



THIRD AGE LEARNING GUELPH Members and Registrants Information

For the past 2 years, the Board of Directors of Third Age Learning Guelph (TALG) has been working to document its activities, so that future volunteers will have both an historical understanding of the organization and a written template of its policies and procedures to ease any future management concerns. This document (TALG Board Policies and Procedures Manual 2022) is available (in PDF format) to anyone interested. The manual also includes the recently revised By-Laws of the organization. The By-Laws now conform with new legislation of the Ontario government that governs the management of non-profit and charitable organizations. This By-Law (By-Law #2) was formally adopted at the TALG November 10, 2021 Annual General Meeting.

While discussing and developing the manual, its contents, and the revised By-Laws, the issue of membership arose. Legally speaking, any member of a non-profit organization is allowed to elect board members, vote on fundamental matters, and approve changes to the by-laws.

Historically, any and all participants who registered and paid to attend a lecture series presented by TALG were considered to be 'members' of the organization. In reality, the payment was for registering and attending the lectures, although an invitation to attend and vote at the annual AGM was extended. When reviewing and analyzing the 'members' at the AGM over the past 2 years (when a guest lecturer was **not** part of the agenda), it became evident that few other than the Board and committed volunteers of the organization actually attended the event for the purposes of enacting Board business.

In the new By-Laws it was confirmed that, *"Membership in the Corporation shall consist of such persons who have been accepted into membership in the Corporation by resolution of the Board."* And, after much consideration, the current Board of Directors' resolution was that 'membership' should be restricted to only those who volunteer with the organization - i.e., Board members and members of standing committees of the Board (program, registration, hospitality – and other committees that may be determined in the future). A motion to that effect was passed unanimously on June 10, 2022.

As of September 2022, anyone registering for a lecture series will be referred to as a 'registrant'. The Board member responsible for registration is now the 'Registrar'. Registrants are welcome to attend the AGM, and contribute to discussions, but will not have voting rights within the organization. Registrants' input will continue to be collected and considered (e.g. for topic suggestions, and on many other matters). If anyone wishes to be a member (i.e., more involved with the organization and, thus, vote at the AGM), we are more than eager to welcome such new volunteers – in fact, we depend greatly on our volunteers to help with making the lecture series a reality.

If anyone is interested in being a TALG volunteer – on a committee or the Board – please contact Cathy Farr at cathy.farr@sympatico.ca.

The Board, October 2022