

# Swiss Club Toronto

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

**Location:** The Chelsea Hotel, Toronto

**Date/Time:** February, 10, 2017 at 8:00pm

**Attendees:** 53 Members including Board Members

<b>Present:</b>	President	Sascha Frassini
	Treasurer	Claude Tieche
	Finance Director	Rene Waelti
	Director of Entertainment	Denise Frassini
	Tell Tale and Website Editor	Heidy Lawrance
	Men's Section	Arno Sigrist
	Women's Section	Paula Rico
	5-Pin Bowling	Marie-Therese Artus-Velen
	Theatre Group	Maggie Hess
	Membership Chairperson	Monika Rueber
	Gym Section	Werner Flury
	Amicale Romande	Jean-Marc Velen
	Jass Section	Albert Lenz
<b>Absent:</b>	Swiss Connection	Marianne Mian-Krenger
	10Pin Bowling	Doug Gross
	Gym Section	Suzi Hubler
	Vice President	vacant
	Secretary	vacant

Minutes taken by Denise & Sascha Frassini

### Special Guests:

Consul from

Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto

Mr. Urs Wuest

Mr. Beat Guldimann

### 1. Welcome

The president Sascha Frassini opened the meeting at 8:00 pm with a welcome and an introduction of the special guests: Consul Mr. Urs Wuest from the Consulate General of Switzerland Montreal and the new Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto, Mr. Beat Guldimann.

Sascha also welcomed new Members and Long time Members. He also thanked all volunteers and new Members.

Consul Urs Wuest then held a short speech:

Introduced himself as Consul / Deputy of Consul General Elisabeth Boech-Malinen (replaced Beat Kaser). Elisabeth sends best regards and will take opportunity to meet with us soon. Also regards from Consul Marinella Menghetti (attended AGM last year). Urs is the direct link to Swiss community and Head of the Administrative section. He is responsible for all the Swiss Abroad tasks. Urs made us aware of some changes coming up, that might seem bit complicated, but in end will facilitate relation with Swiss

Consulate/Admin

#### Electronic Counter

- All information will soon be available online (e.g. if family is registered). Consulate will soon send out letter (in a few weeks) to all Swiss to verify/update information, especially Mobile# & Postal code. Asks us to send it back to Consulate (they will update on their database). Website will be updated. Marinella will be very grateful for responses.
- Advised about holders of dual passports, if you enter Canada, need to show Canadian Passport. You could be refused entry if you have Canadian passport, but show other one (they know if you are Canadian).

#### Consular Communication

- Swiss National Day in Sutton, QC will be on Saturday, July 29th (a day before ours).
- Urs officially introduced Beat Guldemann as Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Toronto. There were several good candidates, but Beat was chosen after background checks. He is also on board of Swiss Chamber in Toronto. Urs thanks Beat.
- Moving passport office in Toronto in Oct/Nov. Ms. Boesch also wants to be here at that time.

#### Personal Info

Urs has been Deputy Head in Montreal for already 1 ½ years, was in Ankara for 5 years before. Talked about his time in Ankara and the situation of Turkey in Europe (close to Europe/Syria). 38 years ago worked in Turkey as Trainee, afterwards in Vancouver.

#### ASO

ASO will elect new parliament this year, one delegate from Montreal, one for Ottawa, one for Toronto. Would be sad not have a candidate for Toronto (Swiss Club). Important posting, lot of volunteering work involved. Gives wide network of contacts in CH and CND. Very respected position. Hope not to lose position for Toronto.

Hoping for good exchange between Swiss Club and Consulate (also with Chamber).

#### Other

- Received invitation from Community Folk Art Council of Toronto (will forward to Sascha) all foreign nations to participate at the Parade of Nations on Canada Day. It would be nice for Swiss Club to participate, however might require a lot of volunteering work (silence). Leave it to the Swiss Club. Consulate would set aside \$1000 for this. (Guggemusig, St. Bernahrd dogs, Alporns, Costumes, Tractor, Hey on the tractor). Swiss Tourism would help as well. Come up with ideas. Urs will follow up also follow how many nations participate.
- Canadian-Swiss Circus: Contact a year ago, established circus. Going on a tour in Ontario in August 7-Sept 10. Contact to be sent to Sascha (Mr. Thomas Wernli); 2 tents. Also sent to Embassy.

