

SA SUPERANNUANTS – MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 19 July 2021

1 MEETING OPENED: 10.38 am

PRESENT Alan Raftery, Barry Grear (part), Brenton Pain, Eileen Pritchard, Ian Beckingham (part), James Vandenberg, Lindsay Oxlad, Max Jahn, Michael Evans, Peter Frick

APOLOGIES Keren Wicks, Peter Fleming

2 WELCOME President James Vandenberg welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes of Committee Meeting 21 June 2021

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

Item 4.1 Update on superannuation advisory group

Committee members noted progress on identifying and contacting potential advisory group members. Four people had expressed interest: Lindsay Oxlad, Richard Clough, John Pauley, and a recently joined member who had qualified as a financial planner in retirement. It was decided to review and update members on progress at the July 26 general meeting, and then settle the membership of the group and how it would operate, and who the co-ordinating person within the group would be, if it was decided to go that way.

Item 4.2 Income maintenance period for surviving partner

Committee members decided by consensus to seek a period of income maintenance for surviving spouses and partners of State Pension Scheme members similar to the Commonwealth CSS and PSS schemes, which pay the equivalent of 100% of the original pension over seven fortnightly periods after the original pensioner passes away, after which the spouse pension reverts to its long term 2/3 rate.

Brenton and James are providing Lindsay with background emails for him to prepare a draft letter to the SA Treasurer, cc Super SA.

Item 4.3 Membership brochures & recruiting new members

Committee members noted that the new name of the Association would not be approved in time for brochure printing, and that the printer's draft of the brochure in the name of SA Superannuants would be circulated for comment.

Max commented that at least 20 new member applications from interstate had been processed recently. All of the new members from Victoria have email addresses. Peter Frick advised that as he sees the online applications arrive he forwards the instructions to the new members on how to access the member portal.

James noted his recruitment of a new member in Canberra, and the need for individual approaches in the ACT because of legal restrictions on access to the former SCOA mailing list.

Item 4.4 Succession planning

James thanked Committee members for taking part in the 29th June discussion on how another person could be found to take over their roles when that became necessary, and noted that no-one had yet identified a potential replacement, which should be at the front of Committee members' minds when talking to Association members.

The Committee noted that one point discussed on 29 June had been gathering background information such as members' previous department and role though a form available to be completed at general meetings. The members lunch being planned for November was noted as an opportunity to learn more about members who may be interested in joining the Committee.

Eileen suggested considering the website, email and newsletter for the form too, or perhaps just the newsletter. Lindsay said it would be nice to know if we can get lists of people who are retiring, perhaps through Super SA. Privacy concerns were mentioned. Lindsay suggested he might do something in the background though Nev Kitchin at the PSA on approaching its associate members. James commented on past arrangements to contribute articles to union publications.

Max noted that he was retaining information from the online membership application forms on where members had been last employed, so at least that background information was now being held for some members. James advised that he would revise the application form in the membership brochure accordingly.

Max noted that this information was not entered into the membership database but that the application forms were being retained.

Eileen suggested that the ordinary application form be brought into line with this too, to show last employer and role.

Item 4.5 Melbourne meeting 27 July

Michael had joined a Zoom discussion on 18 July of the planned meeting arrangements for Victorian members, following their decision to cancel the planned 27 July meeting in Melbourne because of Covid restrictions.

Michael explained that there would be a Zoom meeting of Melbourne members and some Committee members at 9:00 Adelaide time on 31 August, with a face-to-face meeting planned for 30 November from 11:00 to 2:00.

The Committee discussed the possible formation of a sub-committee of Victorian members, depending on their number, with a convenor who would ideally be a Committee member. It was suggested this might be explored in the period before the Zoom meeting on 31 August. James noted the current limit of four ex-Commonwealth people on the Committee.

Michael outlined that the 220-person email list assembled by the Victorian group had been built up over time from personal contacts, and that at the time SCOA stopped operating about 50 or so members were attending four meetings a year, featuring guest speakers.

Michael commented that the ex-SCOA Victoria group would like to know which of its 220 contacts had joined the Association. How to obtain Association members' permission to provide that information was discussed, possibly by obtaining the list of 220 email addresses and checking for Victorian members not included on it.

Those members could then be asked if they would agree with their names and contact details being passed to the Victorian members group. This was left for later consideration.

The Committee agreed by consensus to invite Richard Clough or another member in Victoria to join the Committee.

Michael outlined a suggestion that the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation might publish an article on the Association in its nationally distributed newsletter, bringing out that Commonwealth scheme members anywhere are welcome to join, and that many in Victoria already have.

James noted that CSS and PSS members need to opt in to receive the CSC's "3rd Act" electronic newsletter, and that there had been no response to a previous approach to the editor on behalf of SA Superannuants. Alan noted that it could be truthfully pointed out that the Association now had members in every State.

Whether the CSC might send the Association's membership brochure to its perhaps 150,000 members, as Comsuper once used to for SCOA, was discussed. Printing cost and practicality considerations were discussed. James noted that after SCOA brochure distribution by Comsuper had been stopped, it had still included a one line mention of SCOA with the annual member statements, which now seem to have stopped coming by post.

