

Minutes of Sydney Branch ASSLH Executive - 29 August 2012

Meeting opened at 6.15pm at the Economics and Business Building (H69) in the staffroom on level 3.

Present: John Shields, Damien Stapleton, Danny Blackman, Jim Rooney

Apologies: Sue Tracey, Jim Kitay

Minutes of Previous Meeting Accepted (23 May 2012)

Matters Arising

Agreed that investigation is required to determine whether it is possible to reduce transaction fees associated with Branch deposit and investment accounts. Agreed in principle to move the accounts to a Credit Union. John Shields has a declared interest given the role of his wife in the Gateway Credit Union.

AGM to be held at the Mechanics Institute on Saturday 29th September – includes talks and panel discussion involving Ray Markey, John O'Brien (John Shields to confirm); Ann Junor (John Shields to confirm); and Michael Wright (on the NSW Firefighters Union)

Decided:

A credit card is not required;

Discussion will be deferred until a later date after each considering options and in light of feedback from Gateway Credit Union (see below)

Actions:

- John Shields to obtain information on deposit account options from the Gateway Credit Union.
- Jim Rooney/Sue Tracey to obtain details on current accounts and charges.

Website Statistics

Discussion of the current Branch social media presence included the possibility of adding a blog on issues of interest to Branch members. A potential web/social media savvy candidate was identified but need to agree on aims and responsibilities.

Decided: to defer discussion of further development of the social media presence to the AGM.

Next Edition of Hummer

John Shields indicated potential items identified to date:

1. Ron Ringer has promised a further piece on brick making. He's also just written a book on the Snowy Mountains Scheme so this may also be a possibility.
2. Sydney War Memorial.
3. Transcript of discussion/panel at the AGM.

4. Other potential sources - Lurbers; Bernard Camms (?); Peter Hicks/John Warne

Danny Blackman also suggested:

5. Obituary for Joe Owens (ex NSW BLF/Green Bans advocate) – could ask Meredith Burgmann (mburgmann@gmail.com). It may also be a good occasion for another look at the whole Green Bans period.
6. The original words of Bread & Roses by James Oppenheim. Danny has also offered to write a couple of paragraphs on the 1912 Lawrence Massachusetts textile workers strike it commemorates. The poem is currently listed under a heading of "A Movement that Sings will Never Die" - title of a song written by the Brisbane Combined Unions Choir which sums up what the union choirs try to do (Danny will confirm if they are happy for us to publish).

Actions:

- o (John Shields/Jim Kitay) Need to confirm submission deadline and publication dates.
- o (All) Need to consider potential material for next Hummer edition.

Correspondence

Hummer Royalties for 2011 was \$276.63 and are currently retained by the Branch. The question is whether (and if so, how) royalties are distributed to authors.

Decided: Whilst the prerogative of the incoming Branch Executive, it was suggested that a written policy needs to be developed and ratified.

Finances

Current balance (as at the date of the meeting) is \$5,646.93. No points of discussion were raised.

Meetings, Talks, Events

Discussed the need for regular Branch member meetings.

Decided: Whilst the prerogative of the incoming Branch Executive, it was suggested that regular Executive and member meetings be arranged on a fixed day every two months in 2013 (see below)

Actions:

- o Danny Blackman to create a sample flyer for the suggested regular meeting.
- o Jim Rooney to provide Branch letterhead to Danny.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm