

AASRA Quarterly Update – May, 2022

Hi AASRA Members and Friends!

After our long Alberta winter, spring is finally here. Time for summer sports and recreation!

Top News:

URGENT - The position of **Secretary** on the AASRA Board of Directors is vacant. This is a vital role and forms part of the executive management team of the association. If you're interested in volunteering for this position or, talking to someone about the roles and responsibilities please email info@aasra.ab.ca, president@aasra.ab.ca or reply to the email message that this newsletter was sent out on.

-
Volleyball – Angela Dolezar (pictured below) has been an active sit volleyball player since 2015. She recently participated as a member of the Canadian team at the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

You can read about Angela and her journey to Paralympic competition including her experience there on the AASRA Champions web page at <https://www.aasra.ab.ca/champion-series>. You can look at the entire Canadian Women's Sitting Volleyball team at <https://volleyball.ca/en/national-teams/sitting-women-senior>. You make us all proud, Angela!



Curling – Wendy Frazier with teammate Fran Purvis (shown above) captured a bronze medal at the Canadian Stick Curling Championships held April 22-25, 2022 in Moncton, NB. She's not only an active curler but sails

competitively as well. Watch for an article by Wendy describing her experiences “competing in the time of covid” soon. Well done, Wendy! You’ve been a force at the curling rinks this year.

Golf – Bob MacDermott sent a note to the AASRA board to say “thank you” for support with funding to participate in the Conquistador Para Golf Championship in Tuscon, AZ in April. Bob was the champion in the G5-G7 classification and 10th overall in the tournament despite sustaining a car accident injury just prior to the tournament. Hope you’re OK now Bob. Good job!

In this update:

- Peer Visitor Training
- Casino
- Annual General Meeting
- Sports Clinics
- Golf Tournaments
- Policy and Process Updates
- Coming and Going
- Member opportunities
- Social Media

Peer Visitor/Peer Support Training

Chelsea Coates, AASRA Peer Support Coordinator has been in regular contact with the Amputee Coalition of Canada, working towards the delivery of Peer Support Training in Alberta. Chelsea says that the one-day training session in Calgary has now been moved to late June due to the time it’s taking the ACC to rewrite the course material. A firm date and other details will be provided as soon as possible.

If you’re interested in Peer Visitor training, please indicate so by sending a message to info@aasra.ab.ca or to director4@aasra.ab.ca. AASRA plans to reimburse members who attend for reasonable expenses and travel. Non-AASRA member participation will be welcomed and a significant representation from the ACC is expected.

Casino

The April 13-14, 2022 casino event has now been successfully completed. Casino Chairperson and Volunteer Coordinator **Lisa Stowe**, on behalf of all of AASRA is very grateful to those who turned out to work a shift or two. AGLC casino events are the most significant source of funds that AASRA has. Thank YOU Lisa!

Annual General Meeting

The 2022 AASRA AGM was held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the Alberta Sports Museum and Hall of Fame in Red Deer. There was a small turnout of board representatives and members as well as a number of online participants. The official minutes of the AGM will be available soon.

Sports Clinics

GOLF – AASRA VP **Bob MacDermott** is in discussion with the Para Sports Association <http://www.parasports.net/> to cooperate in the delivery of a golf clinic in 2022. No place or date has been set yet. To add your name to the list of potential participants send a message to vicepresident@aasra.ab.ca, info@aasra.ab.ca or director1@aasra.ab.ca.

Golf Tournaments

Mark your calendars for the **2022 AASRA Alberta Amp Open** golf tournament scheduled for July 16-17 in Red Deer. Last year's tournament was a great success and a lot of fun so please consider entering this year's event. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Since CAGA will not be holding a national event this summer, AASRA golfing members may want to consider the **2022 Manitoba All Abilities Championship by Golf Manitoba** the end of June. It's being held about an hour south of Winnipeg and members may apply for funding to attend. You'll require a Golf Canada handicap and a world ranking pass to participate which most of our golfers got in 2019 in Okotoks.

Weblink: <https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/7975412186338085336>

Policy and Process Updates

Recreational Membership - Claims for Recreational Membership benefits continue to be available for AASRA members for up to \$500 per year (pro-rated by years of membership). These benefits should be claimed in the year in which they were incurred. Claims based on expenditures from the previous year may be claimed up to but not exceeding March 1 of the current year (which coincides with annual financial report review and approval). Claims older than that will not be accepted.

