

## **Secretary Report, BCFOA AGM, fiscal year 2020, Meeting February 6, 2021**

Well, 2020 sure kicked in a different tackle football world but, as secretary, monthly meetings and duties still prevailed. I was privileged to be appointed as the BCFOA secretary at a great loss and misfortunate vacancy within the executive. I still chuckle at my elected position last year as I thought the executive would hope to have someone that did not ask so many questions!

The association was not able to recover a lot of records and data, so my job was cut out for me. It is not without the help and cooperation of this executive to rebuild, starting to prioritize and move forward.

This started with the website that VP American – Frank Roberto and President Nigel Bushe have covered very well. Our webmaster has spent many meetings with me to train me and give me access to alias email site to keep up to date. He changed the email server process as it was not working well, and I now get a report as to how many emails are kicked back and any that are not delivered. I can not express enough how important it is to keep any changes of your contact info on the website as well as on Arbiter. BCFOA will be using the website to communicate and not Arbiter. We had exam links, training, etc. posted this past year for a member's convenience and to make this a usable tool. BUT, we have so much more to do and my intent moving forward.

The website has a new Public page but when you do log in, the member login page currently mirrors the Public page, that is next! The webmaster has made a "test" site for me so I can work behind the scenes, make changes, send to executive for review and approval before it is moved to the live site. FernWeb Web Design has been a dream to work with and has not charged us anything other than our monthly maintenance fee for the site.

2019 membership list was reviewed and scrutinized the last fiscal year to ensure the data was correct. Unfortunately, we had to do it again this year and executive has noted the issue as a priority for a system for applications, criminal checks and when put on Arbiter. A lot of hours can easily be reduced with a guideline in place.

This reality was brought upon by need for info requested by CFOA and a complied Master list for the BCFOA, noting members information of start dates, which league or both, Canadian level completed, etc. This was sent as a broadcast website email to all and via Arbiter. Sadly, we have about 50% response to date. This is important, not only to the BCFOA but also because the **Revised BCFOA Policy Manual** has information changed that is dependent on this information.

**BCFOA Policy Manual** (Revised November 4, 2020) was released via email and is on the website. It is important that all members read this 7-page document. The education committee of American and Canadian, both VP's and President took part of the review and changes and presented to the executive as a whole and approved in November 2020. I ensured that all contents complied with our Bylaws and changes were made accordingly, hence our proposed bylaw changed for this AGM which is wording only due to a discrepancy within the bylaws.

Noted changes:

- Complete content for American and Canadian guidelines and specified if different.
- Updated uniform guidelines.
- Pay scale of Canadian officials changes. (Member information important here for the Treasurer.)
- Complete restructure to put in compliance with the Bylaws that were certified in 2018 and the previous policy had not been reviewed since 2014.
- BEST of all, the ugly official with the TD signal is gone! He had white pants on!

**Outside of the BCFOA Executive**, I was asked to join a national volunteer committee by Henry Chiu (CFOA president) in September 2020. The committee name is Inclusion & Diversity Committee and includes CFOA, CFPFA & CFL representation. The original mandate of the group is:

Through research, provide insight, advice, and recommendations to the following:

- Identify barriers for underrepresented groups to participate in officiating.
- Strategies to engage local FOA in building connections and fostering a deeper sense of inclusion for underrepresented groups.
- Propose initiatives and policies to meet changing needs of our diverse officiating community.

We have had meetings and are progressing with also inviting Football Canada to consult. 2021 will bring forward more info as we are talking the nation as a whole and a lot of planning is in the works.

Otherwise, this year has been remarkably busy as secretary and I can not thank our executive, education committees and members for their time, patience and help to bring an overall structure in place as we represent the Province of British Columbia for tackle football officials.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Madill