

## POWWR President's Report – February 2024

Over the past 12 months, POWWR has continued to grow in our community through the contributions of a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers.

POWWR membership has increased as well as the number of POWWR sessions. The POWWR Coaching Certification Program has developed additional coaches, and volunteer onsite administrators stepped forward enabling POWWR to offer a greater variety of pickleball programs.

The community outreach activities raised funds for the Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region and the Ukrainian Committee. POWWR provided class sets of paddles to three local high schools. Our POWWR members sorted food at the Food Bank of Waterloo Region to provide 7,817 meals to members of our community.

Here are some highlights from 2023:

### January and February

- offered several 8-week Drill and Play sessions at the KW Badminton Club.
- continued to offer lessons to POWWR members.
- held AGM and welcomed a new board members Janet Shivas and Tom Chow, and thanked Rob Hickman for his years of service on the POWWR Board of Directors.
- donated paddles to Monsignor Doyle CSS.
- POWWR continued to leverage its website [powwr.ca](http://powwr.ca) to share information with the pickleball community.
- Coaching candidates progressed in the Coaching Certification Program.

### March

- held a corporate event with Trillium West.
- Governance Committee leveraged the City of Kitchener Sports Operating Manual to develop POWWR policies.
- Janet Shivas completed the POWWR coaching program.
- offered inaugural 8-week Women's Only Play session.
- offered inaugural 8-week Saturday Open Play session.
- added a registration process for junior members under the age of 18.
- developed POWWR Member Code of Conduct and posted it on the website.
- held initial meeting with Kitchener Rotary Club representatives about hosting a fundraising tournament for Ukrainian Youth.
- secured St Louis Catholic Church gym to offer additional POWWR programs.

## April

- Rob Klassen completed the POWWR coaching program.
- held three player clinics at North Dumfries Community Centre.
- built out POWWR committees (Finance, Governance, Coaching, Membership, Events, Volunteer, Referee, Nominations, Community Engagement).
- met with the Kitchener Rotary club to organize a fundraising event in the fall for the Ukrainian Youth.
- started three new 8-week pickleball programs at the St Louis gym: Youth program, Intermediate Drill & Play, Women's Open Play.
- supplied first aid kit for St Louis gym.
- Youth coaches completed a vulnerable sector check through the Waterloo Regional Police Service.
- created the POWWR Spirit Award to recognize a POWWR member in memory of former Board Director Garry Dagenais.
- created the POWWR Coaching calendar to manage lesson schedules.
- updated the POWWR Strategic Plan.
- added the collection of medical emergency contact for all POWWR program participants.
- held a player skills clinic at RIM Park in Waterloo.

## May

- Met with City of Cambridge representatives about outdoor pickleball facilities.
- held a Crazy 8's team tournament and raised \$2,000 (in items and monetary donations) for the Waterloo Region Women's Crises Center.
- the POWWR Spirit Award was awarded to Murray (Murf) Johnston.
- John Dobos and Tom Chow completed POWWR coaching program.
- held two player clinics at Shantz Mennonite Church in Baden.

## June

- organized and ran the District 26 Ontario Senior Games Pickleball tournament.
- continued to meet with Kitchener Rotary Club regarding the fundraising event in the fall for Ukrainian Youth.
- Anne Evans completed the POWWR coaching program.
- Meridian Bank donated \$500 to support the youth program – purchased paddles and protective eyewear with the funds.
- Two POWWR referees, Kevin Manley and Cindy Biederman were Level 2 certified.
- Four new policies were approved by the Board: Volunteer Agreement, Financial Policy, Privacy Policy and Confidentiality Policy.
- The Privacy Policy was posted on the web site, and the membership registration process was updated to reflect the Privacy and Confidentiality Policies.

- POWWR Volunteers completed the Volunteer Agreement.

#### July and August

- continued to meet with Kitchener Rotary Club and the Ukrainian Committee to plan the fall fundraising event.
- proposal to financially support the certification of all volunteers in St John's First Aid and CPR was approved by the Board.
- donated pickleball paddles and balls to Monsignor Doyle CSS, Huron Heights SS, and Waterloo Collegiate Institute. With this donation each school has received a full class set from POWWR.
- Spectrum Diversity training offered free to the POWWR Board, and the Board unanimously voted to attend the training.
- Board agrees to subsidize Ukrainian youth in the upcoming youth program.

#### September

- developed a Sponsorship Program with 3 tiers – Gold, Silver, Bronze.
- equipped coaches with paddles, balls, and whiteboards.
- after a long tenure with POWWR, Mike Ellis resigned from the Board and his position as Treasurer. The Board thanked Mike for his contributions which began in 2016.
- Vivian Ferguson was voted in as a new Director and as POWWR's Treasurer.
- contacted the City of Kitchener and the City of Waterloo about POWWR becoming an affiliated club.

#### October

- developed a new online program registration process.
- offered nine 8-week programs, including Drill & Play sessions (open, intermediate and advanced levels), Youth Program, Women's Open Play, and the inaugural Saturday Ladder Play.
- organized coaches and volunteer administrators to deliver these programs at two facilities.
- held Coach's Clinics to develop new POWWR Coaches.
- 18 POWWR volunteers participated in a Food Sorting Blitz at the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.
- ran two tournaments for the Kitchener Rotary Club to raise funds for the Ukrainian Committee. Over \$3,400 was raised.

#### November

- ran a player clinic for the East Toronto Pickleball Association in Scarborough.
- held two player clinics at Shantz Mennonite Church in Baden.
- continued to run the nine 8-week programs.

- met with Troy Dettwiler to organize a Pride tournament and player clinics in 2024 as a fundraiser for Spectrum of Waterloo Region.
- the Referee Committee held a free rules session for POWWR members.
- POWWR members donated over \$500 to the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

#### December

- presented a cheque to the Ukrainian Committee with the proceeds from the October fundraising tournament.
- developed a membership renewal process and initiated the renewal campaign.
- 22 POWWR volunteers completed the St John's First Aid and CPR course.
- 23 POWWR volunteers participating in a Food Sorting Blitz at the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.
- held a Volunteer Appreciation event for all POWWR volunteers.
- renewed the Commercial Insurance Policy.
- planned the 2024 spring programs.

As an organization, POWWR is growing to provide a broader series of programs and community events. As more on-court sessions are offered, more complementary back-office processes are being developed. POWWR is developing partnerships with the City of Kitchener and Black Knight that will benefit the pickleball community.

As a not-for-profit organization, none of this would be possible without the tremendous support of our volunteers, including the POWWR Board of Directors, POWWR Coaches, and Program Administrators. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers.

Fiona MacGregor  
POWWR President