aimed to support the youth bowlers in the Markham Bowl YBC program.

The years of dedication to 5 Pin bowling has not gone unnoticed, and we are happy to present Phil Winter, of the York Simcoe 5 Pin Bowlers' Association, with the Ernie Roggie Grass Roots Coach of the Year award.

Andrea Priestley asked if the Intro to Competition training was moving to be an online course. Dave Post indicated that this would be next year, before it was ready.

Terry Farrell reminded everyone to please complete and submit the Instruction Clinic form if you are doing any local training clinics. These numbers are added to our grant submission. The cycle for the grant submission is April 1st to March 31st yearly.

TOURNAMENTS – MIKE KYTE

On September 21st, a virtual Tournament Directors course was held, and we had nine participants attend. All nine have successfully passed their exams and are 2/3 of the way to becoming fully certified.

This year, we have a total of 30 individuals that will need to complete their Tournament Director (TD) recertification by the end of the season if they wish to retain their TD status. A communication will be sent to the association's president as to who these individuals are.

As a reminder to all Tournament Directors, if you happen to qualify to participate in the house or zone round, you must find another non-participating TD to run the event for you, as this can be deemed as a conflict of interest (cannot bowl in the event and be the TD running the event).

Changes to the Youth Challenge from the 2025 AGM are as follows:

1. Eliminated the field points in the round robin and gone back to awarding team points (5 individual points, plus 3 team points for the highest pin fall, for a total of 8 points per game).
2. Any region that wishes to wear a region-identifying shirt may do so, as long as it contains all the zone colours of the participating associations if the region contains more than one association, and it has been pre-approved by the O5PBA Board of Directors.
3. The Youth Challenge coaches meeting will be held in person this year at the bowling centre, just prior to the start of the Provincial event.
4. This is an Ontario Winter Games year, and that is held in Orillia from February 26th to March 1st.

Ontario Open singles competitors will once again bowl a ten-game roll off starting on the Wednesday morning of the Provincials. There is an option to opt out after the first five games are completed.

The top four men's, ladies and mixed teams will advance to the Saturday morning championship round, where a Paige format will be used.

The 50-game requirement for the rolling average to be eligible to compete in the zone of their choice now includes tournament scores that are bowled within that zone.

Assistant Coaches or any Coach selected for the Open singles stepladder event, who was not already part of the event, will not have to pay the \$50 assessment fee. \$30 for the Senior Open singles.

The mandatory Open and Senior Open coaches meeting will be held on Sunday, March 22nd, or Monday, March 23rd.

On Wednesday, April 29th, we will hold an Open and Senior Open bowlers' information session to discuss both events. This Zoom meeting will be open to all current O5PBA members who are in good standing.

As housekeeping, when Open or Senior Open participants change their names, please notify the office so that the years of participation can be updated correctly, so you can receive your recognition. Also, a bowler must complete at least one complete game at the qualifying round to participate at the provincials.

During the Open(s), participants will only be allowed to drink when the team is on a team bye game, on break or a picture session, if we were to have them, and only in the designated areas.

New this year, we will be sending two teams (8 bowlers, 2 coaches and a team manager) to the IP Tournament, being held in Manitoba, April 22nd to 26th.

A rule change notice pertaining to the use of personalized bowling balls was sent to the field earlier, which is not currently listed. Section B, rule 24D, now reads as "Personal bowling balls must have distinguished markings with identifying letters or symbols for ball registration and identification".

Winnie Spires asked if the Open(s) singles coaches needed to be members of the O5PBA by a specific date. Mike Kyte indicated yes, that goes without saying, but Winnie commented that it needs to be stipulated, or people will challenge it.

Paul Sprague asked if anything was done to see about reducing the amount of time it takes to complete a game. Mike Kyte indicated no, not at this time but they will be meeting with Echo Bowl to see how we can streamline our processes and communications.

Paul Bauer noted the concern wasn't really individuals, but more so certain teams were always the last ones finishing. John Cresswell suggested we have the coaches write the time the game was completed on the score sheet, when they sign it, so time could be tracked better. Terry Farrell stated that the issue seems to be the constant pressing of the reset button before they go up to bowl every time.