## **2. Introduction of Board members**

The Board members were introduced:

President	Sascha Frassini
Treasurer	Claude Tieche
Membership Chairperson	Monika Rueber
Director of Entertainment	Denise Frassini
Tell Tale & Website Editor	Heidy Lawrance
Finance commission chair	René Wälti

Chairpersons of the Sections:

Amicale Romande	Jean-Marc Velen
5 Pin Bowling	Marie-Therese Artus-Velen
10 Pin Bowling	Doug Gross (absent)
Gym Section	Werner Flury (Suzie Hubler)
Jass Section	Albert Lenz
Men's Section	Arno Sigrist
Theatre Group	Maggie Hess
Women's Section	Paula Rico
Swiss Connection	Marianne Mian-Krenger (absent)

## **3. 2016 AGM Minutes**

The President informed members that printed minutes from the 2016 AGM were available on each table. No changes to the 2016 AGM minutes.

Motion: Urs Doerig moved that the minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted. Erika Tieche seconded. All accepted.

## **4. Swiss Citizen of the Year Award**

As every year, Rene Waelti made sure that ballots for nominations for this year's award were on the tables. The award will be announced and given out at the Swiss National Day event on July 30th.

## **5. President's Report**

The President Sascha Frassini read his report:

Before I read my report, I would like to ask you all to please raise to observe a minute of silence for the members that have passed away in the past year. I want to especially mention Emmanuell Favre who unfortunately passed away last December. He was a long time member on the Swiss Club Board acting as Treasurer and Vice-President.

Thanks to the Consul General, Consuls and consular staff for all of their support throughout the year.

Thanks also to all members, volunteers and of course the board members.  
We appreciate everyone's support, without which the Club could not exist.

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An Annual General Meeting gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past year, and to also look forward to a new year.

Looking back,

2016 was again an active year with many events organized by the Club and the various Sections.

Thanks to the efforts and initiative of all Section Chairpersons, the Club had something to offer for everyone.

All events are published in our Tell Tale newsletter as well as on our website and also on Facebook.

Here are just a few examples:

**Amicale Romande (Jean-Marc Velen)**

Fondue : January 30th 2016

51 kg of Gruyere and Emmental cheese were used which is about 300 g. per person. Way too much for our fitness standard but we are Swiss, so who cares! By the way, there were 140 guests and 16 volunteers who enjoyed dancing / eating and socializing. On the sad note, we unfortunately came out with a loss of \$375, which was understandable due to the price of cheese. We will make it up at the Raclette.

Raclette: September 11th, 2016

First of all, thanks to Franz and Edith Zuber who introduced us to this beautiful Simeon Park, an absolutely first class private property. Thank you for your help. We used Fribourgeoise Emmi Raclette Cheese, 34kg in total. A lot of it was sold at basic price after all our guests were satisfied and could not have any more. We came out with some good profit considering the ever gorgeous park was at no charge.

Therefore because of the surplus, we covered the January Fondue loss.

Thanks to all the volunteers, Simeon Park and Hans-Ueli Herzig Imports.

**5-pin bowling section (Marie-Thérèse Artus-Velen)**

We are a small section with about 15 people. We play once a month in the winter and after the game we go for a dinner. We play for the fun of it and to have a good time, but we play our best, because at the end of the season we want a Trophy or a nice price.

**10-pin bowling section (Doug Gross)**

This year several changes were made to the league format in the fall. While continuing to bowl at Playtime Bowl on Samor Rd, we moved to an afternoon league bowling every second Tuesday from fall to spring. The league championship trophy was won in April by St. Gallen with Geneva the runner-up.

In May, 13 of us travelled to Montreal for the annual tournament. Toronto won the Sembinelli Challenge cup by the slimmest of margins with an average of 158.3 versus Montreal's 158.1. Toronto won the Bandi high triple with the Louie Joly Cup and Dr. Jaccard high single trophy being won by Montreal.

### **Jass Section** (Albert Lenz)

On April 10th, 2016 we had our Jass Lunch with Awards Presentation.

We had a terrific selection of prizes for our Jassers and everybody could take something home. I would like to thank all the players for participating again this year. A special Thank You goes to all our sponsors, corporate as well as private sponsors within our membership, for their support. And finally, we also would like to thank the Swiss Club Toronto for their support. We appreciate their generosity by advocating membership in the Swiss Club.

