

# Swiss Club Toronto

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018

**Location:** The Chelsea Hotel, Toronto

**Date/Time:** April 20, 2018 at 8:00pm

**Attendees:** 53 Members including Board Members

<b>Present:</b>	President	Sascha Frassini
	Vice President	Thomas Guignard
	Treasurer	Claude Tieche
	Membership Chairperson	Monika Rueber
	Tell Tale and Website Editor	Heidy Lawrance
	Director of Entertainment	Denise Frassini
	Men's Section	Arno Sigrist
	Women's Section	Paula Rico
	5-Pin Bowling	Marie-Therese Artus-Velen
	Theatre Group	Maggie Hess
	Gym Section	Werner Flury
	Amicale Romande	Jean-Marc Velen
	Jass Section	Albert Lenz
	Swiss Social	Nadia Berger
	Finance Commission chair	Rene Waelti

<b>Absent:</b>	10-Pin Bowling	Doug Gross
	Secretary	vacant

Minutes taken by Sascha Frassini

### Special Guests:

Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto	Beat Guldimann
Delegate for Council of Swiss Abroad	Florence Pasche-Guignard

### 1. Welcome

The president Sascha Frassini opened the meeting at 8:00 pm with a welcome and an introduction of the special guests: Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto, Mr. Beat Guldimann and the Delegate for the Council of Swiss Abroad for Ontario, Mrs. Florence Pasche-Guignard.

The president also welcomed any new Members and Long time Members. He also thanked all volunteers and the Chelsea Hotel and explained again why the date of this year's AGM was changed from previously February to April due to weather (it was pretty bad last year).

Sascha then mentioned that the Swiss Club Toronto is celebrating its 100 Year Anniversary with several events happening throughout the year (more later).

Honorary Consul Beat Guldemann then addressed the attending members with a short speech:

Beat greeted the members and apologized for the Consulate General not sending anybody this year as there is a bit of change happening at the Consulate General in Montreal.

He also congratulated the Swiss Club for the 100 Year Anniversary and indicated that this is a Testament on how important the Swiss Community, even though small, is for Toronto and Ontario. He pointed out that Canada celebrated its 150 Year Anniversary last year and that the Swiss Club has been part of this for 2/3 of the time.

The Swiss Consulate (Montreal and Beat) will do something to mark this occasion. So for the first time ever in recorded Toronto history, there will be a Swiss Flag rising at Toronto City Hall on August 1<sup>st</sup>. It was proposed by the Toronto Outreach Counsellor. It will be organized by the Consulate, the Swiss Club Toronto and the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce. More information will follow soon.

Some updates from the Consulate in Montreal:

- Consulate went electronic last year, is progressing well, 71% of Swiss community is now reachable electronically (via e-mail or other). Will facilitate communication.
- Last November we had Consular Days (Mobile Passport Unit) in Toronto. 140 people signed up (was 'sold out' within 24hours). Will happen again this year in week of November 5<sup>th</sup>. Toronto is one of the few cities in North America who get this service.
- There will also be a Swiss Cultural event again this year, probably at the Alliance Francaise
- Personal Changes in Montreal: Marinella Mengetthi is leaving for Rome. Her replacement has been named, another Ticinese, Giancarlo Perlano (tbd), who will also take over role from Urs Wuest (who will not be replaced).

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

The Board members were introduced:

President	Sascha Frassini
Vice President	Thomas Guignard
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  
Gym Section  
Jass Section  
Men's Section  
Theatre Group  
Women's Section  
Swiss Social

Doug Gross (absent)  
Werner Flury (representing Suzi Hubler)  
Albert Lenz  
Arno Sigrist  
Maggie Hess  
Paula Rico  
Nadia Berger

### **3. 2017 AGM Minutes**

The President informed members that printed minutes from the 2017 AGM were available on each table. No changes to the 2017 AGM minutes.

Motion: Urs Doerig moved that the minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted. Albert Kehrli 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 29<sup>th</sup> in Milton.

### **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.

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,**

2017 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, on Facebook and new also on Twitter.

