

WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY AUSTRALIA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2019-2020 held via teleconference on Sunday 1 November 2020 from 11.00 to 11.50 am

Attendees: Emma Davidson (Convenor/Chair), Priscilla Todd (Secretary/Minutes), Deborah Poulton (Treasurer), Jozefa Sobski, Ruth Greble, Philippa Hall, Cheryl Arnold, Inbal Steinberg.

1. Open and welcome

Emma Davidson opened the meeting at 11.05 am. She acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the Country of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations and paid respects to past, present and emerging Aboriginal leaders and acknowledged any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders present at this meeting. She also acknowledged that the land was never ceded, it always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Noted as listed.

Apologies: Noted that Helen L'Orange was stepping down from the Committee and had sent an apology.

3. Minutes of previous AGM (2018-2019) Sunday 29 September 2019 – Attachment 1

Ruth asked that the name 'Irene Greenwood AM' be inserted as the well known feminist referred to in her WA report.

RESOLUTION moved Jozefa Sobski, seconded Deborah Poulton:
That the Minutes of the 2018-2019 AGM, as circulated and amended, be accepted.
CARRIED

4. Annual Report – Emma Davidson – Attachment 2

Jozefa recorded congratulations to Emma on her election to the ACT Assembly. She also recorded congratulations on the return of Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Labor Government in Queensland.

Emma thanked NEC members for their work through the year, particularly in writing submissions and representing WEL at hearings. WEL had marked the passing of three important WEL members, Sue Salthouse, Susan Ryan and Dr Beatrice Faust.

WEL continued to be actively involved in the National Alliances and working with NFAW on the Budget analysis.

There had been a trip to New York supporting a group of Aboriginal and Pacific First Nations women for a Breaking Silent Codes project. Plans for a WEL National Conference had commenced but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jozefa asked and it was agreed to add references under Advocacy and Submissions to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry and the report to IAW.

Jozefa Sobski moved, seconded Philippa Hall:

That the 2019/2020 Annual Report, as circulated and amended, be accepted.

CARRIED

5. Treasurer's report – Deborah Poulton – Attachment 3

Deborah noted that a bequest had been received from the late Rosemary Eldridge, a supporter in the ACT for over 20 years. Capitation fees and donations had covered outgoings for the year including WELA website costs.

Deborah reported on current net asset figures, namely the St George term deposit stood at \$32,896 and would come up for renewal in January 2021; Business account \$6,689; Cheque account \$954. As well, funds held by NFAW stood at \$1,642 and the next six monthly report on donations received was due in January 2021; a Managed Fund of between \$13,00 and \$15,000 depending on fluctuation.

Overall, Deborah saw the financial situation as comfortable, a small non-interest bearing fund was held for running expenses and the term deposit would be drawn on as and when necessary. A Budget was yet to be produced.

Ruth suggested that term deposits be examined as they were not earning much interest. Deborah undertook to circulate a report in December when the latest details were available. In response to queries from Cheryl about donations and fees, Deborah provided more financial details about donations and fees and reminded the Committee that Capitation Fees had been abolished under the new Constitution approved last year.

Some members had not received the Financial Statements which made it difficult to comment and it was decided to accept the Treasurer's verbal report.

Cheryl Arnold moved, seconded Ruth Greble:

That the Treasurer's verbal report be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Reports

States and Territories

Jozefa had circulated the NSW Report.

Priscilla spoke briefly about a quiet year in Victoria. Last year she had forecast closer collaboration with the Union of Australian Women and League of Women Voters Victoria but that had not eventuated, due to a lot of illness and the pandemic. She recorded thanks for an active NSW Branch.

Women's Alliances

Jozefa said that **AWAVA** had been active, she had circulated theirs and other reports and information throughout the year and there had been some joint work relating to hearings. She referred to broad coverage about the general inadequacy of the Budget particularly on issues affecting women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In respect to **economic security**, Philippa said there had been a couple of Zoom meetings, various reports and a couple of white papers, all on websites.

Emma advised that **ERA** held a few Zoom meetings about the Commission on the Status of Women which was cancelled. She had trained the new ERA Project Officer about analysis of the Federal Budget during the lockup. This year, however, only two hours were allocated for the lockup and Department officials were not available to answer questions. Emma hoped that next year's Budget would provide a lot more to talk about.

7. Appointment of Returning Officer

Jozefa Sobski nominated Emma Davidson as Returning Officer, seconded Cheryl Arnold.

8. Election of Office Bearers - National Coordinating Committee

Nominations received:

Convenor – no nomination had been received and nominations were called for. Jozefa Sobski said she was willing to be nominated for the current financial year. She did this with a great deal of sadness, observing that it had been expected the National Conference planned for this year would have energised the membership.

Emma thanked Jozefa and said she hoped it might still be possible to organise a conference, at least online, although her time would now be very limited. Josefa said that people with time, commitment, enthusiasm and networks were needed and this meant making approaches and having detailed discussions. As well, viable groups in Victoria and the ACT were necessary in order to lighten the burden carried by WELNSW for many years.

Secretary – Priscilla Todd

Treasurer – Deborah Poulton

NCC members – Philippa Hall, Inbal Steinberg

Emma stood down and Jozefa took the Chair.

Cheryl Arnold moved, seconded Deborah Poulton:

That a formal vote of thanks to Emma Davidson for her work as WELA Convenor be recorded.

CARRIED

9. Appointment of Auditor - Colin Barnard

Deborah advised this would probably be the final year that Colin Barnard would be available as Auditor. Jozefa undertook to ask the WELNSW Auditor if she would be interested in taking on this task.

Cheryl Arnold moved, seconded Emma Davidson:

That Colin Barnard be appointed Auditor for the ensuing financial year.

CARRIED

Appointment of Public Officer – Lena Lind

Cheryl Arnold moved, seconded Emma Davidson:

That Lena Lind be appointed Public Officer for the ensuing financial year.

CARRIED

10. Other business

Ruth provided details about the work of Simone Frances McGurk, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services and the assignment of \$28m for Family and Domestic Violence in July 2020 by the WA Government.

Ruth confirmed that she was stepping down from NNC membership due to other commitments and in the hope that this would encourage someone else to take on the role. Ruth said how much she appreciated the support and sisterhood over the years. She would retain her membership and continue to be on the mailing list.

Jozefa said she intended to keep most of the past members on the mailing list and would continue to welcome news from them all, especially to give a presence for their States on the WEL website. She also hoped to have phone hook-ups from time to time.

11. Close AGM

Jozefa thanked everyone for their work and for attending today's meeting. She declared the meeting closed at 11.50 am.