Lindsay raised the idea of paying for advertising in the CSC newsletter. Brenton suggested offering CSC the opportunity of a short factual piece in the Superannuant, perhaps covering recent developments at the Corporation, after publication of which the Association would ask to have a short article about itself in the CSC's 3rd Act electronic newsletter. Lindsay suggested also offering Super SA the opportunity to contribute an item to the coming newsletter.

Committee members agreed to invite the CSC and Super SA to write short factual pieces for the September newsletter, with Brenton to draft and circulate the invitations, and noted that James would prepare articles on the Association for the PSA, AEU and ANMF publications.

Item 5 Correspondence

Committee members noted the correspondence reported.

Item 6 Treasurer's Report

Michael had received no comments or enquiries on the report.

Moved, Michael, that the Treasurer's report for June 2021 be accepted. Seconded, Lindsay. Carried.

Moved, Michael, that the expenditure of \$132.00 for a further year's subscription to Superguide be approved. Seconded, Lindsay. Carried.

The Committee noted that donations received by direct funds transfer had been about \$2,000. Max advised that he did not have an exact figure, but the total of donations was in the order of \$5,000, taking into account cheques received as well as direct transfers.

Michael reported that there had been several donations of \$100, and one of \$200, and while that was very good members could not be expected to go on donating at that rate. Michael will write a piece for the next newsletter to thank members, but bring out that less than 20% of members have so far donated.

Michael commented that Victorian members thought the Association's fees were very low.

Item 7 Membership Officer's Report

Committee members noted that Max would email a report after the meeting, when there was time to complete it.

Max mentioned very nice correspondence received from a 98 year old lady joining as a member, and providing her email address.

Item 8 Newsletter and Web Manager's Report

Peter Frick reviewed expected items for the September newsletter: an item received from Lindsay and others yet to come: one being written by Ray as a possible item on the Superannuation Federation; the President's report; a piece from Mike on donations; a membership item from Max; and articles from Brenton on the advisory group and changing the constitution.

Peter noted that the deadline for articles and issuing the newsletter may need to come forward if members need notice of the September meeting to decide on changes to the constitution.

Committee members considered whether membership of the Superannuation Federation should be discussed in the newsletter.

Three people offered comments.

James had misgivings about presenting cases in the newsletter for and against continuing membership, and on balance felt the Association should remain a member of the Federation.

Lindsay thought that a newsletter item could say that the Federation did not seem to be working very well, and that the Association's choices were to leave it alone and see what happened, or try taking a more active role to engage the interest of the unions in their members financial welfare when retired. Lindsay felt that the Association had a responsibility to keep the dialogue going, and should be encouraging the Federation to meet.

Eileen asked about the cost of membership, and Michael said it was \$150 pa. Eileen noted that if represented at Federation meetings the Association had the knowledge of other participants.

Lindsay commented that Federation membership enabled the Association to engage the three union secretaries on issues of concern, which may provide more leverage than the Association had on its own.

James proposed that the Committee await Ray's suggested newsletter item.

Item 9 General Meeting July 26

The agenda papers noted expected attendance of about 30 members on 26 July. It was mentioned that Eileen would mark the attendance of any members arriving after 1:00 pm from inside the hall, not outside at the Flinders Street gate.

Item 10 Guest Speaker Coordinator's Report

Ian was not available for this item. It was noted that Super SA and Funds SA had both accepted their invitations to speak at 1:00 pm at the September meeting, and that a special general meeting that day to decide on changes to the constitution would need to begin at 12:30.

Item 11 Qantas Club Report

Alan had no Qantas Club matters to report.

Item 12.1 Changes to rules requested by Consumer & Bus Services

Committee members discussed various aspects of changing the constitution as requested by SA Consumer and Business Services on 15 July, and the processes for securing the new legal name and the new business name, including

- whether a special resolution at a special general meeting was needed to make the changes to the constitution requested by Consumer & Business Services
- the order in which to seek CBS and members' decisions on the rule changes to be proposed
- whether to retain the business name in the constitution, necessitating prior business name approval by ASIC.

It was decided to prepare draft amendments to the constitution as requested by CBS for Committee members' review; to refer the amended document to CBS, and then to members at a special general meeting immediately preceding the September general meeting; and to apply now in the name of the SA Government Superannuated Employees Association for an Australian Business Number and registration of the business name PS Superannuants.

Item 12.2 External material on Association website

Committee members noted the links provided on the Association website to other organisations' material, under the heading "Getting more information about superannuation".

Brenton gave examples of some updates and revisions which could be made, and felt that despite any disclaimers there was an element of endorsement when putting forward other bodies and their material. Lindsay thought there could be some re-categorisation of the links and some additional ones.

James asked committee members to look at the website and the links currently offered, and consider what changes they would wish, to be decided at the next Committee meeting. James suggested any Committee members who wished to might share their thoughts by email to save time at the meeting.

Item 13 Other business

No other business items were discussed.

Item 14 Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting was confirmed for 23 August, by Zoom. Alan will be travelling and therefore an apology.

Meeting Closed: 12:38 approximately.