Here a list of events organized by the different sections:

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

On January 27, 2017, l'Amicale organized their annual cheese fondue. 135 guests were attending this event under the well-oiled 20 volunteers for an easy but exhausting evening. The DJ was playing tunes on request to shake up and entertain the dance floor. On September 11 2017, the section was putting up together under a warm and sunny weather the annual Raclette at Simeon Park. Some 78 guests arrived to enjoy this famous and fun event.

I would like to thanks all the volunteers to put the Amicale Romande rolling and also the two musicians on demand thanks to Rene Walti and Fred Jullier.

Thanks for supporting our section

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

We are a small group of people who play just for fun. We play only in the winter months, from October to April and after every game we share a nice Dinner. When the season is over, we have a Trophies presentation and everybody receives a price.

Nothing fancy ...Come, have fun and join us, everyone is welcome

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

The Section continues to bowl at Playtime Bowl on Samor Rd, Toronto every second Tuesday from fall to spring. The league championship trophy was won in April by team Bern with team Zurich/Geneva the runner-up.

In May, the section hosted nine bowlers from the Montreal Swiss National Society for the annual tournament. Toronto won the Sembinelli Challenge cup by a wide of margin with an average of 163.9 versus Montreal's 145.9. Toronto won the Bandi high triple cup and the Dr. Jaccard high single trophy with the Louie Joly Cup being won by Montreal.

In closing, please note that in 2018, the section will celebrate its 100th year anniversary having started the same year as the Swiss Club

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

On April 9th, 2017 we had our Jass Luncheon with Awards Presentation. We had an excellent 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: Heidi Lawrance; followed by: Meinrad Meerkamper, Sepp Odermatt, Elisabeth Walder, Madelaine Muller, Walter Egger, Silvia Koller, Anneliese Martin and Daniela Kasper.

OVERALL WINNER: Madelaine Muller; followed by: Anneliese Martin, Silvia Koller, Trudy Huber, Daniela Kasper, Walter Egger, Robert Furger, John Wey, Hedi Jenzer and Hugo Bischof.

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER: Trudy Huber; followed by: Silvia Koller, Madelaine Muller, Meinrad Meerkamper and Walter Egger.

CHOSEN PARTNER WINNERS: Anneliese Martin & Madelaine Muller; followed by: Walter Egger & John Wey, Hugo Bischof & Robert Furger.

HANDICAP PARTNER WINNER: Eric Tieche; followed by: Anneliese Martin, Madelaine Muller, Hedi Jenzer and Silvia Koller.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

The next Jass Season will be starting on Sunday, October 15, 2017, followed by November 12, 2017 and January 7, 2018. The SauJass will be on January 21st, 2018 and also as a Make-Up for people who miss a regular game. The Chosen Partner Jass will be on February 4, 2018. The

Championship evening will be held on Saturday evening February 24, 2018. The last games of the season will be the Handicap Partner Jass on Sunday, March 11, 2018. The Awards Luncheon will be on April 21, 2018, ending our season.

### **The Men's section (Arno Sigrist)**

All Year:

Every Monday Morning, we meet at the Lindt Chocolate Shop near the NW Entrance in the Bayview Village Shopping Centre, Bayview / Sheppard.

January:

Lunch followed by the AGM at The St. George's Golf & Country Club  
Fondue with Amicale Romande

February:

Swiss Club AGM

March:

Lunch at Gabriel's Café in Aurora

April:

Swiss Theatre Performance

May:

Plant Tour at Record Technologies' huge Machine Shop

June:

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

July:

Swiss National Day Celebration, at the Heritage Park in Milton

September:

We participated at the Raclette

October:

Lunch at Gabriel's Café in Aurora

November:

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

December:

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

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

January 22

We attended a play at Bloor West Playhouse called "Cakewalk". Everyone enjoyed the play and had lots of laughs.

February 10

Despite a snowy, slippery night, a small group of our section attended the Swiss Club AGM at the Chelsea Hotel.

March 9

Our AGM was held at Jolly 2 Italian Ristorante on Weston Road and 401. Lunch was paid by the section and subsidized by the Swiss Club. Heidi Attenborough (Vice Chair) and Ursula Frei (Secretary) volunteered for another 2 years.

April 30

We had the pleasure of experiencing a great performance by the Swiss Club Theatre Group – “Kreuzmordraetsel”. The play was funny and all the actors did a great job.

