

**MANITOBA BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION  
VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**Present:** Troy Pauls (Chair), Kristyn Cain, Gladys Hrabí, Val Bergeron, Lisa Engel, Julie Walsh, Garry Batenchuck, Derek Pang, Satoshi Yamashita, Laura Sanderson, Fred Dugdale, Benedict Albensi, Alain Nault, Jeff Fisher, Graham Todd, Karen Thomas, Naomi Clarke, Glen Bergeron, Corrine Clyne, Nicole Oliver, Mary Adrian, Dale Parkinson, Lana Wong, Scott Rees, David Nishikawa, Jim Sheats, Len Pugh, Yvette, Geraldine Hernandez, Jessa Esteban, Sursattie Gorcharan (Recorder), Garry McFarlane, Marie B, Nancy Chartrand, Allan Chaske, Terry Smith and Linda Smith.

**Chair: Troy Pauls**

**Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm**

**1. Approval of Agenda.**

Agenda was shared for all on Zoom Meeting screen. It was moved by Len Pugh and seconded by Garry Batenchuck, **“that the Agenda be approved as presented.”**

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of the 2019 AGM**

The minutes were distributed to board members previously, all other virtual attendees were presented with the minutes via screen share. The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. With no issues made apparent, the following motion was made by Julie Walsh and seconded by Lisa Engel: **“the minutes be approved”**.

**CARRIED**

**3. Introduction of MBIA Board of Directors**

The Chair introduced himself, and allotted some time for each of the members of the board to introduce themselves. The chair thanked all present for their contributions over the year. Valerie Bergeron took a moment after introductions to pay respects to the recently deceased board of directors Laura Taylor, highlighting her accomplishments as a University professor at University of Manitoba and advocate for the Manitoba Brain Injury Association

**4. President's Report**

Troy has completed his first term as president. Troy emphasized the resilience MBIA has presented during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, with continued

hybrid (in-person and virtual) programming, and talks of future adaptations to meet prevention initiatives.

**5. Executive Director's Report**

Gladys Hrabí was appointed as Executive Director in May 2019, she has served the organization since this time recognizing the hardships brought on by the pandemic and thankful to the funders and donors who have contributed to MBIA. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have received funding from Winnipeg Foundation and the Gerald Labossiere Family Fund to help in pivoting the traditional in-person services to an online platform. Additionally, the Thomas Sill foundation has provided a grant to expand our support services to Spouses /Partners and Young Survivors. Relationships with the MBIA chapters in Brandon, Selkirk & Area have been strengthened with funding presented from Selkirk & District Community foundation to commence a new support group in that region. MBIA continues our partnership with Manitoba Royal Purple and the Brain Love Initiative and has connected in partnership with Lululemon's *Here to Be* social impact program. Our contract with WRHA has been renewed until 2023.

**6. Guest Speaker: Junel Malapad on Running and Philosophy**

Junel's speech was presented in video format and played for all on Zoom. The video highlighted the importance of giving back to community and the impact running has had for him.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Kristyn Cain presented the Financial Statements prepared by Thornton & Co. Going into detail with the revenues. Graham Todd asked whether there was any funds provided to the organization for COVID-19 relief, Satoshi Yamashita and Gladys Hrabí answered this question by stating that there was funding given but were disbursed in May after the end of the fiscal year. No other discussions came from the members about the Financial Statements.

It was moved by Kristyn Cain and seconded by Naomi Clarke, **"that the Audited Financial Statement for the year ending March 31, 2020 be accepted as presented"**.

**CARRIED**

The Chair asked for a motion to re-appoint Thornton & Co for the coming fiscal year. It was moved by Kristyn Cain and seconded by Alain Nault, **"that Thornton & Co. be retained as auditors for the fiscal year 2019/2020."**

**CARRIED**

## **8. Nominating Committee Report**

This year we have five board members whose term is either expiring or they are unable to continue in their role as director. They are Laura Taylor, Crystal Gurney, Fred Dugdale, Dennis Guile and Rebekah Grenkow.

The other board of Directors are unable to let their name stand for re-election for a variety of reasons. Some have served this organization for more than a decade and we will surely feel their absence. Others have found that demands in other areas of their lives are such that they are unable to devote the needed time to MBIA. We respect their wishes and appreciate their honesty. To all of you we thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Our By-Laws state that we can have up to 15 board of directors. Over this past year, two (2) members had to resign. Laura Taylor and Crystal Gurney are entering the second year of their two-year term. Fred Dugdale has served two terms which means he will have to step down from his position as Treasurer. This means we have five vacancies that can be filled.

In addition to Laura Taylor agreeing to let her name stand, the following names have come forward for election to the board of Directors: Derek Pang, Lisa Engel, Julie Walsh, Larry Baille and Cheryl Serpanchy.

## **9. Nominees for Board of Directors**

Benedict Albensi – Originally from the United states, Ben had his PhD in neuroscience with emphasis on stroke and head trauma from Georgetown University. Ben moved to Winnipeg 15 years ago, is the father of four daughters. He has a keen interest in head injury and dementia and has a familial connection with Alzheimer's. Ben is also currently on the board for Motto Canada.

Karen Thomas- Newly retired, has a personal connection with brain injury and has spent 21 years working in brain injury field. Worked as a volunteer with Satoshi Yamishita, Gladys Hrabí and the previous Executive Director with the Head's Up Fundraisers. Is interested in looking at Provincial initiatives to better meet the needs of brain injury survivors and their families.

Alain Nault– Alain is the caregiver to his daughter Danika who lives with a brain injury after a vehicular trauma as a child. He is a retired administrator and hopes to continue working to help find resources for young survivors and their families.

Graham Todd– Graham is a brain injury survivor. After being involved with many contact sports. Currently, Graham is involved with March of Dimes and Brain Injury Canada. He works as a health care entrepreneur and coaches Rugby at Pembina Trails school. His goals with MBIA is to aid in the safety and advocacy of young individuals living with brain injury.

Jeff Fisher– Jeff was introduced to MBIA three years ago when he suffered a concussion. He has twenty-five years of experience working in sports and twenty years working with non-profits.

The members voted/re-elected the following new board of directors:

1. Benedict Albeni PhD
2. Karen Thomas
3. Alain Nault
4. Graham Todd
5. Jeff Fisher

The Chair thanked all nominees for welcomed the new board of directors to MBIA.

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.**