

LABOUR HISTORY SOCIETY
MINUTES Executive Meeting

Thursday 17 March. 2016

1. Attendance/apologies :

Steve Acton, Ralph Clarke, Jude Elton, David Faber, Marlene Fenwick, Kevin Kaeding, Allison Murchie, Greg Stevens, no apologies.

- a. Congratulations to Allison Murchie on receiving the Irene Bell Community Award for her contribution to International Women's Day.
- b. Jude advised that she needed to step down from the position of President of LHA for 3 months due to personal circumstances which she explained. See below.

2. Constitution: Report GS & RC

It was resolved that we receive the report (see below*) and accept it.

Ralph moved that the resolution be adopted with the additional notation that from the 2016 AGM the SA branch delegate to the federal executive of the society be open for nomination and election at the AGM. (We note that our constitution is substantially consistent with the Federal constitution. We also note the benefit to the Society of continuing incorporation under the State Act for purposes of grant applications.) Seconded by G Stevens. Carried.

3. Membership.

- 1) Report from Jude. At sub-group meeting on 29 January it was decided that MF and KK will do bi-monthly reports to be presented at Executive meetings. SA will back up MF in keeping membership details up to date. KK to continue sending membership forms to MF. Circular to be sent out in May/June requesting update of membership details and whether a member wishes to continue to receive society information. It was suggested a 'renewal of membership' form, possibly in the form of an invoice, may be more suitable than a membership form. Subs will remain the same for the 2016/2017 year. Action: MF to re-format membership form and work on 'renewal' form.
- 2) Please undertake to have a look at the lists supplied (MF to email RC a copy) to assist in discovering any anomalies.

4. Income and expenditure (KK) - report circulated.

5. Website info (SOCE project) - Prof Alice Dodd of UNISA is the supervisor, Ann Lewis is the student who will work on the proposed website. There is a meeting on Thurs 31 March at 2pm at Magill Campus for all involved in the projects to meet. JE undertook to email the Federal Secretary about upgrading our home page.

6. Further to Jude's leave of absence:

- 1) RC moved that given Jude's personal circumstances she be given leave of absence from the Committee for a period of not less than three months from this day and VP David Faber be appointed Acting President. Seconded GS. Carried.
- 2) RC moved that GS be appointed Acting VP during JE's period of leave of absence. Seconded AM. Carried.

7. April 17 - general meeting: Stephanie McCarthy, author, has agreed to be guest speaker.

- 1) MF to send flyer to membership.
- 2) Reminder to committee members to take up usual responsibilities, food for afternoon tea, tea/coffee/ milk.
- 3) David will obtain Box Factory key.
- 4) Gift for presenter? (Note from MF – not sure if I missed this)

8. Confirmation has been received from Rhonda Sharp who will be guest speaker for June 19 Meeting.
9. Newsletter: Winter edition. AM would like contributions please.
10. Community grants program – deferred.
11. Any Other Business
 - 1) Brisbane branch is to host the next federal conference. They will be keeping fees as low as possible. It was agreed that the Society join the Global History Network. Theme of the Conference is Workers of the World.
 - 2) May Day: Dinner - Sunday 1st May: Cost is \$40 pp unwaged. Speaker will be an 'ordinary' worker. March - Saturday 30th April
 - 3) David, on behalf of the committee, thanked Jude for the work she had done and wished her all the best.

Meeting closed.

Next Executive meeting:

* Report on SA Constitution (Ralph Clarke, Greg Stevens)

Ralph and I have now examined this situation and advise as follows;

The rationale for having a Federal Constitution included that it would displace the State Constitutions where they existed and that these Branches would proceed to 'unincorporate' those Constitutions. We cannot recall that being explained to us at the time, nonetheless that is what occurred.

Looking at the two Constitutions side by side it is clear that with respect to Part 4 of the Federal Constitution dealing with branches our Constitution provides much more detail and only rarely cuts across Part 4.

The Federal Constitution does not inhibit Branches from spending their resources as they see fit providing they relate to the Society's aims and objectives.

However, should our Constitution be relinquished and we became unincorporated, we would probably be no longer able to apply for grants in our own name but would have to go through the Federal body.

In our opinion there is value in us maintaining our State Constitution whilst acknowledging the force and effect of the Federal Constitution particularly where it cut across our Constitution.

If the Executive see it that way, the remaining question is whether we should or should not enter into dialogue on this issue with Federal Executive now or wait until such time as they raise it with us.

If there are any questions on this prior to our next Executive meeting feel free to do so

Ralph and Greg