

# Swiss Club Toronto

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2025

**Location:** Parkview Manor, 55 Barber Greene Road, Toronto

**Date/Time:** Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at 7:00pm

**Attendees:** 64 members including board members

<b>Present:</b>	President (newly elected) and Canadysli	Philippe Moser
	VP (newly elected)	Céline Baracho
	Treasurer and Membership Chairperson	Augustine (Auggie) Werner
	Tell Tale	Heidy Lawrence
	5-Pin Bowling	Simone Hohn
	Theatre Group	Maggie Hess
	Social Jass section	Erika Tieche
<b>Absent:</b>	Men's section	Arno Sigirst
	Secretary	Alexia Moser

Minutes taken by Céline Baracho

### Special Guests:

Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Canada, Philipp Haesler

Honorary Consul Alexandra Soriano-Bernhard

## **Welcome** (7:10pm)

- Swiss Club Toronto President Philippe Moser opened the meeting at 7:10pm. He presented the agenda for the evening

## **Minutes of the 2024 AGM**

- Printed minutes of the 2024 AGM were available on each table. No members raised their hand to suggest changes be made.
- Motion: Erika Tieche moved that the minutes for the 2024 AGM be accepted. Cédric Daros seconded.

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

- Heidi Lawrence was collecting nominations for this year's Swiss Citizen of the Year Award. The winner will be announced & the award will be handed out at the 1st of August celebration this summer.
- Ballot forms were available on the tables alongside a list of previous recipients.

## **Opening speech by Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Canada (Philipp Haesler)** 7:11 pm

- Philipp Haesler is from Bern and moved to Canada a year ago. He tells the story about his connection to Canada from a young age, first with a trip to Toronto as a child (when he was 5) to visit his aunt and uncle who lived in Dundas, Ontario. At the time, they were members of the Toronto Swiss Club.
- He also explains that his parents always dreamed of immigrating to Canada and running a farm. He feels that in a way he is now living out their dream by living here.
- He recently travelled across Canada, and is learning about Canadian history, and about the first Swiss who came to Canada (west coast) to promote tourism in Canada.
- He would like to get to know the members of the Toronto Swiss club and get to know their stories.

## **Elections** 7:15pm

- Three board positions were proposed:
  - Philippe Moser – President
  - Céline Baracho – Vice President
  - Treasurer – Augustine Werner (re-elect)
  
- Philippe led the election & voting for these board positions. The election of these three board positions was finalised by a general raising of hands. No objections were made.

## **President's Report (Philippe Moser)** 7:23pm

- Philippe discussed the Swiss Club's activities and future plans
  - Women's Section came to an end in January 2025
  - Amicale Romande ended at the end of the year
  - Philippe noted that the Swiss Club we will try to continue the raclette in September as well as the Fondue
  - The Christmas event started in 2024 and they hope to continue it
  - Bar nights are not very attended, not always easy to go to the Duke of York (downtown), trying to find new ways of getting participants together, perhaps alternating locations to make it more convenient.
  - He asks for people to come forward with different events that could be of interest to the member.
  - On June 7 2025, the men's section will host a BBQ at Egger Dairy Farm. It is open to all members.
  - The first of August celebration will be held on July 20, 2025 at Willow Grove Farm (Aurora) with lots of activities for kids, hay ride, animals, a slip and slide, a BBQ (not schnitzel this time, but sausages)

- Philippe mentioned that the new by-laws need to be updated to be eligible to be a non-profit organization (conflict of interest, disability clauses for AODA). These new by-laws have now been added.
- Philippe also announced that membership fees will need to increase incrementally over the next three years. These fees have not been updated since 2004, so in order to compensate for the rise in costs, the Toronto Swiss Club needs to raise membership fees. The fees will have doubled in 2027.

### **Financial Report (Auggie Werner) 7:25pm**

- Augustine introduced himself as the treasurer. He said he deals with money, he facilitates payments, does the accounts, keeps the accounts and presents the accounts. He would like to show how numbers tell a story.
- The Toronto Swiss club received a \$500 donation from Lori's employer. There was also a miscellaneous revenue of \$5200 from the insurance payout after a small fire at the August 1<sup>st</sup> celebration, membership dues less than \$5500.
- Cash outflow \$6056, AGM alone is \$500 more than membership fees.
- Other expenses: Online services (Zoom account), membership management software, bigger unit rental (\$3324), insurance \$1000, fixed costs \$13000
- Purchases (santa outfits, projector), \$500 donation to the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, national day expense (food, insurance, venue, entertainers),
- If the Swiss Club is in charge of the food, we need to make sure we don't order more food than we can eat/sell
- The different sections all have different expenses,
  - Men's section
  - Woman's sections-ended
  - TellTale-\$260
  - Amicale Romande-ended
  - Canadyseli \$8300
- Motion to accept increasing membership fees: Olivier and Heidi Lawrence. All approved.

## **Website (IT) Report from Benjamin Wuethrich**-presented by Philippe Moser 7:37pm

- Increasing family membership from last year (30 new, 15 cancelled)
- 46 of 88 haven't paid in 2 years so may not be active members. Usually after 6 months, the membership is terminated.
- People are looking online and finding information
- Using Google mail and other applications starting this year.

