

EDMONTON STROLL OF POETS SOCIETY



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, March 17th, 2019

Three Bananas Cafe, 9918-102 Avenue

1:30 p.m. Registration, 2:00 pm Business

Attendees:	
Kim Blair	Lavona McIlwraith
Audrey Brooks	Naomi McIlwraith
Mary Campbell	Marco Melfi
Jean-Jacques Chateauneuf	Lisa Mulrooney
Carolyn Cordell	Don Perkins
Richard Davies	Kadrush Radogoshi
Ruth Anderson Donovan	Diane Robitelle
Janis Dow	Rose Marie Sackela
Markus Eymann	Janet E. Smith
Myrna Garanis	Gerald St. Maur
Jo-Ann Godfrey	Ivan Sundal
Trudy Grienauer	Joan Taillon
Gary Gully	Andrew Thompson
Robin Hunter	Max Vandersteen
S.E. (Sharon) Ingraham	Gina Varty
Ellen Kartz	Henry Victor
Deborah Lawson	
John Leppard	
Josh Luukkonen	
Alice Major	
Anne Gerard Marshall	
Hugh McAlary	

Call to Order: 2:04pm

Approval of Agenda: Intermission/Anthology Launch moved to follow immediately after election of officers. Motion: Alice Major. Seconded: Naomi McIlwraith. Carried.

Approval of Minutes from AGM March 18, 2018: Add in Joan Taillon's name as having attended last year's AGM and correct formatting. Motion: Markus Eymann. Seconded: Robin Hunter. Carried.

Business Arising

None

Board Reports

President's Report (John Leppard):

1. See report (attached).
2. John expressed our thanks to the Three Banana's Café who opened today to accommodate the Stroll of Poets AGM.
3. We bid a fond farewell to deceased members Vanna Tessier, Max Foster and Melle Huizinga.
4. Many thanks to the Board and its associate members (Board: Susana Chalut, Janis Dow, Markus Eymann. Alice Major, Anne Gerard Marshall, Marco Melfi, Lisa Mulrooney; and Associates: Matthew Dekker, Josh Luukkonen, Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet, Stefanie Hack).
5. Many thanks to the members, especially for all of your generous donations over the past year.

Vice-President's Report (Marco Melfi):

1. See report (attached).
2. Marco expressed our thanks to Ellen Kartz for her administrative support.
3. A big thank you to John Leppard for all of his hard work.
4. Marco is excited for the future directions of the Stroll and praised the strength of our members (as both individuals and a collective).

Secretary's Report (Lisa):

1. See Report (attached).
2. Lisa expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Stroll.
3. Minutes are archived with the Writers' Guild of Alberta and can be made available to any member who would like to review them.
4. A new Harassment and Discrimination policy has been implemented and will be posted to the Stroll Website.

Poets' Haven Report (Janis Dow):

1. See report (attached).
2. Janis thanked the members and all of our behind-the-scenes volunteers.
3. Average attendance on Monday nights is 49 people. A total of 1065 (incl. Mar 11 event) have attended during the year.

4. Membership currently at 126 members (16 over the number of members last year).
5. Adding two open mic spots this year has worked well, and many thanks to those who have stepped aside to accommodate first-time-readers.
6. Alejandro, our previous server at the Upper Crust, no longer works on Monday nights. Our new server is Brianna.
7. Attendance at Sunday readings is down from last year, but we intend to keep them going. Many thanks to Audreys Books for hosting us.

Haven Host's Report (Anne Gerard Marshall):

1. See report (attached).
2. It has been a terrific year with lots of good poetry. We are fortunate to have so many great members who keep us going.
3. Many thanks to all of those who assisted as door hosts throughout the year.

Anthology Editor's Report (Deborah Lawson):

1. See report (attached).
2. This is Deborah's fifth year as anthology editor, and she really appreciates the grace with which people receive her calls with questions or suggestions about their poetry.
3. Thanks to Ellen Kartz for her brilliant help, which she provides in so many different way (Deborah is often in weekly contact with Ellen).
4. Having a new email address, hosted by the Writers' Guild, has been a big help.
5. At the proofreading bee on February 13th, 14 volunteers assisted.
6. The cover that was selected was an image provided by Trudy Griener (and it is the second time she has provided the chosen cover image). Trudy generously donated her honorarium to the Stroll.
7. Deborah is very grateful for the great relationship we have with College Copy, who print the anthology.