Winnie Spires indicated that at the Youth Challenge Nationals, now only the coaches are allowed to reset the pins to avoid delay of game tactics.

Maria Istvanic commented that while at Open Nationals this year, it was stated that re-racking/resetting of the pins should only be done when completely necessary.

Sarah Gorman indicated that the information Maria mentioned was delivered at the coaches meeting.

MEMBERSHIP – SARAH GORMAN

We have 2505 members as of this meeting.

AVERAGE BOOK – SARAH GORMAN

The tournament score spreadsheet from last year will continue to be used in 2025-2026, and the file has been loaded to the website for use. New this year will be the use of the provincial tournament average. John Cresswell presented the website so everyone could see the new section which was added. Associations are reminded to promptly submit their tournament scores within 7 days of the completion of the event.

Sarah further reminded everyone that at the local level, you are still to be using the rolling average for the zone tournaments, not the provincial tournament average. That only comes into play at the provincial events.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS – DANNY VOGLER

Why We Bowl Video Contest

This season, we launched the *Why We Bowl* video contest. We've received creative and heartfelt submissions from bowlers across the province. The marketing team and board are currently reviewing the entries, and winners will be announced shortly. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped spread the message of what makes bowling meaningful.

Amazon Partnership

We continue to partner with Amazon through the O5PBA affiliate program. This partnership provides an easy way for members and supporters to give back to the association simply by shopping online. Before making any Amazon purchases, please visit the O5PBA website and click our Amazon link first. Every purchase made through that link helps support programs and initiatives for our members. Unfortunately, you can't simply save the link in your browser. You'll need to make sure you access it directly through the O5 website and click on the Amazon link each time.

Since the Marketing Committee initially set up and launched this program, it has now been moved under the Fundraising Committee for ongoing management and reporting. The Marketing Committee continues to collaborate with the Fundraising Committee to develop additional affiliate opportunities, including potential partnerships with both Temu and Wayfair.

O5PBA Newsletter

Our newsletter continues to grow thanks to contributions from our members and zones. It's a collaborative effort made by all of us to keep our community informed

and connected. If your zone or association is hosting an event, celebrating achievements, or has news to share, please send the information to me for review. Submissions that align with our newsletter's goals may be included in upcoming editions. The newsletter is published monthly around the 20th of the month. If you would like to have an article included in our newsletter, please send to me by the 10th of the month.

Your stories and updates help make our newsletter a valuable resource for bowlers across Ontario.

Paul Sprague asked what percentage of the Amazon cart sales does the O5PBA receives from this program. Danny indicated it's a varied amount between 4 to 10 percent. John Cresswell reinforced that buyer must press the link found on the O5PBA website. Copying of the URL and sending it to others will not work.

SPONSORSHIP – GEOFF DUNN

As this is my first semi-annual meeting report for sponsorship as the sponsorship chair, I am pleased to thank this year's sponsors for the 2025/26 bowling season. You can find our sponsors listed on the O5 website at this link <https://o5pba.ca/sponsors>.

First, I would like to thank our **Corporate Sponsors**:

Government of Ontario, Delta Bingo and TRG Computer Solutions – John Cresswell

Platinum Sponsor (\$1,000)

Ronder Holdings – Ron Roeder

Gold Sponsor (\$500) – totaling \$2500

Central Ontario Bowling Association
NEB's Fun World – Tom England
Dovetail Services Ltd. – Garnet Dobskey
York Simcoe 5 Pin Bowlers' Association
Middlesex Elgin 5 Pin Bowlers' Association

Silver Sponsor (\$250) – totaling \$2000

Special Olympics York South
Gary Burkholder
Larry Palmby
Merivale 5 Pin Bowlers' Association
Ottawa Valley 5 Pin Bowlers' Association
Terry & Gerry Farrell
NuAge IT – Bob Beaucage
Baldwin Sales – Paul Curtis