## **Section Reports**

### **Social Jass (Erika Tieche)** 7:42pm

- The club will be 51 years old this year fall. It started in 1974
- It takes place at Finch and Warden (Bridalwood). This location is accessible via TTC and free parking is available.
- The Club meets on Sunday afternoons, once a month from September through April.
- There is free coffee, water, cake
- The cost to play Jass is \$2 per player.
- There used to be 50 players, Freddy had a trophy made by a Swiss artist, then the next year Hans Moser donated a trophy. Keeping track of scores was tough, but now things are much easier with a computer. They need to have sufficient players to have teams of 4.
- Erika Tieche turned this section into a social Jass section after many other people who were in charge in order to make it less competitive and more fun.
- The Swiss club is still paying for the Jass club. It used to be on Saturday nights but is now on Sunday afternoon.
- Last game for the winter season is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month.

### **5-pin bowling (Simone Hohn)** 7:52pm

- The group bowls about once a month on Sunday afternoons from October to May. They meet at Parkway Mall Bowling Alley.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> will be the last bowling day for the season.

- There are no age limits- their youngest member is 5
- The 5-pin bowling club is a small but social club, and often have dinner after the game.
- There is a trophy at the end of the season.

### **Men's Section (Philippe Moser presented Arno Sigrist's slide)** (7:54pm)

#### The Year 2024 in Review

- All Year - Every Monday Morning, we had our usual Kaffi Klatsch outside the Lindt store at the Bayview Village Shopping Centre.
- All Year - Every 3rd Wednesday of the month we had a ZOOM Kaffi Klatsch for the Out of Town guys.
- Feb. 16 - Lunch followed by the AGM at The St. George's Golf & Country Club
- Jun. 22 - BBQ at the Egger Dairy Farm in Milton
- Oct. 5 - Celebration of life for Albert Kehrlı (78) at Marshall Funeral Home.
- Oct. 12 - Swiss Movie Matinee at the Hillcrest Library
- Dec. 6 - Christmas Lunch at the St. George's Golf & Country Club

#### Upcoming 2025 Events

- Weekly Kaffi Klatsch continues
- **BBQ at the Egger Farm on June 7, 2025**

### **Theatre Group (Maggie Hess)** 7:54pm

- The Swiss theatre group started in 1969. They have put on a play in Swiss German every year since except in 1971 and during Covid (2020-2022). The plays are usually comedy.
- They do two presentations of their play in the spring (usually in April)
- This year the Toronto presentation was held at the Humber Valley United Church.
- The theatre group has many seasoned players. They practice from January to April and get together often to rehearse.

- Anyone is welcome to join the Theatre Group for lots of fun and laughter.

### **Canadysli (Philippe Moser) 7:56pm**

- The Canadysli is part of the Swiss Club.
- This year will be their 50<sup>th</sup> year and they are looking for volunteers to help build masks for the anniversary celebration next year in March.
- The band needs more players, especially trumpeters. Everyone is welcome to join.

### **Other Business (Philippe Moser) 7:58pm**

- Phillippe announced the new by-laws needed so that the Toronto Swiss Club can be recognized as a viable non-profit organization in Ontario and Canada.
- Phillippe apologized for not having sent out the bi-laws 30 days before (only 23)
  - Motion to accept: Olivier and Augustine approve. All approved.
- Phillippe proposes the following change to current By-Law-Chapter 3, Art 2: Candidates for any office of the Board of Directors must have been members of the Club for at least three (3) months prior to their election, except for the Vice President, who requires 6 months of membership & the President for whom a membership for at least one year is required. The President of the Club must be of Swiss origin. This hopefully will encourage more people to volunteer
  - Motion to accept: Philippe Moser and Olivier approve. All approved
- He also proposes the following change to By-Law- Chapter 3, Art 7: Four members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum (instead of 6), including at minimum one of the President, Vice President and/or Treasurer. Questions shall be decided by a majority of votes cast. In case of an equality of votes the chairman of the meeting in addition to his or her original vote shall have a second or casting vote.
  - Motion to accept: Philippe Moser and Cédric Daros approve. All approved
- Phillippe includes a new By-Law to Chapter 3, Art 14 &15 on Accessibility requirements (AODA). He also would like to add the proposed By-Law- Chapter 5, Art 1 & 2 &3 (accessibility plan)
  - Motion to accept: Philippe Moser and Olivier approve. All approved

- The following By-Law is also proposed to Chapter 3, Art 7: No member of the Board of Directors shall gain any personal or financial advantage by virtue of his or her honorary office. All members of the Board of Directors shall abide by the “Not for Profit Conflict of Interest Policy” which will be henceforth referred to as Schedule C to By-Laws.

- All in favour and no one opposed.

- A change is proposed by Susan (8:06pm) for the term “Chairman” to be replaced by “Chairperson” as well as for the terms “he/she” to be replaced by “they”

- Motion to accept: Erika is also in motion. All approved

### **Adjournment**

- The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm until next year.