The winners of this past season were as follows:

SAUJASS WINNER: Miggi Marbach

Followed by: Madelaine Muller, Walter Huber, Ruth Lenz and Heidi Lawrance.

OVERALL WINNER: Peter Muller

Followed by: Elisabeth Walder, Walter Huber, Robert Furger, Madelaine Muller and Heidi Lawrance.

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER: Anneliese Martin

Followed by: Jeani Zuend, Peter Muller, Elisabeth Walder and Walter Huber.

CHOSEN PARTNER WINNERS: Elisabeth and Robert Walder

Followed by: Hedi Jenzer and Silvia Koller, Dorli Blackman and Eric Tieche.

HANDICAP PARTNER WINNER: Hugo Bischof

Followed by: Fred Julier, Walter Huber, Robert Furger and Konrad Zuend.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

The next Jass Season will be starting on Sunday, October 16, 2016, followed by November 13, 2016 and January 8, 2017. The SauJass will be on January 22, 2017 as a Make-Up for people who miss a regular game. The Chosen Partner Jass will be on February 5, 2017. The

Championship evening will be held on Saturday evening February 25, 2017. The last games of the season will be the Handicap Partner Jass on Sunday March 12, 2017.

The Awards Lunch will be on Sunday April 9, 2017, ending our season.

Have a Happy and Healthy Summer!

### **Men's section** (Arno Sigrüst)

All Year - Every Monday Morning, we meet at the Timothy's Café next to the NW Entrance in the Bayview Village Shopping Centre, Bayview / Sheppard.

Jan. - Lunch followed by the AGM at The Musket Restaurant

” - Fondue with Amicale Romande

Feb. - Swiss Club AGM

March - Lunch at Gabriel's Café in Aurora

April - Swiss Theatre Performance

June - Family BBQ at the Walter & Trudi Egger Dairy Farm in Milton

July - Swiss National Day Celebration, at the Heritage Park in Milton Sept. - We participated at the Raclette at a new, closer location

Oct. - MZTV Museum visit

Nov. - Swiss Movie Matinée, together with the Ladies' section at the Hillcrest Library

Dec. - Christmas Lunch at the St. George's Golf & Country Club

### **Women's Section (Paula Rico)**

- March 6th, 2016: We attended a play at Bloor West Playhouse called "The Foxfinder" by Dawn King. The acting was good, but the plot was strange. After the play some of us went to Swan Pub while others chose a coffee shop.
- March 9th, 2016: For the first time our Annual General Meeting took place at Richtree Restaurant at Bayview and York Mills. 29 members attended. Elections were held for the positions of chairperson and treasurer. Paula Rico and Susan Doerig were re-elected for another term.
- April 24th, 2016: The Swiss Theater Group Toronto presented "Kei Regel ohni Usnahm", a comedy in 3 acts written by Cornelia Amstutz. Everyone enjoyed the show. Coffee and Nussgipfel were available. After the show an early dinner was served.
- May 18th, 2016: We visited the television museum. Before the visit we met close by for lunch at the Liberty Village Market & Café, where we had plenty of time for a leisurely meal. At the museum a young lady gave us a tour of the exhibition which everyone found most interesting.
- June 10th, 2016: Lunch at the Woodbine Racetrack. This event was organized by the Women's Section and open to all members of the Swiss Club. 46 people attended. Before the delicious luncheon everyone was welcomed with a complimentary drink. Most participants did some gambling. A greeting for the Swiss club members was flashed across the large monitor, which made everyone feel kind of special.
- June 18th, 2016: Trudy and Walter Egger invited all Swiss Club Members to their dairy farm in Milton for the annual Family BBQ. The Men's Section supplied and prepared sausages on buns, potato salad and coffee. The ladies brought along salads and desserts.
- July 24th, 2016: The Swiss National Day Celebration was again held at the Country Heritage Park in Milton.. Entertainment was provided by "Gruppo Musicale Tacala" directly from Ticino as well as "Trillium Alphorn". Swiss food was offered for purchase and at the end the famous raffle was being held.
- August 28th, 2016: B.B.Q Luncheon Cruise with Jubilee Queen Cruise Lines. We could not have selected a better day. Almost 3 hours cruising around the island with a lovely lunch. We had an amazing turnout with almost 40 Swiss Club members who appeared to have a great time.
- September 14th, 2016: We met for a visit in High Park. Everybody enjoyed the lunch and the stroll through the park and the zoo.
- October 18th, 2016: The Swiss Club Women's Section Anniversary luncheon took again place at the Old Mill Restaurant. We all enjoyed the elaborate Buffet with a wide selection of appetizers, salads, hot dishes and desserts from around the world.
- November 20th 2016: Again the film event was being held on a Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately the weather was bad and the attendance was poor. This year the movie was "Schellen Ursli". Coffee and baked goods were provided by the Women's Section, as well there was a bake sale at the end.
- December 7th , 2016: For the 8th year in a row our Christmas Luncheon was held at the prestigious St. George's Golf and Country Club, thanks to Paula's connections. The decorations were lovely as usual and the food was great. Thanks to some loyal

“bakers” we were able to purchase some delicious Christmas cookies and cakes as well as the famous “Zuepfe”. George Marton contributed to the Christmas atmosphere by playing Christmas songs on the piano.

#### ONGOING EVENTS:

Kaffeklatsch continues on:

The first Wednesday of the month, 2:00 PM at “Bread and Roses” Bloor St. West”.

The last Wednesday of the month, 1:30 PM: “Richtree Restaurant” at York Mills & Bayview is now closed and we will be trying out “Bread and Roses” at Bayview Village Mall.

#### **Theatre Section** (Maggie Hess)

We had another good year with our Theatre Group. We were lucky to get together on Wednesdays for our practises of the play "Kei Regel ohni Usnahm". We have been able to practise in a private school near the airport for the last few years, costs were low and for most players easily accessible. This upcoming season we can still use the same facilities, until the school moves to Mississauga very soon.

Our first performance took place in Moorefield on April 3, a Sunday. We were lucky, the weather turned ugly just after the play began, therefore the attendance was still very good. This year on April 9 we made the trip to Ottawa again. Attendance there is always an issue, most of the time weather related, but the reception is always very warm.

The season ended here in Toronto on April 24, also on a Sunday. It proved to be successful, even though we only had one performance. As in previous years, during the intermissions, HUH imports had a stand with Swiss Goods for sale in the entrance hallway. The price of the hall rental has become an issue, also at Estonian Hall. We got a break first in 2015, since we played on a Sunday, coming next year rents have gone up a lot, even for Sundays. We will continue to play at Estonian Hall, since the location is easily accessible and well known by the Swiss Community.

It gives the Theatre Group great pleasure to perform for the Swiss community in German, to keep traditions alive for young and old.

In the offseason we had get togethers at Eva's cottage near Bellville, or at the Swiss Pick restaurant in Etobicoke. On November 26, 2016, the Theatre Group organized to see a play at Herongate Dinner Theatre in Pickering, called "Run for your wife"

Many thanks to all the players and volunteers who keep the tradition going year after year, without you there wouldn't be a play.

We are busy practicing for the upcoming season, a criminal comedy called "Kreuzmordraetsel". The play will take place at Estonian Hall again, on April, 30, 2017, a Sunday afternoon. Hope to see you there.

#### **Gym Section** (Suzi Hubler /Werner Flury / Walter Brunner)

Unfortunately, last year the Gym Section had to cancel its signature event, the soccer tournament. The location where we used to have the event, Fogolar's Country Club appears to be in the process of being sold and no reservation was possible. No other suitable venue could be found in time. At the same time we were hoping younger members would step in to lead the soccer tournament to new glory. We are still hoping.

The other two events were really awesome, as always! First, there was the canoe trip to Algonquin Park on the long weekend in August. A group of 13 eager paddlers set out from Magnetawan Lake and found a very nice campsite after a few hours canoeing and a few easy portages. Some participants distinguished themselves as real Canucks and Lumberjacks by taking down a major dead tree to fuel our campfire. The weather was wonderful all weekend long, just a little overcast on Sunday but not a drop of rain anywhere. Some very tasty food was prepared by Sybille Jaeggi-Cheng and Juerg Furrer. To round off the year, we gathered at Suzi's home for a fun Samichlaus evening. Everyone had a great time with excellent food prepared by Suzy and traditional Samichlaus goodies brought by the members, especially the home-baked treats had it in them. Finally, we hope to see some of you at our events next year as they are all open to everyone.

