

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
Sign Language Interpreters Association of New Zealand (SLIANZ)
held at Alexandra Park Event Centre, Ellerslie, Auckland
on Saturday 7th July 2018**

Facilitated by Louise Hackshaw
The meeting started at 11:44 am.

Apologies (11): Alisha Davidson, Ramari Dewes, Ginette Harborne, Robyne Hazeldine, Fiona Love, Zana Paraha, Thornton Peck, Philippa Shatford, Rachel Tate, Dale Thomas, Alan Wendt.

Attending members (37): Donna Bailey, James Bichan, Kaye Bird, Roseanne Butler-Stoney, Nicola Casey, Julie Coxhead, Felicity Crowe, Bernadette Cutelli, Natasha Cutelli, Geraldine (Geri) Durville, Julia Freeman, Jenn Gilbert, Rebekah Guy, Louise Hackshaw, Beryl (Harri) Harrison, Rosie Henley, Kelly Hodgins, Kristina Iuli, Deborah Lynch, George Major, Megan Mansfield, Rachel McKee, Angela Murray, Kimberley Olivecrona, Evelyn Pateman, Adrienne Patterson, Margaret Picard, Shizue Sameshima, Bridgette Strid, Melissa Sutton, Andrew Townshend, Mireille (Micky) Vale, Wenda Walton, Julie Whitcombe, Jodine Williams, Sue Williams, Noreen Wilson

Observers: Mark Crooke, Thora Huebner, Ursula Thynne

Quorum achieved.

Louise opened the meeting by welcoming members and observers. The voting procedure was discussed, including a reminder that corporate members no longer have a vote.

1. Minutes of the previous AGM (29th July 2017)

Two corrections were suggested.

- Page 3 - discussion of remit 4. Clarify the sentence “We don’t always do it but it’s good if we have the info”. This was in relation to the removal of clause 3.9 “To establish guidelines and recommendations relating to the training and employment of sign language interpreters.” The minutes should be corrected to make it clear that SLIANZ don’t currently establish guidelines and recommendations, but that we may do so in future. The vote was for clause 3.9 to remain in place.

- Add the constitution's clause numbers to each remit in the minutes.

Proposed that the minutes are accepted with the above corrections:

Proposed - Evelyn Pateman

Seconded - Rebeccah Curtis

Passed by majority

Against - 0

Abstain - 3

Matters arising from the minutes:

- Voting on remit 12 (clause 18 in the Constitution) was to only remove 18.1. A member raised that 18.2 was accidentally removed as well. Action: Louise Hackshaw to update the Constitution to reinstate clause 18.2.
- Remit 14 was regarding clause 22 in the Constitution, which states that the Association shall adopt a Common Seal. This remit was withdrawn at the 2017 AGM and Rebeccah Curtis was going to follow up on the whereabouts of the Common Seal, if it still existed (minutes item 13, page 3). An update on this item was requested. The existing Seal was not found, but a new Seal can be made once the new SLIANZ logo and Te Reo Māori name of the organisation are confirmed.
- Remit 7 (minutes point 16 page 3) was regarding removing the vote from associate corporate members. The reason noted in the remit was that " It has been brought to the SLIANZ committee's attention that giving influence over the governance of SLIANZ to outside corporate interests may not be in the best interests of SLIANZ and/or the interpreting profession." It was suggested to remove the wording regarding 'undue influence' and to clarify that as associate members, corporate members should not previously have been allowed to vote in any case.
- There was a request for information regarding the cost associated with the new logo. The only cost will be the new Common Seal which is less than \$100.

Move that the discussion is closed: Evelyn Pateman

Seconded Melissa-Sue Sutton

2. Office holders reports

2.1 President's report

Louise Hackshaw moves that the report is accepted as read.
Seconded Felicity Crowe
Accepted.

2.2 Treasurer's report

Louise Hackshaw moves that the report is accepted as read.
Seconded Sue Williams.

Melissa-Sue Sutton wants to express her thanks to the committee for all the work that has been put in.

Felicity Crowe wants to add that she was impressed with the balance. Louise responded that although there were still some items to be paid, our financial position was healthy.

2.3 Website project report

Kimberley Olivecrona tabled the report.

