

Swiss Club Toronto

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

Location: The Chelsea Hotel, Toronto - Rosetti Room

Date/Time: April 22nd, 2022 at 8:00pm

Attendees: 36 Members including Board Members

Present:

Interim President	Nadia Berger
Interim VP, Social Media and Swiss Social	Charlotte Mariller
Treasurer	Auggie Werner
Membership Chairperson	Benjamin Wuethrich
Tell Tale	Heidy Lawrance
Interim Secretary / 5-Pin Bowling	Simone Hohn
Men's Section	Arno Sigrist
Theatre Group	Maggie Hess
Amicale Romande	Jean-Marc Velen
	Noemie Steiner
Jass Section	Albert Lenz
Swiss Social	Charlotte Mariller

Absent:

Women's Section	Paula Rico
Gym Section	Suzi Hubler

Minutes taken by Simone Hohn

Special Guests:

Representative at the Council of the Swiss Abroad Suzanne Schurmann

1. Welcome and Introduction of Special Guest

The Interim president Nadia Berger opened the meeting at 8:13 pm with a warm welcome to all the new and Longtime Members and volunteers who have helped with our events in the past. She also thanked the team at the Chelsea hotel for their warm welcome and the excellent dinner. She also mentioned that it was really nice to finally be able to have the AGM and see everyone in Person after a 2 year break because of Covid19.

Nadia also welcomed our special Guest Suzanne Schurmann, one of our representatives at the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

2. Introduction of the Board Members

The Board members were introduced:

Interim President

Nadia Berger

Interim Vice President, Website and Social Media	Charlotte Meriller
Treasurer	Augustin Werner
Tell Tale	Heidy Lawrance
Interim Secretary	Simone Hohn

Chairpersons of the Sections:

Amicale Romande	Jean-Marc Velen now to be taken over by: Noemie Steiner
5 Pin Bowling	Simone Hohn
Gym Section	Suzi Hubler (absent)
Jass Section	Albert Lenz
Men's Section	Arno Sigrist
Theatre Group	Maggie Hess
Women's Section	Paula Rico (absent)
Swiss Social	Charlotte Mariller & Nadia Berger

3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The President informed members that printed minutes from the 2019 AGM were available on each table. No changes needed towards the 2019 AGM minutes.

Motion: Arno Sigrist moved that the minutes of the 2019 AGM be accepted.

Charlotte Mariller seconded.

4. Swiss Citizen of the Year Award

As every year, Rene Waelti - a long time contributor, former president and Alphorn player, made sure that ballots for nominations for this year's Swiss Citizen of the Year Award were on the tables. The award will be announced and given out at the Swiss National Day event.

Rene Waelti also mentioned a movie "Neumatt" (New Heights) which will be released worldwide on May 13 and can be watched on Netflix. The new Drama Series is about a Swiss Farmer Family.

5. President's Report

Before the Report, Nadia asked everyone to rise and observe a minute of silence to remember the members who passed away in the past two years.

The Interim President Naida Berger read her report:

Nadia started her speech saying that this President's report is going to be a bit different because it's actually covering two years because of the Covid19 pandemic.

After some months of the forced Shutdown because of Covid19 the SwissClub Board didn't sleep and moved things online

The Swiss Social went online as well and to keep everything interesting and entertaining there were Trivia Games, Geography games and so on.

When things finally started to open up, there was an in-person get together for the EuroCup game, and the Swiss Social met in Person again as well.

We were able to have our Board Christmas Dinner in December 2021 and a new Charity event got started - the Polar Bear Dip, where a small group of brave people took a dip into Lake Ontario on January 1st 2022.

And the President is happy to announce that this Year we will have a Swiss National Day celebration again. The event will take place at the Hansa House on July 24, 2022.

And then of course we still have our Section report. Not much was going on.

The **Theater** group was on hold for almost the whole time. In late September 2021 they had a weekend get together. They did start planning a play which unfortunately had to be canceled because of restrictions and after the time was not on their side. Let's hope for a better outcome next time.

It was a very quiet time for the **Amicale Romande**. No events have been possible but hopefully we soon will be able to enjoy some delicious cheese meals again.

The **Men's section** continued their Kaffeeklatsch online until restrictions got lifted and they were able to meet in Person again. And they had their AGM earlier this year.

The **Woman's section** has the regular twice a week Kaffeeklatsch back. As well they had a lovely and well attended Christmas luncheon and the AGM is planned for May 2022.

The **Gym section** had a Samichlaus celebration in December and the usual canoe trip is planned for August.

The 2019/2020 **Jass** season got abruptly shortened and the Award Lunch had to be canceled.

Winners and Runner-ups were named at the AGM but there will be an official Event for it later in the year. The future of the Jass section is not completely sure.

Socializing is important, so the **Swiss Social** had moved online during the time of lockdowns and restrictions and it was always a fun group together. Things are back in person, and they meet once a month (last Thursday of the month) at the Duke of York. The Swiss Social meet-ups are open to everyone, members and non-members, advice seekers and everyone interested. Several new members got recruited through the Swiss Social.

There were joint events happening with the Chamber of Commerce as well.

The **5-pin Bowling** had a shortened 2019/2020 season as well and no Trophy celebration since.

They were able to play once in December 2021 and twice in 2022 before the bowler started a long summer break. They will start playing in September 2022 again.

6. Financial Statement 2019 - 2021

Treasurer Auggie Werner explained the financial statement of the past years. No auditor has been used this year.

Things mentioned were that most Sections do have their own finances, especially the smaller ones and that he, as a Treasurer does not have direct access to the money of the Swiss Club. For every cheque there needs to be a co-signer.

- Because of Covid19 and barely any in-person events the expenses over the last years were lower.

Move to accept: Rene Waelti

Michel Zanoncello seconds. All approved.

7. Membership Report

We saw a growth of around 30% over the last 4 Years in regard of members.

New, there is an option to sign up for an email newsletter, even for non-members.

The number of memberships as of end March 2022 are as follows:

Single	110
Family	276
Total Memberships	386
Emails	155

8. Council of the Swiss Abroad Report

Suzanne Schurmann and Antoine (absent) are the new delegates of the ASO, they got voted for by the Board in August 2021.

Their focus is currently on Voting and Bank accounts for Swiss people living abroad.

They had a big success and e-voting will start to be available in 2023. No more rushing and sending your things back so it will arrive on time.

The option to have a Bank account is still work in progress. They will attend a Conference in Lugano and hope for some good news.

9. Elections

Several positions had to be filled.

President: Nadia Berger

Vice President: Charlotte Mariller

Membership Chairperson: Benjamin Wuethrich

Secretary: Simone Hohn

All positions got filled and are confirmed. No objections were made.

10. Other Business

- Lifetime members: members of 30+ years are eligible to become Lifetime members (no membership payment needed).
 - All the request of becoming Lifetime members got approved easily
- New Section Head for the Amicale Romande: Noemie Steiner will take over the Amicale Romande. Jean-Marc will still be there to help and make the necessary connections.
- Swiss National Day Event was announced for July 24, 2022. It will be held at the Hansa House in Mississauga

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm