

*ABA AGM Agenda
March 27, 2024 at 7:30 pm
Virtual*

Meeting call to order @ 7:35 pm.

Attendance: 26 people (35 registered for the meeting)

Executive in attendance – Kyle SS, Lance, Mike, Gord, Ray, Michelle, Kris, Kyle S, Cam, Craig, Sean, Terry, Cole, Brent

Absent – Wacey, Mark

Brent provided an introduction to the features of Zoom to use during the meeting. Advised the meeting is being recorded.

OLD BUSINESS FROM 2023 AGM: nothing outstanding

REPORTS/REVIEWS

1) President – Brent Watson

ABA Operating Guide continually updated. Is a working document that outlines how we operate, the processes for everything we do. The various contacts.

Exploring ways to automate and put into 3rd party hands as much of what we do as possible. Lightens the load on “volunteers.” Makes recruiting volunteers easier. Started with the website and hopefully we can do some things with it in working with membership and game awards data.

Multiple meetings throughout the year as rep on the ACA Board.

Cam Johnson was our rep on the ACA Comm to look at the granting process for the Ministers Special License proceeds. Meeting Feb 28.

On the Mule Deer Management Plan Review Committee (Terry and bw).

Disappointment in the lack of progress on stakeholder/govt meetings. Lots of “noise” about the need, want from everyone etc. but nothing happening.

Insurance - At the Feb 22, 2023, Exec meeting we voted to accept the quote from HUB which does not list affiliated clubs under our Policy. That was based on advice from 3 insurance brokers as to the significant risk to the ABA if the clubs are listed on our policy. Significant annual savings (app \$9500) to the ABA.

The revisions/updates we provided for the Bowhunting and Archery components for the AHEIA Hunter Education Manual were largely used. The new manual released in late 2023 is an awesome publication. Huge thanks to the Comm led by Ray.

Another committee, led by Ray, put together a “One-Day Bowhunting Course” that we would like to offer through our affiliated clubs (seminar on this before the banquet). Checked with our Insurance Broker and no issues as the host club’s insurance would cover the event. Just need formal approval of the club for hosting the course. Showed Power Point.

Aggressive two-year raffle fundraising program to increase “cushion” in our ABA account. Going well. New/more raffle ideas?? Committee help??

ABA branded merchandise is available on the website. Through The Coverall Shop in Red Deer. We have the selection on our website. People order directly off website and TCS handles all orders, payments, shipping etc. We have arranged that ABA members get a discount on this merchandise.

Conversation (40 min) with Minister Loewen March 24. Talked about general issues – need to get back to the stakeholder/govt collaborative meetings. Our 35# draw minimum proposal (which he signed off on the prior week) – our archery season draw proposal. He can’t make this year’s banquet (out of country) but said to certainly send an invite for next year.

2) Treasurer /Website– Lance Neilson

Lance has 2023 financial reports (copy available to any member).

Some comparisons of the expenditures and disbursements differences over the years:

2019 - \$4700
2020 - \$6500
2021 - \$4100
2022 - \$16000 (start of our raffle campaign late in the year)
2023 - \$45000

Financials for 2023 to be submitted to Society's.

Today's balances:

\$85060.96 Bank
\$2425.12 PayPal
\$898.98 Stripe
\$88385.06 Net Worth

Our past accountant is retiring, and Lance is looking at a recommended replacement. We weren't charged in the past. Lance will send the new accountant all pertinent information quarterly for review and approval. That way when she gets the last quarter, we can expect the financial report by the end of January each year. Expecting \$40 to \$50 per hour and anticipating 40 hours per year.

Complete website update/new online store was completed Feb 17, 2024. We hired the services of Techlogical Consulting (\$2400 app) – moved our old website content over, reworked it, some new features (My Account, Game Award sponsor payment options, affiliated club payment option, etc). They will manage the website for \$24 a month. Updates are usually done within four business hours. Relieves the massive amount of volunteer time and effort Lance was doing.

We have a "Contact You" feature – for membership, game awards or general inquiries. I have had app 6 general inquiries – works great.