There was a question about whether members would be able to submit PD points online on the new website (in the same way as was possible on the old website), and what would happen to submissions already made via the old website.

Kimberley explained that current PD points are being kept, and that the new website will have an easier submission form (a tick list and the possibility to upload evidence of attendance). It will also be easier for the committee to collate members' submissions.

Flow charts with step by step help on how to use the website will be sent out.

2.4 E pamphlet project report

Noreen Wilson tabled the report and showed the four videos that had been created to form an 'e-pamphlet' with guidelines for platform interpreting.

The committee and members would like to say a huge thanks to Noreen for the work she has done.

Noreen explained that the content of the videos was created with help from a focus group, including the Slianz committee, Rachel McKee, Rachel Tate, Kelly Hodgins, Wenda Walton, Kim Robinson, James Pole, Rachel Noble, Catherine Greenwood and

Victoria Lessing. The 'insights' video was scripted by Louise Hackshaw and Noreen Wilson, using research by Rachel McKee to support the insights.

2.5 WASLI report

Angela Murray prepared the report which was sent out prior to the AGM.

Acknowledgment was made of the people who were involved in organising the forthcoming first WASLI Oceania conference in Fiji in August: SLIANZ, Rachel McKee (Programme Co-ordinator), Gael Seru and Krishneer Sen (Fiji), Susan Emerson (WASLI Treasurer) and others. It was hoped that many SLIANZ members would attend the conference.

2.6 Tuakana Teina Report

Rose Butler-Stoney tabled the report.

The SLIANZ committee acknowledged that there are many people who support the work of SLIANZ in the background. Rose was thanked for her extensive work on the Tuakana Teina programme.

A question was asked about how many years of experience an interpreter needs to have before becoming a tuakana. Rose replied that teina leaving the programme after 2 years can become tuakana if they want. There are other criteria as well (including working a certain number of hours each week). Rose can be contacted if anyone has any further questions.

Rose explained that there were plans for expanding the tuakana teina programme to the wider membership. Rachel McKee noted that not all mentoring fits into the same model, and that the Tuakana Teina model should not be the only model under consideration. This was acknowledged and peer mentoring should also be considered. There is a need to expand so that more experienced interpreters are still able to find support.

Closing the reports

Moved Evelyn Pateman

Seconded Julie Whitcombe

3. Remits

3.1 Remit 1

This remit was submitted by Felicity Crowe and proposes:

- a) removing clause 11.10 which authorises the committee to “determine the level of subscription payable by members”
- b) reinstating clause 18.1 with the following wording:

18.1 A membership fee shall be paid annually, the cost of which will be decided at the AGM or an SGM by a majority decision of the members voting pursuant to section 9.

Reasoning: Last year at the 2017 AGM former Clause 18.1 was removed on the basis that subscriptions would be fixed by Committee decision under Clause 11.10. This remit proposes to reverse the 2017 decision. It is to reinsert Clause 18.1 in preference to retaining 11.10. The level of the subscription should be fixed by democratic process and if the subscriptions are not discussed and voted on at the AGM it is possible for the Committee to make a decision that is at odds with the wishes of the membership. Following the change last year, the Committee originally fixed subscriptions 50% higher than the year before. As a result of considerable opposition and concern from members the decision was changed to adopt a smaller increase but the process is a valuable lesson that a subject as sensitive as subscription fees should be set by the general membership.

A question was asked about timing since membership fees are due in April and the AGM does not take place until July. Clarification was given that the cost decided at the AGM would take effect in April the following year.

Votes: Passed by majority

Against: 1

Abstain: 1

3.2 Remit 2

This remit was proposed by Adrienne Paterson.

At the 2017 AGM, a remit was passed to change the wording of clause 3.1 “To **form** a representative body of professional sign language interpreters...” to “to **be** a representative body..”

The current remit proposes to reinstate the original wording:

“3.1 To form a representative body of professional sign language interpreters in New Zealand, which can advise, lobby or consult with other bodies concerning matters pertaining to sign language interpreting.”

Reasoning: The “representative body” is actually referring to the COMMITTEE and not the full SLIANZ membership; the committee is FORMED anew by the election process at every AGM; Ordinary members are NOT the “representative body” and do not generally “advise, lobby or consult” but the Committee does

There was discussion around this reasoning and whether ‘representative body’ refers to the committee or the membership. The point was made that the original wording ‘forms’ is also similar to other constitutions.

