

AOA Executive Director's Report - 2023 Annual General Meeting

Submitted by Bogi Gyorfi

Overview

2022 was a great year as we gradually returned to participating in sport activities.

We had a number of successful events and programs in 2022 to celebrate.

To all our volunteers, board members, coaches, officials, mappers and staff – thank you for your continued support of orienteering!

Annual Reports and Plans

The AOA Board of Directors meets each year in February for a strategic planning session to both review how well we delivered on the goals set in the previous year and to map out our long- and short-term goals for the coming year.

A lot of work goes into making sure we are doing all we can to support orienteering in Alberta. A part of this is to ensure that we meet the Government of Alberta SPAR accountability requirements as SPAR is a major funder of Alberta orienteering. This includes evaluations, creating an annual roadmap, planning (and carrying out) programs and events, and reviewing policies.

Related documents can be found on our website. Feedback and ideas are always welcome!

- <https://www.orienteingalberta.ca/agm-meetings.html>
- <https://www.orienteingalberta.ca/aoa-policies--grants.html>

Funding

The AOA's finances are in good shape thanks to the extra grants and loan for pandemic support that helped us get through that challenging time. Last year our funding was very similar to the years before, with the main difference being that the casino grants were further apart, so those funds needed to be stretched over a longer period.

1. **SPAR - AB Government Grant for Provincial Sport Organizations**

By meeting all the criteria outlined in the Funding and Accountability Framework we have continued to receive our Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) grant from the province at similar levels to previous years.

2. **Casino:** our most recent casino was in August 2022, in Calgary. Our next casino is scheduled for the last quarter in 2024, to be held in Edmonton.

3. **Other Grants:**

- **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan forgiveness**

The \$20,000 forgiveness loan helped the organization cover the shortfall in income due to the closure of casinos due to the pandemic which resulted in longer times between casinos.

- **City of Red Deer Community Development Grant**

We received a City of Red Deer grant of \$2000 to support the development of an orienteering community and club in Red Deer.

- **Participation Community Challenge grant**

\$500 was received to organize free-to-participants 'Try It' events in June.

4. Other Revenue

- **Fundraising**

In 2022 we participated in the Government of Alberta [SPAR MATCHING DONATION FUND PROGRAM](#). The Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) Donation Fund Program encouraged support for the development of sport, physical activity and recreation in Alberta. The program gave individual and corporate donors a tax incentive to invest in the future of the sector, and a process for the acceptance of contributions from charitable organizations.

Thank you to those who supported this with your donations!

AOA received \$5,125 in March 2023. All of the funds are being used as per the donors' requests.

- **Events and program income**

We run our programs and events on a non-profit basis, so we spend any income on those programs and events. If any income is left, we invest it into buying equipment or other ways to grow our activities.

2022 Activities in Review

A detailed report by projects and portfolios can be found in the [2022 Roadmap Report](#) on our website.

Highlights:

Thanks to our clubs' volunteer organizers we held some big events in 2022.

- Major events that benefited the province and the whole orienteering community in Canada were:
 - **The Western Canadian Orienteering Championships (WCOC) is organized by FWOC.** It was a great success with well-mapped areas, challenging courses, and outstanding organization.
 - AOA supported the **Canadian Rockies Orienteering Festival** by providing ongoing help for mapping, and administrative support for WCOC, COC, and Barebones.

We had 1726 individual registrations through 11 events.
- Additionally, AOA created the Barebones Crowsnest Pass map and helped with the Sass Peepre training camp.
- **EOOC organized the Orienteering Canada team selection sprint races in the spring.** The U of A campus was wonderful for urban sprints and many compliments were received on the courses. Lots of volunteer hours went into the organization of these races **for the Canadian Team and was a huge help for the sport;**
- In-person events returned in the form of youth programs, and outreach programs.
- AOA organized "Try it!" sessions with the collaboration of local clubs. It was very successful, with 270 new participants, and resulted in some new members;
- AOA outreach membership grew to 118, mainly in Red Deer and Airdrie;
- AOA school programs were popular with 1421 participants.
- No community coaching courses were held in Alberta in 2022 as there were no new requests, but we held one in Saskatchewan to train their coaches and a learning facilitator. We are very proud of our continuing support of the new Saskatchewan Orienteering Association;
- Mapping projects were less active but still ongoing. Thank you to Teresa W. for helping with the outreach mapping and Don B. for completing the Barrier Lake mapping project. EOOC's renewed map near Bruderheim was completed this year by Geraint E.;
- Officials' certification was moved online. Huge thanks to Marion O. who volunteered to administer this and give guidance to new officials. The courses were back to in person in 2023 and we were happy to see the O300 course planners' course in March.

- AB Park permit update: We made some significant progress regarding AB park - Bow Valley Orienteering events permits. AB Parks, Kananaskis Region, in consultation with FWOC and AOA, has developed an excellent Orienteering Directive that should facilitate getting permits in the Kananaskis region. Once our maps have been reviewed by the ecological lead on the AB Kananaskis team (the last step in a multi-year process), we should be able to offer more forest events on some of our favourite maps. The Directive also makes it easier to create and use new maps. We can't thank Kitty Jones enough for devoting years to spearheading this effort since 2015.
- Collaboration to share information and resources and support the orienteering community, remain a high priority for the AOA. This included ongoing involvement with Orienteering Canada's national team selection policy workgroup.

AOA Outreach Activities in Numbers

AOA Outreach membership 2022		Adults	Youth	Total
	RD community events	52	12	
	RD youth program		22	
	Airdrie youth program		32	
	Total	52	66	118
AOA Day Members 2022				
(Try It)	Edmonton	38	11	
	Calgary	86	31	
	Red Deer	27	37	
	Airdrie	11	18	
	Crowsnest	4	7	
	Total	166	104	270
AOA School Programs 2022				1421
			Total	1421

2022 Membership

Membership numbers seem to be getting closer to pre-pandemic numbers.

Members	Junior	Adults	Day members all	Total
FWOC	540	226	192	766
EOOC	121	218	104	339
AOA	66	52		118
Total Juniors	727		259	
Total Adults		496		
Total Day			555	
Total Regular				1223

Membership Trends

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
FWOC membership	219	842	978	1264	1022	1089	464	869	766
EOOC membership	78	359	481	495	433	443	418	386	339
AOA Outreach member				45	192	266	160	118	125
<i>AOA Day member</i>								270	259
<i>EOOC Day member</i>	515	476	326	204	352	269			183
<i>FWOC Day member</i>				29	36	75			192
<i>School FWOC</i>				332	4020	2900	610	1065	0
<i>School EOOC</i>				2056	3083	4947	990	3338	11881
<i>School AOA</i>				131	1271	1970	540	520	1421
Total Participants	816	1,684	1,793	4,556	10,409	11,959	3,182	6,566	15,166
Regular members	297	1201	1459	1804	1647	1798	1042	1373	1230

Social media and website stats:

Traffic Summary

