

**AASRA  
AGM Minutes  
1:00–3:00pm  
Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, Red Deer, AB  
April 2, 2016**

Shane calls the meeting to order at 1:20pm.

Lisa reviews 2015 AGM minutes.

**President's Report:**

Shane presents his report. See attached. Shane moves to approve President's report. Ed Shaw seconds. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Terry presents his report. See attached. Reviews financial report. See attached. Discussion. Terry moves to approve Treasurer's report. Rachael seconds. Carried.

**VP/Sports Director Report:**

Rachael presents sports director and vice president reports. See attached. Discussion. Rachael moves to approve Sports Director report. Terry seconds. Carried.

**Secretary's Report:**

Lisa presents Secretary report. See attached. Lisa moves to accept the Secretary report. Shannon seconds. Carried.

**Support group update**

Both Calgary and Edmonton support groups are strong. One of the most important things that AASRA does.

**Election of officers for the next term.**

No nominations for executive board members. If it is okay then Lisa and Rachael will take on Vice President and President roles. Terry will stay on as treasurer. Rachael will keep Sports Director role.

Tim Tratch is acclaimed as a board member at large.  
Jabob Wouters is acclaimed as a board member at large.  
Ali Downie is acclaimed as a board member at large.

Ed moves that this new structure be accepted. Rachael seconds. Carried.

Shane motions to adjourn meeting at 2:45pm. Ed seconds. Carried.

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**AGM Reports from Executive Board Members  
April 2, 2016  
Red Deer, AB**

**President's Report**

**Submitted by: Shane Westin, April 2, 2016**

2016 was a difficult year for AASRA. A 2015 decision by the AGLC to request the reallocation of fund's to the Association's casino account put the organization in a precarious financial position. Early in the year, the resignation of the executive director put additional pressure on the Board and, unfortunately, efforts to engage and involve members in supporting the Association were not fully realized.

On other hand, thanks to excellent financial management and leadership on behalf of the Treasurer, Terry Shwetz, AASRA has managed to remain solvent while fulfilling its obligations to AGLC. Support and commitment by Board members, particularly Secretary, Lisa Stowe and Vice President and Sports Director Rachael Pasay, were also instrumental in the successful operation of the organization over the past year.

Other successes include financial support and funding for members who have turned in some impressive results, a highly successful annual golf tournament, strong support groups in Calgary and Edmonton, some new members and donor support, and a number of positive news articles. In addition, Lisa has managed to raise awareness of the organization with excellent newsletters and promotional materials at minimal costs.

However, continued success of AASRA will depend on strong commitment and support from the membership at large.

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**Treasurer's Report**

**Submitted by Terry Shwetz on April 2, 2016**

This Annual General Meeting marks the first anniversary in my 2 year term as volunteer treasurer of AASRA. Beyond the learning curve associated with stepping into a position in which I had no previous experience the year has been a gratifying experience but somewhat more tumultuous and, at times stressful than I expected. However, in 2015 I was proud to be a member of the board of AASRA which provided direct funding to amputee athletes participating in events in a broad range of sports including skiing, curling, sailing, golf, swimming, cycling and volleyball.

In June, 2015 The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) concluded an audit of AASRA's use of funds earned by working casinos from 2012-2014. This was and continues to be the association's largest source of funding. Although much work had been done to try to justify all expenditures the audit concluded that \$33,065.42 had been spent from casino funds that was unapproved. AASRA was directed to replace the misspent funds (to be available for future approved uses) and was levied a fine of \$150 for the infractions overall.

The audit and resulting directive from AGLC put considerable strain on the other financial resources of the association. As a result a "repayment" plan was negotiated with AGLC involving an immediate transfer of funds (which was done) from general revenues back into the casino account to bring the amount outstanding to \$25,000. This to be followed by semi-annual transfers of \$5000 until the entire amount is replaced. The January, 2016 transfer has been made which brings the current outstanding balance down to \$20,000. The next transfer is due on July 1, 2016. Making the remaining transfers will be difficult although not impossible but must be supported by strict controls on spending, absolute adherence to AGLC (and Alberta Sports Council) use of funds guidelines and additional fundraising. All ideas are welcome and all members are encouraged to participate.