Social Media Report (Marco Melfi):

1. Thank you to Josh Luukkonen (Twitter) and Trudy Griener (Facebook), for your help in spreading the work online. Thank you also to those who re-post and re-tweet our information.
2. Online sign-up has gone well this year. Thank you to all members for their patience with the new system.
3. Thanks for all of the hard work that Doug Elves provided in the past to set up our web presence, and thank you also to Ellen Kartz for your ongoing work in helping us to maintain it.

Acceptance of Reports as Presented: Motion: Naomi McIlwraith. Seconded: Ellen Kartz. Carried.

Financials

Financial Statement and Treasurers' Report (Alice Major)

1. See report (attached).
2. Alice commented that this year there is better news than there was last. There is \$226.32 more revenue than expenses. Three significant reasons for this are:
 - a. Donation box, which has resulted in collection of \$1650
 - b. Markus Eymann's work on the Magpie Chapbook, which earned \$450

- c. Generosity of members like Gerald St. Maur who have donated the sales of their books to the Stroll.
- 3. Alice encouraged continued donations (including the passing of a hat at this AGM), because without donations, the society may have to look at other ways of raising funds.
- 4. Special recognition was given to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Edmonton Arts' Council for their continued support (which pays for our administrative support at the Writers' Guild of Alberta).
- 5. This year, we did not spend any more money than we have in the past. Expenses are not higher, so it is important that we keep revenue the same or higher.
- 6. Alice expressed her thanks to Manny Blosser and Richard Davies, who were this year's auditors. She also thanked Ivan Sundal and his commitment to helping the society with the financial recordkeeping.

Acceptance of Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report as Presented: Motion: Alice Major. Seconded: Deborah Lawson. Carried.

Appointment of Auditors for 2019/2020: Alice moved to appoint Richard Davies and Manny Blosser as auditors for the 2019/20 financial year. Seconded: Marco Melfi. Carried.

Election of President

Returning Officer: Mary Campbell

Balloting Committee: Kim Blair and Ivan Sundal

Nominees: John Leppard, nominated by Marco Melfi (nominated accepted)

President: John Leppard by acclamation.

Election of Officers of the Board

Nominees: Janice Dow, nominated by Gary Gully (nomination accepted)
 Marco Melfi, nominated by Josh Luukkonen (nomination accepted)
 Lisa Mulrooney, nominated by Carolyn Cordell (nomination accepted)
 Richard Davies, nominated by Kadrush Radogoshi (nomination declined)
 Alice Major, nominated by Richard Davies (nomination accepted)
 Josh Luukkonen, nominated by Marco Melfi (nomination accepted)
 Anne Gerard Marshall, nominated by Hugh McAlary (nomination accepted)
 Naomi McIlwraith, nominated by Lavona McIlwraith (nomination accepted)
 Max Vandersteen, nominated by Henry Victor (nomination accepted)
 Audrey Brooks, nominated by Naomi McIlwraith (accepts, but withdraws prior to election)
 Markus Eymann, nominated by Trudy Grienauer (nomination accepted)
 Deborah Lawson, nominated by Richard Davies (nomination declined)

Process: 9 members nominated with 7 positions available on the board. Each nominee is invited to speak for 2 minutes. Those who are not elected will be invited to join the board as *Associate Members* (with non-voting privileges).

Officers: *The following members were elected to the board:*

Janice Dow
Markus Eymann
Alice Major
Anne Gerard Marshall
Naomi McIlwraith
Marco Melfi
Lisa Mulrooney

The following members are now Associate Members of the Board:

Josh Luukkonen
Max Vandersteen
Audrey Brooks

Other Business

Announcements and Other Business (Members):

1. Deborah Lawson launched the 2018/19 Anthology.
2. Trudy Grienauer mentioned that she had seen Alejandro (our former server at The Upper Crust). He extended his good wishes to all. She reminded members that 2021 is our 30th season and it is never too early to start planning a celebration. Trudy also invited members to sign up for April's 30/30 challenge. About 20 members area already signed up.
3. Alice Major reminded members to sign up for The Blinks, letting members know that the Edmonton Poetry Festival website is now live.
4. Lisa Mulrooney let members know that Parkland Poets' season goes until June 30th and that they are hosting a special "Poetry in Wonderland" event on April 14th.
5. John Leppard provided business cards to members who might be interested in passing them along to young poets. Fresh Verse will be taking place in May (8 young readers have 5 minutes each to read their work). He encouraged members to promote the Stroll at Poetry Festival and wherever they go.

Next Meeting: John Leppard moved to schedule the next AGM for Sunday, March 22nd, 2020. Location to be determined. Seconded: Don Perkins. Motion carried.

Move to adjourn: Alice Major motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:45pm. Motion carried.