

March 2020 APRCWA update

Hello Rural Crime Watch members;

Your Provincial Board held our first face to face meeting March 12/13 before all meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 epidemic. We had a productive meeting with a session on strategic planning, where we focused on succession planning and future goals of the Association. We also held a conference call March 26th in keeping with the new Covid-19 protocol, no personal contact or social distancing.

Several issues were discussed that I would like to bring to your attention;

- The resolution from Zone 1 at the February 2020 AGM, to increase the membership fees to \$300 per year (\$103.00 is the insurance portion), was discussed at length. Given the feedback, received after the AGM, The Board took this into consideration and felt that the increase of 50% was to extreme for many of our members, which do not have the membership base to cover the increase in expenses. This could result in many consolidations of several local groups which would erode our membership base. We appreciate the vote to increase the Membership fees at the AGM, however, after much discussion, the Board made the decision to revise the increase of the membership fees to \$250.00 per year with a 25% increase in fees. This still offers additional income, to the Association, to maintain programs and be sustainable overall and we will scale this to the income. We will work with the smaller membership members to ensure that they can maintain their independence as they grow. We felt that this was a good compromise without putting some of our smaller members into a difficult financial situation.
- The COVID-19 Coronavirus has proven to be an issue with holding local AGM meetings and getting together to make decisions like electing new Executives. With the decision to postpone any gatherings going forward, we understand that this may create concern on the filing of your Annual Society Return. We are encouraging your Associations to file with your current information and send in an update, once you have your Elections and confirmation of your new Executive. We have received confirmation that our insurance carrier may waive this years registration and accept last years 'Proof of Filing' as requirements of the insurance policy. Alberta registries has made a statement for all charities;

"In keeping with public gathering restrictions, deadlines are suspended for non-profit organizations to hold AGM's and file Annual Returns. These groups will remain active in Alberta and will not have their non-profit organizations dissolved due to failing to file annual returns."

We are sure this will change once the Coronavirus has passed the pandemic stage has been lifted and things have returned to normal. But in the mean time, until the current situation changes, we encourage all of our members to continue updating their records, as in the past, in anticipation of things getting back to normal. For the Membership Renewal, please provide your latest copy of your Proof of Filing. We will keep in communication with the Insurance Company on this and will pass along any updates as they come in.

- It has come to our attention that there have been items placed for sale on web sites such as Ebay and others, which are selling surplus lapel pins and hats that bare our copyright logo. This is an infringement of the copyright laws and need to cease. The logo is provided to our membership for promoting the crime watch movement, not to provide non members with false identity by using these items for fraudulent use.
- The new video project is on track to be in production in the summer. We hope to have the release of the video and trailer (short web versions) released at the 2021 AGM.
- We hope to have the calendar printing done by August 2020 for the new school year. With that in mind, **we ask that each Association respond to this email with the number of calendars that they would like to receive for distribution.** Depending on the numbers received, a decision will be made on the printing of the calendars. We do not want to print too many calendars due to waste and costs. The calendars come in boxes of 25 units each.
- A decision to continue with the calendar project has not been made, but this does not stop the local member from continuing to hold a local poster contest for the youth of your area. We are currently investigating new avenues to engage the youth in crime watch ideals and principals.

We are planning to increase communication with our membership going forward. It could be in a quick email, such as this, or a web site blog embedded in our RCMP location app, or other method like our newsletter, that will ensure that the message gets to as many members and Albertans as possible. It is also very important that all members keep their association email addresses up to date. **If your contact information changes, we cannot keep you informed of changes and upcoming events! This is so important, now, more then ever.**

We look forward to any feedback that you wish to share with the Provincial board.

**Best Regards,
Cor De Wit
APRCWA, President**