3) Membership – Mike Walliser

2019 we had 1609 members (1110 were from clubs 68%)
2020 we had 1650 members (1040 were from clubs 63%)
2021 we had 1821 members (1107 were from clubs 61%)
2022 we had 1897 members (1384 from clubs 73%) and 12 affiliated clubs.
2023 we had 1161 members and 7 affiliated clubs. *Drop directly related to the insurance issues.*
2024 we currently have 849 members and 10 clubs.

Revenue from membership dues:

2021 - \$43181
2022 - \$43788
2023 - \$28508

We established a Membership Committee in late 2023 and reviewed everything to do with membership. Concerns over the large number of members who do not renew (historical problem). Developed a one-page document (with a membership discount QR Code) to circulate to archery shops (mailed 100 copies to 10 shops as of March 17), hand out at trade shows/events that explained what the ABA is, what we do and what the benefits are to the individual Alberta bowhunter when they join the ABA. Contacted archery clubs across the province explaining the benefits of a club in affiliating with the ABA. Put together an incredible list of discounts that our friends and partners are offering to current ABA members. The GOAL – increase membership to maintain our relevance as the "voice of the Alberta bowhunter." Numbers matter!

We sent an anonymous Membership Renewal survey (May 7, 2023) to 1402 email addresses of the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 people who had not renewed. Asking what their reasons might be. What they found of "value" in various things the ABA offers/is doing. We got 34 responses (2.4%). The main reasons for not renewing were being forgetful and budgetary.

Important to get email addresses from members when they join. Some do not work if they are through a work email or a minor provider (xplornet.com, live.ca). App 96% of the 2023 membership was on the mass email database. Email database is app 3220 valid emails – all of whom were an ABA member at some point in time.

Doing renewals online or joining is very simple and effective. Have an auto-renew feature for one-year adult memberships (have gotten quite a few). Payment plan for the Life Membership.

Affiliated club dues were reduced to \$25 annually.

All affiliated clubs must be registered with the Societies Act of Alberta (per bylaw change 2022 AGM). Provide that plus their mailing address and two email contacts.

Clubs can affiliate directly through Mike as we have done in the past. OR they can affiliate online.

We send an "ABA Message" to the clubs that we ask they send to their club members – outlines what the ABA is about, the benefits to them as an individual in joining the ABA. A link to our website membership page where they can join. They put their DOB, club name and their membership # (if the club does not provide #s, they can create a generic one all their members can use). NO administrative work for the club.

Do two mass emails annually to those members who have yet to renew.

The Gaming Commission has indicated that we can NOT do membership drives or anything that would give away a prize for buying a membership.

4) Regulations – Terry Brew

Using "FW" Template to submit changes to regulations. Can contact Brent, Terry for the template, how to fill out, what is expected etc. Submit via FW meetings (AGPAC) - once they get started again.

Established a "Regulation Change/Bowhunting Opportunity" Committee. Looking for help on committee.

Have asked membership for reg change proposals and received almost none. Five-year + trend.

- current proposals:

- Reduce minimum draw weight to 35# (had been presented originally for discussion in 2014 at various meetings and this change was to be in the 2023 Hunting Regulations. But internal hurdles delayed until 2024).

- Military veteran discounts for hunting licenses. In concert with many other stakeholders.

Currently being reviewed just to define requirements before being implemented.

- Early start to the archery season in WMU 936 (east of Edm).

- Archery season draw proposal.

- Mule deer tag comparisons/archery season draw WMUs.

- Earlier opener for archery seasons.

- Bowhunter Harvest share percentages/trigger for needing the draw to hunt the archery seasons.

- Sunday hunting Prairie WMUs.

Proposal submitted by member Mar 25/2023 is to allow seniors who draw any tag to be able to designate anyone as a partner. Currently this applies to moose but for other tags, the partner must be a youth or another senior.

Member asked about changes to bowhunting geese. Bw sent the template to get filled out and return.

A member has been doing a great deal of research and work on some ideas regarding bighorn sheep/bowhunting opportunities. Exec member Kyle Short will help spearhead further work once the member gets his info completed.

5) 2024 Banquet (Gord Nuttall committee chair)

- ticket sales to date 254 (21 youth 12 and under). Limit to 300 people.

- using electronic ticket service Eventbrite for the tickets to help with burden on Banq Comm volunteers.

- increased costs to ABA (meal, hotel banquet room, bartenders) and for general hotel rooms for attendees forced an increase in banquet ticket prices.