Efforts to reduce operational/administrative spending and raise (non-casino) money included several campaigns appealing for donations, the implementation of an annual membership fee structure, not replacing the salaried Executive Director position (more below), a shift to much more electronic (vs printed) communication and numerous cost saving measures such as the cancellation of the association cell phone.

On a positive note, AASRA received a grant of \$26,970 from the Alberta Sport Connection which also must be used for purposes approved by them but which gives AASRA more flexibility than AGLC funds.

Other significant financial events in 2015 include a successful Alberta Amp Open golf tournament in Wetaskiwin - a job well done by member Will Steblyk - and implementation of the new computer server.

In September, 2015 Executive Director Trish Weatherup resigned from that position which in true bittersweet nature gave AASRA a money saving opportunity at the expense of the loss of a valuable operational and leadership asset. There are no plans at this time to hire another Executive Director the duties of which are now shared by the remaining board members.

In October AASRA's long standing accountant Monika Johnstone gave notice that she would no longer be able to provide her professional services to the association due to the demands of career and family. Ms Johnstone had been very generous with her expertise, was attentive to the association's needs and gave it an extremely cost effective rate. A search for a replacement for her with existing knowledge of the requirements of Alberta registered charities that would provide longevity and continuity service resulted in the engagement of Yaremchuk and Annicchiarico LLP Chartered Accountants which is the firm used by Alberta Adapted Skiing Association. They are professional and a reasonably good-sized firm although more expensive than the previous accountant whose rates could not be matched.

Financial reports prepared for the year ending December 31, 2015 have been submitted for approval at the AGM. Highlights include total revenue (including AGLC, ASC and all other sources) of \$76,686. Total overall expenses were \$71,173 resulting in an excess of revenue over expenses of \$5,513.

To conclude I wish to thank former Volunteer Treasurer Ivan Hlavenka for the excellent work he did during his time in the position and for the depth of support he provided to me personally as I transitioned into the job. I compliment him and director Don Kuchelyma for continued leadership of the Calgary and Edmonton peer support group meetings. Many thanks also to the other members of the AASRA board – Shane, Lisa, Rachael, Wendy, Don K., Jaye, Kennedy and Don Young for their support and the effort they put into their respective roles. Finally I want to recognize former President Hal Gibbens for the continuity of knowledge and involvement that he showed in 2015.

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### **Vice President's and Sports Director's Report Submitted by: Rachael Pasay**

Another year has flown by and I have truly enjoyed my position on the Board.

Sports Funding Applications have been trickling in and we have people active in volleyball, Cycling, Golf, Skiing and Sprint Kayaking. It is wonderful to see so many amputees active in many different sports. Please send in your applications as early as possible.

We have positions that are available on the board. Please consider volunteering. Many of us are at the end of our terms and if we all take a turn then the work load is shared.

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### **Secretary's Report Submitted by: Lisa Stowe**

2015–2016 was the second year of my two year term and it was a very busy year for the AASRA secretary with new duties and new challenges coming up throughout the latter part of the year. This past year has been a challenge for AASRA because of various financial issues and I am so proud of the way the board has pulled together to make sure that AASRA continues to exist and even grow a bit.

Because of those financial challenges we lost our Executive Director position in August. Many of the executive director tasks, such as the newsletter, email correspondence, communication with various funding agencies, member communication and new member recruitment were taken up by the Secretary position. To date, many of these things have been kept up to date

and some new initiatives started, such as the new recruitment posters and membership cards, and the online fundraising campaign, “Keep the Lights On”.

The biggest project that has ended up on the back burner a bit is the newsletter. There are a lot of moving pieces in publishing a newsletter -- communicating with the publisher, tracking down and editing stories and then sending the newsletter to members. Moving forward, I think a committee dedicated specifically to the newsletter might be a more effective way to ensure that we publish at least two newsletters a year.