

**Manitoba Writers' Guild
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 22, 2017, 14:07
MWG Classroom, 100 Arthur St., Winnipeg**

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Susan Rocan

Motion to accept the minutes: Faith Johnston

Seconded: Jennie Geist

Carried

Correction:

- The spelling of InDialogue

2. President's Report: Susan Rocan

- Ref: President's Report, Annual General Meeting, Oct 22, 2017
- No questions

3. Treasurer's Report:

- We do not have final audited statement so we are working from an initial draft
- Grants from Winnipeg Arts Council (WAC) and Manitoba Arts Council (MAC) will be 50% of what they were last year
- MBA was bigger and more costly than last year
- Deficit of \$44,000
- Net assets of \$20,000
- We have a strong cash position
- Currently run on a volunteer basis, as opposed to having paid staff
- Applying for grants to MAC and WAC

Motion to appoint last year's auditor, Booke & Partner: Donna Besel

Seconded: Faith Johnston

Carried

4. Motion to accept the audited financial statements

- Because the financial statements are not currently audited we cannot accept them as a membership.
- A suggestion was made that we do an email poll once the audited statements (Alex McGilvery) are ready. We shall do that subject to its applicability vis. the bylaws
- Bob Armstrong suggested that we look at the bylaws to see if we have the ability to do an email poll.

5. Committee Reports

a. Programming

- Report by Bob Armstrong

- Ref: *Report of the Programming Committee, October 2017*
- A variety of workshops were led and attendance was variable
- Alex McGilvery: we might want to use technology to expand the opportunities for people outside of the perimeter to attend
 - Susan responded that we are going to offer some of these by podcast
 - Alex commented that the live experience would provide more value added
- Faith Johnston: asked about the Sheldon Oberman workshops from last year
 - Susan: we did run it last year to great success between mentors and those writers being mentored. This year we are going to reduce the number of participants in order to reduce the costs
- Erna Buffie: Do we ever have visiting writers do workshops?
 - Bob/Susan: Yes, we have and just did. Would love to do more!
 - Jenny: is this something that we can partner with McNally Robinson about?
- Catherine Hunter: we used to do partnerships with the UofM for InDialogue and would love to start that up again
- David Cramer: Does the Guild participate in NaNoWriMo?
 - Alex: he is a connection for this event and can give information
 - Susan: In the spirit of NaNoWriMo, we are hosting a 24 hour writing marathon from noon on Saturday, November 18 to noon Sunday, November 19.

b. Resource Development

- Doug Whiteway presented report
- Ref: *Resource Development Committee Report, 22 October 2017*
- Online Facebook auction to be prototyped in November and December, 2017
- Building awareness via ComicCon and HorrorCon manned by volunteers as well as Open Houses during the Fringe Festival
- Suchot Sunday: Is the Facebook auction a local initiative
 - Susan confirmed that it is
- David: We should try to get into KeyCon (Science Fiction convention)
- Erna: Have we considered hiring a fundraiser? Suggested someone who might volunteer some time to give us some tips
 - Susan: we would appreciate the help
- Lauren Carter: have we looked into corporate grants or federal grants? This for large events?
 - Chris: we've looked into a bunch of these but have had no success
 - Erna: couple book awards with silent auctions, perhaps
 - Susan: we have done this in the past
- Alex: We might look into EI programs to get new employees
- Kelsey Hutton: Can we talk about the Book Awards a little?
- Suchot: Can you talk about the MAC funding withdrawal?

- Susan: We were put on notice for some reporting deficiencies and our funding was withdrawn
- Susan: Let's table the question for now

c. Governance

- Report by Chris Rutkowski: there are some issues regarding the bylaws which need to be fixed
- Ref: *Report from the Nominations and Governance Committee*

Motion that we accept these reports: Donna Besel

Second: Alex McGilvery

Carried

6. Directors Elections

Ratify the following people:

- Alexandria Dawson
- Laura McKay
- Geoff Butler
- Clarice Sinohin: not a member in good standing but according to the bylaws can stand as the Treasurer

Motion to accept this slate of nominees: Bob Armstrong

Second: Shayla Elizabeth

Carried

7. Question about the Book Awards

- Unknown: What about the proposals and the emails that went out?
 - Susan: the emails that went out were not authorized by the Guild.
 Erna: Who is making these proposals
 - Ellen MacDonald and a group of writers
 - Anita Daher has a separate motion/idea about the Book Awards
 Faith Johnston: Have we talked to the AMBP?
 - Susan: yes we have. We explained that we had nothing to do with the erroneous information that went out. They are fine with a low key book award in the future.

Unknown: Why are proposals being made, has the Guild requested them?

- Susan: no, we did not solicit these proposals

Chris: regarding the use of our database, we have a policy in our bylaws about the use of emails

Darcia Senft: There were a number of breaches of privacy and use of branding and misleading information that was sent out.

Chris: The mandate of the Guild is: The Manitoba Writers' Guild is a provincial arts service organization representing professional and emerging writers in Manitoba. Its mission is to encourage, develop, promote and celebrate writers and writing, to support the freedom to write and to read, and to advocate for the well-being of writers.

Bob: One of the reasons for the proposals is a sense of urgency

Anita: Would we not have to make a motion as a Guild to distance ourselves from the Book awards before an outside organization can run the awards?

- Susan: yes

Rick Ranson: What about Ghost written books? Is that part of this discussion?

- Susan: There has been some discussion of this with the AMBP

Dennis Maione: *Manitoba Books Awards Inc* is not actually an organization at this time

Faith: She wanted it on the record that the board (specifically Susan) is to be commended for paying off the past debts and keeping the organization running

Chris: We are open to speaking to any Guild Member about these or other issues.

Laura: We have a Facebook page and a Facebook group.

8. Ad-hoc discussion

- Susan: the newsletters that members have been getting are not from MWG if they have the info@ address
- Various discussions about volunteers, funding, and outrage ensued
- New website is in the works and we will let the membership know when it is launched

9. Adjournment of AGM

Motion to adjourn: Alex

Second: Jenny

Motion to Adjourn was tabled

10. Anita Daher speaks to a Standing Committee for the Book Awards

- Anita read her motion
- Ref: Motion document
- Dennis Maione: Anita is not a member in good standing (at this time) and so someone else must be the author of the motion
- Bob: Move that the MWG board create a standing committee to oversee the book awards, and that the structure and operation of this committee will be determined by the board in accordance with Guild Bylaws.
- Alex: Second
- Carried

11. Adjournment of AGM: Anna Valdrón

Adjournment at 16:09