

**MANITOBA WRITERS' GUILD
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2021
VIRTUAL BY ZOOM
MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE:

- Sharon Arksey
- Donna Besel
- Daniel Botha
- Andrew Dutfield
- Shayla Elizabeth
- Jenny Gates
- Lori Gaudet
- Bev Greenberg
- Sharon Hamilton
- René Hubener
- Zilla Jones (non-voting)
- David Lightfoot
- Gloria Moodrey
- Aldora Neto
- Susan Rocan (non-voting)
- Kelly Ross
- Kristjan Peterson
- Serenity Sidon (non-voting)
- Clarice Sinohinc
- Harriet Zaidman

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 11:03am**
2. **TREATY ONE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:** Sharon
3. **MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA:** Danie/Jenny. Carried.
4. **MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF 2020 AGM:** Lori/Kelly. Carried.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Included in AGM Packet): Andy
 - a. Membership has grown over the past two years from less than 100 to almost 200
 - b. Increased income from workshops, journal sales, donations, Grant from Steinbach Credit Union for governance training. Revenues encouraging.
 - c. Programming mostly virtual. Docudrama, a new 8-week workshop series, is a hybrid with 5 in-person and 2 online participants.

- d. Critique Circles are well-attended. We added another monthly meeting this year and hope to add two more: (BIPOC Circle and Young Adult Circle).
- e. Andy acknowledged the 6-year contribution of Daria Patrie to Critique Circle.
- f. Newsletter: Andy thanked volunteer Lori Gaudet for her excellent and consistent bi-monthly newsletter.
- g. We have nominated three new board members to vote on later in the meeting.
- h. Website still needs work.
- i. Fundraising – no face-to-face opportunities because of Covid. There will be a virtual auction later in the fiscal year.
- j. We are still suffering from the serious dip in the MWG’s reputation due to insufficient accountability of grants received. Arts Councils are reluctant to support capital grants although they will consider non-capital proposals. The guild is focused on delivering evidence of consistent and responsible management of our resources, particularly in relation to the non-capital grant funding we have received.
- k. John Hill had to resign his directorship soon after his election because of conflicting commitments but otherwise the Board has remained stable over the past two years.
- l. Andy concluded by asking the members for active engagement with the Guild by becoming a volunteer and contributing to making the changes we need to make. He then asked for any questions or comments to be emailed to the Guild.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS: (included in AGM packet)

6.1 PROGRAMMING: Danie:

- a. The MWG has offered mostly virtual workshops. The Docudrama series is hybrid.
- b. Critique Circles are doing well, with planned expansion as reported earlier.
- c. Book Chats range between well-attended to less well-attended but consistency of offerings and our newsletter advertising are having an impact.

6.2 MARKETING, COMMUNICATION, AND MEMBERSHIP: Andy

- a. The newsletter has been effective in increasing membership and marketing our journals and workshops, as well as communicating other aspects of interest, such as competitions, publishers seeking submissions, and the like, to our members.
- b. Our membership has increased substantially, but we are still looking for members to encourage others to join.

6.3 FUND RAISING: (Andy)

- a. Our on-line auction netted approximately one thousand dollars.
- b. We are planning another on-line auction.
- c. We are looking forward to face-to-face fund raising in the future.

6.4 NOMINATION AND GOVERNANCE: (Andy and Susan)

- a. During the Board’s intensive workshop on governance, we learned that our Governance Manual blended operational information with governance and stewardship information. Kelly has been working on the massive task of separating the operational from the governance and eliminating repetitive material.

b. Andy asked the members, who reviewed the work to date, if they had any questions or concerns in the changes shown in the draft document submitted to members with the AGM documents. Receiving none, Andy indicated this was a work-in-progress and so if any questions occur after the vote, they will be considered during the next year and brought to the next AGM.

7. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES IN THE GOVERNANCE MANUAL: Susan/Bev. Carried.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT (included in AGM Packet): Clarice

a. Bottom line surplus for the year is \$2003 (\$1000 less than reported in the annual report to pre-pay book prizes for the following year but considerably better than last year).

b. The Auditors, Booke and Partners, have approved the report.

c. Increased revenue due to more members, more donors, the auction, workshops, and journal sales.

d. Decreased expenses due to discontinuing the MWG phone line, office internet, and other minor expenses.

c. Our current fiscal assets will cover 35 months of operating expenses at current levels, considerably more months than in the previous few years.

d. Clarice concluded her report by encouraging members to attend workshops, encourage new members, and participate in Guild activities.

e. Andy thanked Clarice for her considerable work managing our finances, researching, identifying, and implementing economies wherever possible.

9. MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2020-2021: Clarice/Serenity. Carried.

10. MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXCHANGE GROUP AS AUDITORS FOR 2021-2022. Clarice/Jenny. Carried.

11. DIRECTORS' ELECTION:

Directors Continuing:

Andrew Dutfield – President

Susan Rocan – Past President

Clarice Sinohinc – Treasurer

Sharon Hamilton - Secretary

Kelly Ross - Chair of Fundraising Committee

Danie Botha – Chair of Programming Committee

Directors Nominated by the Board: (Bios in AGM packet)

Kamal Malaker

Serenity Sidon

Kamalpreet Singh

MOTION TO ACCEPT NEW AND RETURNING DIRECTORS: Donna/Bev. Carried.

12. Andy introduced and thanked all the new and returning directors. He also thanked the volunteers who attended the meeting: Lori Gaudet for her excellent work with the newsletter and Gloria Moodrey for her leadership administering the Critique Circles. He then asked if anybody had any questions. None were forthcoming.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF AGM: Danie. 11:43