Bronze Sponsor (\$100) – totaling \$1100

Brenda Fraser
Brenda Hamilton
Niagara 5 Pin Bowlers' Association
Marilyn & Larry Van Belois
Heather & Al Hawley
Orleans 5 Pin Bowlers' Association
Patricia Jepson
Ron Brown
Susan & Gord Burns
Geoff's IT Products & Services – Geoff Dunn
Centre Bowling Lanes – Kevin Jepson

At this time, I would also like to thank our sponsors for the **Why We Bowl Video Contest:**

Sunset Family Fun Centre
Dave Post
Brenda Fraser
Bradford Underground Bowl
O5PBA
Central Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association
Middlesex Elgin Bowlers' Association
Orleans 5 Pin Bowlers' Association

Our total overall sponsorship is \$6600

We are continually seeking new sponsors. If anyone knows of someone who may be a potential sponsor, please let myself or the O5 office know and we will be happy to reach out to them.

AUDIT – SUSAN BURNS

Good morning, everyone. After the retirement of Brenda Hamilton from the Board, I have been appointed the new Audit Chair. My committee consists of Mike Wilson, Mike Kyte, Shirley Kennedy from Grand River, and staying on as a mentor this year is Brenda Hamilton.

The O5 holds three audits yearly:

1. For the months of August, September, October and November
2. For the months of December, January, February and March
3. For the months April, May, June and July

A report was given to me regarding the final audit of the 2024-25 season that was held in August of 2025. I can advise that after reviewing the last audit report, everything is in order.

The first audit for this season will be held in December, and I look forward to working with my committee.

FUNDRAISING – LORI BEESACK

Overview of Fundraising Activities

This report provides an update on the fundraising initiatives undertaken for SAGM in 2025. The focus this year has been on establishing new partnerships and continuing successful programs to support our objectives.

Amazon Canada Partnership

Earlier in the year, an agreement was reached with Amazon Canada, enabling our organization to share a unique shopping link on our website. Through this initiative, we have earned over \$600 as a result of purchases made by our members. This demonstrates the positive impact of this partnership on our fundraising efforts.

Exploration of New Programs

Given the success of the Amazon Canada partnership, we are currently investigating similar programs with TEMU, Wayfair, and Shein. The goal is to further diversify our fundraising sources. Updates and further details regarding these potential partnerships will be communicated as more information becomes available.

Elimination Program

This season, we are continuing with our elimination program. We will be distributing to the field later this month, providing another avenue to generate funds for our organization.

Conclusion

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our fundraising initiatives. Your involvement is essential to the ongoing success of our programs.

Paul Bauer asked to verify if the DC associations are now eligible as well. Lori indicated yes, so if interested please let her know.

AWARDS – MEGHAN BLEWITT

We don't usually have much to talk about for awards at the SAGM, however, with the increased cost of awards, which we discussed at the 2024 SAGM, we have had to increase the cost of some of our awards for this season.

The following pins have gone up to \$1.50 from \$1.00: 200 & 225 Single; 500, 550, 600, 650, 700 Triple; the Split Spared, and Award Collection Pin.

At 10:30 am a five break was taken. The meeting returned to order at 10:36 am.

OLD BUSINESS

Winnie Spires asked if there was any update on the Tournament winners' shirt discussed at the AGM. Sarah indicated that we have a new supplier for the Ontario shirts, and it is being worked on, but if anyone wanted to draft some things to be reviewed by all means.

Paul Sprague asked when the record scores would be going out. Meghan indicated that things were just picked up on Friday, and we will be trying to ship things in bulk whenever possible.

Charles Cooper noted that at the AGM, we discussed the possibility of holding the Hall of Fame at the same time as the Annual General Meeting. Charles indicated that on behalf of Huronia, he drafted a report for our review. John Cresswell indicated that he had the report and that the information provided was still being reviewed by the Board and the Hall of Fame committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Constitution and By-Laws – Susan Burns indicated that a letter was sent to all Zone Presidents to review Appendix A to confirm the accuracy of their Zone colours, as well as the boundaries. As I have not heard anything back from any of the Zones, and I apologize if I missed any, I will assume that everything is accurate.

