

EDMONTON STROLL OF POETS SOCIETY



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 18 March 2018
Three Bananas Café, 9918-102 Avenue
1:30 p.m. Registration, 2:00 pm Business

ATTENDEES:	
HENRY VICTOR	MYRNA GARANIS
MANNY BLOSSER	KADRUSH RADOGOSHI
JENINE DUMONT	ANNA MIODUCHOWSKA
RICHARD DAVIES	S.E. INGRAHAM
GARY GULLY	DOUG ELVES
DEBORAH LAWSON	EDWARD (KEITH) MARTIN
KIM BLAIR	MAX FOSTER
ELLEN KARTZ	GERALD ST. MAUR
RON KURT	DON PERKINS
JOHN LEPPARD	DAVID CRONE
DIANE ROBITELLE	MARY CAMPBELL
JANIS DOW	LISA MULROONEY
ALICE MAJOR	TRUDY GRIENAUER
ANNE GERARD MARSHALL	ILARA STEPHANIUK-GAUDET
GUY CHAMBERS	JANET SMITH
MARKUS EYMANN	LAVONA MCILWRAITH
ROBIN HUNTER	GINA VARTY
PHYLLIS SHUELL	STEPHANIE HACK
JOYCE HARRIES	NAOMI MCILWRAITH
MATTHEW DEKKER	HUGH MCALARY
SUSANA CHALUT	TDL TURNER
MARCO MELFI	

Call to Order: 2:05

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Don Perkins moved to accept agenda for today AGM, David Crone seconded, Passed

Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2017: Add David Crone to last year's minutes

Motion: Alice moved to accept minutes from last year; Anne Gerard Marshall seconded, M/S/Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes - none

Board Member Reports

President – John Leppard

1. Thank you to Jackie Belgan and staff at Three Bananas Café, the board members seeking re-election (Alice, Anne, Janis, Marco, and Susana) and the Stroll membership.
2. Special thank you to outgoing board members David Crone and Naomi McIlwraith
3. Thanks to the Future – Gratitude to a Chronical Uncertainty
4. Thanks to the Membership, especially first-time readers.

Vice President - Marco Melfi

1. Honour to Serve as VP
2. Positive Season – esp. first-time readers and with collaboration on the Board

Secretary – Naomi McIlwraith

1. The minutes are an important record of our activities and our decisions
 - a. The membership can read these minutes, as they are archived with the Writers' Guild of Alberta.
2. Thank you to the board members and the general members for being poets and for your contributions to this vibrant community!

Poets' Haven – Janis Dow

1. Support, Involvement, Warmth, Welcome
2. Mic Hosts, Door Host, 10- Minute Readers, Open Mic Readers, Audience
3. Attendance – Average increased to 44 from 41,
 - a. Final attendance = 1041
 - b. 19 New Members joined this year
 - c. Complimentary Membership to Ahmed Knomadic and Grayson Thate
 - d. Open Mic Readings – priority to newbies
 - e. John, Marco, Susana, Janis – Behind the Scenes
 - f. Additional Hurrahs to Anne Gerard Marshall
 - g. Thanks to Doug Elves for web support
 - h. Ellen Kartz – WGA Partnership + Membership
 - i. Thanks to Upper Crust and Audreys Books

Haven Host – Anne Gerard Marshall

1. Great Year – overwhelmingly wonderful new poetry
2. Last Night - 72 people attended Poets' Haven
3. **Anthology Editor – Deborah Lawson**

- a. 82 Poets submitted this year
- b. Half of the total membership and ¾ of those who read at Poets' Haven
- c. Thanks especially to the Board for the privilege of doing this wonderful work.
 - i. John Leppard and David Crone served as Anthology Liaisons
- d. Lots of people want to help: 18 volunteers made poetry their date on Valentine's Day to help proof read the anthology.
 - i. Press Proofs – 2 came and helped: Anne Gerard Marshall, Stefanie Hack
- e. Anthology Cover Photography by Mary Campbell

Social Media – Marco Melfi

- 1. Linda Papineau Couture initiated this portfolio a couple of years ago
- 2. Overall Goals: share and promote the Stroll, engage with other poets, writers (and artists) in Edmonton, and encourage new and younger poets to become members of the Stroll of Poets
- 3. Highlight = two weeks ago four strong female poets read, leading to a back and forth twitter = International Women's Day

Motion to Accept Reports – Ellen Kartz moved to accept the Directors' reports and Anna Mioduchowska seconded, **M/S/Carried**

Financial Report – Alice Major

- 1. Thanks for coming to the AGM. It's an important formality for the organization's success.
- 2. Revenues = have climbed to almost \$16,000.00 from \$13,000 3 years ago.
- 3. Expenses have increased too:
 - a. **Writers' Guild of Alberta**
 - i. Ellen Kartz's services = \$585/month, which is a modest amount for the work that Ellen puts in.
 - ii. Revenue over Expenses = This year shows a deficit of about \$1600; however, some of that pertains to the previous year and the expenses for the 25th anniversary gala.
 - iii. On an ongoing basis, we're spending about \$600-700 more than we're bringing in.
 - iv. Though we're fine right now, we will have to ask ourselves some hard questions next year. Strength of this organization is its financial stability.
 - v. Revenue over Expenses = Accumulated surplus has shrunk to about \$3700 and will continue to shrink if we don't do anything in the coming year.
 - b. **Discussion**
 - i. Q. Is the Stroll qualified to hold a casino? A. We're not registered with Canada Revenue to get tax receipts, but we might be able to register for a casino because we are registered as a non-profit.
 - ii. Q. Can we team up with other organizations to do a casino?
 - iii. Q. Venue expenses are higher last year. What's included?

