

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR SUPERANNUANTS INC.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2021

1 MEETING OPENED: 10:36 am

PRESENT Alan Raftery, Barry Gear, Brenton Pain, Eileen Pritchard, James Vandenberg, Lindsay Oxlad, Michael Evans, Peter Fleming

APOLOGIES Peter Frick, Ian Beckingham, Keren Wicks

2 WELCOME

President James Vandenberg welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes of Committee Meeting 18 October 2021

Moved, Lindsay Oxlad, that the previously circulated minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 18 October be accepted as a correct record. Seconded, Barry Gear. Carried.

Item 4.1 Victorian members sub-Committee

Committee members noted that John Barrett was willing to be convenor of the Sub-committee comprising John, Don Campbell, Peter Cockrum and Barry Schafer.

Moved, Lindsay Oxlad, that the Victorian members sub-Committee be established and John Barrett appointed as its convenor. Seconded, Barry Gear: carried.

Committee members discussed establishing a budget for the sub-committee, noting arrangements the former SCOA had used to approve an annual budget for each of its State committees. It was expected that approval of expenditure would be by the Executive and payments would be made in the usual way.

It was agreed that James would prepare and circulate among a draft letter to John Barrett confirming his appointment and the arrangements for the sub-Committee.

Item 4.2 Advance lodgement of documents for spouse pension

Committee members noted that Super SA's response was awaited to the suggestion that it notify members of the ability to lodge some documents in advance of a later application for the spouse pension.

Eileen commented that when visiting Super SA on personal business she noticed a couple lodging documents, and had been advised by a staff member that Super SA staff were well aware of the process.

Item 4.3 Response to SA Treasurer

The Committee discussed the draft replies to the Treasurer's letter claiming the Pension Scheme to be considerably more generous than the Triple S. It was not possible to reproduce the comparative figures in the first draft reply using the calculator at the Super SA website.

It was moved, Barry Grear, and seconded, Lindsay Oxlad, to reply to the Treasurer using the draft letter circulated on 15 November. Carried.

Lindsay asked for it to be noted that he had no comment on the letter.

Item 4.4 Letter of introduction to MPs and follow up contact

The Committee discussed the draft letters to MPs prepared by Brenton Pain and Ray Hickman. The Committee favoured a brief initial letter of introduction along the lines of Brenton's draft saying what the Association is; referring to its history; including a list of the issues of concern but not discussing them or prosecuting the case for change; indicating which bodies the Association is connected with, and asking to be directly consulted in future on public sector superannuation matters.

Whether to include an offer to meet MPs generally or to offer discussions with particular MPs ones was canvassed.

On seeking to be directly consulted in future, Committee members felt that a copy of the letter should go to Super SA, noting that the Association had been bypassed in consultations on choice of fund for Triple S members.

The introductory letter was followed later by a more detailed explanation of the issues and the Association's proposed changes.

How the subsequent letter might connect with the Association's pre-election submission was mentioned. The possibility of a pre-election platform presented in a style similar to COTA SA's was mentioned. (See also Item 12.3)

Brenton was asked to finalise the letter of introduction without referring it back to the Committee.

Item 5 Correspondence

The reported correspondence was noted.

The favourable treatment of lifetime income streams compared with untaxed source defined benefit pensions was noted, as pointed out by John Pauley.

Brenton advised that Senator Patrick's availability to speak at the AGM in February would not be known until the 2022 sitting calendar was settled, expected mid-December.

Item 6 Treasurer's Report

Michael Evans had received no comments on the October Treasurer's report, and moved that it be noted and accepted. Seconded Lindsay Oxlad: carried.

Michael outlined the honorariums proposed to be paid for the 2020 year.

It was moved, Peter Fleming, that the following honorariums be approved in recognition of service during 2020, subject to Michael checking when the newsletter role transferred from Max to Ray:

President, Peter Fleming	150.00
Vice President, James Vandenberg	110.00
Secretary, Brenton Pain	150.00
Treasurer, Michael Evans	150.00
Membership Officer, Max Jahn	150.00
Guest Speaker Co-ordinator, Ian Beckingham	75.00
Newsletter Co-ordinator, Max Jahn	150.00
Research Officer, Ray Hickman	150.00
Committee member Alan Raftery	75.00
Committee member Barry Gear	75.00
Committee member Keren Wicks	75.00
Committee member Ann Nankivell	75.00
Website Manager, Peter Frick	110.00

Seconded, Lindsay: carried.

Item 7 Membership Officer's Report

Committee members noted and accepted the Membership Report for October 2021.

Item 8 Newsletter and Web Matters

Possible items previously suggested for the February newsletter items were noted: Ray's Qsuper lifetime pensions item; items on the approaching State and Federal elections; a piece on the superannuation advisory group; and an item on membership in Victoria.

Finalising the pre-election submissions was discussed, with the State election now imminent. James asked Committee members to review the last State and Commonwealth pre-election submissions (links in agenda) and circulate comments on them during the next fortnight. This was agreed by consensus. (Further discussion Item 12.3)

Michael noted a point from the COTA SA AGM, that SA seems to be the only jurisdiction where ambulance transport is not free for Age Pensioners.

James asked Brenton to provide the previous Federal pre-election submission to the Victorian members sub-Committee for their consideration and comment.

It was agreed that Michael would speak with Ray about

- possibly getting input to the Federal pre-election submission from members of the Superannuation Advisory Group, and if so the best way of doing that, and
- whether a former SCOA newsletter item, co-written by advisory group member Trevor Nock, could be used for descriptions of the CSS and PSS in the February newsletter, in a piece comparing the CSS, PSS and State Pension Scheme.

