

PRESIDENT

I wish to thank and recognize all the volunteers who work so hard to support the orienteering community by putting on events, after first doing all the training to qualify to put on those events! And a special thank you to those creating or updating maps, without which we would not have anywhere to go. And, toiling away in the background, all those volunteers in the clubs and the AOA who meet throughout the year to keep the wheels turning.

2022 Alberta orienteering highlights (from my perspective):

- A big part of the 2022 season was the oft-postponed Canadian Rockies Orienteering Festival in July, with FWOOC putting on the Western Canadian orienteering championships portion of the events. The courses were great, the mapping impeccable, and the organization first class.
- EOOOC, with relatively short notice, put on a weekend of sprint selection races for Orienteering Canada. Many thanks to Geraint E. for his leadership in pulling everything together.
- Made great progress with improving land access to K-country. A huge round of applause to Kitty J. for her (literally) years of leadership in getting traction with Alberta officials on this matter;
- EOOOC agreeing to host the 2025 Canadian Orienteering Championship, and FWOOC agreeing to (again!) host the WCOCs. Mapping has already started for the COCs.

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.

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

AOA board activities this past year:

- AOA board held its annual in-person strategic planning session in Red Deer



- Reviewed strategic plan, identified priorities for 2023, and developed 2023 budget;
- Responded to audit request from AGLC
 - Final results received. Nothing major (needed to draft equipment policy and make sure there is clarity on any spending vs. income for specific events where AGLC funding is involved).
- Funding:
 - Next AOA casino will be held in 2024 in Edmonton;
 - Deliberately running a larger deficit in 2023 to promote programs.

2023 priorities:

- Training new officials, especially level O300 officials;
- Finalize K-country access policy and documents;
- Continued support of developing a Red Deer orienteering community;
- Support for maps and events for 2025 COC / WCOC;
- Targeted individual help for mapper development (including technical tools);
- More focus and help for orienteers to transition from train-to-train, to train-to-compete stage leading to high performance.

Kim Kasperski
President, Alberta Orienteering Association