- a. \$4600 went to the Upper Crust Restaurant, and is based on our attendance
- b. Audreys Books does not charge the Stroll for readings in their store.
- iv. Q. What's the other portion?
 - a. Small amount to the library for rentals.
 - b. Last year included all the Founders' Feast Expenses, including \$2100 for catering, rental of the community league hall, and costs for putting on that evening.
- v. Q. Marketing = Website and other small items, domain hosting, honorarium to Doug (though he often donates it)

Motion to Accept Financial Report: Alice moved that the Statement of Operations and Financial Position for the Year ending 31 January 2018 be accepted, Don Perkins seconded, M/S/Carried

b. More Discussion

- i. Two main sources of additional revenues:
 - a. Increase membership from \$25 to ?
 - b. Increase the Poets' Haven door fee from \$5 to \$7
 - i. Give Upper Crust \$6 and keep \$1 for the Stroll
- ii. Cash flow crunch
 - a. Each year, we pay many bills in February-March, before grants come in, and our \$4000 cushion doesn't sit in the bank account year-round.
- iii. Suggestion: Form a fundraising committee
- iv. We've had two fundraisers at On the Rocks, Donation Jar at Poets' Haven. Also, because we are sensitive to members who can't pay the \$25, the board has the discretion to waive that fee.
- v. \$7 is an awkward fee because it means dealing with change at the door.
- vi. Have the donation box at each Poets' Haven and promote it in the newsletter.
- vii. So far, the donation box has not been a reliable source of revenue. We do want to retain the solvency of this organization, because it's stressful to run an organization that doesn't have enough money to pay its bills.
- viii. **General Consensus of Membership in Attendance:** Increase membership fee rather than the Haven fee because the membership fee is easier to manage administratively.
- ix. Q. Should we pursue charitable status?
 - a. It's a lot of paper work without certainty, for an organization our size.
- x. The magpie chapbook is raising some funds.

Motion to Accept Financial Report: Alice moved that the Statement of Operations and Financial Position for the Year ending 31 January 2018 be accepted, John Leppard seconded, M/S/Carried

Thank You

Thanks to Alida van Braeden and Richard Davies for being the auditors.

Nomination/Appointment of Auditors for 2019

Marco Melfi moves to appoint Richard Davies and Mannie Blosser to serve as Auditors next year. Janet Smith seconded. **M/S/Carried**

Election of President – Doug Elves served as Returning Officer

Balloting Committee – Three Past-Presidents:

Anna Mioduchowska

Sharon Ingraham

Naomi McIlwraith

President – one candidate John Leppard

John Leppard was acclaimed as President.

Election of Officers

The Stroll's bylaws provide for a maximum of seven (7) directors in addition to the president.

The following individuals responded to the call for nominations to the Board:

Susana Chalut

Matthew Dekker

Janis Dow

Markus Eymann

Josh Luukkonen

Alice Major

Anne Gerard Marshall

Marco Melfi

Lisa Mulrooney

Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet

No additional candidates were nominated from the floor.

Each candidate spoke for up to two (2) minutes prior to the members marking their ballots.

The following individual were elected to the Board of the Stroll of Poets for the upcoming year (2018-2019):

Susana Chalut

Janis Dow

Markus Eymann

Alice Major

Anne Gerard Marshall

Marco Melfi

Lisa Mulrooney

Anthology Launch – Anthology editor Deborah Lawson reported on the 2018 Anthology, which includes poems by 82 individuals.

Mary Campbell's photograph was chosen for the front cover

The Path – Telford Lake – one foot and one word in front of the other on the way to a poem!

Other Business

Trudy Griener – 30 Poems in 30 Days starts 1 April 2018

Janet Smith – Alberta Retired Teachers Association Newsletter chose two Stroll of Poets members as winners in their last issue – Sharon Ingraham (2nd Prize); Audrey Brooks – Honorable Mention

Alice Major – The Edmonton Poetry Festival starts April 22nd. Members are encouraged to sign up for the following events:

- “Made Ya Blink!” - The Stroll is once again sponsoring the Blinks, which will take place at The Aviary
- Café Readings will take place at – The Three Bananas Café, Espresso, and The Nook Café

Next Meeting – 3rd Sunday of March annually: 17 March 2019

Motion: Janet Smith moved to schedule the next AGM for the 3rd Sunday of March 2019: 17 March 2019, Diane Robitelle seconded, **M/S/Carried**

Open Mic Reading: Trudy Greinauer, Alice Major, Sharon Ingraham, David Crone, Diane Robitelle, Gerald St. Maur, Gary Gully

John's Thank Yous:

Thank you to Deborah Lawson for your work on Anthology,

Thank you to Ellen Kartz for your work as our Administrative Assistant.

Thank you to Doug Elves for being our Returning Officer.

Adjournment

4:05 Alice moves to adjourn.