

SA SUPERANNUANTS – MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 21 June 2021

1 MEETING OPENED: 10.41 am

PRESENT Alan Raftery, Barry Grear, Brenton Pain, Eileen Pritchard, Ian Beckingham, James Vandenberg, Max Jahn, Michael Evans Peter Fleming, and Richard Clough (part of meeting)

APOLOGIES Lindsay Oxlad, Peter Frick, Keren Wicks

2 WELCOME President James Vandenberg welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes of Committee Meeting 24 May 2021

Moved, Barry Grear, that the previously circulated minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 24 May 2021 be accepted as a correct record. Seconded, Peter Fleming. Carried.

Item 4.1 Update on superannuation advisory group

Committee members considered the draft role description and criteria for the advisory group.

James noted that communication between the advisory group and outside parties would be through or as agreed by the Committee.

The Committee decided by consensus to adopt the description and criteria, and to email it to members for them to express interest in joining the group or enquire about it. It was also agreed to send the description to ACPSRO, TASS and SCOAWA to seek their suggestions of people who might be approached, with Brenton to circulate the suggested messages for consideration by Committee members.

It was agreed that expressions of interest in joining the advisory group would come to the Committee for decision, taking into account the mix of backgrounds and knowledge of potential members of the advisory group, and the critical need for objectivity and support for the independence of the Association.

A potential member who might be contacted through ACPSRO was mentioned.

Ian suggested a Canberra based superannuation news publication and its back issues as an information source for the advisory group, and it was agreed to see if Ray Hickman may have contact information.

Item 4.2 2021 and pre-election letters to MPs

Committee members noted the intention for the letters to MPs re-introducing the Association to be written in its new name, yet to become available for use, and that preparation of the pre-election letters or submissions was yet to begin. Some predictions for federal election dates were canvassed, one as early as October.

Item 4.3 Issues to be pursued from member survey

Committee members considered some of the issues previously canvassed with members through the member survey, and the Association's possible approach.

Discussion included how to bring together the survey results with the prospect of making some real progress on an issue, such as the inadequate cost of living adjustment of defined benefit pensions. Committee members noted that a valid approach on pension indexation may be to keep the Association's concern visible while recognizing that it had little persuasive power or leverage, and that pursuing the issue may affect credibility on other matters.

Other points raised were using the advisory group to help the Committee work through the issues, and potentially identify some others, and whether to move now to ask the SA government to introduce a period of income maintenance for the bereaved partner of a deceased member, for her or his pension to continue at 100% of the original pension rate before reverting to its long term 2/3 rate.

Further discussion of these matters was left to a later date.

Item 4.4 Membership brochures & recruiting new members

James summarized feedback from Committee members on various aspects of the content and presentation of the membership brochure, and options such as paid advertisements or articles about the Association appearing in the various union publications, which were discussed. Committee members noted the early August deadline for leaflet distribution through Super SA, and that the new name may not be approved by then.

It was noted that the 2021 printing and distribution of a black and white brochure would proceed; that the Association would seek an item in each of the union publications, and that each of the unions had been asked to send a copy of its publication to the Association's GPO box.

Item 4.5 Succession planning Semaphore 29 June

James asked Committee members to think about who would take over their role if they decided to step away, for discussion over lunch at his house on 29 June.

Item 4.6 Association members' lunch

Committee members noted that members of the Association currently do not have much opportunity to interact socially, and agreed that a lunch, in addition to the regular monthly meetings, would provide that. It was decided to go ahead with a members' lunch most likely at the Metropolitan Hotel in October or November, with notice of the meeting in the September newsletter.

The possibility of more interaction at general meetings was discussed, with an earlier start, members able to bring their own lunch, and the Association providing tea, coffee and soft drinks. It was agreed that Michael and Eileen would check the availability of the hall and the logistics, and report back to the next meeting.

Item 5 Correspondence

Committee members noted the correspondence reported, and that Michael was following up the preliminary response to SCOAWA's request with a fuller reply.

