

EDMONTON STROLL OF POETS SOCIETY



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Online via ZOOM

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

Attendees:

Alice Major	Lavona McIlwraith
Andrew Thompson	Leslie Dawson
Anna Mioduchowska	Lisa Mulrooney
Anne Gerard Marshall	Loren Marsden
Deborah Lawson	Shirley Serviss
Don Perkins	Patti Sinclair
Gina Varty	Max Vandersteen
Janis Dow	Trevor Hughes
John Leppard	Naomi McIlwraith
Josh Luukkonen	Mary Frances Smith
Marco Melfi	
Ruth Anderson Donovan	
Hugh McAlary	Trudy Grienauer
Pierrette Requier	Jo-Ann Godfrey
T.A. Niles	Lynn Gale
Dan Knauss	Marcia Johnson
Lois Hammond	

Call to Order: 2:00pm

Janis Dow shares her beautifully expressed land acknowledgement with the members in attendance.

Janis thanks John, Max, Lisa, and Don. Don reminds us that tomorrow, March 21st is World Poetry Day.

Approval of Agenda: Motion: Alice. Seconded: Shirley. Carried.

Approval of Minutes from AGM March 21, 2021: Under “Elections” – Don Perkins asked that Lisa Mulrooney be added as “Balloting Manager” to acknowledge her contribution to elections. Motion: Max Vandersteen. Seconded: John. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes from Last Year

No business arising from last year’s minutes.

Board Reports

President’s Report (Janis Dow):

1. 2021-2022 marks 30 remarkable years. 30 years as an organization is something to be proud of. We are able to adapt and survive to keep poetry alive. Sadly, we have lost some members but we keep their memory alive by keeping the flame of poetry alive.
2. Poets’ Haven continues to thrive on zoom. We’ve expanded membership across America.
3. Haven Committee has expanded: John Leppard, Janis Dow, Loren Marsden, Max Vandersteen
4. Anthology
5. Treaty Six Land Acknowledgements are now being read. Elder Jo-Ann Saddleback offered suggestions here, and Ellen Kartz brought that suggestion to us.
6. Thank yous: John Leppard, Max Vandersteen, Ellen Kartz, Alice Major, Anne Gerard Marshall, Loren Marsden, Markus Eymann, Max Vandersteen, Shirley Serviss, Naomi McIlwraith. Board Associates:

Vice-President’s Report (Max Vandersteen):

1. Privilege to support Stroll of Poets. Thank you John Leppard.
2. Haven at Home continued this year because of Covid.
3. Board Meetings, Writing Circle, other meetings continue to be held online.
4. Technical Challenges increased significantly.
5. First year as an active Board Member this year after two years as a Board Associate. This years as Vice President.
6. Another successful year: three projects
 - a. Kayleigh Cline, Ellen Kartz: Poetry Remix
 - b. Laurel Sproule, Neil Meili, Naomi McIlwraith: 30th Anniversary Chapbook
 - c. Max Vandersteen: Stroll History Project

Secretary’s Report (Markus Eymann):

1. Pleasure to serve as Secretary

2. Minutes stored in archive maintained at Writers' Guild of Alberta Office.
3. Janis now president, John has mentored Janis this year.
4. Thank you to all of the Board for all their efforts.

Poets' Haven Report (John Leppard):

1. Thank you: Loren, Max, Naomi, Janis for Haven Committee
2. Thank you: Ellen for keeping us all informed
3. Thank you: All Mic Hosts
4. Thank you: Lisa Mulroney for support on Zoom
5. Average attendance at 35 per Haven at Home. 39 at Upper Crust.
6. Don't know yet if we are going back to the Upper Crust.
7. Fresh Verse: May 2nd, 2022 for poets under 25. Full slate of 8 up and coming poets.
 - a. Open Mic
 - b. Please come and support these poets.

Haven Host's Report (Anne Gerard Marshall):

1. Monday night poetry readings at Upper Crust you will find me. But this past year: no upper Crust, not 5 bucks, no Anne.
2. Hopefully we'll See you in September at the Upper Crust, bring a poem, bring 5 bucks.

