



Minutes of the SGLMG Annual General Meetings 2022 **Online via Zoom**

Held 26 November 2022 at
University of Sydney Business School, 21 Codrington St, Darlington and online.

Meeting Chair: Christopher McManamon

Mel Schwerdt Co-Chair invited the Chair to the meeting. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.08am.

Acknowledgement of Country was observed.

The Chair advised that there were 312 registered members. 140 members were online at the start of the meeting, and 46 in person.

In attendance were the auditor Daniel Cunningham EY, Directors, staff, members online and in attendance.

Questions already submitted in the VeroVoting platform are noted.

A procedural motion was put to the meeting hear the submitted motions that were rejected. The Chair rejected this motion.

A second procedural motion was put that the meeting Chair be spilled and replaced with James Sherrif.

The motion to remove the Chair was put to vote and failed with 549 votes against to 185 votes for.

The motion to hear the rejected motions was put to a vote. The vote failed with 509 votes against and 273 votes for.

The Chair continued with the meeting introduction and information.

Quorum was noted.

609 proxies were received.

Apologies received from Gil Beckwith, CFO.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2021

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Liz Dods, seconded by Phil Kershaw.

1. Financial Statements and Reports

Treasurer Abs Osseiran presented the financial report. Thanks was given to Gil Beckwith, CFO, for preparing the report. Thanks was also given to CEO, CFO and team for their management and results recognising the challenges presented by COVID.

The approved budget was based on a surplus of \$210,229 the previous year. The final audited result was \$317,712.

More that \$199,900 was distributed in grants to support LGBTQIA+ communities.

Revenue increased during the year from \$9.1m to \$9.8m.

Overhead costs were \$2.5m.

2. Reports of Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chairs

CEO Report. Albert Kruger addressed the meeting.

Season 2022. CEO extended thanks to the MG team for their enormous efforts to achieve the results and acknowledged the contribution from volunteers.

SGLMG delivered the largest Festival since the pandemic. 2022 Festival highlights were shared noting an increased Net Promoter Score to 64.2.

The official program for Sydney WorldPride has been launched.

We welcome Veronica Moya, the organisation's first membership officer.

Co-Chair's report

Mel Schwerdt and Jesse Matheson addressed the meeting.

It was noted that it is 20 years since Mardi Gras was registered as a company.

Michael Woodhouse was invited to give a summary of the new Mardi Gras. The Chairs acknowledged all those involved.

Highlights included results of 2022, Strategic Plan to 2025, Constitution review and the revised proposed timeline, changing culture to lead to improved member behaviour, Board sub-committees noting renewal and new members.

The chairs thanked all directors, management team, committees and volunteers.

All members will receive one ticket to the Sydney Harbour Bridge Pride march.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Questions:

Government grants received and cost of legal fees to Constitution Review.

- NSW govt grants received - c\$160K. SGLMG applies for all grants including those outside of government.
- CRC legal fees were \$40K outsourced to Freehills.

Plans for financial reserves.

- Invest in implementation of the Strategic Plan. Once the COVID impact has passed, some will also go back into community through grants.

2023 projected surplus is \$65-70K.

It was noted that revenue from ticket sales is revenue received in the year.

What expenditure reviews are planned to control the costs post SWP?

- It was noted that MG has always received grants from government.
- It was also noted that management is focused on financial sustainability.

Volunteers vs skilled employment.

- The CEO advised that the organisation legally cannot be dependent on volunteers for delivery. Employment is critical to delivering the strategic plan and to ensure all legal requirements are met. There will always be a foreseeable need for volunteers.

Police Accord, liberals, and sponsorship status of Qantas.

- The position of the organisation hasn't changed as reported in previous years.

Will MG take a public position on indigenous Voice to parliament?

- A matter that the Board will discuss.

Constitution Review – affirmative action. What is the concrete integration plan for trans people?

- The Board seeks diversity.

The Chair invited members to vote on the reports.

A vote to accept the co-chairs report was passed with 540 for, 140 against and 57 abstained.

Members voted to 'Accept the financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2022 including the auditor's report'. The vote passed with 570 for, 136 against and 32 abstained.

3. Lifetime Membership

Members reviewed both the Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards and recommended to combine the categories to be referred to as SGLMG Hall of Fame.

Giovanni Arcidiaco-Campolo addressed members to tabling the motion proposed by Dianne Minnis and seconded by Louis Hudson to accept '78ers for Lifetime Membership.