- new concept of a Banquet Title Sponsor (Jim Bows Edm & Calgary this year)

- card/bucket raffle items. ABA spent app \$7500 on prizes (full retail on these prizes is app \$15000).

- Goodie Bags for all kids 12 and under (ABA branded toque, swag from AHEIA, Cabelas, Alberta Forestry/Public Lands/RAP). Draw for a free youth bow courtesy of Jim Bows. Draw for a 1/3 Rinehart mini elk target – courtesy of the Kubicek Family.

- Social format.

- Banquet doors open at 4pm.

- Game display setup _____. Takedown _____.

- Seminars (12 – 4pm):

- the ABA one-day bowhunting course outline.

- Craig Temple on cinematography, photography and backpacking hunts.

- Logan Johnson with Trophy Vault (digital preservation of your mounts etc).

- have had good response for volunteers to help at banquet.

2025 Banquet – set for Nisku for March 29. Need volunteers for a Banquet Comm.

6) 3D – Kris Skelly

2023 ABA 3D Sponsorship Program had three clubs (out of 12) take advantage of the program. Will send out request for the 2024 Program mid-April.

Sponsorship is \$200 - goes to any affiliated club who puts on a bowhunter themed shoot/has a Hunter Class.

Sponsorship is to be used for the club to purchase prizes for a draw(s) on behalf of the ABA. \$75 of that for the youth.

There is a draw at this year's banquet for a \$500 gift certificate (at the archery shop of their choice) of the ABA members who attended any of these affiliated club shoots.

We made a donation of \$500 to the 10th anniversary of the 2023 Oilmans Shoot (to be used for the kids play area). Looks like the shoot we will be in early June 2024 and we are donating again.

Kris adv that clubs can send him their 3D Bowhunter themed shoots and we will promote on Facebook.

New ASA Shoot circuit started in 2022 and has become very popular.

To promote the ABA at some of these (and any others we can think of) events, we will offer discounted one-year adult ABA memberships thru a QR Code link to our website Membership page and discount code to use.

7) YEARBOOK – Gord Nuttall

Always looking for Content (pictures & stories)

Old copies of newsletters available online.

The 2024 edition is going to print app April 11 and be out in early May. Only to 2023 and current 2024 members.

Gord has put together a one-page document on advertising rates (\$500 full page/\$250 half page). Advertisers can pay on the online store. Have 8 advertisers to date – many repeats.

For the "perks" program, we will dedicate several pages with an Intro explaining the concept. List the merchants and their respective discounts. Their logos/websites etc. Offer additional ad space for a 50% discount for full page (reg rate is \$500).

Gord has put printing/mailing costs out for quotes with two companies.

8) Game Awards – Kyle Sinclair-Smith

- Game Awards mass email for input on plaques etc. Email sent to 3162 email addresses on Jan 25, 2023. 1504 opened the email. We got 12 responses and bw got one verbal feedback. (0.4%)

2022 - 157 Big Game entries with 92 making PY min.

2023 -130 Big Game/40 Small Game. Of the 170 entries we received, only one was a mail in entry.

2024 - 135 Big game entries 64 Small game entries 7 Red Arrow awards 12 Big game certificates
8 Small Game certificates 8 Master Bhtr buckles 2 GMaster portraits.

1 Bowhunter of the Year buckle

ABA doing the "Bowhunting Records of Alberta" Book. Will be updated and available online by banquet time.

Awarding 2 Grandmaster portraits this year with another 2 deferred until 2025 at the recipient's request.

- cost is now \$1100 each and does not include framing.

- both of these Grandmasters have their portrait, have them framed and bringing them to banquet.

Awarding 8 Master Bhtr buckles.

- have been redesigned and cost is \$380 + tax.

Awarding the one Bowhunter of The Year buckle at cost of \$380 +tax.

We have a new supplier for the plaques (Game Awards, Life Member and Exec Appreciation) and have reduced the cost from \$89 each in 2023 to app \$50 in 2024. Could be considered a partial sponsorship from Prairie Patched Hats (past exec Cole O'Neill and his wife Diane). Have them listed under "Friends of the ABA" on the website. Still same quality of wood but now completely lasered. Animals have been redesigned as well.