May 7

We attended the last performance of the season at Bloor West Playhouse called “Melville Boys”. We all enjoyed the play.

May 18

We had a guided tour of the Police Museum, which was very informative. After the tour we had lunch at Fran’s Restaurant.

June 9

For the fourth year in a row Paula organized this event at the Woodbine Racetrack. This is an event many members never miss. It was another successful fun day with our Swiss club members.

July 30

Swiss National Day in Milton. It is always a very special event where it is possible to shop, eat and drink Swiss style. The sun was shining and we all had a great day.

August 13

Sailing with the tall ship Kajama allowed us all to see the Toronto skyline from the lake. We were lucky again with the weather and it turned out to be a successful event.

September 10

Many of our ladies took part in the Amicale Romande’s Raclette. It was a wonderful outdoor event and the attendance was record breaking.

October 14

Trip on the South Simcoe Heritage Railway. The bus driver took us through a scenic route up and down the hills in Caledon and Tottenham, followed by lunch at the impressive Nottawasaga Inn. Then we boarded the train, which took us through the Beeton valley. On the way home we stopped at the Tanger Mall to check out the many stores.

October 17

35 ladies attended the Anniversary Luncheon at the Old Mill. It was a good occasion to meet with each other. The food was outstanding and the desserts hard to resist.

November 19

Swiss movie afternoon and bake sale: A nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon - watching a movie and buying some goodies at the bake sale.

December 2

Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls and visit to the Fatima shrine in Lewiston USA. We all enjoyed the magical display of lights.

December 6

Christmas luncheon at St. George's G.C.C. It was a real treat to go there for lunch. All the decorations, the food and service and George Marton's entertainment on the piano made it all very special, and of course we all lined up to buy some sweets at the bake sale.

#### ONGOING EVENTS:

Kaffeklatsch continues on:

The first Wednesday of the month, 2:00 PM at "Baka Gallery Cafe" at 2256 Bloor Street West

The last Wednesday of the month, 1:30 PM: "Pickle Barrel" at 5941 Leslie St.

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

We had another good year with our Theatre Group. We were lucky to get our group together on Wednesdays and closer to performances also on Mondays for our practices of the play, "Kreuzmordraetsel", a crime comedy. As in the last few years, we were still able to practice in a private school near the airport, costs were low and for most players easily accessible.

Our first performance took place in Moorefield, on Sunday April 2, 2017. We were lucky, the weather was good and the attendance was higher than in the previous year. Just one week later, on April, 9, we travelled to Ottawa. Attendance there is always an issue, most of the time weather related, but this time no excuses, the weather was good. The season ended here in Toronto on April, 30, 2017, also on a Sunday. It proved to be successful, even though we had only one performance. As in previous years, during the intermissions, HUH imports had a stand with Swiss Goods for sale in the entrance hallway. Hansueli Herzig also organized the Nussgipfel for the first time this year. They were enjoyed by everybody. The price of the hall rental has become an issue, also at Estonian Hall. We got a break in 2015, the first year we played on a Sunday, now the rent has gone up as well for Sundays.

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

In the offseason we had our annual theatre player's get-together at Eva's cottage near Bellville on Father's Day weekend. Every few weeks during our offseason we meet at the Swiss Pick restaurant in Etobicoke for informal gatherings.

Many thanks go to all the players and volunteers who keep the tradition going year after year, without you there wouldn't be a play. As many of you may have noticed, this year our stage set got a new coat of paint. It was badly needed. The credit goes to our set designers Arnold and Heike Koch, without you the decorations wouldn't look as good as they do now.

We are busy practicing for the upcoming season, "Miss Sophies Erben", a black comedy. The private school is no longer available to use this year, that's why we are grateful to practice at Stephanie's parents' house.

The venue of our performance which is this Sunday (April 22) had to be changed on short notice from the Estonian Hall to the Latvian Canadian Centre (Credit Union Dr, North

York). This due to the fact that the Estonian Hall needed to replace their roof immediately.

Updated Flyers were sent to all members last week and you can also find them on your tables.

Hope to see you there.

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

So far, no younger members have taken organizing a "Gruempel tournament" or soccer tournament into their hands. We are still hoping...

