



# KNS – PRESIDENTS REPORT

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Gary Walsh

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KNS Board of Directors (Executive and Regional Reps), Dojo Instructors and Representatives, and Members:

## 2019 AGM

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April 14, 2019

Italian Canadian Cultural  
Association  
2629 Agricola St.  
Halifax, NS

1:00pm - 3:30pm

WELCOME Everyone: On behalf of the KNS Executive and Regional Directors, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2019 AGM - and to my final AGM as President of Karate Nova Scotia. As always, I would like to thank everyone for all of your help and dedication throughout this

amazing journey from 2012 until today – as we bring to a close my 3<sup>rd</sup> and final term in office.

I always like to begin by letting everyone know that Patrick Thompson is our provincial staff person with Sport NS. Patrick continues to help us secure funding, and to organize various operational meetings and events. In addition to this he has also been a member of our Funding Team, High Performance Committee, and PSO Coordinator with SNS. A special thank you from me to Patrick, for all of his help and support over the past number of years, in preparing for the 2018 Nationals here in Halifax.

Thanks once again to all of my “present and former” Executive Members and Regional Representatives, which make up the Board of Directors for KNS. Working each and every year as a Team, we have achieved some great successes, and have accomplished some very high-profile standards, over the past half decade - this could not have been possible without your help and ongoing support. (Board list is included in this document ...)

And a very special and personal Thank You to a great friend ... and fellow Amigo ... Victor Swinimer, who was always there to provide guidance and advice along the way, (along with Milton Bourque, of course, who was our third member of “The 3 Amigos”). I would always say: “Victor ... what’s happening?” - and his reply was always “This is exactly what’s happening ... !!” and that’s how I was always kept in the know regarding some of the interesting things going on in various areas of the province.



Over the past year, Pat and I, as well as specific Executive members, met with Sport NS and the Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic - to discuss and go over: funding regarding our new Sport Development Grant, the use of Sport Science Resources - available to KNS through SNS, available funding support for athletes, coaches, and officials - as well as the involvement of KNS with the RCM (Responsible Coaching Movement) and Safe Sport Programs, which are now coming into play nationwide in all sport programs. We followed up with various KNS members with specific details that were required for each incentive – and then reported to the Board as a whole. Thanks to those who provided us with the additional time and information.

### With regards to Major Tournaments and Events:

Once again, a very special thanks to our Provincial Coaching Staff for both Kumite and Kata. Our many awards and successes each and every year are a direct reflection of your dedication and expertise.

Karate Nova Scotia Officials' always represent our Province well at local, National and International Competitions - A Thank You to all KNS Officials for all that you do here at home - and abroad.

Special Thank You's go out to our Support Staff and minor officials for hosting the very Best events in Atlantic Canada ... and now the country ... following our Halifax Nationals. From Scoring and Technical Tasks, to Safety and First Aid, as well as Fundraising and Supervision - we would not be where we are today - had it not been for you. Thanks to you all – on behalf of the entire Board and KNS membership.

Regarding the recent National Championships here at home in Halifax - Congratulation to all of Team Nova Scotia which includes Athletes, Coaches, Officials, Mentors, Parents, Volunteers, NCCP Instructors and Participants, and all others that made this Nationals a huge success.

The 2018 National Championships had been a 5-year process - by first successfully soliciting support from my fellow KC Board Members, and fellow Provincial Presidents nationwide, and many divisions within the Government and Province of Nova Scotia.

Our efforts have resulted in the special recognition that Karate Canada has paid to Karate NS - for hosting the largest and most successful Karate Canada Nationals to date. We made history by breaking records in several areas, in addition to realizing an overall profit of over \$40,000 – Half of which comes directly to Karate NS (\$20,245) as a just reward for what was accomplished.

For those who are not aware - I was also notified by the Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic that our National Championship was the largest event ever hosted at the beautiful Halifax Canada Games Centre.



Thank you to everyone involved - for your help in hosting both the 2014 and the 2018 Atlantic Karate Championships right here in Halifax. For us at KNS - the excitement never ends. So I say Thank You All So Very Much – It has certainly been a pleasure .... as we continue to raise the bar in all areas and events.

As far as my role as President of KNS - let me begin by once again saying thank you to everyone for your ongoing help, interest, and support.

As I had mentioned over the years, at a number of AGM's and meetings, I realize that I hold a position that isn't really in great demand, but for what it's worth ... I have really loved doing it. So I am therefore proud and grateful, for the opportunity to have completed my mandate, and follow it through to fruition.

I was hoping that I would be able to work with someone over the past year or two - who would be interested in moving into the position of President. However, I have not had any inquiries or interest shown until very recently. I therefore recommend, in the years to come, that KNS develop a plan of action, policy, and program - that invites and orients members into the various Executive and Representative roles, in order to provide for a smooth and productive transition.

