

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR SUPERANNUANTS INC.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2022

1 MEETING OPENED: 10:35 am

PRESENT Alan Raftery, Barry Gear, Brenton Pain, Charles Tucker, Eileen Pritchard, James Vandenberg, Lindsay Oxlad, Michael Evans, Peter Fleming, Peter Frick, Ray Hickman

APOLOGIES Ian Beckingham, Keren Wicks, Roger Donnelly

2 WELCOME

President James Vandenberg welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Charles Tucker joining the meeting as an observer. James noted that Roger Donnelly was unable to join the meeting because of a family commitment in Sydney.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes of Committee Meeting 22 November 2021

Moved, Lindsay Oxlad, that the previously circulated minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 22 November 2022 be accepted as a correct record. Seconded, Barry Gear. Carried.

Item 4.1 Pre-election submissions to politicians

Committee members agreed with Ray Hickman's suggestion to modify the Federal pre-election submission to address the expected perception that an untaxed-source pension would be better than one paid from a taxed source, and accepted Ray's offer to make the appropriate changes.

It was agreed to send the pre - State election submission to SA politicians as drafted.

Item 4.2 Committee and volunteer roles in 2022

The Committee discussed the nominations for Committee positions notified to members in the February newsletter, and welcomed Dianne Baron's interest in undertaking the Secretary role.

Committee members noted James' decision that 2022 is his last year on the Committee, and Peter Fleming's decision to withdraw from the Committee but remain an observer.

James agreed to allow his nomination for President in 2022 to stand, and Michael agreed to his nomination as Vice President and Treasurer.

It was agreed to ask members at the AGM and in the newsletter to seriously consider nominating for President in 2023.

Michael agreed to approach a member who may be willing to take on Guest Speaker Co-ordinator for the time being, and continue in a support role when Ian Beckingham is able to return to the position. Ray offered to assist Ian if he wished to continue as Guest Speaker Co-ordinator.

There were no offers to undertake the Assistant Secretary role in 2022. The need for the position perhaps as a minute secretary was discussed.

Item 4.3 Presentation of Christine Venning's life membership award

Eileen Pritchard explained that visits to Christine Venning's residential care facility are limited to one visitor a day for each resident by appointment. A small group meeting in a courtyard is not possible. Eileen noted that the choice was between a later small group visit and an earlier, one-person visit and presentation which may be more meaningful, and which the Committee endorsed. Eileen said that she would take morning tea when she visits and presents the award on behalf of the Association.

Item 5 Correspondence

It was moved, Lindsay that the reported correspondence be noted. Seconded Michael: carried.

Item 6 Treasurer's Report

Michael Evans noted that the Association's assets were about \$140,000 at present, after recent growth in the value of its shares. Michael expected that the Association would draw upon the term deposits for future cash needs before selling shares.

Alan Raftery suggested that the bank reconciliation was out of balance. Michael said that he would check and advise Alan.

The Committee accepted Michael's suggestion in response to a question from James that a possible increase in member fees not be considered until later in 2022.

It was moved, Michael, that the Treasurer's reports be accepted. Seconded, Lindsay: carried.

Item 7 Membership Officer's Report

Committee members noted the annual membership report showing a total of 1,759 members at December 2021. It was moved, Lindsay, that the membership report be accepted. Seconded Barry: carried.

Item 8 Newsletter and Web Matters

James thanked Peter Frick for his great work on the February newsletter, and the trouble he was taking to taking to resolve the difficulty getting bulk Association messages to some members. Peter noted Ray's major contributions to the newsletter.

Peter explained how he had re-sent in batches of 10 over 12 days the 120 newsletter emails that bounced back from Bigpond accounts. 40 or 50 of the emails reminding members of the AGM had also bounced back, and were being re-sent individually. Peter outlined how Ray is taking the matter up with Bigpond as an individual subscriber, and has established how members with Bigpond emails could be guided to change their email settings to unblock messages from the Association. Peter commented that the IT skills of some members would make that challenging. A solution could be the Google "groups" facility through which 126 notices of the AGM were successfully sent. Its drawback is that people have to consent to participate in a group, and the automated Google messages about giving consent have worried some members.

Peter's current thinking was to use Google groups only for members with Bigpond emails accounts, and to set up the group after the all-members-on-email list is updated in May, if emails to Bigpond are still bouncing back.

Peter suggested that the Association replace its "sasupera" email address with one reflecting its national identity. It was noted that the Victorian Sub-Committee could use it with ".vic" added at the end. A new Association email address would bring an additional 15 gigabytes of free storage for back-ups and documents.

Peter proposed apssuper1927@gmail.com as an address that was available, and seemed appropriate for a body called the "Association of Public Sector Superannuants" originally established in 1927, with the Victorian Sub-Committee perhaps using apssuper1927.vic@gmail.com

It was proposed by James that apssuper1927@gmail.com be adopted as the new email address. Seconded Lindsay: carried. It was arranged for Brenton to advise the Victorian Sub-Committee after Peter confirms the address has been obtained.