Policies – Susan Burns mentioned that we had recently sent all our policies that are listed on our website to our sport lawyer for review to ensure that we are meeting all the criteria for our sport. There were four policies that were amended slightly and they were mostly cosmetic in nature. Those policies were:

1. Code of Conduct
2. Confidentiality Policy
3. Discipline Policy
4. Dispute Resolution Policy

I encourage everyone to re-read not only these policies, but all the policies that are on our website. Paul Sprague asked if Susan could send a note to the field indicating the four that changed.

Gary Kehoe mentioned that while reviewing field minutes, he had noticed a trend that, in some cases, individuals were holding on to association funds longer than they should be. It is part of our financial policy that organization funds be turned over to the Treasurer immediately following an event.

The second item Gary mentioned pertained to the four options which were emailed to the field regarding the Youth Challenge assessments. Terry Farrell commented that they were all the same except for the miscellaneous money going up each year. Gary explained that the funds would be coming from the

reserves and in each option, it was increased by \$5000 up to \$20,000, thus lowering the assessment to be charged.

Charles Cooper suggested that we look for alternative ways for us to decide locally who moves forward. A more cost-effective way of running things. Gary indicated that he feels the problem lies at the national level because they lost the funding. Last year, we had planned to move \$15k over, but in the end, the event only came up \$8k short.

Charles commented that BC, for example, runs their event in a more cost-effective way. Kevin Smith indicated they charge \$75, which includes a BC membership for an eight-game roll off. The top three scratch men and ladies will form the team advancing to the nationals. Bowlers and coaches attending the nationals will be assessed a minimum of \$350 to attend the nationals.

John Cresswell commented that not all of the provinces run their Youth Challenge event the same as Ontario does, but the larger provinces like Alberta, Saskatchewan and maybe a few others, do what we do to hold a roll off to put teams together to advance to a provincial round. The smaller provinces typically send an All-Star team to nationals, without holding a provincial round.

Paul Sprague stated that the travel cost is the biggest part of it, and that is something we won't be able to change. Gary Kehoe indicated that ideally, the number we hoped to lower the assessment to be option #1 (\$60), which was the \$20,000 from the reserve funds.

Terry Farrell pointed out that \$17,000 to send 9 people to a national event was just crazy. We either supplement this down to the kids by using reserve funds, do fundraising specifically for the event or cancel nationals. Gary pointed out that \$2500 of the \$17,000 is an assessment from the C5 to Ontario, and we will owe that regardless of if we attend or not.

Bob Beaucage asked if we could get a breakdown between the national event and the Winter Games since it is a combined line entry. Also, is the Youth Challenge part of the grant application? Terry Farrell indicated that we report on all our tournaments, so it is included, but not a weighted factor.

John Cresswell noted that the \$17,000 budget number is just the Youth Challenge nationals; the Winter Games is listed separately two lines above.

Winnie Spires asked if we could consider doing an Elimination for the YC. Gary indicated yes, that is a possibility.

MOTION: TO USE UP TO \$15,000 OF THE RESERVE FUNDS TO OFFSET THE YOUTH CHALLENGE ASSESSMENT WAS PUT FORTH BY WINNIE SPIRES; SECONDED BY TERRY FARRELL.

Al Hawley asked for clarification on which one of the cases the \$15,000 was. Gary indicated that is option #2.

Kristi Lampman pointed out that the reality of things like this and the process of using reserve funds is not going to be sustainable much longer, so we need to consider a national assessment to the qualifiers now.

Terry Farrell commented on the local fundraiser that Hamilton operated, which helps offset the assessment for their kids, but doing that on an organization level might be difficult, but something each local association could consider.

John Cresswell called the question on the open motion to use up to \$15,000 of the reserve funds to offset the Youth Challenge assessment.

MOTION CARRIED.

Lori Beesack noted that she will review lottery licencing as a takeaway. Paul Sprague noted that to run a lottery you have to be a charity and as a not for profit we wouldn't qualify. Lori will still check to be sure.