The other two events were again a lot of fun! First, there was the canoe trip to Algonquin Park on the long weekend in August. A group of 15 eager paddlers joined this year's trip. The Zuber family from Aurora set out on Friday to scout and reserve a good campsite. The rest started on Saturday from Magnetawan Lake and after a few hours canoeing and a few easy portages we joined Franz, Edith and family on a very nice campsite. As they say, there is no bad weather, just bad equipment. Still, the steady rain dampened the sprits just a bit and making fire with the wet wood was more than challenging. Fortunately, the weather cleared up for the second half of the weekend, and the group was busy drying everything. Some very tasty food was prepared by Martha Laemmler, Martin Zuber and Juerg Furrer.

To round off the year, we gathered again at Suzi and Alan's home for a fun "Samichlaus" evening. Everyone had a great time with excellent food prepared by Alan 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.

### **The Swiss Social Section (Nadia Berger)**

The 'Swiss Social' section used to be known as 'Swiss Connection' in the past. Since especially on Facebook there was already a group called 'Swiss Connection', it was decided to rename this section to 'Swiss Social'

The Swiss Social had a great year, with a regular pub/social night occurring once a month at the Duke of York Pub, located at 39 Prince Arthur Avenue in downtown Toronto. The socials occur at the end of every month, on a Thursday. Swiss Socials are a time for both members and non-members to meet up with other Swiss in Toronto, share stories and laughs to keep the Swiss community alive and vibrant! All are welcome. In February, we held a special Raclette event at Coq of the Walk restaurant and bar. A lot of fun was had by all! We now have our sights on the 2018 World Cup, and finding the cheering headquarters for Swiss fans to call home!

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

The main event of the Swiss Club was as usual our Swiss National Day, which was held on July 30 again at the beautiful Country Heritage Park in Milton. We were once again treated with perfect weather and great attendance by many members and non-members of the Swiss Club (about 450 people in total).

The main entertainment this year was provided by the "Canadysli", a well-known Swiss-style Carnival band ("Guggemusig") as well as Emmanuel Gasser, an award-winning

accordion player. As usual the 'Trillium Alphorns' (Eva Hajda, Rene Waelti, Erwin Oechslin) completed the well-received entertainment program. Thanks to all of you for an entertaining afternoon. We also had the pleasure of welcoming a few special guests this year: Consul Marinella Menghetti Coutinho (with family) from the Consulate General of Switzerland, Montreal; Mrs. Anja Zobrist Rentenaar (with family), the Deputy Ambassador from Ottawa; and our Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Toronto, Beat Guldemann with his wife. 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, Swiss Army knives, Watches, 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. Thanks to each and every one!

#### **Bike & Picnic:**

On August 26, only 5 people attended the Toronto Island Bike & Picnic afternoon. But those who did still enjoyed the nice afternoon.

#### **Zoo Walk:**

On September 9, after a few year absence, we held the Zoo Walk again which was attended by only 4 people.

We hope that more people will attend in future to these smaller events.

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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 29th again at the Country Heritage Park in Milton.

As already mentioned, the Swiss Theatre Group will once again entertain us with a new comedy "Miss Sophie's Erbe". The performance will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 22nd at the Latvian Canadian Centre in Toronto.

#### **100 Year Anniversary Events**

As mentioned in my opening statements, the SCT celebrates its 100 year anniversary and we have a few events planned for this special year.

The Consulate together with the Swiss Club and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce are planning a Flag-raising event at Toronto City Hall for August 1st, 2018. This event is still in planning and exact details will be announced very soon.

The main 100 Year SCT event will be our Anniversary Gala Dinner. It will take place on Saturday, September 29th, 2018 at the Old Mill Restaurant in Toronto. The planning is well under way with the committee meeting once a month. The committee consists of Arno Sigrist, Erika Tieche, Rene Waelti, Peter Schuermann, Denise Frassini and myself.

The details and invitations will be sent out with the next Tell Tale in June. But they have already been posted on our Website and Facebook and shared with all the Board Members for distribution to the members.

As you have probably seen, they are also on your tables tonight. Please make sure to reserve your space at this major event better sooner than later as we have a limit of guests.

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.

We are now also on Twitter (@SwissclubTO), so please follow us there too.

