

Newsletter



August 2018

Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association

From the computer of:

Bev Salomons

A.C.O.P.A. President

president@acopa.ca

780 922 5869

ACOPA Liaison Officer

Sgt Martin Girard

RCMP K Division

www.acopa.ca

This newsletter will be dedicated to the upcoming ACOPA Workshop/AGM that will be hosted by the Sexsmith C.O.P. members the weekend of September 21 – 23.

ACOPA is looking for a C.O.P. group to host the 2019 Workshop. Groups have a lot of fun hosting the Workshop and it is a great way to showcase your community. If you have any questions, go to the ACOPA website and go to “contact us”. It would be great to be able to announce where the 2019 Workshop will be located while in Sexsmith.

ACOPA Board 2017-2018

President Bev Salomons president@acopa.ca

Vice Pres Garth Kohlsmith vicepresident@acopa.ca

Secretary Beth Endresen secretary@acopa.ca

Director 2 George Dowson director2@acopa.ca

Director 3 Joan Boekema director3@acopa.ca

Director 5 Ron Pettigrew director5@acopa.ca

Director 6 Greg Mathias director6@acopa.ca

Volunteers on the ACOPA Board

Webmaster Henry Salomons webmaster@acopa.ca

ID cards Leona Gardecki idcards@acopa.ca

Insurance Eugene Smereka insurance@acopa.ca

Casino Chair Leona Gardecki

Historian Paul Kenny

Perhaps you have attended an ACOPA Workshop, or perhaps this will be your first time. There are a number of things to tell you that will help your experience for the weekend.

The ACOPA Workshop is the yearly “get together” training weekend for all members in the Citizens On Patrol program as well as for all Liaison Officers.

This is an important weekend where you get to meet new or past friends, brush up on some training skills, try to win the bids at the Silent Auction, join in the Flag Ceremony, sit a lot, ask questions, pick up some promotional items, maybe get to a part of the province where you may not have been yet, attend the ACOPA AGM, vote for the incoming ACOPA Board, volunteer for one of the positions on the Board, eat food that someone else has prepared and more..

So, starting with the Silent Auction.

In order to assist the host group with a way to generate funds to help cover the cost of the weekend – rental of the facility, food, drinks, speaker honorariums, etc. a Silent Auction takes place from Friday registration time until the Saturday evening meal. There is no way that the registration fee of \$65 (if you registered before Aug 1) or even \$75 covers the costs of hosting this Workshop weekend. Each group is asked to provide one item for the Silent Auction to assist the host group. Bring cash, or a cheque to pay for your purchases. An ATM machine is located close by. Please pass along your Silent Auction donation to the host committee as you register.

Arriving in Sexsmith

Try to arrive in Sexsmith giving lots of time to get through the registration process. Just so you know, there will NOT be a meal offered for the Friday evening. Please have your evening meal before you register and then come prepared to enjoy the evening. There are three eating facilities in Sexsmith for you to choose from. Remember they are going to be busier than normal with the large group that will be attending.

Next – the Flag Ceremony

The Flag Ceremony takes place Friday evening at 19:00. Each group is asked to bring a flag that represents either their C.O.P. group or their community. Bring a flag pole as well. Flag stands will be provided. A piper will play as a member from each group marches into the hall with their flag. Please do not wear a ball cap for this ceremony. Once everyone is in place, the National Anthem will be played for everyone to join in with their voices. The flags will be left in the flag stands for the weekend.

After the Flag Ceremony

There will be a few words of welcome from dignitaries, both local and provincial. Once the ceremony part is completed, it will be time to showcase the ACOPA videos that will be ready to share. This has been a project that has been worked on in the past year and funded by casino dollars. A series of 5 videos are being produced, including: Public Awareness, RCMP training video, Best Practises, Community Involvement and iPatrol explainer animated video. As the evening wears on, there will be some refreshments and light snacks available. Time permitting and if it is not getting too late, there will be some round table discussion time to talk about the topic “How to Take Really Good Care of Your Liaison Officer”.

Saturday morning starts with breakfast

Bright and early on Saturday, breakfast will be starting at 7:30 and go until 8:45. You just need to show up as someone else will be doing the cooking!

Sessions start at 9:00. There will be 5 sessions throughout the day with the ACOPA AGM taking place from 13:00 to 14:30. During the AGM, there will be a motion made to change the ACOPA By Laws. The new By Laws will be sent to each group to review as well as each person in attendance will receive a copy of the proposed changes. Each C.O.P. group gets one vote, if the ACOPA membership fees are paid. Check that your group has paid the fees before going to the Workshop. Fees can also be paid before the AGM. If a group has provided volunteers to work the ACOPA Casino, then the membership fees are covered by casino funds.

ACOPA Election will be taking place during the AGM. This year, to be elected will be President, Treasurer and 4 Directors. It is very important that people step forward for the Board who will be committed to the position for a term of 2 years. It does not help the Board when an elected person steps down after a short time as it puts that work load onto other Board members.

ACOPA will be needing someone to volunteer to take over the very important position as Insurance Liaison for ACOPA. This is not an elected position. This position can be done at home by email or telephone. No travel is involved other than attending one or two in person meetings during the year.

ACOPA Training during the Workshop

Retired RCMP Officer Robert Gollan will be offering the first level of training on the Friday afternoon from 14:00 to 17:00. Robert will be offering the second level of training on the Sunday morning from 9:00 to 12:00. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both training sessions. Please bring along your ACOPA Reference Manual for these sessions. Manuals will be available for anyone who does not already have a manual.

What should you bring to the Workshop?

- Flag and pole
- Silent auction item
- Pins or pens from your town, or any other promotional item to share
- Wear your C.O.P. shirt, vest or jacket
- Any special brochures or cards that you hand out and would like to share
- Notebook

Plan for a busy, packed weekend and the opportunity to meet other C.O.P.'s from around the province. Use this opportunity to meet the ACOPA Board and talk to an many other people about how their C.O.P. group is working.

Liaison Officers are encouraged to attend

Please encourage your Liaison Officer to attend for the Workshop. There will be a special break away time for the Liaison Officers during the AGM where the Liaison Officers will meet with ACOPA's Liaison Officer Sgt Martin Girard to discuss the C.O.P. program.

Looking forward to meeting lots of people in Sexsmith!

