

PRESIDENT

2021: what can one say? I am tentatively hopeful that we will be able to have a more “normal” orienteering season in 2022. There were glimmers of that in 2021. These glimmers included the very successful Alberta championships put on by Edmonton Overlanders Orienteering Club (EOOC), and the increasing number of in-person club programs and events put on by both Foothills Orienteering (aka FWOC) and EOOC, as well as the AOA. A big part of the 2022 season will be the oft-postponed Canadian Rockies Orienteering Festival in July, with FWOC putting on the Western Canadian orienteering championships portion of the events.

I wish to thank and recognize all the volunteers who worked so hard to hold things together these past two years, so that orienteering can come sprinting back in the upcoming season. Activities such as creating MapRun courses, running schools and junior programs, and adult learn-to-orienteer sessions, gave us all opportunities to get outdoors to orienteer.

From my perspective the AOA is in good shape: we have an excellent Executive Director (ED) in Bogi Gyorfı and are healthy financially. As the AOA ED, Bogi is working hard to expand orienteering into other regions of the province, to provide opportunities to children and adults wanting to see what orienteering is all about, all the while providing support to the clubs as needed.

However, there are challenges, which have become somewhat constant companions. These include land access, increasing the ranks of officials and coaches, the need for more mappers, and declining membership. But we work hard on resolving these issues as time and the availability of helping hands allow.

My Role:

1. With the Board and input from members, set strategic direction for the Association.
2. Ensure sufficient resources (human, financial, infrastructure) to ensure effective delivery of Association programs;
3. Represent the Association and advocate on its behalf;
4. Support the efforts of Orienteering Canada

Activities this past year:

- AOA board held an actual in-person strategic planning session in Red Deer
 - Reviewed strategic plan, identified priorities for 2022, and developed 2022 budget;
- Responded to audit request from AGLC
 - Results still to come;
- Negotiating with stakeholders to create a map in the Lockerby area;



- Working with / supporting clubs in efforts to qualify more senior officials;
- Funding:
 - AOA casino will be held in August 2022 in Calgary;
 - Deliberately running a larger deficit to promote in-person programs;

2022 priorities:

- Maintain progress in expanding orienteering to other regions;
- Support to clubs (especially regarding developing new officials);
- Support opportunities for in-person activities (e.g. training camp, retreat).

Kim Kasperski

President, Alberta Orienteering Association