

CANADIAN ACOUSTICAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday, September 29th, 2022, 17:00-18:00 PM (NDT)

Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland, St John's

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order 17:05 (NDT) by Jérémie Voix (President), who said a few words of welcome to 31 people in attendance and introduced the meeting agenda. He moved that the agenda be adopted, seconded by Mehrzad Salkhordeh.

2. President's Report (Jérémie Voix)

Jérémie updated the attendees on some of the project initiatives that the Association is pursuing, for some of which he appealed for assistance from volunteers among the membership; he highlighted in particular:

- The migration of the main CAA-ACA web site to the latest WordPress environment.
- The creation of an inventory of training programs in acoustics across Canada.
- An outreach among members of the noise control consulting industry to solicit editorial contributions to a Practitioners' Corner regular feature in Canadian Acoustics.
- The coordination and support of local chapters promoting acoustics knowledge and the activities of the Association, through visibility on the CAA web site and the creation of a "starter kit".

Moving on to new business, Jérémie informed the members that the Open Journal System portal, which had experienced major malfunctions following its migration to the professionally hosted environment OpenJournalSystems.com, has been moved to the PKP platform hosted by Simon Fraser University. The transition was completed in July 2022 and is working well; the migration of scripts and tools supporting functionality from membership management to journal production was being finalized by Cécile Le Cocq. A major improvement that is now fully implemented, Jérémie noted, is the management of advertising in the journal as a form of subscription; this not only simplifies payment for advertising but ensures that notifications are sent out when an insertion run is about to end and enables current advertisers to have full access to the journal.

Lastly Jérémie announced that long-time Board member Alberto Behar, whom he thanked publicly for his years of service to the Association, would not be seeking re-election. This would enable Victoria Duda, currently reaching the end of a one-year special tenancy on the Board as allowed by the Association articles, to seek appointment as a regular Board member and continue in her executive role of Awards Coordinator. Jérémie noted that Victoria's presence would help balance gender representation on the Board, and he also advocated for an increase in future rollover of Board positions to new participants through the establishment of a more formal cycle.

3. Treasurer's Report (Dalila Giusti)

Jérémie, delivering the report on behalf of Dalila in her absence, highlighted key points from the financial statements of the Association. He presented a comparative table of accounts balances over the previous few years, showing a solid financial position with over \$553,000 in assets between capital fund (from which awards are distributed), operating fund (for general expenses) and investments. He noted that the interest from investments (held in several GICs that protect the principal and guarantee a minimum rate of return, which over the years has often been substantially exceeded) is the source of funding for awards and pointed out that assets from the operating fund can be moved to the capital fund but not vice versa. He then presented a list of disbursed awards, noting that by decision of the Board the monetary value of all awards save the Science Fair scholarship had been permanently increased by 30%; the total payout in prizes for 2022 is \$9,300 (a few awards including the Fessenden prize were not bestowed for want of applicants) against an interest income of \$28,320.

Jérémie presented the current year budget comparing actuals to forecast on both sides of the balance sheet; he commented on a higher-than-expected revenue from advertising thanks to the guaranteed payment under the new online management system, but a substantial increase in journal production costs caused by the need to engage new printing houses as the pandemic caused the long-time incumbent as well as others to fail. Pending the actualizing of the remaining production costs for the journal and the financial performance of the current conference (the first in-person since the pandemic), the definitive financial position for the 2022 fiscal year remains uncertain. Jérémie then presented the proposed budget for 2023, which conservatively forecasts a deficit of about \$10,000. He moved for the budget to be approved, which was seconded by Roberto Racca; the motion carried.

4. Secretary's Report (Roberto Racca)

Roberto opened his presentation with a table of membership numbers and their trend over the previous 12 months. He noted that there had been a decrease in numbers in both the full and student membership categories, totalling a loss of almost 50 members year on year relative to October 2021. He surmised that following a rise in the lead-up to the Acoustic Week in Canada virtual event of early October 2021, for which membership was a prerequisite, numbers might have fallen by attrition as people were not similarly motivated by lower registration fees for members to attend the in-person event in 2022. Although the downward trend cannot be solely attributed to this cause, Roberto noted, this alerts to the possibility that in-person conferences may not be as effective a stimulus for membership after the experience of a virtual event in the two past years. That factor aside, he continued, it remains imperative that the Association provide greater value and motivation to its members if the trend in membership numbers is to be turned upward. While inviting contribution of any suggestions to that end, Roberto mentioned an idea discussed recently with the Board for raising the visibility of some key segments of the Association's ranks through rotating monthly postings on the CAA-ACA web site of institutional and individual profiles of one or more sustaining subscriber(s) and student member(s). This and other initiatives aimed at recognizing and showcasing the qualifications of members and institutional supporters of the Association would be considered and acted on by the Secretary and other members of the executive and Board.

5. Awards Coordinator's Report (Victoria Duda)

Victoria presented a list of the 2022 award winners and the monetary value of each prize. She emphasized the fact that prizes had been increased by 30% by recommendation of the Board and announced that the Hétu prize had been converted from a preselected book to a \$300 cash value. Noting that not all the prizes had been awarded that year for want of nominees, Victoria exhorted the coordinators of individual awards to reach out more broadly to university faculty and publicize the winners and their supervisors in social media to give a strong profile and appeal to the awards and the Association.

