

**Edmonton Latvian Society**

## ***Imanta***

**Edmontonas Latviešu Biedrība**



May 2011

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 6th. A Special General Meeting was held on April 10th to present the budget. The members of your executive for 2011-12 are Aija Galeviuss (membership), Anita Clark, Jim McDonald (casino coordinator), Liesma Mithrush (treasurer), Martin Osis, Linda Payne (secretary), Helen Richards, Edgars Rudzitis (vice-president), Ena Rudovics (president), and Ruta Vitins (auditor). We thank Inta London and Juris Kononovs for their contributions to the executive over the years and look forward to working with them in other capacities.

We always appreciate the help of all our volunteers. We also appreciate feedback, both positive and negative. The executive needs feedback to know if what we're doing is what our members want. Please contact one of us if you have suggestions or other comments.

Our most recent casino was held at the Palace Casino at WEM on April 26 & 27 with very little advance notice from our advisors. Many thanks to Jim for organising the volunteers and working a quadruple-shift marathon to make the casino possible. A joint Lithuanian and Latvian volunteer appreciation evening was held on May 13th at the Lithuanian Hall.

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IMANTA is hosting our second annual family picnic on Sunday, May 29th, from 1-4:30 pm at Laurier Heights Community Hall at 14405—85 Avenue. We will supply burgers, wieners, buns, fruit, veggies and beverages. Please bring children, lawn chairs, balls and kites, as well as anything else you would like to drink. We will have use of the hall. There is also a park with play area and spray deck—if the weather is hot, bring a towel to dry off after playing in the water. It would be great to see everyone - come out to visit and eat!

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Baltic Studies Summer Institute offers courses in intensive Latvian [www.creeca.wisc.edu/balssi](http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/balssi)

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There is a scholarship available for anyone of Latvian heritage studying at NAIT ([www.nait.ca](http://www.nait.ca)). Search for it by entering “Imanta”. The online information at time of this writing had not been updated but deadline for application is August 30, 2011.



## Donation Committee Report (Ed, Helen, Liesma)

One of *Imanta's* most important functions is the distribution of casino funds to a large number of beneficiaries in accordance with its business plan and *Alberta Gaming and Liquor Control (AGLC)* rules. The following is a summary of guidelines and recommendations that have been made by *Imanta's* donations committee:

- In order to maintain our status with *AGLC* and to continue to qualify as a casino beneficiary, we must maintain a certain level of membership in our society. Over the years our level of membership has steadily declined. We encourage all people of Latvian heritage in Edmonton, the Province of Alberta and elsewhere to become a member of *Imanta*. Moving forward, we will require that individuals using their Latvian connection to request donations be members of *Imanta*. We receive numerous requests from groups representing 'society at large' and will consider those separately.
- We are receiving an increasing number of donation requests and this is becoming a competitive process. We recommend that applicants broaden the scope of their donation requests, including: a description and background information of the organization; information about how the funds are to be used, a summary of the project budget and other efforts by the organization to raise funds; how the organization will benefit from the donation. It is always welcome when organizations report back as to the success of the project or initiative.
- A request approved in a prior year does not guarantee a subsequent approval.
- Donations should benefit as large and diverse a group of people as possible.
- Donation requests are considered semi-annually by May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

We appreciate those individuals who volunteer to operate our casinos and encourage more people to help out at casinos and our other events – *Family Day Picnic, Ligo Celebration, 18th of November* and other events. To volunteer just call or e-mail anyone at *Imanta* .

At its last meeting, the executive voted to make donations to the following organisations:

- The Edmonton Humane Society
- Capital City Gym Club
- Edmonton Pathfinders
- Coralwood Adventist Academy
- Sing for Life
- Solar Energy of Alberta
- Edmonton Organic Growers Guild
- Freewill Shakespeare Festival
- Jamie Platz YMCA

Some of the above organisations are always looking for volunteers. The Shakespeare Festival offers a great chance to be outdoors in Hawrelak Park and enjoy live theatre. Volunteers will receive free tickets, a t-shirt and other goodies. Information at [www.rivercityshakespeare.com](http://www.rivercityshakespeare.com)

The Edmonton Organic Growers welcomes volunteers to work in their gardens. This allows you to take home fresh, organic vegetables. For more information and to join the group as a volunteer, go to [www.eogg.org](http://www.eogg.org)

Our Līgo celebration will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at Lake Isle. Detailed information will be in the next newsletter

Our condolences to the family and friends of Leona (Lonija) Jones of Lake Isle and Edvins Ceplits of Edmonton who passed away in April. Lonija was the matriarch of a large family related to the first Latvian settlers in Lake Isle/Edmonton area over 100 years ago. Edvins was an active supporter of many events in our community over the years and even attended both general meetings in March and April this year.

