

Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 2, 2022

Council Members Present: Lindsey Byrt, Kristen Di Rocco, Angela Porco, Katie McLeod,
Sheralee Morrison, Celine Erickson, Hayley Peters

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- a. Lindsey Byrt welcomes the membership, introduces Parliamentarian Jason Gariepy.
- b. Jason calls meeting to order at 8:47 AM. Quorum achieved.
- c. A copy of the agenda is shared on screen, asking the membership to look at it and advise if there are any changes.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- a. Linda Hallworth moved to amend the meeting adjourn at 10:49 AM. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- b. Elizabeth Royal moved to approve amended agenda. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 25, 2021, AGM

- a. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held September 25, 2021, was reviewed by the membership in attendance. Diana Halvorson moved to approve the minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. OFFICER REPORTS

a. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – LINDSEY BYRT

- i. Updated the membership about the new regulations with the *Labour Mobility Act, Fair Registration Act, and Professional Governance Act*. ASRA has retained a lawyer to assist with ensuring we are in accordance with the new regulations in the Acts.
- ii. Advised the past three virtual conferences were a success.
- iii. Lindsey is stepping down as President and thanked council for all their help over the past year.
- iv. No questions from the membership

b. TREASURER'S REPORT – KRISTEN DI ROCCO

- i. Advised at the end of 2021, membership revenues and conference revenues were up this year compared to 2020 due to the COVID relief of 50% dues.
- ii. Advised Ventla was the online conference platform and a subscription was purchased.
- iii. Advised the ASRA had to hire an accountant to help organize the books.
- iv. Advised of the ASRA Insurance cost.
- v. Advised the ASRA renewed the NAIT scholarship again.
- vi. Advised the ASRA has \$30,000 that is invested as a monetary backup, which is included in the total of the financial report.
- vii. Advised the ASRA took the revenues made from online conferences the past couple years and used it towards the fall 2022 conference dinner.

c. REGISTRAR'S REPORT – KATIE MCLEOD

- i. 2021-2022 membership data report presented.
- ii. Advised there were 5 new CSR(A) registrants.
- iii. Advised there were 10 membership cancellations.
- iv. Advised there was an increase in PSR(A) members. This is due to some members retiring and some did not get enough credits, so they were moved to PSR(A).
- v. Advised the associate members were reduced to zero. Those were miscategorized and moved to PSR(A).
- vi. Advised there are 81 student memberships.
- vii. Advised the total membership is 278.
- viii. Advised membership renewal starts October 1.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT - LINDSEY BYRT

- i. Advised the new *Professional Governance Act* is intended to provide a consistent framework for governance of self-regulated professions and to ensure those professions are regulated to protect the public interest. It was to be implemented by January 2023. It passed second reading on May 11, 2022. Since May 11, it has not been advanced to the committee stage. It is not scheduled to reconvene until October 31, 2022. The Province did not reach out to discuss draft regulations or changes. The ASRA retained Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP to assist with the new Act. There will need to be an amendment to the bylaws and an addition of public members to council. We will keep the membership updated as legislation comes into effect.

b. ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MANDY SWEET-COULTER AND HAYLEY PETERS

- i. Mandy and Hayley presented to the membership on behalf of the Advocacy and Education Committee. The committee consists of Kristen Di Rocco, Roberta Baily, Christina Berekoff, Deanna DiPaolo, Chelsey Farfard, Hayley Peters, and Mandy Sweet-Coulter. They outlined the purpose of the committee is to educate the legal industry on the importance of certified stenographic court reporters. They have come up with five tiers in how to accomplish this:
 - a. Tier 1 – Industry implementation
 - b. Tier 2 – Education and Student Engagement
 - c. Tier 3 – Lunch and Learns
 - d. Tier 4 – Career/Job Fairs and Legal Studies Integration
 - e. Tier 5 - Court/Government Liaison
- ii. Leanne Kowalyk advised there are digital reporters in Canada and offered to discuss this at any time.

c. TRANSITION FROM COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH TO KING'S BENCH – LINDSEY BYRT

- i. Advised that since the passing of the Queen on September 8, 2022, there are no official documents providing directions on how that changes the civil transcript cover pages.
- ii. The courts have advised that all Queen's Counsel have changed to King's Counsel and are to be backdated in time.

- iii. Linda Hallworth suggested the ASRA seek clarity and obtain a letter of clarification.

d. PLACEMENT OF COURT REPORTERS IN REGIONAL COURTROOMS – CELINE ERICKSON

- i. Advised court reporters are having difficulties with their placement in regional courtrooms, as they are sitting at the opposite end of the room.
- ii. Council has drafted a letter and is planning to send it to Cindy Reynolds and Chief Justice Moreau this week.
- iii. Marthe Desmarais-Moen asked if it's in Provincial Court or Regional Court. Celine Erickson advised it's Regional Court.
- iv. Marjorie Smith asked if membership can look at the letter so they can provide input before it's forwarded.

6. COUNCIL ELECTIONS

- a. Marthe Desmarais-Moen is the returning officer.
- b. President - Lindsey Byrt nominates Kristen Di Rocco – Accepted
- c. 2 vacant council positions
 - i. Kristen Di Rocco nominates Lindsey Byrt – Accepted
 - ii. Mandy Sweet-Coulter nominates Deanna DiPaolo – Accepted
 - iii. Jeff Weigl nominates Michelle Gulka – Accepted

7. CLOSING COMMENTS BY LINDSEY BYRT

- a. Nice to see everyone in person.
- b. Gave thanks to outgoing and current council members for all their hard work.
- c. Reminded the membership that everyone is on the same team and want what is best for our profession.
- d. Advised if anyone has any suggestions for conference topics, please send them to council.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Elizabeth Royal moved to adjourn at 10:23 AM. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Submitted by Sheralee Morrison, ASRA Special Projects, 2022