6. Editor's Report (Umberto Berardi)

Umberto gave an update on the challenges faced with the production of Volume 50 of Canadian Acoustics in 2022. There had been difficulties associated with the functionality of the online journal management system (OJS) that have now been largely overcome; a bigger challenge had been the bankruptcy of the publishing company that had handled the printing and mailing of the physical journal for much of its existence but could not survive the downturn caused by the pandemic. An alternative printing house handled the printing and distribution of the March issue (mailed in June) before it too was unable to remain in business; a new printer had then been engaged to produce the all-important September conference issue that was distributed at the current event, with excellent quality of product but higher costs than in the past. Umberto noted that on the advice of the Board it had been decided to next publish the June issue to ensure consistency of indexing (approved article content was already available), followed by the December issue.

Umberto noted that there were some critical vacancies on the editorial board in fields that included Bioacoustics, Physical Acoustics and Underwater Acoustics, and he invited suggestions or volunteering by qualified candidates. He pointed out that the new online production system required some new training for the editors. Finally, Umberto noted that features of the journal such as the Practitioner's Corner had been neglected of late but will be revitalized, because Canadian Acoustics should be of value to all sectors of our membership, not only the scientific community.

7. Social Media Editor Report (Romain Dumoulin)

Jérémie gave a brief presentation on behalf of Romain Dumoulin, showing a few screenshot examples of recent posts on Twitter and LinkedIn related to promoting events at the present conference, and displaying trend statistics that indicate a steady increase in following and activity on the platforms that the Association uses. He noted that the publishing of CAA-ACA news, events and initiatives on LinkedIn and other media is a main focus, and encouraged the submission of relevant items to post.

8. Meetings Present and Future

AWC 2022: St John's, Newfoundland (Benjamin Zedel and Len Zedel, Memorial University, co-Chairs)

Len Zedel and a member of the AWC 2022 organizing committee, Cristina Tollefsen of DRDC Atlantic in Halifax, shared the stage and provided an update on the current conference, the first to be held as an in-person event since 2019. They reported that 80 participants had come to the conference, 16 of them students – a respectable attendance especially given the far-flung location of the event and the uncertainties still associated with travel in the unpredictable circumstances of the pandemic. Noting the ocean facing setting and maritime traditions of St John's they remarked on the three underwater acoustics sessions on the program, two of them on shipping noise. They congratulated on their dedication the core volunteers

who helped most directly with the organizing of the conference, and thanked for their support the sponsors and exhibitors who made possible various activities throughout the event and provided a focus of interest. Len spoke about some of the unique sharing of knowledge that took place at this edition of AWC including the session on teaching of acoustics, and advocated for future congresses the planning of session topics that would promote cross-disciplinary thinking. Shifting attention to the social aspects of the gathering, he commented on a very well attended students social evening and the upcoming banquet, Coast Guard ship tour and Memorial University school of music visit. Lastly, he remarked on the high quality and very positive reception of the two plenary sessions, one by Michael Schutz on improving safety-critical alert sounds based on learning from musical acoustics, and the other by two members of the Canadian Coast Guard on the acoustic components of aids to navigation.

Jérémie thanked and complimented the AWC 2022 organizers and proceeded to give an overview of planned future annual conferences and related meetings. He commented on the progress being made in organizing for 2023 a CAA-sponsored event in Montréal of the ISO TC43 plenary meeting (chair: Jérémie Voix, ÉTS) , which prompted a comment from Peter van Delden of RWDI who argued for greater participation of subject experts in standards committees as a service to the acoustics community. Jérémie announced that AWC 2023 would also be hosted in Montreal (chair: Olivier Doutres, ÉTS) and moved on to flexible plans for AWC 2024, which could be held in the Toronto area (chair: Umberto Berardi, Ryerson) subject to the outcome of a bid led by Joana Rocha for hosting InterNOISE 2025 in Ottawa. Joana took the floor for an update on that subject; she noted that Ottawa's proposal was submitted to INCE several weeks earlier in Glasgow and is in competition with Brazil, whose very aggressive budget might yet carry the day. Should the large organizational responsibility for InterNOISE 2025 not fall to Ottawa, Joana noted, AWC 2024 could be held in Ottawa under her chairing (co-chair: Sebastina Ghinet). She pointed out that Ottawa has a large scientific and technical community related to acoustics, which would promote a substantial attendance.

9. Board of Directors Elections

Jérémie introduced the current slate of directors, including Victoria Duda on an expiring one-year special appointment, and indicate that all would stand for re-election save for Alberto Behar whose vacated position as regular Board member could be taken up by Victoria. He called for any other nominations from the floor; there being none, he asked for a vote by show of hands to re-elect the members of the Board. The attendees ratified the reappointment and expressed appreciation for Alberto's service.

10. Varia

None on the agenda, nor raised from the membership.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Jérémie, seconded by Mehrzad Salkhordeh. Meeting adjourned at 17:55 (NDT).