Waiver of membership fees – The AASRA Board of Directors has approved a policy for the approval of requests for the waiver of membership fees (free memberships). To paraphrase the policy, requests for the waiver of fees must be made in writing to the board from the prospective member themselves. The board will evaluate and decide on each application individually. A maximum of two such requests may be granted in a calendar year.

Application for Funding – Funding Application forms must be completed accurately and completely. They must also be accompanied by all supporting documentation in legible form. Phone pictures of documents or computers screens are not acceptable. These details are the responsibility of the applicant (not the Sports Director or other board member). A complete guide and explanation of why this is so important will be coming from President Vic McClelland shortly.

Your feedback on this or any other issue is valued. Please send comments, concerns or questions to info@aasra.ab.ca or by replying to the message that this newsletter was sent out on.

Coming and Going

Several changes have been made to the AASRA board of directors and members with special assignments. A revised copy of this list is included with the message that this newsletter was sent out on. Here's a summary:

- **Dave Marchand** has assumed the role of Sports Director taking over from **Tim Tratch** who has resigned from the AASRA board. Good luck to both of you!
- **Shane Westin** has resigned from the AASRA board and the position of Secretary after many years of dedicated service due to conflicting demands on his time. We wish Shane all the best in his other endeavours. At the time of writing a permanent replacement for Shane has not been found but **Cindy McClelland** has generously agreed to perform the Secretary's duties for now. Thanks a lot Cindy!
- **Don Kucheyma** has stepped down from his position on the AASRA board but thankfully he'll continue to put in a dedicated effort as a regular peer visitor and peer support group leader at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in Edmonton. Very glad you're keeping that up Don!

AASRA Member Opportunities

AASRA is run by a volunteer team of people serving as directors, clinic coordinators, casino workers and in other positions. It's up to all of us as members to contribute what we can to ensure the health and well-being of the association that we directly benefit from. **We always need more help** and appreciate the contribution that many of you have made and intend to make in the future. Here are a few ways you can pitch in:

- **Secretary – URGENT** - The position of Secretary on the AASRA Board of Directors is vacant. This is a vital role and forms part of the executive management team of the association. If you're interested in volunteering for this position or, talking to someone about the roles and responsibilities please email info@aasra.ab.ca, president@aasra.ab.ca or reply to the email message that this newsletter was sent out on.
- **Director At Large** – One of the Director At Large positions is vacant on the AASRA board of directors. If you're interested in volunteering for this position or, talking to someone about the roles and responsibilities please email info@aasra.ab.ca, president@aasra.ab.ca or reply to the email message that this newsletter was sent out on.
- **Strategic, Tactical and Business planning leader** – If you have experience with plans necessary for an organization like AASRA to continue to progress in an ordered fashion your help would be priceless. These plans are necessary to secure funding from government and corporate sources, so their maintenance is vital. Let us know if you can help.
- **Sports clinic leaders** – Many of us have participated in clinics to learn how to cycle, bowl, golf or get involved in any one of several different activities. If you're interested in organizing and leading a clinic, please let us know. The options are wide open and there's no experience necessary.

To volunteer or inquire about any of the opportunities above or, to suggest others who may be please contact any member of the AASRA board of directors or send an email to info@aasra.ab.ca. **Thanks for your contribution and support!**

Social Media

AASRA director **Jesse Florkowski** is our coordinator of Youth and Social Media. He's working to invigorate the association's Instagram and Facebook accounts. If you're active on either of those platforms, please take a moment to look at AASRA's sites. If you have anything to post, please do so or contact Jesse at director3@aasra.ab.ca with your suggestions.

Please stay involved with AASRA to stay fit, healthy, and active. If you can, please volunteer for one or more of the fun, rewarding activities that will make our organization strong!

For more information about the items in this newsletter please email info@aasra.ab.ca or reply to the message that this document came out on.

On behalf of the board of directors of the Alberta Amputee Sports and Recreation Association,

Terry Schwetz

Membership Coordinator and Director-At-Large
Director1@aasra.ab.ca