Anthology Editor's Report (Deborah Lawson):

1. Covid pandemic complicated Anthology production.
2. Thank you to Board, Ellen Kartz, Naomi McIlwraith and Max Vandersteen
3. Editing Bee: Audrey Brooks, Naomi McIlwraith, Dorothy Lowrie, Louise Fairley, Max Vandersteen,
4. 92 poems
5. Cover Art winner Audrey Brooks
6. Two distribution dates last year. Thanks to volunteers
7. College Copy: Aly
8. Distribution Date: Saturday, May 28th from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Communications (Loren Marsden):

1. Compiled by Max. Loren reads it.
2. Meeting online. Thank you to Ellen for her tremendous work in attending to our website and the e-newsletter.
3. Sign Up Genius, etc.
4. 426 members on Facebook?
5. Links posted
6. Ontario Poets Society, Cultivating Poets Society, Writers' Guild of Alberta, etc.
7. Twitter Account

Outreach and Development (Shirley Serviss):

1. Thank you to Alice Major, Max Vandersteen, Ellen Kartz.
2. Free summer writing group hosted by Gary Garrison and have continued to meet, speaks highly to the success of the endeavour. Harkens back to years ago when people met in person to critique each other's work.
3. Three projects to celebrate 30th Anniversary
 - a. Remix
 - b. History of the Stroll
 - c. 30th Anniversary Chapbook: Laurel Sproule, Neil Meili, Naomi McIlwraith, Max Vandersteen, Markus Eymann.
 - d. Fresh Verse

Acceptance of Reports as Presented: Motion: Leslie Dawson. Seconded: Loren Marsden. Approved. Carried.

Financials

Financial Statement and Treasurers' Report (Alice Major)

1. Good stable year for the Stroll of Poets, despite the pandemic. Overall revenue and expenses are lower overall.
2. We did finish the year with a year-over-year surplus of \$1300 and \$8000 surplus.
3. But we have expenses and bills coming up.
4. Main thing that helped us this past year was a very good response was a very good response to our call for donations: \$3127 which is \$1000 more than last year.
5. Especially received a very generous donation in memory of Diane Buchanan of \$1000.
6. Other revenue and expenses track pretty closely to the year before
7. \$5967 = grant money from EAC and AFA. Stabilizes our contract with WGA and the indispensable support of Ellen Kartz.
8. Statement doesn't show all the volunteer hours of so many – couldn't put a dollar value on that.
9. Grateful to you all for making the Treasurer's job easier.
10. Thank you to Ivan Sundal, Anna Mioduchowska, and Kayleigh Cline.

Acceptance of Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report as Presented: Motion: John Leppard. Seconded: Shirley Serviss. Approved/Carried.

Appointment of Auditors for 2022/2023: Alice Major moved to appoint Anna Mioduchowska and Trudy Grienauer as auditors for next years. Seconded: Deborah Lawson. Approved/Carried.

Election of President

Returning Officer: Don Perkins and Lisa Mulroney

Nominees:

President: Janis Dow. Motion: Anna Mioduchowska. Seconded: Shirley Serviss. Nominations from the floor for the Office of President x 3.

Election of Officers of the Board

Nominees:

Process: 9 members accepted nomination with 7 positions available on the board. Each nominee was invited to speak for 2 minutes.

Janis Dow read for Audrey Brooks.
Lisa Mulroney read for Kayleigh Cline.
Alice read for Markus Eymann.

Formal Nominations:

Audrey Brooks: Nominated: Janis Dow. Seconded: Naomi McIlwraith
Kayleigh Cline: Nominated: Lisa Mulroney. Seconded: Lois Hammond

Leslie Dawson: Nominated: Max Vandersteen. Seconded: Alice Major
Alice Major: Nominated: John Leppard. Seconded: Leslie Dawson

Markus Eymann: Nominated: John Leppard. Seconded: Alice Major
Anne Gerard Marshall: Nominated: Hugh McAlary. Seconded: Pierrette Requier
Naomi McIlwraith: Nominated: Leslie Dawson. Seconded: Shirley Serviss
Shirley Serviss: Nominated: Alice Major. Seconded: Max Vandersteen
Max Vandersteen: Nominated: John Leppard. Seconded: Loren Marsden.

15 minutes for the vote to take place.
Lisa Mulroney created a Google Ballot.

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

Kayleigh Cline
Markus Eymann
Alice Major
Anne Gerard Marshall
Naomi McIlwraith
Shirley Serviss
Max Vandersteen

Other Business

*Membership Renewal: strollquestions@gmail.com or Stroll Website
Anthology: Max Vandersteen's photograph on this year's cover.
Deborah: Distribution Day for Anthology and Chapbook: Saturday, May 28th*

Other Business:

- 1. New President**
 - a. **Janis Dow**
- 2. Associate Board Members**
 - a.
- 3. Membership Renewal**
 - a.

Announcements (Members):

Pierrette Requier will be published in French with a publication in Regina. Frontenac House to publish again audio book of *Details from the Edge of the Village*.

Lisa Mulroney – Parkland Poets is doing a project for April where they are featuring one poet for each day.

Trudy Grienauer plug for 30/30.

Max Vandersteen reminds us for 1.5 weeks left for submissions to Poetry Remix.

Tribute to John Leppard Board Members read a collaborative poem.
John replies.

Next Meeting: Sunday, 19 March 2023

Move to adjourn: 3:38 Alice moves to adjourn the meeting.