The Committee noted that Brenton would prepare an item on the Victorian members sub-Committee.

Committee members were happy to accept the revised letterhead and the revised website logo provided by Icarus Design.

Item 9 General Meeting 29 November

Current bookings suggested a lower attendance for the November General Meeting, but it was decided not to send a reminder email.

James noted the importance of Committee members having access to the email list and the Association's email account.

Item 10 Guest Speaker Coordinator's Report

Committee members noted under Item 5 that Senator Patrick's availability to speak at the AGM in February would not be known until the 2022 sitting calendar was released, expected mid-December. Health Partners' advice of Byron Gregory's availability in March was awaited.

Item 11 Qantas Club Report

Alan reported that Qantas had again extended membership free of charge for six months. It was agreed that Alan would advise Qantas of the Association's change of name.

Brenton said that he would advise COTA of the change of name, and other bodies now that the new letterhead was agreed.

Item 12.1 Recruiting members to the Committee

James noted that Brenton would not be continuing in 2022 and asked which members would be re-nominating for their positions. Barry confirmed that he would; Lindsay was not sure and will advise James later; Alan was not sure, with Mondays very difficult. Michael mentioned that Mondays are difficult for Keren too, and asked if Committee meetings could be changed to another day.

James noted that as previously discussed Committee members could think about returning to face to face meetings on the same Mondays as the general meetings, freeing up one Monday each month.

Peter Fleming had some misgivings about continuing, but confirmed that he would stay on while he was able to make a useful contribution. Michael confirmed that he would re-nominate for Treasurer in 2022, and James understood that Max was re-nominating as Membership Officer. Eileen was happy to continue to support the Committee as an observer. Michael noted that Ray had considered re-nominating for 2022, but it was not clear if his personal circumstances would allow that.

James proposed planning for one or more Committee members to take over the position of Secretary, perhaps splitting the role. James would be prepared to be Secretary if he was not President, but not to undertake both roles.

Peter asked if members should be plainly advised in perhaps a special edition of the newsletter, or a special front page, of the situation the Committee faced. Lindsay suggested discussing it with members at the November general meeting.

Committee members canvassed Michael's suggestion that the Secretary might become a paid position, with an increase in membership fees. Peter felt that the position could be advertised in the newsletter with a more substantial honorarium. It was noted that the Association would also be in a difficult position if its Membership Officer, Newsletter Co-ordinator or Treasurer were not continuing.

Peter suggested contacting Commonwealth and State public servants on the verge of retirement, and turning their minds to what they would be doing. Super SA and the PSA could help find them.

Peter supported advertising for a Secretary through Volunteering SA, noting that its Chief Executive had provided some insights into its service as a guest speaker.

Lindsay asked whether there was a requirement for a Secretary found through an advertising process to become a member. The general feeling was that could be resolved. James proposed that as a first step an advertisement be placed with Volunteering SA/NT.

It was moved, Peter Fleming, and seconded, Michael Evans, that an advertisement for Secretary be placed with Volunteering SA/NT. Carried.

James noted the insurance coverage required to be held by a volunteer body to advertise through Volunteering SA. Michael felt that the Association may have the required cover from previously upgrading its insurance. Brenton mentioned that Volunteering SA asked to see a certificate of currency for public liability and volunteer protection insurance cover.

It was agreed that Michael and Brenton would liaise to obtain the necessary certificate, and that Brenton would draft the advertisement.

Eileen Pritchard suggested that other Committee vacancies be included in the advertisement. Eileen suggested that articles in Union publications might be used too, and something through Super SA. James said that he would prepare a letter to ANMF SA, AEU SA and the PSA. James accepted Lindsay's offer to contact the PSA to see if there were opportunities for it to find members close to retirement who might be candidates for Secretary. Michael observed that Treasurer Lucas was nearing retirement. James arranged to provide Lindsay with the Secretary job description.

James asked Committee members to think about whether they would be prepared to take on some or all of duties of Secretary if an external person was not found. Michael suggested bringing the pre-AGM Committee meeting forward to perhaps mid-January. It was noted that an email could go to all members calling for nominations for Secretary, and explaining the importance of filling the role.

Item 12.2 General Meeting Dates 2022

Committee members agreed with suggested 2022 General Meeting dates of Feb 28 (AGM), Mar 28, May 2 (clash with ANZAC Day April 25), May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug 29, Sept 26, Oct 31, Nov 28.

Item 12.3 Platform for SA and Commonwealth Elections

James noted the range of issues covered by COTA in its election platform, as pointed out by Lindsay, and asked if Committee members would consider them when thinking about and preparing their comments on the Association's pre-election submissions during the next fortnight.

Item 13 Other business

Committee members noted with sadness the passing away of their respected colleague Peter Frick's son, after a long illness. Michael Evans recommended a motion of condolence.

It was moved, Lindsay Oxlad, that the Association express its condolences to Peter Frick and his family on the passing away of Peter's son. The motion was seconded by Barry Grear, and carried.

Michael reported that Ray Hickman's recent illness had re-emerged, leading to emergency surgery which seemed to have gone well. Committee members expressed their best wishes and hope for Ray's speedy recovery, and looked forward to a further report from Michael.

James referred to Eileen's recent advice about former Secretary Christine Venning, and possible arrangements for presenting Christine with her Life Membership award. Eileen agreed to organize the timing and participants, including James as President, in a visit to Christine to make the presentation.

Item 14 Next Meeting

A possible Committee meeting to review the pre-budget submissions in mid-December, possibly on the 13th, was agreed for later consideration. The pre-AGM Committee meeting was expected to be held two weeks before the AGM.

Meeting Closed: 12:46 pm.
