

# Draft - November 30, 2020 AGM

## Meeting Minutes

**Attending Board:** Nikki Berreth, Jay Whetter, Michael Robin, Rhonda Moore, Carolyn Fell, Ki-Youn Kim, Terry Lavender, Marg Sheridan, Michelle Riedlinger, Natasha Waxman, Sunita LeGallou

**Regrets:** Richard Zurawski, Patchen Barss

**Attending Members:** Members: Stephen Strauss, Tim Lougheed, William Randolph, Burke Cullen, Carolyn Brown, Christel, Cristina Sanza, David Morton Rintoul, Fritha Munday, Gillian Clinton, Louise Gagnon, Nathalie Ouellette, Ian Black, Jeffrey F. Dunn, Kate Einarson, Nick Butt, Paul Sokoloff, Shirene Singh, Teresa Murphy, Veronique Morin.

**Meeting Start:** 7:35 pm EST

### AGM Agenda

Minutes of Last Meeting ([2019 AGM Minutes](#)) - Terry

- Correction: Eva Everything (currently Evan Everything)
- Rhonda moves to accept the 2019 minutes. Natasha seconds. Passed.

### Presidential Update

- It's been an eventful year. Due of COVID, our annual conference was moved online. Thank you to Rhonda Moore and her team for the excellent job on the virtual conference.
- A Special General Meeting was held in August to approve the updated constitution and bylaws and the official changing of our name. As of last week, we are OFFICIALLY the Science Writers and Communicators of Canada and our ByLaws have been accepted and added to the Incorporations Canada directory.
- This year we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With a committee led by Ki-Youn Kim.
- Now for some heart-felt thank yous.
  - First – thank you, Nikki, thank you for your hard work and efficiency. You've worked tirelessly to keep this organization running smoothly during a very bumpy year.

- Thank you, fellow board members, for your support and your dedication. You're an amazing group of individuals and I've been proud to work with you.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who serve on our various committees.
- Thank you to our sponsors, who have faith in us and our goals.
- And finally, thank you to all our members for your patience and understanding over the past year.

#### Financial Statements ([Last Year - 2019 to 2020 Financials](#)) - Jay

- Please review the Annual Financial Reports ([attached](#))
- Expanded the budgets to include some pieces that the previous budgets were missing, yet we pay for these things - see the difference between the 2019-20 budget vs actual amounts.
- Looking at the 2020-21 Draft Budget - planning for 50th Anniversary, Pro-D honorariums and HST are new (possibly temporary) additions for the next year.
- We have some respectable savings to help us through the upcoming years. We are sitting quite well as you can see
- Questions
  - What is the \$10,000 for the conference? We cancelled this conference and reached out to the sponsors to see if they would either defer their payments to the next conference or give it as a donation
  - Note: "Other" is an odd addition on the financial report - the \$786 is a payment to Winnipeg Transit for the conference that failed as an e-transfer and was deposited back into the account.

#### Confirm election of Board Members - Tim

- In capacity as the past-past-president, I get to take part in the recruitment and recognition of new Directors to the Board.
- Continuing Directors: Terry Lavender (President), Marg Sheridan, Jay Whetter (Treasurer), Richard Zurawski, Patchen Barss, Michael Robin, Rhonda Moore
- Vacating Directors: Carolyn, Fell, Michelle Riedlinger, Natasha Waxman
- Newly Elected Directors: Ki-Youn Kim, Sunita LeGallou, Beth Gallagher, Shirene Singh, Cristina Sanza
- Thank you to Nominations Committee: Michelle Riedlinger, Stephen Strauss
- Rhonda moves to accept the new Directors onto the Board, Natasha seconds. Passed.

#### Nomination Committee for next year:

- Terry will Chair the Nominations Committee next year.

- Looking for people to join the committee - please let us know if you would like to participate.

#### Conference Updates - Rhonda

- Please see the conference update ([attached.](#))
- We were not planning to run a virtual conference when we decided to cancel the in-person conference. But members challenged us to give it a go and offer some Pro-D opportunities
- We learned a lot - we can do it and do it again in 2021 (it will be virtual). We interviewed after every session via survey to members.
  - People loved that sessions were stretched out over a few weeks.
  - Internally to the team, we introduced a lot of processes
  - Thank you to Sean, Paul, Marg and \_\_\_\_\_
- Accepting ideas and topics for the 2021 conferences.
- Next Pro-D activity Wednesday, Dec 2 with Nicolas
- Questions: None at this time. Everyone is grateful for Rhonda's leadership and the committees dedication to

#### Committee Updates - Committee Chairs

- Membership (Michael Robin)
  - Took over the blogger mentorship program at the beginning of this year - starting with one editor and 10 writers. Now have 4 editors/mentors and can look to grow the program
  - Hoping to build the program and hand it off to its own committee
  - Looking for members for the committee this past summer and now have a full team. Now looking to add value for our members in their membership and building some programming to reach them.
  - Will be sharing new ideas to engage members into the future.
- Book Awards (Sunita LeGallou)
  - We have a new group of volunteers taking over the committee.
  - A lot of interest from members to join our new Book Awards judging panel - looking for teams for the youth awards.
  - Looking to increase the value for publishers, such as stickers and honorable mentions.
  - 2021 Book Awards are officially open - winners will be announced in Summer 2021
  - Looking to add an admissions fee and new award category for the 2021 year.
- 50th Anniversary (Ki-Youn Kim)
  - Incredible team leading some yearbook development, coffee klatches,

- For 2021 we have a plan to bring in five influential individuals to speak.
- Logo design for 2021
- People's Choice Awards (Michelle Riedlinger)
  - Wrapping up the People's Choice Awards
  - 40 nominations and 6 finalists
  - We asked finalists to make their short videos
  - Winner - Let's Talk Science - 2nd time they have won the award
  - Working with a blogger from Michael's mentorship team
  - Amazing committee - Karina Akopian, Alexandra Gelle, Joanne Pearce
  - Hope that this award will continue forward as Eva Everything ignited this project. If anyone wants to take this on
- Digital Media (Marg Sheridan)
  - Thank you to Michelle and her team for keeping things going
  - Waiting final approval for Communications plan - looking over the Draft and approving it is the final step.

Other Business: None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:14 pm EST