Margo Moore
Deborah Macarthur-Newson
Korey Moon
Jennifer Neil
Mystery Carnage
Peter Ohlson
Deni Sevenoaks
Diana Wilson
Paul Terrett
Julia Lynette Stewart
Alison Bernasconi
Ray Green

Members accepted that the proposed members be granted Lifetime membership with 538 for, 18 against and 133 abstained.

A member requested that the Hall of Fame discussion consider lifetime members posthumously.

4. Sydney WorldPride 2023 Update

Albert Kruger provided an overview of Sydney WorldPride 2023 and the program.

5. Items of business from Members

It was noted that Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras received 12 Items of Business proposed as resolutions. Following a review of these proposed resolutions, the Board resolved to decline putting these resolutions to the members at the Annual General Meeting as they were invalid or incapable of being legally effective. The Board provided a response to these issues and published on the web.

- Human Rights Conference Ticket prices** submitted by Mark Gillespie and Peter Murphy, Original 78ers.

Mark Gillespie addressed the meeting expressing concern about accessibility and inclusion to SWP, in particular the HRC. He emphasised the importance of implementation plans for policies highlighting the inclusion of a global audience of queer people.

He also requested that protocols for all SWP events include an acknowledgement of country as well as acknowledgement of all those who have fought in the struggle for LGBTQI+ communities.

In response Jesse Matheson advised that the concerns have been forwarded to SWP. The board and management do support implementation of inclusion plans.

ii. **Name Update submitted by** Quentin James-Fook.

Quentin James-Fook addressed the meeting. Highlighting previous name discussions over the years, SWP is an ideal time to demonstrate inclusivity and requests that the discussion be re-opened.

Jesse Matheson in response stated that the Board has prioritised Constitution review however the Board recognises that the name does need to be discussed and supports future consultations about the name change.

Brandon Bear addressed the meeting stating that the name change could mean a lot to many individuals outside “gay and lesbian” community.

Sallie Colchin, requested that ‘Mardi Gras’ be kept in the name and suggested “Pride” highlighting the difficulty as there are so many names and they can’t all be included.

iii. **First Nations representation.** Gary Morrison

Gary Morrison proposed a resolution to include a First Nations representation appointment to the Board on a 3x3 term and requested that the Board immediately remedy this gap. He noted that in 2021, two highly suitable First Nations candidates stood and were not successful and in 2022 there were no First Nations candidates. The current election process does not and will not enable appointment of a First Nations director.

Will Klaasen. Thanked Gary Morrison for his proposal which he supported. He also expressed concern of a three by three term. He suggested approaching BLAQ to elect and put someone forward.

Richard Thode addressed the meeting strongly supporting Gary Morrison’s proposal also noting that numerous organisations have appointed a Vice President Aboriginal Affairs.

Jesse Matheson on behalf of the Board committed to the Board addressing a First Nations director on the SGLMG/MGA Board through the constitution review.

Jodie Camden commented “I commend Dr Morrison’s attempted resolution. Leaving the issue of appointing a First Nations’ board Associate to mid 2023 entirely misses the urgent need to make this appointment before World Pride 2023. As a former member of the now concluded CRC, and a proud descendant of the Kamilaroi First Nations people, I am beyond disappointed that this “no brainer” affirmative action opportunity to deliver greater diversity has been squandered.

iv. Mikhael Burnard addressed the meeting to raise:

- i. Gender affirmation. That the Board stand to support gender affirmation policies.
- ii. Police Accord. Use of over policing in MG events and related harassment requesting that the Board tear up the Police Accords.
- iii. Disinvite liberal members.



Jesse Matheson advised that the Board has provided and published detailed responses on these matters.

It was also noted that the Police Accord hasn't yet been released and requests that members wait to see the Accord and consider it. Considerable engagement and discussion has been invested in this Accord.

Evan Ryan addressed the meeting regarding the stating that he was involved in the Police Accord meetings and requested that the Accord include measures of success.

v. Rejection of motions as invalid.

Kathy Sant requested the underlying rationale why PIP motions weren't accepted and whether the Board could prevent them and should prevent them from being put. Noting that the Board stated that they were not valid and not legally effective she requested the basis on which the Board made the conclusions and any legal advice on the matters received. She also asked if the Board believed there is scope for hearing the motions at all?

Jesse Matheson asked Kathy to submit her questions and the Board will be respond.

The meeting closed at 11.55pm.