



OLOTA Meeting Highlights

May 6-8, 2022

OLOTA council met in person at Mount St. Francis in May 6-8, 2022. It was only the second time in since its election that council was able to see each other. Zoom was still an important medium as it allows three additional members to participate in the meeting.

The meeting commenced on Friday May 6 with a mini retreat. Council took turns to read “The Kingdom of God” that was prepared by Br. Michael.

A. Fraternity Matters.

- Due to COVID, many fraternal and pastoral visits and elections were postponed. Their schedules were reviewed and updated.
- Aging and decreasing membership at St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Saskatoon and St. Francis of Assisi in Prince George have not enabled them to form a council or to hold an election. OLOTA considered options to assist these small fraternities and put them together into a document, “Small fraternity Option.”
- Little Portion Fraternity in Victoria has not been able to form a council. It will receive a new deadline for setting up an election date. They have 2 candidates in formation.
- OLOTA council will directly oversee these small fraternities until they are able to elect new councils.
- There has been a lack of effective formation on Rule 21 and the associated OFS Constitution and the relationship of leaderships between the Local, Regional, National, and International.

- St. Clare (Korean) Emerging Fraternity is the daughter fraternity of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in Edmonton. A fraternal and pastoral visit needs to be planned before the final preparation of Canonical Establishment can proceed.
- The hybrid Zoom meeting has proven to be a useful tool of supporting local formation directors. Through Zoom, formators of the OLOTA region could meet with the local formation team and the inquirers and/or candidates. The most important components at this stage of formation remain to be attendance and personal connection with the fraternity. This tool is meant for exceptional circumstances and should be initiated by the local Fraternity Formation Director and Minister.
- OLOTA proposed future councils to consider forming an outreach group for older members.

B. Restructuring Proposal

Record of Decision

In 2020 National Restructuring Commission conducted a survey of all fraternities for input to its restructuring initiative. The input to two National surveys resulted in a document, summarizing the opinions of the fraternities on the pros and cons of dividing the OLOTA into two Regions or keeping OLOTA unchanged in boundary at this time.

In keeping with due process, a vote was called among the elected Regional Council members to formalize a Record of Decision on this matter. The majority votes confirmed that the current structure and boundaries of OLOTA should remain, that is, no restructuring at this time. National Office has been informed of Council’s voting result as part of their consultation with OLOTA.

C. Regional Chapter of Elections

Date and Venue

The date of the Chapter of Elections has been set for Sept 14- 18, 2022. The FCJ centre in Calgary is the venue.

Budget and registration fee

The OLOTA budget was presented, and a financial motion was passed whereby some of the savings incurred by OLOTA by not meeting in person over the past three years will be employed to reduce the registration fees of fraternity delegates attending the 2022 Regional Chapter of Elections in September.

Speaker

Brother Michael Perras will be the keynote speaker at the Chapter of elections.

Nominations

An outline of regional council positions for the 2022 election was tabled. The Nomination Committee will present the position outline with a nominations letter.

Resolutions

- Resolution proposal for 5 Vice-Ministers in the OLOTA region.
- Resolution proposal to change the position of Director of Communication to an appointed position.
- At this time council agreed not to submit a resolution for Youth and JPIC to change from an elected to an appointed position.
- Council will study the resolution idea of having two BC Coastal Vice-Minister to serve nine fraternities. The primary consideration should be based on compelling circumstances, benefits, and costs before proceeding with such a resolution proposal.
- Council will study if a resolution proposal is warranted to amend the current 50% +1 quorum

requirement for holding the Chapter of Elections. Eligible participants include the Minister and one additional delegate of each fraternity, plus all spiritual assistants and incumbent OLOTA councillors. This has caused great difficulties for OLOTA to meet the quorum in holding every Chapter of Election. Council will discuss the results of the study with National in the hope of finding a more realistic criterion.

D. The National Chapter of Elections

OLOTA received an invitation in Jan. 2022 from the National to attend the latter's Chapter of Elections in Quebec. The Regional Minister, two delegates and Spiritual Assistant are expected to attend the chapter. Council appointed the following council members as delegates at the National Elections Chapter: Ron Semenoff (to substitute for the Minister as the latter could not attend), Lynda Black and Isaac Reyes. Lanny Hui, Director of Communication, will be going as an observer (paid for by her own points).

E. Reports

Minister's report

Regional Minister, Linda Adams, thanked council for the past three years for their support and prayers. She felt enriched through the many interactions with local fraternities.

Treasurer's report

Isaac Reyes explained the budget for the Chapter of Elections.

BC Coastal Vice-Minister's report

Heather Thompson was excited about the upcoming retreat at the Abbey as COVID had disallowed retreats in the past 2 years. Even under the COVID regime, BC Coastal fraternities

were blessed to enable OFS professions. The VM’s report also noted some issues of confusion regarding the restructuring proposal of OLOTA.

BC Interior Vice-Minister’s report

Anna Maria O’Hagan reported that fraternity life had been carrying on, simply and joyfully, in the spirit of St Francis and St Clare. Some COVID difficulties had been overcome.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan Vice-Minister’s report

Brian Solypa was happy to have an elections chapter scheduled for June 19, 2022 for St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, which will be presided by Isaac Reyes.

AB North Vice-Minister’s report

Vice- Minister Fr. Don was unable to attend the meeting. Isaac had been designated to assist Fr. Don and he reported that fraternities had commenced to meet and resume their activities.

AB South Vice-Minister’s report

Ron Semenov advised that his health issues had enabled him to submit only an abbreviated report. Catherine McNiff, Director of Youth, is helping to set up the Chapter of Mats in Red Deer.

Director of Youth report

Catherine McNiff encouraged that the next Youth Director to promote the youth ministry fully with Facebook and Instagram. She suggested holding a novena to St. Carlo Acutis for the future of Franciscan youth.

Director of JPIC report

Lou von Burg added to her report that the Laudato Revolution was our Franciscan moment. She recommended the next Director of JPIC to focus on this movement.

Director of Communications Report

Lanny Hui has been teaching members to update and post on the OLOTA website. She is now looking for members in AB to learn those skills and make full use of the OLOTA website.

Director of Formation report

Lynda Black will continue facilitating the next OLOTA formators’ course in the fall.

She will bring the “Formation Resources Shop” to the Chapter of Elections in September.

Spiritual Assistant Report was tabled for information.

F. National Correspondence

In response to the letter from the OFS National Fraternity of Ukraine, - Secular Franciscan in Canada collected \$8,700. – in donation to help.

G. Extension of the 3-year mandate of the existing OLOTA council.

Council confirmed to stay as appointed members until the Chapter of Elections in Sept 2022. Some members will serve in a limited capacity.

H. Transition items to the next council

A transition list was prepared for the next council with unfinished and ongoing items to attend.
