Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Women’s Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland

Saturday, April 27th, 2013

The Fluvarium, Pippy Park, St. John’s

Thirty-two members were present. The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm. Julia Mathieson chaired the meeting.

Julia Mathieson welcomed members and the three scholarship winners who attended.

1. Approval of Agenda – moved by S. Goold; seconded by K. Matthews; all in favour.
2. Approval of Minutes of AGM, April 28th, 2012 – moved by S. Goold; seconded by D. Rehner; all in favour.
3. Approval of Minutes of the Fall Reception Business Meeting, September 26th, 2012 – moved by O. Broomfield-Richards; seconded by M. Hashem; all in favour.
4. Business arising – none.
5. Reports:
6. President’s report (J. Mathieson reporting): It has not been as easy year, but the executive has been very helpful and everything has gone well. Special thanks to Lynda Younghusband for hosting and chairing the executive meetings. This year’s programme went well until the January Coffee Morning, which was cancelled due to a major storm, but even this has turned out fine as we now have our scholarship winners with us at the AGM. The fall potluck and talk by Dr. Roebotham was a success as was the Spring Talk by Constable Foley on Identity Theft. The interest groups are going strong and thanks to the leaders for their hard work. The association is financially sound as is the scholarship fund so thanks to all who have donated.
7. Membership Secretary’s report (S. Goold reporting): We are up to 83 members; five are new and two have returned after an absence.
8. Treasurer’s report (T. Goold reporting): We have had a financially healthy year. There will be about $5000 in the account after all the bills are paid. The report presented at the meeting is up to date as of April 26th, 2013. Should we move some money from the main account into the scholarship endowment? We need to keep at least $2000 in the main account, so we could easily transfer $2000-$2500 to the endowment.

**MOTION**: Tonya Bassler moved that the Association transfer $2500 to the scholarship endowment account; the motion was seconded by Ruth Noel; all in favour.

Questions from the floor: If our donations go directly to the University, why is there a “donations” line in the financial statement? *Some of the money is the result of the raffle of the plant stand, some represents money that was meant for the University but was given to WAMUN by mistake*. Are donations making up for the loss of income from the plant sale? *This is a question that should be addressed to Linda Hensman. She will give a report at the Fall Reception*.

**MOTION**: Trudy Goold moved the acceptance of the financial report; the motion was seconded by Joan Fuller; all in favour.

1. Newsletter Editor’s report (M. Hashem reporting): Thanks are due to several people for their constant help: Karen Herzberg, Deborah Rehner. Please send information to the new newsletter editor as it will help her with the content of the newsletter.
2. Archive (J. Mathieson reporting): Please hand in material from this year (or any other material); when the collection has grown large enough, it will be handed in to the Archive at the University.
3. ET interest group (D. Rehner reporting): Susan Goold, Karen Herzberg & Deborah Rehner will be the conveners for next year. The group may not meet every week (perhaps just the 1st and 3rd weeks). The conveners are considering planning focus sessions and perhaps inviting a speaker to come in to talk about specific subjects. Please fill in a survey form if you haven’t already done so. There will be no more meetings until September and members are welcome to bring guests or spouses.
4. Other interest groups: reports were submitted and circulated for the Mostly Fiction and the Coffee morning groups. The newsletter reports were sufficient for the Non-fiction and the Hiking groups.

Julia Mathieson presented certificates to the three winners of graduate scholarships.

1. **Motion to change the Constitution**

K. Simonsen moved the following amendment to the constitution. Ingrid Pardoe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION**

Section 1.a. (Fundraising Committee) of Article IX – Standing Committees, Other Offices and Interest Groups shall be removed from the constitution. The Scholarship Committee will become the only standing committee.

The constitution shall now read:

**Article IX – Standing Committees, Other Offices and Interest Groups**

1. The chair of the Scholarship Committee shall be chosen by the Executive immediately following the AGM.

A Scholarship Committee shall be established as a Standing Committee of the Executive. The Committee shall consist of a Chair and at least two other members to a maximum of six members, one of whom shall be the Treasurer of the Association. The term of office of the Chair shall be two consecutive years unless an extension is agreed to by the Executive. The Chair will continue to serve as a regular member on the Committee for one (1) year following completion of her term of office as Chair. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year. The duties of the Scholarship Committee shall be to consult with the University, to publicize the scholarships, to review the scholarship program regularly, to report regularly to the Executive, to report annually to the members of the Association on the financial status of the scholarship fund, and to make annual recommendations on the scholarship program.

Rationale:

No one has been found to chair a fund-raising committee for more than six years. In recent time the Plant Sale Committee has been acting as the fund-raising committee, but as no one was found to chair that committee, it was decided at the Annual General Meeting of 28 April 2012 to cease active fundraising. This committee is no longer needed.

1. Distinguished Service Pin

This year’s winner is Linda Hensman for her tireless work on the Scholarship Committee. As Dr. Hensman was not present, the pin will be awarded at the Fall Reception in September.

1. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers for 2013-2014

The Chair of the meeting was passed to Maire O’Dea who presented the slate of officers:

President: Kathy Simonsen

Vice-President: Dorothy Milne

Past President: Julia Mathieson

Membership Secretary: Susan Goold

Treasurer: Mary Chalker

Newsletter Editor: Patricia Whittle

Social Conveners: Brenda Burness, Karen Lippold, Ingrid Pardoe

Nominations for the position of secretary were sought from the floor. Joan Fuller volunteered.

As no further nominations were forthcoming, nominations were closed.

**MOTION**: Maire O’Dea moved the election of the slate of officers; Trudy Goold seconded the motion; all in favour.

J. Mathieson expressed her thanks to Maire O’Dea and Jean Guthrie for their work on the Nominating Committee.

1. AOB – none.
2. Adjournment – moved by K. Matthews.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by K. Simonsen.