

SECRETARY REPORT – 2017

As usual, another year with the RallySport Ontario Board of Directors was at times challenging but very interesting. Once again, being involved with a sport that I love, alongside a group of people who are also passionate about it in some form or another, was a great experience. At the 2016 AGM held in March 2017, Bruce Leonard was welcomed back into the President position, as well as Warren Haywood back as VP Performance. The Treasurer position was filled by a familiar face in that of David Maynard – a previous VP of Navigational rally.

Over the year there were 8 RSO conference call meetings, attended by the Board of Directors along with a number of Club Reps. Thank you to those reps that did attend & offer some valuable feedback throughout the meetings. As usual, the regular secretarial duties kept me just busy enough over the year with meeting prep, distributing minutes & organizing the AGM. All previous meeting minutes can be found on the RSO website www.rallysport.on.ca

One of the biggest motivators for me to be involved with the RSO BOD is to be in a position to help grow the sport of Rally in Ontario. We have met with some struggles along this front, but to me, one of the biggest obstacles that we come across is that not enough people know about rallying. Being a member of the BOD has given me access to the Growth Committee (although anyone who wants to get involved with it – can). The committee was formed a couple of years ago to work on ways to encourage new people into the sport, but also to make people aware of it. RSO had the opportunity in March 2017 to team up with the Tall Pines Committee to present a rally booth at the Motorama Show in Mississauga. 3 full days of chatting to folks about all aspects of Rallying in Ontario was very well received. The volunteers involved gave up a lot of hours over those 3 days to promote the sport & I feel we introduced all the rally disciplines to a large number of people. Thank you to all those involved, whether it was ideas, providing equipment, helping with set-up & tear-down, or standing around for those long days at the event – it was very much appreciated.

Rally Radio at the Lincoln Electric Rally of the Tall Pines was also something that, through RSO and the Growth Committee, I was able to be involved with. The format was altered slightly for 2017, and the production was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun to do. It received positive feedback from competitors and those tuning in & all in all, provided another form of media that allowed access to the sport whether at the event or at home.

On a personal front, 2017 was not a busy competitor year for me, although I did manage to hop over to the east coast with my own rally team to take part in the Ledwidge Lookoff Rally – what a fun weekend! I was also involved with the organizing team for 2017 LHFR as Safety Officer, worked on the provided notes for the Tall Pines & was a steward at a regional event this year. All of which - at the time - seem like endless tasks but, when all said & done, very rewarding.

The RSO Secretary position is up for election at this current AGM & I would really appreciate the opportunity to carry on working with the BOD, as I feel there's more we can do to improve and grow all aspects of the sport.

Thanks again to everyone involved – be it competitor or volunteer/organizer – it takes a lot of time & effort to keep our sport going & it's very much appreciated

Good luck to everyone in 2018

Kelly Mathew

RallySport Ontario Secretary