Lori Beesack reviewed the findings from the AGM location ad-hoc group (Crown Plaza Kitchener, Holiday Inn Burlington and the Holiday Inn Peterborough). In comparison to Fern Resort, the Board is recommending the Burlington Holiday Inn.

At this time, we are not including meals at this time but could consider a lunch option to cater in if people didn't want to go out. Overall, this type of option lowers the delegate assessment down to something in the \$200 per delegate range from the current \$330. John Cresswell indicated that the current credit we have with Fern would be lost (roughly \$250 dollars).

Paul Sprague asked what the dates would be. The 2026 AGM would be June 19th to 21st. Paul also asked to clarify that there would be no commitment to stay at the hotel. Correct. Lori indicated delegates could stay at a different hotel or even consider an Airbnb.

Winnie Spires noted that Fern is more expensive but includes all the food, where the hotel does not include food. Lori indicated correct. The hotel does not include food, but the room rate is not per person. Based on a double occupancy.

MOTION: TO USE THE HOLIDAY INN BURLINGTON FOR THE 2026 AGM WAS PUT FORTH BY CHARLES COOPER; SECONDED BY TERRY FARRELL.
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Sally Baril are all the figures shown inclusive of all the taxes and gratuities. Are we comparing apples to apples when we are making decisions? Maybe we should get a more bottom-line figure before calling for a vote.

Andrea Priestley commented that this would be more cost-effective for the zones and DCs. Winnie agreed that this is the way forward long term, but knowing those bottom-line figures is important, so maybe we go back to Fern for this one last year and hold the 2027 AGM at the new location.

Gary Kehoe asked to clarify at Fern that the fee per person covers the use of our meeting room and any AV needs, etc. Correct.

Lori Beesack went back to check her figures, and she had made some assumptions that we would have lunch for two days and dinner one night, so the cost of \$415 is per person for the two days (food and room), before taxes.

Charles Cooper in comparing the spreadsheet there is no dramatic savings by doing this. We would be saving about \$120. John Cresswell indicated that when you add in all the variables, they are basically the same price per person.

Paul Bauer noted that Fern's rate is plus 18% gratuity and GST. John indicated that the Holiday Inn would be the same two taxes added as well.

Sarah Cook asked if Fern had a lesser food option in comparison to the three plated meals we currently have. Something like a working lunch of sandwiches and salad, and a continental breakfast, maybe. John indicated he could reach out, but the Fern or Burlington issue needs to be resolved by Monday, or both options go away.

AMENDED MOTION:	TO USE THE HOLIDAY INN BURLINGTON FOR THE 2027 AGM AND REMAIN AT FERN FOR THE 2026 AGM WAS PUT FORTH BY WINNIE SPIRES; SECONDED BY AL HAWLEY.
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A break was taken at 12 noon until 12:10 pm to allow discussion. The meeting returned to order at 12:10 pm.

A roll call was completed and 32 delegates were present. The 12 Board members will not be voting as this motion has a financial impact.

Poll for Amended motion – 16 against, 15 for the motion. 1 abstention.

AMENDED MOTION DEFEATED.

Poll for Original motion – 15 for the motion, 16 against the motion. 1 abstention.

ORIGINAL MOTION DEFEATED.

As a result of the two motions both being defeated, we will be returning to Fern Resort for the 2026 AGM.

Sarah Cook asked because we are now returning to Fern, can contact them to see if we can eliminate the sit-down breakfast and lunch and consider the continental breakfast and working lunch option over the 3 plated meals to try and reduce that cost a little bit. John indicated he would do that to try to get the costs down where we can.

Aimee Bedell asked why the Best Western Brantford was not considered when we use them for the Open. Lori indicated the three locations were the ones put forward for consideration, but others can be added.

Terry Farrell suggested that the 2027 AGM location information be sent to the field prior to the 2026 AGM with revised numbers and more information, so it can be discussed locally prior to the AGM. Also, if considering a continental breakfast, please consider dietary needs. For example, as a diabetic herself, protein is needed at meals not donuts and cookies, so it would need to be a consideration.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN AT 12:27 PM WAS PUT FORTH BY WINNIE SPIRES.

MOTION CARRIED.