

Report Ontario Council AGM 2018 Oshawa

Friday night Leadership training

Pat Joyce, RD, organized it.

The strategic plan of N York was presented by Marian Goltz and Valerie Sterling.

The key players on an executive are the treasurer, president, past president, and vice-president.

Do a survey before the year starts on what your club is, what it does and why.

Do a SWAT exercise.

Haliburton Highlands spoke about models for leadership. It combined VP, President, and President roles. By dividing the roles it spreads the burden.

Orillia has a triumvirate that does the meetings.

Clubs can do community partnerships, said Carol West. It shares responsibilities, provides contacts, and possible new members. You can partner with a college or university, poverty or childcare groups, city councillors, the Y, other clubs. Form a coalition.

Etobicoke did data tracking with an Excel sheet, bought off the shelf. You can develop your own database. Use Wild Apricot for \$840.00 a year. Create your own categories with msaccess.

Myra Willis spoke about risk. We are surrounded by it on all sides. Be aware of the OC insurance policy. Get a certificate for outside meetings.

Be aware of the respectful treatment policy and ethics.

Follow policy when advocating.

Pat Joyce concluded by reminding members to disseminate the information from newsletters and websites to members.

In the evening there was a reception at the Oshawa Art Gallery where we were welcomed by the mayor and MPP.

Saturday AGM

A deficit budget was presented. I asked why since the president had assured us we were in good financial shape. I did not get a satisfactory answer.

I also objected to the financial statement which was preceded by a statement that the figures were not verifiable and asked that we have a properly audited statement.

I was told they would take it under advisement.

We were reminded that there will be a municipal election this year.

Many awards were handed out, including one for us.

There are openings for communications chair and legislation chair.

Imagen Coe then addressed us. She began by acknowledging the treaty, Dish with one Spoon, a promise to share and protect the land.

Her job at Ryerson is soapbox science: to promote the voices of women scientists. She talks to the public about their science, equity and fairness, accessibility and social justice. She wants to remove barriers so all can have access and achieve their full potential.

Scientists are human beings who lead diverse lives. Pick a supportive partner. Work as a team.

In 1927 Madame Curie was the only woman at the Selva conference in Paris on Physics. In 2009 the Quantum to Cosmos conference was all male.

The US cultural challenge is that an all male panel is not acceptable. Cast the widest net possible to include women and minorities. We need all perspectives, not just white male middle class.

Diversity improves quality, creativity, and innovation. Diverse teams have better results, more innovations.

How to achieve it? Human capital is two thirds of wealth and growth. It is the biggest driver of growth.

Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, put good policies in place. She experienced pushback.

It is a myth that girls do not do science. In high school it is 50-50.

Read the OECD-PISA report. It has good quantitative and qualitative data. The lived experience is awful for girls in science in university. They drop out in spite of huge potential aspirations. They are filtered out Tech has a bro/dude culture. We are not aware of it. There is subtle, sexist messaging.

1992 Gordon Freeman "Women who work outside the home contribute to the moral

degeneration of their child.”

There is the toxic masculinity of harassment of female fellow students.

During WW2 many women took part in coding. Female enrolment crashed in the 80s.

Ads for home computers targeted men exclusively. It is cultural because in Eastern Europe it is not so.

Stop telling us to lean in. The culture must change. There is also intersectionality. Women of colour experience more prejudice.

View the video by the UK Royal Society “Understanding Unconscious Bias.”

Google has a male default. Machines learn from databases.

Jordan Stephens wrote about toxic masculinity being everywhere, saying men need to fix it. We need to remove the Deloitte CEO. Comply or get fired!

We need to name and call out systemic barriers, demand better policies, demand accountability, build networks, set targets, and quotas. We need to call out legislators.

We need to communicate, celebrate community, and champions, making them role models.

We need to raise awareness in education, action, and outcomes.

Or as Myra Sadker stated, “If the cure for cancer resides in the mind of a girl, we might never find it.

Marianne Singh-Waraich