

Sydney Branch ASSLH Minutes of Executive Meeting 7 April 2010

Meeting opened at 6pm at the Town Hall Hotel, Newtown

Attendance: Sarah Gregson, Sue Tracey, Nick Dyrenfurth, Danny Blackman

Apologies: John Dean

Branch Finances

The branch currently has three options for payment: cheque, money order or credit card. Now with cheque use declining and electronic banking increasing in usage it was suggested that members be offered the option of direct deposit. So as the treasurer could monitor who has paid by direct deposit access to on line banking would need to be arranged. The bank (CBA) advised that to conduct online banking 2 officers of the Sydney Branch would have to have access and authorise the transaction. The first officer is free, the second would cost \$15 per month. However, it would be possible for just one officer to access the Sydney Branch's statement on line (without the capacity to do transactions) for free.

The executive determined that the Sydney Branch would offer direct debit as an additional method for members to pay their subscriptions and that Sue Tracey, secretary acting treasurer, have online banking rights which would enable monitoring of the Branch's Bank statement.

Branch Membership

Lapsed members to be followed up and new members sought. At present there are no unions who are members of the branch.

Membership Payments

Memberships from Damien Stapleton \$20, John Dean \$10 and Samuel Russell \$20 were deposited in the Branch's Account

Constitution

Discussion was held about amending the branch's constitution so as the AGM would be move from the 3rd quarter of the membership year to the first quarter of the membership year. There was discussion about the possible impact on the federal body and whether it should be the second quarter of the membership year.

The constitution of the society sets out the following procedure for amending the constitution.

10. AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The procedure for the amendment of this constitution and these rules shall be:

(i) Proposed amendments shall be considered and voted on at the Annual General Meetings or at Special Meetings.

(ii) At least 21 days notice of proposed amendments shall be given to all members of the Society.

(iii) Motions of amendment shall be in writing, signed by the mover and the seconder shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least 42 days before the general meeting of which they are to be considered.

Sydney Branch Website

Hummer is still not google searchable. In fact none of the entire ASSLH site is google searchable. Carl Power, who has responsibility for the ASSLH site, has asked the new

webmaster, Adeline Yaw to look at the problem. Apparently there are 2 problems – the google one and collapsible files. She has installed plug ins and made adjustments but the site is not responding in the way it should. The way the ASSLH site was set up was unique and needs further work. Carl is impressed with Adeline's commitment to fixing the problem.

Icons of labour – at present the author of the information is not revealed on the website. The executive agreed, that subject to the author's agreement, the names of the authors would appear with the entry.

Meetings 2010

The AGM Meeting held at the Gaelic Club with speaker Harry Knowles went well. It was thought the club venue, with drinks on sale, made it a more appealing venue than an office space would be.

The MacGowen talk in conjunction with the NSWALP, set down for 29 June, may not go ahead. Nick would like to see it occur in October, which is closer to the anniversary. There is the possibility that the Sydney branch could combine with another group for a book launch in July-which could be a large event. Nick and Sue will liaise on this over the next week.

Labour History Conference 2011

The ACT branch is hosting the 2011 Conference on 29 September – 1 October 2011.
Meeting closed at 7pm