Sponsorship of game awards categories has worked out great. \$200 per year. All 19 spots for this next term 2024-2028 have been filled. They can make their lump sum payment or 5-year payment plan, online.

Sponsors will be showcased on social media (those that approve us doing that).

No printed banquet booklets or record books will be available. Costs are very high (app \$700). Both will be available at the banquet using a QR Code that people can use to go directly to the website to access. Will be on a timed release for 9pm the night of the banquet.

Youth Award Entries:

Big Star Arrow Company donating two, one dozen arrow packages for draw from all youth entries.

Coyote Hill Taxidermy donating a free shoulder mount (whitetail or mule deer, antelope or black bear) for draw from all the youth entries.

Grizz Targets & Archery donating a 18x18x12 field target to the top 3 Youth Award entries.

Cabelas: Gord has contacted.

Only 2 youth entries in 2022. 8 for 2023. 4 for 2024.

When entering your animal online, you will get an automatic confirmation that your entry was received.

Updated Game Awards entry form and Synopsis, Game Awards Entry Review process, newly combined Game Awards Entry Requirements and Rules of Fair Chase.

Will present to Exec an edit to the Synopsis to state "For Gold, Silver and Bronze in the Youth Award, the entry must have an official score."

Change at Feb 22 2023 Exec meeting to make ABA Game Award Youth age to *under the age of 18*. Aligns with our membership youth age. Appropriate documents have been updated.

BC/PY joint workshop in Saskatchewan mid and late June 2024. Several ABA members are attending that workshop – great to fill in voids of measurer coverages in the province.

9) Communications/Promotions/Sponsorships

Online Hunting Film Tour presentation. Nothing in 2023 and 2024 thus far.

Facebook Page/Instagram – Kris Skelly looks after. Incredible job posting lots of current info. FB has 4.6K followers.

ABA brochures (last updated in 2016) – no need to continue as we get more exposure thru social media.

Member email list (Vertical Response) – app 3220 viable addresses to date. All were ABA members at one time.

ABA Decal (give out at banquets)

ABA branded merchandise available at a discount thru our website link with The Coverall Shop.

ABA branded goodie bags for kids' stuff at banquets.

ABA member perks program.

10) Raffles:

Gaming Commission has increased maximum that we do for this type of raffle from \$10000 to \$20000.

Gaming Comm requires a set of specific raffle rules for every raffle. We have a template done up.

Raffles have been a key revenue stream for ABA. Have embarked on an aggressive two-year plan to do multiple raffles to increase the cushion in our bank account.

Utilizing Rafflebox for all raffles. Reduces volunteer commitment by 90%.

Have established a Raffle Comm to help search out prizes, ticket package details, etc. Need more help.

Raffle prize ideas??????

2023 and 2024 Raffles:

2023 Raffles:

a) Deluxe wall tent raffle #2 (Jan 11, 2023)

Main raffle profit - \$12043.57

50/50 Add-On profit - \$3133.90

\$15177.47

b) Ultimate E-Bike Raffle (May 3, 2023)

Main raffle profit - \$12870.39

50/50 Add-on profit - \$3264.30

\$16134.69

c) On The Water Raffle (May 3, 2023)

- three prizes. Sturgeon fishing trip for two people, fly in northern Sask fishing trip for one person, trip for two people flyfishing on the Bow River.

- Main raffle profit - \$2662

- 50/50 Add-On profit \$2062

\$4724

d) Field to Table raffle (August 15, 2023)

- three prizes. Koolabuck portable cooler, meat processing accessories, Pitboss pellet grill.
- Main raffle profit - \$4368
- 50/50 Add-On profit \$2707

\$7075

2024 Raffles:

a) Ultimate E-Bike Raffle (sold out and drew two months early on Feb 8)

- Main raffle profit - \$12513
- 50/50 Add-On profit \$2791

\$15304

b) Deluxe wall tent raffle #2 (launched March 6) (draw June 5)

- Wall tent sales \$5915.
- 50/50 Add-On \$1240.

c) possible idea of doing 2 Ebikes. Two prizes. Winners can upgrade to different models at their expense and based on available stock at time of draw. Have an initial quote and commitment from Vamoose.

d) possible idea doing (again) Ab cougar/BC black bear hunt for two/BC lynx. With Kelly Morton Hunting. All with hounds. Brent has been in contact.

11) Committees:

Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council (AGPAC)

Regulation Change/Bowhunting Opportunity Comm - looking for assistance on this committee, in need of a chairperson.

Mule Deer Management Plan Review

Alberta Conservation Association - we're a Board member, meetings 4x per year. Can partner with ACA on a variety of issues. Promote our raffles.

Sheep Management/FW (no recent meetings)

ABA Bylaw Review (ongoing)

ABA Operating Guide review (ongoing)

ABA Banquet Manual review (ongoing)

12) Directors (South – Mark Rodehutsors, Central – Cole O'Neill, North – Sean O'Neill, Traditional – Wacey Arthur)

(Directors at Large - Michelle Van Dam, Craig Temple, Ray Melom, Kyle Short)

13) Donations:

2020/2021 - nothing because of COVID.

2022 Donations

- to Oilmen's Shoot

2023 Donations

- to Oilman's Shoot (\$500)
- AHEIA WISE awards (\$300)
- AB Wild Sheep Foundation (sponsor of archery award). (\$380)

2024 Donations

- AB Wild Sheep Foundation (sponsor of archery award). (\$450)
- to Horn Measuring Days at Jim Bows Edm and Calgary locations (\$100 gift card to Jim Bows)
- to Oilman's Shoot \$500 (for kids play area)
- Whitecourt Fish & Game Association banquet (are an affiliated club and donated to our banquet \$250 to buy prize on their behalf) (we donated a Reconeco Kunuk camera - \$250 value)

New Business

1) If anyone is interested in what the age of their harvested animals are, the Lethbridge College/Wildlife Analytics Lab can do that now. Have to create an account with the College. \$25 per tooth. BW has contacted B&C and they are also looking at working with the WAL for having teeth aged from animals that are entered into B&C by Canadian hunters. B&C does that for free but there are the hassles of export and/or CITES permits with the international border crossing.

Michelle advised there is another US lab based out of Montana. "Deer Age". She is the Canadian contact for them. She arranges for all the permitting.

2) We were approached March 6 by a director of the Professional Taxidermy Association of Alberta looking for support for some regulation changes they are looking at. One is the 3-year wait (after registration) in order to sell wildlife in your possession. They have a meeting with Minister Loewen on March 26. We responded that we would certainly welcome any opportunity to discuss their issues as part of "stakeholder/government" collaborative meetings. Hard to lend support without some discussions, pros and cons etc. Brent will follow up as to their meeting with the Minister.

3) General member attending meeting suggested we send out a copy of the AGM Agenda at same time as the meeting registration is approved. This will be brought up at the next Exec meeting and added to the ABA Policy.

4) Elections for 2024: reminder about Duties/Responsibility document.

Executive positions up for election:

(currently)

Vice President – Kyle SS no nominations from the floor and Kyle wins by acclamation.

Treasurer – Lance no nominations from the floor and Lance wins by acclamation.

Membership- Mike no nominations from the floor and Mike wins by acclamation.

Game Awards Chair – Kyle SS no nominations from the floor and Mike wins by acclamation.

3D Director – Kris no nominations from the floor and Kris wins by acclamation.

Central Director – Cole (not running again). Current nomination is Michelle. no nominations from the floor and Michelle wins by acclamation.

South Director – Mark (not running again). Current nomination is Jordan Harrop. no nominations from the floor and Jordan wins by acclamation.

Traditional Director – currently Wacey. Wacey is stepping down. One year left in current term. Travis Bower is interested in this position. A vacated position is filled by appointment by the Exec.

Michelle becoming the Central Director creates an open DatL position. Jesse Gregory has indicated interest. DatL are appointed by the Exec.

Michelle, Jordan and Jesse gave brief bios for the attendees.

Brent will send emails to the Exec outlining the appointments for the open Director at Large position (Jesse being recommended) and the open Traditional Director (Travis being recommended).

Brent will follow up with the new executive – circulate the required Duties/Responsibilities document. The current ABA Bylaws, Objectives and Policy.

Brent will circulate the current 2024 Executive email list. Have Lance create new "ABA" emails as needed.

Kris expressed our appreciation for all those who have and continue to serve on the ABA Exec. Brent advised that we have ordered the "Executive Appreciation Plaques" for outgoing executive Cole, Wacey and Mark.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