*\*\* Here is my quote from last year's AGM:*

*Once my term as President comes to a close, I will completely step aside from the Executive of Karate NS, in all areas. This is why it is important for us to find someone genuinely interested in stepping into the position of President, so that the transition is well planned and productive \*\**

As I had also mentioned at last year's AGM - It will be important to maintain the information, files, folders, and contacts that have led to many of our funding opportunities, the numerous friends in sport government- and industry, and our great working relationships with CSCA, Sport NS, and Communities, Culture, and Heritage. Since all of this correspondence is in digital form, many already have the details, because they had been copied in the various messages and e-mails. One of the roles of the Executive members will be to continue to inform the membership of the many opportunities available through SNS and KNS - in order maintain a long lasting relationship with so many important individuals and organizations.

As was discussed at recent meetings, one of the other major areas to focus on over the upcoming seasons is that of Governance. So far the focus has been placed on preparing the draft documents for the Governance items and policies suggested to us by SNS, CSCA, and KC. I have begun preparing and editing these drafts, and have since submitted them to the Committee, as I completed each one. From here, the committee can finalize each of these policies before the Board approves them and puts them into place. To help with the process, I requested and received all of the Governance documents from Karate Canada - so that they are our Template – from where we begin to rewrite any specific items that will make our policies directly relevant to KNS – and at the same time maintain perfect alignment with our NSO ... Karate Canada.



The same is true for Strategic Planning - which should be followed up as the next initiative following Governance. KC is presently revisiting this portfolio, which should be completed just in time for KNS to adopt the new strategies and format. As a result, I prepared - and received approval from our Board - a tentative Strategic Plan that will hold us over for the foreseeable future, as we focus most of our energies on finalizing the Governance Policies and Documents.

By following these two KC policies - it will ensure that our PSO (Karate NS) is directly aligned with our NSO (Karate Canada). I have also discussed this with KC's legal counsel, who has agreed to help us with the process - as it develops here at home with the local committees.

In addition, during my time as President - I have provided advice and templates to those wishing to seek funding for Professional Development and also various Material and Equipment purchases. Even though it is very in-depth and time consuming – it is worth every second of dedication in order to help the various clubs and individuals throughout the province.

So ... if you need information, details, or assistance, in initiating and/or completing these requests – Call me ... I'll be glad to help!! (By the way ... this was not part of my position as President. I took over this role because I was very familiar with the process from my background with Soccer NS and Wrestling NS, so I proceeded to put things in place for the Dojos and Members of KNS as well. The opportunity was always there – it just had not been tapped into as a resource for the entire membership)

Therefore, after my term as President comes to an end, my future will consist of focusing on Family Life, my Home Dojo, as well as working with ICKF-NS and Canada.

In addition to this:

I will stay active as an MCD (Master Coach Developer) in the areas of Facilitation, Observation, and Certification of coaches in NCCP. I truly enjoy doing this - and I will continue to work in this program for Karate Canada and Atlantic Canada for many years to come. I started in the NCCP program in 1977 and have been an active Course Conductor, Facilitator, Evaluator, and now MCD – every year since.

I will also remain on the Board of Directors for Karate Canada, and work with the National KC NCCP Committee on provincial and national issues. Other than that, my role on the Executive will come to an end. I have fulfilled my mandate, and after successfully securing PSO funding and numerous contacts, programs, and resources - I feel extremely fortunate to have closed out my term with the hosting of the 2018 National Championships in Halifax. I can proudly step aside from the Executive of KNS - knowing what has been accomplished over the past 3 full terms.

One very important upcoming event I would like to mention is the Annual National Karate Canada Summit. This has been held in Toronto ever since 2013. As a member of the Karate Canada Board, I requested that ... with the hopes of having the Summit move to various locations in the years ahead,



I would like to host one in Halifax in the not too distant future. As a follow up, I was told that I will indeed be able to host The National Summit in Halifax within the next few years. This will bring another major

Karate Canada event to Halifax that very few Atlantic Canadians have ever been able to attend. What a Great Opportunity – I will keep everyone updated on this - as I receive details from Karate Canada.

So ... to our new President, I am sure you realize what we have, and how special and important it is. To the members ... in a matter of minutes, I will be honoured to sit with all of you - in an even more important seat - as part of the KNS Membership!!

One final time, I will repeat the request that I continue to announce whenever possible ... “Anyone can help with our Association” – and you don’t have to be on the Board, or even practice Karate. If you have a Specialty that you would like to share with us, or work at, please let us know that you are interested in helping us. Whether it is at the tables at tournaments, registration, organizational skills, finances, first aid, technical expertise regarding administration and management - there is a place for everyone at KNS.

For my final closing remarks - To my many Friends and Volunteers, from all areas of KNS, I Thank You All Very Much. I thank you especially for the time and energy that you continue to provide to our Organization and its Members - yesterday, today ... and in the future.

In the pages below – please recognize the KNS Board and Regional Reps, in addition to the various “Incentives and Programs” that have taken place over the past 7 years.

Thanks everyone - for helping to make KNS the place to be - for both Karate and Sport in Nova Scotia!

**Yours in Karate**

**Gary Walsh**

**President - Karate Nova Scotia**

**Director-Karate Canada Board**