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 2017

## **6. Consolidated Financial Statement 2017**

Treasurer Claude Tieche explained the financial statement of the year 2017. We used the same bookkeeper and auditor as last year.

Page 2: Total Assets are \$271,908. Club runs on a cash-basis, no liabilities Lower than last year because we lose money

Page 3: Up till last year, we listed the 250K special fund (restricted fund ) separately. It was agreed with the accountant to move this money into general operating fund. End results however remains the same.

Page 4: Finances for year. Club operations smaller (less income from National Day) Surplus (not 233K), just includes the 250K special fund

Susanne Doerig pointed out, that the Surplus amount of the Unrestricted fund of \$233,739 on Page 3 does not match the total on Page 4 (\$233,939).

This is most likely a typo. Claude to have this fixed by accountant.

Page 5: Summary. \$16,261 loss of year. Net cash of \$271,908 of the club

Move to accept (with changes):

Rene Waelti moves to accept / Susanne Doerig seconds. All approved.

## **7. Finance Commission Report**

Rene Waelti as the Finance Commission Chair indicated that there were talks (for many years) to be giving back more to the members and that this has been done for a year or so now with subsidies given to the sections (e.g. \$5 coupons) or free entrance to the Movie afternoon. That is the reason for a slight decline in the club's money.

Also, the 100 Year Anniversary is heavily subsidised. The budget for the event is \$50K. Members will pay \$45 / non-members \$90 for the gala dinner.

Heinz Vollenweider asked what the contribution from the Consulate is for the 100Year anniversary. We haven't reached out yet butl hope for sponsoring the wine or a monetary contribution.

## **8. Membership Report**

Monika Rueber presented the number of members for 2017.

The Comparison Report was available on the tables. There was a slight increase of Membership (from 243 to 247). The total of 247 consists of 126 Family, 96 Single, 2 Lifetime, 7 Honorary and 16 Board members. Including all spouses and children, the club has around 510 total members.

Monika indicated that she is stepping down as Membership chairperson after 10 years and will pass it over to Nadia Berger (ad interim). She thanked everybody for the loyalty.

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

Florence Pasche Guignard addressed the members as the OSA delegate:

Dear Mister President,  
Dear Members of the Board of the Swiss Club Toronto,  
Dear members of the Swiss Club Toronto.

It is my pleasure to report to you for the first time as your elected delegate for Ontario and Central Canada to the Organization of the Swiss Abroad.

In the summer of 2016, I attended for the first time, as a participant, the annual summer conference of the OSA, taking place in Bern. I was then really impressed by the quality of the organization and by the strong engagement of the co-directors of the OSA, of its president, and its members. I was also impressed by the enthusiasm and sense of community amongst the many delegates of the Council of the Swiss Abroad who were present. All this motivated me to become more involved, at my level, through participating in more activities with the Swiss abroad. In 2017, that is last year, the Swiss abroad in Ontario and Central Canada needed a new OSA delegate to succeed to Mr Ernst Notz, who had to leave his functions as he returned to Switzerland. After some encouragements, in June of 2017, I did send my candidacy and subsequently I was

elected as your OSA delegate for this current term of office. First, let me thank you for trusting me with this position.

As all this took place at very short notice, unfortunately, I could not attend the August conference of 2017, held in Basel. This spring, the OSA's delegates' conference took place on March 9, in Bern. I followed the debates through the direct online streaming of the conference. Three of the five delegates for Canada did attend and we communicated shortly before and after the conference. I am now in close contact with all of them, as well as with other delegates from abroad who are maintaining regular communication through various media to discuss the interests of “the fifth Switzerland.”

Current debates remain centered on the same issues as in previous years, namely having the Swiss from abroad better represented in the Swiss political system, the social system such as AVS/AHV, the electronic vote, Swiss media offerings for the Swiss abroad, as well as the possibility for Swiss citizens established abroad to legally—and perhaps easily—open and maintain bank accounts in Switzerland, without paying extravagant fees. There seems to be some progress in this front, at least in some cantons, with the collaboration of cantonal banks, for instance in Geneva.

Objects of concern that are currently being discussed include the recent restrictions placed on Swiss citizens returning from abroad, such as a mandatory waiting period upon returning before being able to receive additional types of financial help by the State in case of precarious situations.