### **Swiss Connection Section** (Marianne Mian-Krenger)

Was dormant throughout 2016

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Besides the events organized by the Sections, we saw a year with much excitement.

The main event last year was held on July 24, as we celebrated our Swiss National Day, again at the beautiful Country Heritage Park in Milton and we were once again treated with perfect weather and great attendance by many members and non-members of the Swiss Club (about 350 people in total).

The main entertainment this year was provided by the "Gruppo Musicale Tacala", a trio from Ticino. We were once again very glad to have this authentic Swiss band with us last year and I think everybody enjoyed it.

Additional musical entertainment was provided by the 'Trillium Alphorns' (Eva Hajda, Rene Waelti, Erwin Oechlin), Fred Julier and also the young Emmanuel Gasser, an award-winning accordion player. Thanks to all for an entertaining afternoon.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming our Consul General Mr. Beat Kaser (with family) from the Consulate General of Switzerland, Montreal. This was his last visit and attendance of a Swiss Club Toronto event, as he moved to a new position in Lyon, France. Trident Catering once again made sure we don't have to stay hungry with a fare of traditional Swiss food. As usual there was also coffee and Nussgipfeli. The final highlight as every year was our raffle, which offered great prizes, including Helicopter rides, Chocolate baskets, Army knives, gift cards, wine and many other great prizes. Again we would like to extend our great thanks to all our sponsors. They play an important role in making the festivities a success. A big thank-you goes also to all our volunteers.

Without them it would be impossible to put this all together.

### **Bike & Picnic**

On Saturday, August 27 a total of 5 people spent a nice afternoon on Toronto Island Biking and Rollerblading and having a nice picnic.

We hope that more people would attend in future.

On December 4th, some Swiss Club members met for a walk through the Toronto Christmas Market in the Distillery District.

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Looking forward:

Even though it is still a few months away, the planning for the 1st of August celebrations has already begun. It will take place on July 30th again at the Country Heritage Park in Milton.

As already mentioned, the Swiss Theatre Group will once again entertain us with a new comedy "Kreuzmordraetsel". The performance will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 30th at the Estonian House in Toronto.

More events are in the planning and will be announced in our Tell Tale.

Please also always check our website for up-to-date event information. Or if you are on Facebook you can 'like' our Swiss Club page and get information, announcements and also pictures from past events.

Now before I conclude my report, an always important announcement or better request: The participation of all members is important in order to ensure a well functioning Club. It cannot be always the same volunteers and board members. I hope one or the other member will be able to offer their time when volunteers are needed to get an event off the ground.

Now and in the future, we want to be able to organize fun events and excursions that benefit all members.

With this, I conclude my Presidents report for 2016

## **6. Consolidated Financial Statement 2016 &**

### **7. Finance Commission Report**

Treasurer Claude Tieche explained the financial statement of the year 2016.

Rene Waelti is Chair of Finance Commission. Not much to talk about the commission.

Claude will mention any Finance commission items where necessary.

The Financials were prepared/reviewed by external Accountant again this year. His opinion is on inside cover of statement. Accountant did statements for last 3-4 years. He does the Tax returns and auditing for \$750/year.

1st page highlights: Overall cash. Cash is Swiss Club and Sections. Investments no longer in Mutual Funds, but in GICs. GIC invested August 2015-2016 at 1.36%. Interest is shown in statement.

GIC was re-invested for another 16 months (due date Nov 2017). At that time some of the money will be put aside for the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Swiss Club.

Restricted Facilities Fund. Is too high, needs to come down. The RFF is an accounting construct as we are non-profit organization.

Last numbers page: Club Operations (basically National Day); Donations (given for National day; Consulate, Mettler, other). GIC interest (first year showing interest GIC).

Loss of 2015 to 2016 not comparable due to interest. Much bigger loss.