Item 9 AGM 28 February

Committee members discussed the agenda for the AGM

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM
4. Annual reports
5. Recommendations for Honorary Life Membership
6. Election of Committee
7. Guest speaker Senator Rex Patrick

Ray agreed to propose the life membership awards if he was able to come to the meeting. Brenton agreed to look for a member not nominating for the Committee to chair the election. Michael advised that he would bring Ian Beckingham to the meeting if Ian was able to come. Lindsay said that he would bring a bottle of wine for the guest speaker.

Item 10 Guest Speaker Coordinator's Report

The Committee noted that Byron Gregory (Health Partners) was confirmed for March; that no contact had been made with Paul Lainio for May 2nd, and that Geoffrey Lindell was booked to speak on 30th May.

Lindsay suggested that with no contact yet made May 2nd might be regarded as a free date for an alternative speaker.

Item 11 Qantas Club Report

Alan reported on unexpected complications involved in changing the Qantas Club arrangements into the Association's name, but expected this to be completed shortly. Alan suggested that it may be worth notifying members in a future newsletter of the Qantas Club.

Alan was happy to continue with Qantas Club liaison in a voluntary capacity after his term on the Committee ends. James noted the Committee's appreciation for Alan's persistence with Qantas Club co-ordination through a difficult couple of years, and thanked Alan for his willingness to continue as point of contact.

Item 12.1 Advance lodgement of documents for spouse pension

Brenton commented that it was not clear from Super SA's recent message whether it was no longer accepting some documents in advance of the death of a pensioner and the spouse or partner's subsequent application for the reversionary pension.

Committee members discussed the history of this matter and whether to resolve the uncertainty by writing to or speaking with Super SA. It was agreed that Brenton would speak with the relevant person in Super SA's Stakeholder Engagement area.

Item 12.2 Honorary Life Membership Awards

Committee supported Ray's proposal that members at the AGM be invited to confer Awards of Honorary Life Membership upon Ian Beckingham and Peter Frick. Ray is arranging frames and printing of certificates.

Item 12.3 Victorian Sub-Committee matters

James discussed the planning for a meeting of Victorian members in Melbourne on 30 March which he and Michael would attend, flying to and from Melbourne on the same day.

It was moved, Lindsay, that James and Michael take part in the first meeting of Association members in Victoria. Seconded Peter Fleming: carried.

It was moved, Lindsay, that the Committee approve Max Jahn providing the Victorian Sub-Committee with updates to the Victorian members contact list. Seconded, Barry Grear: carried.

Item 12.4 Update on Superannuation Advisory Group

Ray discussed the arrangements he proposed for the next meeting of the Advisory Group possibly on 16 March. After comparing the ACPSRO, SCOAWA and Association pre-Budget submissions Ray's suggestion was that the meeting focus on two issues.

One was pre - July 1988 service and associated funding credits, and how it may be possible to argue for an increased tax-free amount for untaxed-source pensions. Ray explained his concern that as far as he knew no-one has obtained credit for pre July 1988 service without a reduction to their pension unless they had no service after 1988. Arguing to government just to be treated like everyone else with no member choice seemed to be asking for some pensions to be reduced.

The second issue suggested for the group to examine was the separate taxation of non-superannuation income, or alternatively for the age pension to be tax-free.

If there was time after looking at these two fairly complex matters Ray felt it would be worth clarifying ACPSRO's pre-Budget warning to government not to make changes with a negative impact on retired public servants in seeking to offset the growing cost to the budget of the overall superannuation system.

The Committee agreed with Ray's proposals for the next Advisory Group discussion.

Other matters discussed were the expected take-up of lifetime pensions and reservations about joining with the Defence Force Welfare Association on lobbying matters.

Item 12.5 Possible approach to the CSC on age pension income test

Brenton discussed the apparent plans of the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation to introduce a lifetime pension product, with the considerably better age pension income testing rules than those applying to defined benefit pensions.

Lindsay suggested asking the CSC for a progress report, to know what it was planning. James canvassed combining such a request with a proposal or suggestion from the Association. Brenton thought this might be an opportunity to remind the Corporation of its obligation to act in the interest of all of its members, including defined benefit pensioners, and that perhaps the Advisory Group could be consulted on how the CSC might be approached. Lindsay, Ray and Peter Fleming favoured approaching the CSC now and looking at consulting the Advisory Group later depending on the response received.

The Committee decided to raise the matter with the CSC now and discussed arrangements for preparing a draft.

Item 13 Other business

The Committee noted that no reply had been received to the October 2021 letter giving notice of withdrawal from the Superannuation Federation, nor to a later message asking for confirmation that the letter had been received.

It was arranged for Brenton to provide Lindsay with a copy of the letter, for him to contact Leah York about an invoice for final membership fees and outstanding financial reports.

James asked on behalf of the Committee that its appreciation of the work of outgoing Secretary Brenton Pain over the past two challenging years be recorded. Brenton thanked James and other Committee members for their kind words.

Item 14 Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting was confirmed for Monday 28 March at 10:30.

Meeting Closed: 12:22 pm

Approved 28 March 2022 James Vandenberg President