Swiss Community, the network of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad is regularly relaying more information.

This summer, from August 10 to 12, the OSA's summer conference will take place in Visp, in Wallis, and I will attend as your delegate. I am also looking forward to further collaborations with the other delegates from Canada and with the Swiss Club Toronto. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can help in my capacity as your OSA delegate. It is also for me the occasion to congratulate the Swiss Club for its hundredth anniversary in 2018.

Thank you for your attention.

Florence Pasche Guignard

## **10. Elections:**

Before the elections, Sascha reported, that both Monika Rueber (Membership Chairperson) and Denise Frassini (Director of Entertainment) are stepping down from their posts.

He thanked them both on behalf of the Board and the members of the club for their years of service. Both Monika and Denise were presented with flowers and chocolates as a thank you.

Arno Sigrist led through the elections for this year

- **President:**  
As Sascha is stepping down after 6 years as President, the current Vice President, Thomas Guignard, is taking over the post and was unanimously elected as the new President of the Swiss Club. Congratulations to Thomas!  
Arno thanked Sascha for 6 years of service as President and presented him with a Plaque and Wine as Thank-you token.
- **Vice President:**  
As the current VP, Thomas, is taking over as President, a new Vice President is needed and Nadia Berger volunteered to take over the post (in addition to the Swiss Social section). She was elected unanimously.  
Congratulations to Nadia!
- **Secretary:**  
The Secretary position has been open for almost 2 years and it was mostly Denise who took the minutes at the meetings as a gesture.  
Nobody volunteered to take over the position, so it remains open and will be advertised in the Tell Tale and Website.
- **Membership Chairperson**  
With Monika stepping down, a new Membership chairperson is required. As there were no volunteers to take over the position fully, Nadia Berger agreed to take over part of it (Membership) on a temporary basis. The sending out of the Tell Tale will be done by Denise & Heidi on a temporary basis.
- **Director of Entertainment:**  
With Denise stepping down, the position becomes vacant as well.  
Paula suggested that the Entertainment Director could be eliminated as there are many events (organized by the Women's section) that are open to all members.  
The consensus was that this might be a good idea. It will be discussed at upcoming board meetings.

Sascha thanked the board and the members for trusting in him over the last 6 years. It has been a pleasure and honor serving as President. He wished Thomas all the best and indicated that he will still be on the Board as Past-President for 2 more years and also on the Organizing Committee for the 100 year anniversary.

## **11. AOB**

- Rene Waelti talks about having been in the same situation as Sascha needing to serve 2 terms (2 years each) as President, as nobody stepped up after his first term. Sascha even did 3 terms which is unusual. He appreciated that now there is continuation with Thomas and Nadia and especially bringing some younger blood onto the Board which might entice younger members to join the club.
- Rene also talked about our 100 Year Anniversary and that many volunteers are needed for the day of the event at the Old Mill (Sept 29). People are needed e.g.

for Registration, guiding guests from the parking to the hall, to seat people, etc. There will be much to do. So please let yourself know if interested in volunteering

- Sascha brings up the fact that in the last couple of years, more grants (e.g. \$5 coupons, etc.) were given to the sections as benefit for the members. This obviously resulted in a greater loss for the club, but there is still some money left that we want to use for member. Sascha asked the attending members, if they agree to the club doing this also in the future, which was unanimously approved.
- Albert Kehrli took the stand to tell a little story about Mr. Sembinelli (a Bowling trophy is named after him). He was a counselor in 1952 (longest counselor in Toronto) and Albert needed a permit to go to the US and Mr. Sembinelli helped him getting one. Albert also mentioned that in 1954 they started the Swiss Canadian Club which later became the Swiss Club again.
- Rene Waelti brought up the grants to sections again and indicated that in terms of effort, that the Theatre group probably makes one of the biggest contributions to the club. They are in the situation that cost of the hall rental keeps getting up and that the performers actually pay for their own costumes, hotel costs and about 1 month of their time (aggregated).  
He therefore motioned that the Swiss Club pays for the Hall rental this year which is \$1,000 + tax (\$1,130 total). Peter Schuermann seconded the motion and everybody agreed by show of hands.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm