



AASRA Quarterly

# Newsletter



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## Presidents Message

Hello to all our members, hope the winter has not been too hard on you. Spring will soon be here, and everyone can get outside more and enjoy their favorite activity. I would like to welcome Kyle back to the Board of Directors, thank you for stepping up and volunteering to take over for Terry. **My many thanks to Terry Shwetz** for his many years of service to AASRA. Terry has held the positions of Treasurer and Director At Large looking after the Membership and Newsletter.

As mentioned recently, we need members to step up and help, especially when it comes to volunteering for events like the casino. Members can give back their time in many ways, we need Peer Support persons who are willing to take the training and assist new amps, take a Board position, work on events like the Amp Open. We will be sending out requests this spring for volunteers, if you can help, please do so. AASRA is a volunteer organization and only works with your assistance.

For all our golfers, the Amp Open will be in Nanton again. Just finalizing the hotel. Golf Alberta will be holding the All Abilities in Edmonton at the Broadmoor course in August. The Canadian All Abilities will be in Brighton Ontario this Sept. Please attend our AGM in April either in person or via Zoom. It's nice to put faces to names. looking forward to seeing everyone out at events this summer.

Stay active and safe,

Vic McClelland  
AASRA President

# Alex Southwell Fund – Grant Offer

Several years ago, we informed you via a profile in the AASRA newsletter about Alex Southwell, a young man from the Red Deer area who sadly passed away at an early age. Alex was an amputee, and his family started a charity golf tournament in his memory, and it has been run successfully for the past few years. We were proud and grateful that they designated AASRA as the recipient of the funds raised asking that they be directed to benefit youth members of the Alberta amputee community if possible. This money is held in a separate fund account for that purpose.

To date, one of our junior AASRA members has received funds from the Alex Southwell Fund, but we'd like to make better use of it. For that reason, we are offering grants to junior amputees for activity related expenses of any kind. Sports equipment (like skates, sports wheelchairs, personal bike modifications), uniforms/clothing or special training not covered by existing Competitive Event Funding or Recreational Membership Funding programs are some of the ways this money could be used.

Applicants for funding from the Alex Southwell Fund must be junior members of AASRA (under 18 years of age, membership is free). A request for the funds (from the applicant or a parent, guardian, or other adult representative) should be sent in writing to the president of AASRA at [president@asra.ab.ca](mailto:president@asra.ab.ca) briefly specifying how the money would be used. The President will decide, with the support of the AASRA board, if the request is approved and follow up accordingly. At this time the Alex Southwell Fund grants will be limited to \$500 per year per applicant.

The AASRA board of directors and the family of Alex Southwell sincerely hope this additional funding will be of use to some of our junior members.

## Japan Open Adapted Golf Tournament



AASRA Member Bob MacDermott headed overseas to The Land of the Rising Sun last October and took part in the Japan Open Golf Championship for the Disabled. It is the only full-scale golf tournament for the disabled in Japan. Over 80 players from Japan and overseas played. And from the pictures on page one and here, it looked like it was perfect weather and no *swinging in the rain!*





## The new guy on the block

AASRA Member Kyle Riva (seen here in full wheelchair rugby garb) has accepted the role of interim **Director-at-Large** and **Newsletter Editor**. Kyle has been a member for many years now and is looking forward to taking a seat on the Board. When not out on the hardwood floor, you can catch Kyle camping in the Rockies, snapping pics as a freelance photographer and spoiling his French Bulldog, Boswell.

Please welcome Kyle!



PHOTO COURTESY OF RJ PHOTOGRAPHY

# How AASRA helped its members in 2023



### Rec Funding

27 different members access \$12,889.51 in funding for an average of \$477.39 each.

### Casino Funding (AGLC Approval Process)

We approved \$33,960.53 in funding of which \$27,624.06 was claimed/utilized.

Sports covered were golf, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair basketball.

10 golf members, 1 wheelchair rugby member and 1 wheelchair basketball member accessed this funding.

### Alberta All Abilities

10 members accessed \$7495.83.

### Alex Southwell Memorial

A junior member was awarded \$1010.00 to cover his hockey registration.

### AASRA Alberta Amputee Open

10 members accessed \$2934.27 in funding assistance to attend the event.

### Train the Trainer - Amputee Coalition of Canada

2 AASRA members attended ACC training sessions in Hamilton, ON which AASRA covered expenses in the amount of \$3985.54.

# Volunteers make things better!

It takes a bit of effort by many to keep an organization like AASRA healthy and available to continue to provide benefits to its members. Please consider volunteering for some of the needs AASRA has.

## *Opportunities*

**Membership Coordinator**

**Peer Support Coordinator** (position occupied, only support needed)

**Annual AASRA Amp Open Chairperson** (position occupied, only support needed)

The board of directors of AASRA greatly encourages you to volunteer for one or more of them or any other opportunities that come up throughout the year. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to respond to this message or send a message to [info@asra.ab.ca](mailto:info@asra.ab.ca) or any one of the members of the AASRA board of directors found on our website.

## Save The Date

The 2024 AGM has been set for **April 27, 2024**, at the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Red Deer. We encourage all to attend either in person or virtually.

Details coming soon.



### News you can use...



- ✓ The **Annual AASRA Amp Open** will be held in Nanton on July 20-21 instead of in Medicine Hat as previously announced. More info to follow soon.
- ✓ **The City of Calgary Recreation has again offered AASRA golf lessons this coming summer at the McCall Lake Golf Course.** These lessons are free of charge and open to beginners to intermediate golfers 16 years of age and older.

All lessons will be conducted by National Golf Academy CPGA certified and award-winning Pros. Equipment will be provided if required

Tee to Green Program for ages 16+ (max 8 participants)

Sundays, May 26 – June 23, 2024 1 – 2 p.m.

1– 2:30 p.m. on July 23 for Par 3 course, McCall Lake Golf Course

[Email Vic](#) if you are interested in this program so we can get back to the City with an idea of the number of spots we will use.



## More news you can use...



- ✓ Get great information from the **Paralympic Sports Association**, by [signing up for their newsletter here](#)
- ✓ Even though it feels like winter is over, we know it's not – so check out **Canadian Adaptive Snowsports Association - Calgary** [here](#)
- ✓ **Rocky Mountain Adaptive** has both winter and summer events, check them out [here](#)
- ✓ **Wheelchair Sports Alberta** are in need of volunteer support May 15 – 20 for the 2024 Wheelchair Rugby National Championships. Support from airport greeters, score table officials, merchandise table, venue support, equipment transportation, etc. If you are interested, please [email](#) Kyle Riva.
- ✓ [Sign up here](#) to get more information about **Calgary Adapted Hub**
- ✓ The Sport Injury Research Prevention Center at the University of Calgary is conducting an important study to learn more about the injury, concussion, and participation experiences of individuals taking part in the Adapted or Para Sport and Recreation Program(s) across Canada. Individuals 7 – 60 years of age are eligible to participate. You can scan the QR Code, click the image below, or call Leticia Jantzen (403) 955-5736 for more information.

**ADAPTED AND PARA SPORT AND RECREATION INJURY STUDY**

**ONLINE SURVEY**

Are you between the ages of 7 and 60?

Have you participated in any adapted or para sport or recreation program(s)?

**We want to hear from you!**



The University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board has approved this study (REB21-0781).