Expenses: Club Bulletin = Tell Tale  
Membership Activities: higher by \$1,000 (deposit for 2017 AGM prepayment)  
Donations/Gifts: \$5 voucher for Members/ Grants for Sections  
Question by Erika Tieche (page 6): \$250K Restricted Fund: In theory working towards buying building. We would not be allowed to carry that amount that way as non-profit. Accountant is happy that our money goes down and not up (would be problem).  
Motion to move Financial Statements:  
Move to accept: Michelle Zantonelli / Seconded: Thomas Guignard  
Show of hands; all approved. Nobody opposed. Statement approved.

## **8. Membership Report**

Monika Rueber presented the number of members for 2016.  
Comparison Report Membership. Shows 'real' numbers (for family member).  
Memberships still goes down. Hope to get more members.

## **9. Council of the Swiss Abroad Report**

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) or ASO (in German) is the representative body for Swiss people living in other countries. It represents and defends the interests of all Swiss expats in political circles within Switzerland. The ASO therefore plays a key role in protecting the interests of the Swiss Abroad.  
The delegates on the ASO are serving for a 4 year term and Ernst Notz's term will come to an end in 2017 and a new delegate will need to be found. But more on that later...

As Ernst Notz cannot be here tonight, the President Sascha Frassini read the ASO/CSA report on his behalf.  
Report by Ernst Notz, Delegate for the Swiss living Abroad (ASO) to the AGM and Tell Tale:

Dear Swiss friends,

As your Central Canada Delegate to ASO, I am pleased to report to you what had happened in 2016. This will be my last report since – as announced some time ago – I will have to step down after 2 periods and 8 years attending and hopefully contributing to the semi-annual meetings and representing your interests. I do not qualify anymore since I have now permanently moved to Switzerland. Time to leave this interesting job to somebody else at the August 2017 meeting in Basle as per announcements made by the Swiss Club in our magazine Tell Tale.

The meetings in 2016 took place in Brunnen (April 16th as per my previous report) and the main congress in Bern between August 6/7th celebrating the 100 years ASO in the Swiss Council locations and on the Bundesplatz with the presence of BR Burkhalter and many Swiss celebrities. Please look up the internet: <http://aso.ch/de/100-jahre-aso-1456236874/livestreaming>

The most important topics discussed at the main meeting in August 2016 attended by 81 delegates (out of 125) were as follows:

- Revue Suisse: EDA has asked ASO to safe CHF 400'000 in 2017. However, we responded to be able to safe only CHF 100'000 otherwise we will have to reduce our

6 publications down to 5 only. We are still waiting for a response from the Swiss Government.

- Postfinance and other Swiss banks: some have canceled the credit cards but not all the accounts. ASO has protested the treatment of the Swiss living abroad and has asked the Swiss Council to intervene. The outcome is still pending.
- E-Voting: still not working and only 5 cantons can offer a solution. This topic has been dragged on for far too long and it is surprising that this cannot be solved on a Federal basis, thus saving a lot of money. Understandably, security is of vital importance.
- Mr. Jürg Burri of EDA reported on various developments in the works
- Elections to ASO (for the period starting August 2017 – 2021): the procedures for the upcoming elections have been discussed in great details and new directives have been put in place. Possible candidates from the worldwide 718 Swiss Clubs and 70 associated Clubs should be nominated and reported to ASO by June 30, 2017 (for the 4 year period starting August 2017 - 2021). E. Notz (EN) suggested that also board members of the various Swiss Chambers of Commerce should be able to be considered as candidate. The mandate and election formalities can be found in German (<http://aso.ch/de/politik/asrwahlen-2017>) and in French (<http://aso.ch/fr/politique/elections-du-cse-2017>). EN has intervened and asked ASO to introduce also the English language; this in view of the newly added delegates of the young Swiss Abroad. Decision is still pending.
- Main Tasks and Goals of the future ASO: As a result of an inquiry directed to the ASO delegates:
  1. Intensify the flow of information to the Swiss Abroad
  2. Improved integration of the Young Swiss Abroad
  3. All Swiss Abroad should have the possibility to elect the delegates
  4. Furtherance in participating in the Swiss politics by Swiss Abroad by means of electronic voting
  5. Reinforcement of contacts among the Swiss Clubs in other countries and ASO
  6. Improvement of the visibility of ASO in Switzerland and abroad. Goal is to launch some activity campaigns.