A question was asked whether there was a cost involved in changing the Constitution. There is no cost, but changes can only be made if voted on at the AGM. Noreen Wilson proposed that the discussion was deferred until next year. Rachel McKee moved to reinstate the original wording

Discussion was closed and a vote was held to reinstate the original wording.

Votes: Passed by majority

Against: 2

Abstain: 3

3.3 Remit 3

This remit was proposed by the committee.

At the 2017 AGM, a remit was passed to change the word ‘register’ to the word ‘directory in clause 3.2.

The current remit proposes to change the wording of Clause 7 - Cessation of Membership accordingly by adding “And directory where applicable” to the end of clauses 7.1, 7.2 and 7.5.

The committee clarified that the word ‘register of members’ needs to be maintained, because it is separate to the directory referred to in clause 3.2. A register of members is compulsory by law, while a directory is something we choose to have.

A question was asked whether the introduction of a Registry as part of an interpreting standards project would affect the wording. If a registry were to be created, a complete overhaul of the SLIANZ constitution might need to happen.

A question was asked about whether there is a procedure around people being removed from the register and then membership/directory. This discussion was closed and perhaps deferred to the next year.

Voting on the proposed wording:

Clause 7.1 “Any member...may resign...and his/her name shall be removed from the register of members” proposal to add “AND DIRECTORY WHERE APPLICABLE”

Clause 7.2 “If any member fails to pay... they may be liable to be struck off the register of members...” proposal to add “AND DIRECTORY WHERE APPLICABLE”

“Once payment is overdue...his/her membership will be terminated and his/her name removed from the register of members” proposal to add “AND DIRECTORY WHERE APPLICABLE”

Clause 7.5 “Upon cessation of professional practice...the name of the member shall be removed from the register of members.” Proposal to add “AND DIRECTORY WHERE APPLICABLE”

Votes: Passed by majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 8

3.4 Remit 4

This remit was proposed by the committee as a result of a vote at the 2017 AGM.

The proposal is to add ‘honorary members who are qualified interpreters’ to clause 3.2 “to maintain a directory of ordinary individual members who have elected to be listed in said directory”.

There was discussion around the wording, in particular whether the word 'qualified' was clear enough or whether it should be specified as a 'New Zealand' qualification or 'relevant' qualification.

Alternative wording was proposed by Melissa Sutton: "honorary members who also satisfy the conditions listed in 4.1(a)".

A vote was held to amend the remit to include this proposed wording. The required quorum of $\frac{2}{3}$ of members was reached.

A vote was held on the amended wording:

"To maintain a directory of ordinary individual members and honorary members who also satisfy the conditions listed in 4.1(a), who have elected to be listed in said directory."

Votes: - passed by majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

4. Election of officers

President

Nominations:

Mireille (Micky) Vale - Nominated by Jenn Gilbert and seconded by Shizue Sameshima

Rebeccah Curtis - Nominated by Evelyn Pateman and seconded by Noreen Wilson Smith

Micky Vale was elected. It was noted that the election results were very close. There was a suggestion that Rebeccah and Micky could work together as co-presidents. They were not ready to discuss this at the AGM. The membership and committee thanked Rebeccah for her fantastic work as President, and expressed their hope that Micky and Rebeccah can continue to work together.

Secretary: Natasha Cutelli continues in the second year of her term.

Treasurer: Louise Hackshaw continues in the second year of her term.

Committee:

Deborah Lynch, Kimberley Olivecrona and Dale Thomas continue in the second year of their terms.

Noreen Wilson and Evelyn Pateman are at the end of their two year terms and declined to stand again.

Nominations:

Shizue Sameshima - self nominated for a membership communications portfolio.
Seconded by Bridgette. No vote is needed and Shizue was duly elected.

No further nominations were received. It was noted that members may still be co-opted to work on a particular portfolio (e.g. Conference).

Election of Officers was closed.

5. Other business

The Wellington Interpreter Network (WIN) proposed that the 2019 SLIANZ conference be held in Wellington. This was agreed.

Meeting closed at 1:29 pm.