



**The Ontario
Herbalists
Association**

The Ontario Herbalists Association

P.O. Box 123 Station D, Etobicoke, Ontario M9A 4X2

www.herbalists.on.ca | office@herbalists.on.ca

Phone: 416.236.0090 | Toll free: 1.877.642.4372

OHA Volunteer Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2015

Time: 11am – 1 pm

Location: Lianna Vargas' house – 10 Allister Ave. (Scarborough) Toronto, ON

Attendees(7): Lianna Vargas, Michelle Quintal, Elena Pintilie, April Kinsella, Galina Loza, Hamid Mosavat, Fatou Seck.

Introductory talk (MQ):

- attendance
- update on Suzanne Croken, the Volunteer Co-coordinator
- background on volunteers and structure of OHA
- back 40's wish-list and volunteer to do —> 4 main projects had been selected as prime focus areas to get mobilized

Open questions regarding OHA or topics:

Attendee Question (HM): What are the actual benefits of membership?

Besides our listed benefits, we openly talked about value in the organization for

- advocacy – to promote our rights to natural medicines/healing methods
- environmental protection – raising public awareness and advocacy for conservation
- legitimacy & Protection – belonging to a body with standards of practice
- also when the journal project is online, it would be an invaluable resource to students, researchers and herbalists alike.

Main Meeting Topic – Major 4 Projects Overview

1) Insurance Benefits List (phone work, letter sending)

- long term project
- letter is done, list of companies compiled
- research around who clients of each insurance company are —> contact group of them to increase chance of the insurance company to cover
- ! (needs a script for volunteers to follow)!
- (a point was raised about this project potentially leading to increase likelihood of government regulation)
- Volunteer Group: GL, AK(previous expertise), MQ, SC

2) Member Benefits – asking companies for discounts to OHA members (offering space on website, newsletter, facebook)

- long term project
- letter is done, open to any companies → any services members may use
- ! (needs a survey for members, to find out which services should be targeted)!
- Volunteer Group: EP, MQ, (LV if needed)

3) Journal Articles (Not sure what it will look like, TBD)

- long term project
- initial focus on contacting authors:
 - getting author releases for the articles (preferably all)
 - asking if they have the article in word document
 - asking if they would like to make any edits or revisions
 - asking if they have any new articles they would like to submit
- More of the scope of project will be discussed once releases obtained
- Strategy needs to be established for contacting authors (or their legal representative)
- ! (group needs list of authors with article title(s) for volunteers to contact)!
- Volunteer Group: EP, LV, MQ, HM (IT expertise, once releases obtained)

4) E-book (Not sure what it will look like, TBD)

- mid-term project
- submitted information has been reviewed (LV), seems to be DIY bath & body products
- several questions regarding the scope and target of this project:
 - What is the original idea around the e-book?
 - Who are we trying to engage? (members, students, potential members, anyone?)
 - What is the scope of the book?
- Some potential subjects to cover (maybe in separate books):
 - Suppliers lists
 - Notes on ethical wildcrafting & protecting the environment
 - History of Herbal Medicine in Canada
 - 10 Herbs (can be 10 spices to cook with, 10 herbs for diabetes, etc.)
 - Growing herbs/gardening
 - Public awareness
- ! (clarification from the Board required regarding questions)!
- Volunteer Group: LV, MQ, FS

Additional Project Topics – Other, smaller projects from back 40s

- Someone to go through the whole website and provide
 - comments and feedback
 - questions to ask about the website
 - Volunteer: HM
- Someone to take on the task of PMC minutes
 - Volunteer: EP (willing to attend meetings, has own tape recorder)
 - EP is also a Volunteer with the Alumni Board of the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition, and would like to liaison organizations. !(Request for posting their event on Facebook)!