



**AUSTRALIAN WRITERS GUILD AUTHORSHIP COLLECTING SOCIETY LTD**  
ACN 073 648 076

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 5:00 pm on Thursday 19 November 2020.**

**Via Zoom Webinar**

- Present:** Jan Sardi (chair), Shelley Birse, Shane Brennan, Chris Corbett, Marcia Gardner, Mac Gudgeon, Lisa Hoppe, Peter Mattessi, Roger Simpson (by proxy), Katherine Thomson (by proxy), Kris Wyld.
- Apologies:** Roger Simpson, Katherine Thomson
- In Attendance:** Jacqueline Elaine CEO, Georgina O'Farrell Returning Officer, Louise Ridlen IT Manager, Lindy Crozier (Minutes)

**CONSTITUTION**

The Chairman, being present, assumed the Chair.

The meeting convened in accordance with the Notice sent to all members.

At 5.00pm the Chair establishes a quorum present.

**PROXIES**

Two proxies were received from Roger Simpson and Katherine Thomson, both given to Jan Sardi, Chair AWGACS.

**NOTICE**

**Resolved** that the Notice convening the meeting be taken as read.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 28 November 2019 were confirmed and signed. Moved to accept by Peter Mattessi, seconded by Chris Corbett.

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND ADOPTION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

**Resolved** that the Annual Accounts for 30 June 2020, together with the Directors' Report, Directors' Statement and the Auditor's Report thereon, be received. Noted. The Chair advised that the Auditors Report and Annual signed accounts are posted on the website.

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Jan Sardi delivered the Report from the Chair.

**Resolved** that the Report from the Chair be received and that the text of it be included as an addendum to the minutes of the meeting.



## RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

Georgina O'Farrell, the Returning Officer, delivered her report:

### **Australian Writers' Guild Authorship Collecting Society Limited Returning Officer's Report. 2020 Elections.**

NEC appointed director position. Marcia Gardner is appointed.

Nominations were called to fill the vacancy for one (1) Member-Elected Director. One nomination was received, and no ballot was required. Jan Sardi is declared elected.

Georgina O'Farrell  
Returning Officer  
19 November 2020

## OTHER BUSINESS

## CLOSURE

There being no further business of which due notice had been received, the meeting closed at 5.17pm.

---

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



## AWGACS 2020 AGM – 19 November 2020

### CHAIR – JAN SARDI Report

2020 has been a challenging year, full of enormous change and COVID uncertainty. AWGACS has not been spared, with the team transitioning to remote work from March onwards. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our staff and board such difficult circumstances have not stopped AWGACS from carrying out its duty to its members across Australia and New Zealand, as well as representing the rights of international writers. Which is why I'm pleased to be able to report that despite the challenges of a global pandemic, AWGACS has had a very positive year, with some highlights I'd like to share with you now.

AWGACS' membership base continues to grow, with an increase of 98 members from last year, putting our total membership count at 1,971 at June 30.

AWGACS recently processed its usual November distribution starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month, its second for the year. With over \$400,000 in royalties paid out, we've had an excellent response from members so far. This is on top of the \$1.4 million COVID-Relief distribution AWGACS processed earlier in the year with the aim of providing writers with their royalties as soon as possible in order to alleviate some of the financial pressures faced by the Australian arts community in 2020. The 2019-2020 distribution period has nevertheless been one of AWGACS' best yet.

We have also continued our efforts to advance our collective licensing campaign and now have 289 signees. This effort will continue next year and will be vital to ensure you, our members, receive secondary royalties for the continued exploitation of the work you create going forward.

Looking to 2021, Screenrights has agreed to extend the expiration deadline for all pending domestic secondary royalties to accommodate the increased challenges of remote work. While AWGACS was always on track to claim all relevant royalties for our members, this extended timeline will give AWGACS the opportunity to review all claims with a greater depth of research and thoroughness. In January of this year, Screenrights moved from a six year to a 4 year distribution period which means writers will get their royalties sooner.

On the international front we continue to work with CISAC (the international Confederation of Authors and Composers) to advance the rights of authors around the world. In May this year, CISAC held its first virtual AGM at which Björn Ulvaeus (of ABBA fame) was elected as the new President along with a new executive team.

CISAC recently published a comprehensive report on the pervasive use of buyout practices in writer's agreements, as well as those of composers. Collecting Societies around the world like AWGACS rely on the retention of rights to secondary royalties to ensure that writers and composers are properly compensated for the ongoing exploitation of their work. That's why it's vital that Australian Writers (with their agents) ensure buyout clauses do not make their way into any agreements they may sign.

To the AWGACS board: Marcia Gardner, Peter Mattessi, Niki Aken and Jacqueline Elaine. Thank you for your tireless efforts towards keeping AWGACS operational and exceptional in a unique and challenging year. None of this could have been achieved without the incredible hard work and dedication of AWGACS staff. Especially AWGACS manager Oliver Woodman, working with Sally Cattle, Marlow Hurst and Carolina Pye. A special thanks must go to Karen Johnston, the Guilds group financial manager for helping make all the numbers make sense. And to Lindy Crozier for keeping us all well organised. Finally, a big thank you to

Guild president Shane Brennan and the entire board of the AWG who we work closely with in advancing the cause of Australian Writers.

Despite the odds, 2020 has been a better year than expected and we can only hope that 2021 will reinforce and expand upon the gains we've made. I'd like to thank all our members for continuing to support the work we do here at AWGACS. With every new membership and collective license signatory, AWGACS is better positioned to assert the economic rights of Australian and New Zealander writers and to fight for the rights of writers everywhere.

Jan Sardi

**Chair**