

Email Message From: Charles Ennis (RASC President) Sent: Friday 2 Sep, 2022 11:50 am

Last weekend the RASC Board of Directors met with Judy Black, National Council Chair, and Stephen Nourse, President of Ottawa Centre. We had a very frank and productive discussion and came up with various action items. Three key areas were identified: communication, collaboration, and transparency. We recognized that these needed improvement between the Board and National Council (NC), the Board with the members at large, and the Centre Representatives with their Centres.

Transparency is certainly a key issue as identified in the Open Letter and in communications in the discussion lists. If you haven't seen that letter, it is on the President's List here:

<https://secure.rasc.ca/membership/forums/presidents/open-letter-to-the-board-from-the-nc#pageNaN>

*[DT – also posted on the Belleville Centre website (articles) <https://rascbelleville.ca/pdf/a1660770174.pdf>]*

Prior to this meeting, we issued an invitation to Centre treasurers which resulted in a new member for the Finance Committee from the Kingston Centre. The Society Treasurer is being given an hour at the next National Council meeting along with the Executive Director and other Board members to brief the NC on the state of finances to seek input from the NC in the budget planning process.

Another area identified by members is the database and the challenges it currently presents. The Board has come up with strategies for dealing with Driven and will update the NC on this at their next meeting on December 5.

The NC has drafted job descriptions for Chair, Vice-Chair, Recording Secretary and Centre Representative to the NC and hope to have them approved at the next NC meeting. Once approved, the Terms of Reference for the NC will be drafted to reflect a newly defined role for the NC within the RASC. Members of the Board and NC are openly working on this and talking about it online. Both sides agreed that it was a promising start and look forward to working together.

Although it is frustrating and disappointing to see complaints about issues that have been previously identified and are being addressed, we know that communication from and to all levels of the RASC needs improvement - and it is improving. Please know the challenges raised by the Centres through the Centre Representatives and the Presidents and included in the Open Letter are being addressed. We have listened and will continue to listen to your concerns. You will see changes and be notified of them.

It has taken several years for the RASC to arrive at this stage in its history. Not all challenges raised in the Open Letter can be fixed overnight. The Board and the NC have agreed to communicate progress made on these challenges to members, to collaborate on projects and direction the RASC is to take, and thus increase transparency by helping the NC and their Centre members understand the why, how, who and when of those actions.

It is our sincere hope that members recognize we *are* "banding together" to find solutions to the challenges raised. Our hope is that members who are concerned about the RASC come forward to become part of the solution. We have to change the way of thinking to "we", not "them" and "us". The talents and expertise of members within the RASC can be pooled. It is by working together as a team with these pooled talents that the RASC can change to become the Society we all want it to be.

Charles Ennis, President, RASC

Judy Black, National Council Chair, RASC