Item 6 Treasurer's Report

Michael advised Alan that the sundry receipts in April of \$1,465.00 would be donations received, and that he would confirm that by email, and put a note in future reports to explain significant sundry items.

Moved, Michael, that the Treasurer's report for April be accepted. Seconded, Barry. Carried.

Moved, Michael, that the expenditure of \$27.50 for repairs to the Association's briefcase be approved. Seconded, Barry. Carried.

James referred to Max's recent message that \$4,375 had been donated to date by 153 members, with Michael noting that members' response had been very gratifying, and that he would prepare an article for the September newsletter acknowledging that. Two members, one the widow of a former Committee member, had donated \$100.00.

Item 7 Membership Officer's Report

Max referred to the membership report as at the end of May, showing a total membership of 1,695.

Moved, Max, that Membership Report for May 2021 be accepted. Seconded, Michael. Carried.

Item 8 Newsletter and Web Manager's Report

Committee members noted Peter Frick's report, and the 27 August deadline for newsletter content.

Item 9 General Meeting June 28

Arrangements for the meeting were discussed, with available Committee members meeting for coffee or a quick lunch at the Green Garden café at 11:30, and the number expected at the meeting currently in the mid-20s.

Item 10 Guest Speaker Coordinator's Report

Ian outlined arrangements for the June meeting. It was agreed to ask the Chief Executive of Super SA and a representative of Funds SA to speak at the September general meeting, with Ian and Brenton to liaise in inviting them.

Item 11 Qantas Club Report

Alan mentioned that after a long period of little interest in the Qantas Club queries about it have resumed.

Item 12.1 Victorian members group: discussion with Richard Clough

At approximately 12:30 pm, James and other Committee members welcomed Richard Clough to the meeting.

Richard outlined the arrangements being made for the first members meeting in Melbourne (and the temporary Covid related delay in fixing a venue and date) to enable the invitation to be sent to the full ex-SCOA Victoria email list. The meeting was expected to be held in the second half of July.

Richard outlined the history of how the ex-SCOA Victoria working group had come together in February 2020, after SCOA had held its last Melbourne meeting, and over a twelve month period had surveyed the issues of interest and concern for 330 former SCOA members, leading to the recommendation that they join the Association, having regard also to the Association's expanded geographic footprint and broadened name. The plan now was to encourage more of the ex-SCOA members to join, offering a planned three meetings a year.

Max mentioned that 214 former SCOA members were currently members of the Association, including 23 in Victoria, and that everyone was welcome. Richard noted that the online joining process worked well.

Richard suggested that the Committee members participating as speakers at the first meeting in Victoria might outline the history of the Association and its advocacy for members, and the current work plan, for attendees to see the Association's approach and the benefits of membership. James felt that was a good approach, as well as an opportunity to meet and get to know people.

James thanked Richard for joining the meeting and bringing Committee members up to date.

Item 12.2 Letter from SA Treasurer

The Committee noted the letter dated 26 May from the South Australian Treasurer advising that Super SA had no plans to outsource member administration.

Committee members agreed with Ray Hickman's comments previously circulated: that it was useful to have the letter, particularly the acknowledgement of an intention to act in the best interest of members, given that the Super SA Board is under no legal obligation to do so.

Item 12.3 Webinars: member responses to May newsletter

The Committee discussed the responses from two members to the May newsletter item asking if members were interested in webinars (seminars transmitted over the internet). Discussion points included whether the Association would conduct its own webinars or facilitate members accessing online material produced by other bodies such as Super SA or the CSC; when approval from external parties might be needed to put their material or links to it on the Association website; and exercising discrimination in choosing the external material to be hosted on the website.

Given the limited member interest in webinars Committee members were not inclined to proceed with them. For members looking to upgrade their computer-related skills the Association's role was seen more as a pointer to existing resources, such as computer courses available through local libraries.

Item 13 Other business

No other business items were discussed.

Item 14 Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting was confirmed for 19 July, by Zoom.

Meeting Closed: 12:41 approximately.
