

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the **AAT Counselling Chapter**

of the **CCPA** (Canadian Counseling and Psychological Association)

**4:00 – 5:00 PM MST on June 26, 2025**

**Members present through Zoom:**

<b>Eileen Bona (executive)</b>	<b>Janine Sakai</b>	<b>Tamara Kreptul</b>
<b>Sue McIntosh (executive)</b>	<b>Jessica Bruhn</b>	<b>Ashley Collier</b>
<b>Sue McDonald (executive)</b>	<b>Julie Winter</b>	<b>Caitlin Raftis</b>
<b>Wendy Tredger (executive)</b>	<b>Rosalinda</b>	<b>Charlette Manchester</b>
<b>Cindy Mason</b>	<b>Erin Williams</b>	<b>Victoria Nyman</b>
<b>Genevieve Roy</b>	<b>Melissa Smith</b>	<b>Marilyn Balderston</b>
<b>Maggie Coleman (Executive)</b>	<b>Olga Racine</b>	<b>Stacey (?)</b>
<b>Virginie</b>	<b>Stephanie Geraci</b>	<b>AND Serge Hall (Board Liaison)</b>

**ITEM 1: Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting: provided prior to the meeting**

- Sue McDonald moved we accept the minutes. Seconded by Wendy Tredger. Passed.

**ITEM 2: President’s Report: provided prior to the meeting**

- Sue McDonald moved we accept the president’s report. Seconded by Wendy Tredger. Passed.

**ITEM 3: Treasurer’s Report: provided prior to the meeting**

- Moved by Wendy Tredger to accept treasure’s report. Seconded by Sue McDonald. Passed.

**ITEM 4: Communication/Educator Coordinator**

- Jill Northcott has requested to leave her role as Communication/Educator Coordinator, for personal reasons. Virginie moved we accept her resignation. Seconded by Wendy Tredger. Passed.
- Maggie Coleman was welcomed, informally, onto the executive and we are now formally accepting her at the AGM. Sue McIntosh moved her acceptance. Sue McDonald seconded the motion. Passed.

- Sue McIntosh moved that Maggie Coleman fill the role of Communication/Educator on the Executive. Seconded by Wendy Tredger. Passed.

#### **ITEM 5: The Animal Voice position**

- Lisa Wade requested to resign from her position of Animal Voice on the Executive
- Moved by Sue McIntosh to accept this resignation. Seconded by Sue MacDonald. Passed.
- Moved by Sue MacIntosh and Seconded by Maggie that Lisa Wade remain on the Executive as a Member at Large. Passed.

#### **ITEM 6: Update on the Core Competencies Document**

- The core competencies that pre-dated some members of this executive were not specific to working with animals in counselling although they spoke to working with animals generally in professional practice. This executive felt that it was necessary to adopt core competencies from other developed organizations for working specifically in counselling practice with animals so we got permission to do and developed our own version of working with animals in counselling.
- Later, it was revised to incorporate the language of the new National Standards in Canada, the only standards for working with animals in professional practice in the world.
- The completed version is up on our website now in both English and French.
- This document was not created for the insurance companies to enforce, but to have a guideline for members to follow to ensure the integrity and compliance within their practice(s).
- We hosted a webinar for the CCPA on the details of these core competencies and it can be found on their website. Please contact the CCPA or Eileen Bona for more information if you have difficulty finding/accessing it.
- The Canadian Foundation for Animal Assisted Services (CFAAS) is developing a form where anyone working with animals in practice can determine whether their Standard Operating Procedures meet the recommendations and/or requirements of the National Standards. The standards are still currently voluntary but will likely become mandatory at some point in our country. This form will be useful for people to compare their current practice to what is recommended or required for safe and ethical practice.
- The CFAAS is also working on a listing of Canadian recognized Animal Assisted Human Services training and practicing organizations.

## **ITEM 7: Member List**

- Currently our membership is down 11 members from April 2024. We are a membership of 320 where we were a membership of 331. It appears there has been a steady decline since we ceased hosting coffee chats.

## **Item 8: Coffee Chats**

- The coffee chat sessions were successful and evolving but due to a series of events, we ceased hosting them.
- Historically the coffee chats were quite general and informal. But the format evolved into having specific topics offered for education and discussion.
- Members commented that they enjoyed the coffee chats and learned a lot from them.
- A discussion was held about whether we should revive these chats and whether we should have a combination of formal education and general networking, connection and Q&A chats. Members in attendance were very helpful in understanding the value of the historic coffee chats.
- A decision was made for the executive to meet to discuss reformatting and reoffering the monthly coffee chats.

## **ITEM 9: Report on the AAT Chapter at the CCPA Annual Conference in Calgary**

- Three or four AAT Chapter Executive members attended the CCPA conference this year.
- Our Chapter held a display at a table to market and bring visibility to our chapter in an attempt to reach out to current and future members.
- Sue McDonald reported that the display included:
  - The National Standards document
  - Bookmarks and give-away swag
  - List of resources and AAT educational materials
  - Basket of goodies draws, which collected people's email addresses (40 people shared their emails.)
- The event resulted in many questions from people about how to get started in AAT practice.
- From this event, we developed an email information package to mail out to those who requested more information at the conference and to our membership. Maggie will send this information out asap and Serge Hall will inquire about getting an AAT Chapter email address for us.

## **ITEM 10: Upcoming AAT Conference in Edmonton**

- The date is currently October 4<sup>th</sup>, but maybe shifting to November 15 or 22. The date will be decided upon and announced asap and a save the date will be sent out to the membership.
- The cost to attend is \$199 with student pricing, possibly membership pricing and early bird pricing to be announced.
- It will take place at Concordia University in Edmonton – from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Dr. Aubrey Fine, leading world expert in AAT: sessions in both an opening and closing presentation.
- Danielle Clark: session on canine language and behavior and integrating canines into professional settings.
- Sue McIntosh: session on equine neuroscience, horse/human relationship and more.
- Eileen Bona: session on standards in AAT and discerning what to look for in an AAT training program.
- Dr Fine’s more portable books will be available at the conference for purchase and there may be other books available for purchase as well.
- Virginie asked if the conference could possibly be made available online.
- Coral, from the CCPA, could likely answer this question.
- Maggie said her husband runs conferences, and would know about the options for having it live online, having a recorded version available post conference, costs, etc.
- Maggie agreed to research these options and to contact Coral to query this possibility.

## **ITEM 10: Attendees were asked: “What are you hoping to get from the AAT Chapter?”**

How can we meet your needs? Would you like the coffee chats to continue?

- Members requested that the coffee chats resume. Discussion about having coffee chat topics listed ahead of time.
- Discussion about resources for learning more about AAT for those newly entering the field. Those asking for resources can find information at:
  - Dreamcatcher’s website
  - Healing Hooves website
  - The recorded webinars on AAT topics through the CCPA
  - Sue MacDonald compiled a list of helpful book resources as part of the conference preparation and these will be sent out to the membership in the forthcoming email as discussed above.

## **ITEM 11: MEETING ADJOUNED**

- Moved by Wendy Tredger that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Sue McIntosh. Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM MT.