Approaching elections as mentioned earlier will be handled by the Swiss Club in Toronto and hopefully in collaboration with the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The conditions to qualify as my successor are well known to both presidents and respective documents are available.

The next meeting will take place in Berne on March 25th, 2017 and the final one for me will be in Basle between August 18th to 20th.

I sincerely hope that I was able to contribute and positively represent you at these meetings. I was fighting hard to reverse the hard to understand decision to close the Consulate General in Toronto, I advocated the introduction of the English language to the meetings, helped to support the fight against discrimination of the Swiss Abroad (e.g. banking, health insurance, Old Age scheme, special law for the Swiss Abroad and recognition that we exist outside of Switzerland).

But I also cannot help to feel that we are often neglected and that many pending issues should be solved much faster and with less bureaucracy. Many topics are “Dauerbrenners” (long-running issues). Also matters of Europe related challenges were more important than what happens outside our Swiss neighboring countries, which is somewhat understandable since most of the Swiss Abroad live in Europe.

I am looking forward to introducing and helping my successor. Meanwhile please keep yourself posted with ASO developments by consulting the websites [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) and [www.swisscommunity.org](http://www.swisscommunity.org)

I truly miss Canada and all of you!

Kind regards and thoughts

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That concludes Ernst's report.

New Delegate

As mentioned, Ernst Notz's term on the Council will come to an end this year and he will not stand for re-election as he is now living in Switzerland. Therefore a new delegate for Ontario (Central Canada really) needs to be found.

For your information, there are a total of 140 delegates on the council from around the world. Canada has 5 seats (2 from Western Canada, 3 from Eastern Canada. The 3 seats for Eastern Canada (Montreal consular district) are for: Eastern Provinces (everything east of Ontario), Ottawa and Central Canada (i.e. Ontario & Manitoba).

I already received e-mails from 3 interested people; unfortunately none of them is a current member of the Swiss Club Toronto. It is not a pre-requisite to be a member, but of course it would be a big plus. To be eligible as candidate, the requirements are as follows:

- Must be a Swiss Citizen or Dual Citizen
- Aged 18+
- Registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland Montreal
- Demonstrates interest and commitment to the Swiss Community in Canada
- Have an interest in the Swiss political process
- Be fluent in English and either German or French
- Be prepared to attend the meetings of the Council in Switzerland (twice a year)

If there is anybody amongst the member he tonight who is interested in this post or know anybody who could be interested, please let me know now or after the meeting.

We still have until end of June to designate a delegate, but the earlier the better. Since we have a few candidates (not firm yet), we came up with a form to be filled out. An actual election of a delegate will then happen a bit later (not tonight).

Florence Pasche-Guignard (wife of Thomas Guignard) showed interest in ASO post. Sascha will send her the forms.

Question came up how eventually a delegate would be chosen/elected. Beat Guldemann suggested Survey Monkey. Sascha asked the attending members, if eventual election could be 'delegated' to the Board of the Swiss Club Toronto at one of their meetings. All agreed.

### **10. Elections:**

Arno Sigrist led through the elections for this year

New President:

Arno asks for volunteers. VP normally takes over, but past VP couldn't do it. Need new one from scratch or somebody that's done it before. Suggested Rene Waelti. Rene declined and explained himself: Was delegate of the ASO, served 2 terms as President, is currently on board of directors of Swiss Center of NA, member of Canadysli and Theater group. He just can't do it all. Sorry but had to decline.

New VP:

Thomas Guignard volunteered and was officially elected.

Secretary:

Julien Perrenoud went back to Switzerland, so the position became vacant. Nobody volunteered. Search continues.

Swiss Connection:

New chairperson: Nadia Berger showed interest in taking over this section and was unanimously elected.

President:

As nobody volunteered, Sascha agreed to do it one LAST year with hope that Thomas Guignard (new VP) takes over next year.

All confirmed by show of hands/no objections

### **11. AOB**

- For our 100 year anniversary in 2018, an organizing committee is needed (with 5-6 people). Sascha, Denise, Arno, Rene and Erika volunteered.
- Currently the Swiss Club By-Laws specifically set the AGM to be held in February. As the weather can be quite unpredictable in February (like today), Sascha suggests to change the By-Laws to have a more broad time for the AGM ('by end of April'). A vote was held and all attending members and Board members agreed to this change.

### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm