

Sept 21st, 2020 General Meeting

Quorum 5 Executive and 8 General Meeting

Number in attendance: 20

Meeting called to order: 7:02pm

General Meeting Agenda

1. **Reading of the previous meetings minutes.**
 - a. Minutes of March 16, 2020 were presented.

Michelle Sylvestre moved that the minutes be adopted as presented, it was seconded by Rick Blakeley.

❖ Carried

2. **Business from these minutes**

- a. None

3. **Correspondence**

- a. None

4. **Treasurer's Report (Madeline Balla)**

- a. **Madeline Balla presented the 2019 and 2020 Profit and Loss statements for the Club and Range combined. Madeline Balla moved to approve report as read, it was seconded by Tedd Walcott.**

Financial reports available upon request.

Discussion:

i. 2019 Financials: Allan Friesen asked about the youth programs? Madeline Balla said we don't know exactly what each program is costing us, we need a better system to keep accounting. Most of the cost is birds through shotgun. Many people have keys so we need to keep better track of who is using this inventory. Ted Walcott asked about the Allan Friesen Safe Shooting Training Centre – this is technically operating fees rather than equity because we don't own the Classroom. Madeline answered, yes and we are paying fees on the classroom but not getting any fees from rentals in return. Allan asked Rick how much is attributed to the different programs. Rick said shotgun shells were about \$11,000, ammo for you and adult programs was about \$3000. Archery received new 3D targets as well this year. An ACA grant of \$14,000 was received for programs. The revenue from sporting clays is about \$4,000 more than what LFGA spends for the shotgun program. Rick Blakeley said the periods in which the

inventory is purchased and then used is not annual so they don't match with the annual financials.

ii. 2020 Financials: Rick Blakeley stated that the insurance for the lightning strike has been difficult to claim. We are in the process of naming the contents and their value. Madeline Balla mentioned that the liability is which this company is about \$5000 but we don't need this as our current insurance company already provides 5 million in liability. Madeline and Rick are to find an insurance company that will not charge us this extra liability.

❖ Carried

5. Unfinished Business

- a. **Sight In Clinic** the last clinic went very well, 44 people attended on Saturday. Madeline Balla is volunteering in Taber for a Sight-In Clinic. There will be another one on October 10th at LFGA.

6. New Business

- a. A CCFR Southern Alberta Representative Field Officer presented at the LFGA Meeting. – Shane passed out pamphlets and informed the membership of the CCFR roles as a gun rights organization, public education, public relations as well as the OIC Gun Ban e-petitions and filed Charter of Rights Challenge. This challenge addresses property rights, unconstitutional RCMP changes after the OIC. He urged people to donate and become members to help in the lawsuit. Lawyers in Calgary. Would love to work more with the LFGA and have their support.

Scott Sweetman (*Community Relations Chair*) stated that the LFGA members have been encouraged to join CCFR. Scott is disappointed that CCFR is not following LFGA on our Social Media platforms and Website. It's important that CCFR and LFGA work together. Shane has been in contact with Allan Friesen and Allan said it was his fault that he didn't pass on the info to Scott. Dave Fisher: also noted that Rachel Harder has been very supportive in our area and keen on working together. Shane replied that they have been in contact with her. Rick Blakeley also commented about the *Gun and Guinness* event in Lethbridge, Rick didn't appreciate that CCFR swooped in and tried to take over the event when LFGA was already heavily involved. Rick suggested Scott would be a good Field Officer, Shane please contact Scott, his details are on Facebook and the LFGA website. Rick said it would be great to have someone from LFGA that could be a voice and a connection from the LFGA to CCFR.

- b. Allan Friesen: **Special benches at the range** – Two benches were donated to the LFGA Range on Bay 2. Sheila Ferguson donated 2

benches, one on behalf of Evelyn Leffingwell & Frank Leffingwell and one on behalf of Sheila's dad. A plaque will go over Franks bench and Madeline will put it up.

7. Chair Reports

a. **Community Relations:** None.

b. **Fish** () – None.

c. **Bird** (Angeline McDonald). – None.

d. **Big Game – (Tedd Walcott)**

e. **Habitat and Environment** (Mike Uchikura)

- a. Jayden is filling in for Mike Uchikura and taking over some of the ACA programs like the Pheasant Release. He mentioned the 5 releases taking place this fall. Aug. 29th 200 birds – 1 club involved – Ridge Reservoir released – best birds so far. Total of 500 in Lethbridge County Area.

Rick Blakeley moved that LFGA support the fuel, lunch, and transportation expenses as submitted up to a maximum of \$1000 for the Pheasant Release Program from General Funds.

Sheila Ferguson seconded.

❖ **CARRIED.**

Rick Blakeley moved that LFGA spend up to \$5,000 to purchase birds that have already been release.

Tedd Walcott seconded.

Discussion: Sheila Ferguson asked if this is the same amount LFGA has spent in past years, Rick Blakeley answered yes.

❖ **CARRIED.**

- b. **CPR Lake:** The whole perimeter has been fenced. A parking lot is being constructed. A clean up day was held and LFGA members came to volunteer.

- c. **Access to crown Land:** A member asked how does it work and who grants this access? Who is looking into this? It is becoming more difficult. Rick Blakeley instructed the person to contact the AFGA Provincial Hunting Chairman Jim Clarke, this subject comes up regularly and Jim will have an informed answer.

f. Range (Rick Blakeley) –

i. CIP Development – Tom Hopkins: spoke about starting the construction from CIP Development Fund awarded to LFGA from the City of Lethbridge. The construction will probably take about 3 months, the range closure will also depend on weather. The construction involves baffling changes, areal baffles, ground baffling, and the existing baffles being decommissioned. The buildings have to be moved a bit for the new baffles to work. The engineering and design had to take many aspects into account ie. the wind in Southern Alberta. They can only be so far apart. Madeline Balla noted that the benches and the boards have to be in alignment. Rick Blakeley said this will be worked out. Tom added that the backstops will be rearranged too. Discussion with City is taking place about an open house highlighting the developments. Dave Fisher said there will not be any changes to the plans at this stage just 2 weeks before construction but some slight modifications can be made. Scott Sweetman said he can do regular updates on our website and Facebook while construction is happening along with leading up to the closure of the range. The plans are not confidential so they can be shared with anyone who wants to see it.

Rick Blakeley said LFGA has been firm on 3 things: 1. has to be usable to members with proper sight lines. 2. The current baffles are not working because of the large uprights. 3. Ranges (2S) at least can shoot at any level the full length of the range. Rick talked to some of the executive and took the suggestions to the engineers. Trajectory was also considered for all bullet calibre and shotgun types so they will not hit the baffles. CFO was also involved in determining what could be approved. The plans will go to Dave Fisher to look them over for consideration of the bench rest sports. Allan Friesen said this design will make the backstops easier to maintain and replenish. We also need to put things up on our website and social media. We have to provide our membership and members of Lethbridge with details. Scott Sweetman said he will work with the executive and city to promote everything over social media and website, closing dates etc. LFGA has a responsibility on acceptance of this grant. \$20,000 in 2019 but LFGA haven't been invoiced for this. Negotiations are taking place.

Rick Blakeley suggested we close on November 1st for upgrades instead of Oct. 15th. Access to range 8 and classroom will remain open but not open to general members.

Michelle Sylvestre asked Rick Blakeley to write something up for the members and send it to Michelle and Scott.

In addition to the LFGA having our own Sight In Days especially for hunting members to access, Dave Fisher, Doug and Madeline Balla are volunteering at the Taber Shooting Foundation. It was suggested that a few more days could be added to better accommodate our members. Madeline Balla said she would make arrangement with them and Rick will post those dates on the LFGA gate informing members. George Fairs asked for a multitude of communications to go out please. This is very important.

- ii. Rick Blakeley mentioned that the Shotgun Program put on by Michelle Kennedy was well attended.
- iii. Rick talked about Tedd Walcott, the Hunter Ed Course and Mentored Hunts (13 so far) was going really well. Michelle Kennedy volunteers for this program.

g. Casino (Allan Friesen)

None.

h. Hall (Madeline Balla)

None.

i. Membership Chair (George Roth)

- a. LFGA now has 2003 members.

j. Banquet (Carrie and John Kerber, Madeline and Doug Balla)

8. AFGA

- a. Brian Dingerville spoke on behalf of AFGA and the report sent to the LFGA Executive(available upon request):
Effective Jan 2021 there will be a membership increase. If you have questions please send your questions to Allan Friesen and he will forward the questions to AFGA. Zoom Townhall ahead of time for members to ask questions, after that each club will appoint delegates to vote whether to accept the increase. AFGA has provided a budget and an explanation on the increase with complete details. The report was provided to the LFGA Executive.
Increase is as follows: Individual \$60 Family \$75 Youth \$30 if direct from AFGA
Sheila Ferguson asked what the LFGA Club portion would be? Brian Dingerville answered: Club \$45 Family \$60 Youth \$20.
The Special Meeting will be held on Oct. 15th, Wayne Lowry commented from online that more details will be coming by email soon..

Rick Blakeley moved that we accept and support the AFGA proposed increase of Individual \$45, Family \$60 and Youth \$20 membership.

Sheila seconded.

Discussion: Rick Blakely noted that AFGA is LFGA and other clubs provincial voice and support especially with the Government. Steven Osmond would like to get our financials in order and consider our financials before we accept this increase. Rick Blakeley sees our finances as very strong. Sheila Ferguson noted that AFGA is our largest support with Guns, hunters etc. and AFGA is consulted with by the Government. They are our parent organization. They have a lot of influence. Steven Osmond noted that he wants information before we make that commitment. Madeline Balla noted that it doesn't cost the LFGA anything, this cost gets passed onto our members. Allan Friesen said we might see a drop in memberships as a result of this and our range closure but it will not likely be a substantial loss.

Wayne Lowry added that there is a package that will be delivered to the Clubs on Sept. 23rd. including the increase and budget details. AFGA needs to have a 75% Support/approval to go forward. This is necessary for AFGA survival. Heinz Plontke supports Sheila and Ricks comments and AFGA. Deb Clarke urged people to attend the Townhall meeting coming up which Clubs and Zones will be attending and answering questions. The delegates will need to vote at the meeting and represent LFGA at the AFGA Meeting.

Vote: 7 in Favour

George Roth, Steven Osmond, Tedd Walcott, and Michelle Kennedy
Opposed.

Allan Friesen abstained

❖ **CARRIED.**

Once info comes to the LFGA from the AFGA it will go out to the executive and they will be asking for delegates to represent LFGA at the vote meeting.

First call out for nominations for positions AGM is in November.

Who wants to stand?

i. Sheila Ferguson mentioned that LFGA will need an individual to take over Norms positions which will only be 1 year as Norm has to stand down for health reasons.

Please contact Steven Osmond if you are interested.

Allan Friesen is not standing for President.

9. Photography

None.

Adjourned at 9:06pm