



**MINUTES OF THE ROMANCE WRITERS OF SOUTH AFRICA (ROSA) AGM  
HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2017 AT 14H30**

**In Attendance:** Romy Sommer (Chairperson), Mandy Verbaan, Peter Barker, Annemarie Gaertner, Elaine Dodge, Alissa Baxter, Elsabe Welman, Leanne Storer, Clare van Zwieten, Suzanne Jefferies

**1. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF THE QUORUM**

**Noted:**

- That proxies were received from Jayne Bauling, Erica Bene, Lorna Senior, and Elsa Winckler, and therefore the meeting was quorate.
- Apologies were received from Jayne Bauling, Erica Bene, Rebecca Crowley, , Helena Davis, Georgia Lyn Hunter, Fellicia Mohatli, Lorna Senior, and Elsa Winckler.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF THE CURRENT COMMITTEE**

**Noted:**

- That Ms Sommer opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.
- Members of the 2016 Committee were identified as follows: Ms Sommer (Chairperson), Ms Crowley (co-Chair), Mr Barker (Treasurer), Ms Jefferies, Ms Gaertner and Ms van Zwieten.

**3. READING OF THE ROSA VISION STATEMENT**

**Noted:**

- That Ms Sommer read through the ROSA vision statement.

**4. MEMBERSHIP: SURVEY RESULTS AND 2018-19 FEES**

**Noted:**

- That there were 46 members of ROSA in total, an increase of 12 members over the past year. Ms van Zwieten pointed out that since some previous members had chosen

not to renew membership, the number of new members was in fact higher.

- That the membership breakdown is as follows: ROSA's 46 members represented five provinces, with 25 in Gauteng. Four members were outside of South Africa.
- A survey was recently conducted of those who had signed up to ROSA's mailing list but who had not yet joined the organization, to survey the reasons they had not joined a members. Of the 91 people invited to take the survey, there were 19 responses (11 were published authors, 8 not yet published). The majority of respondents were based in Gauteng.
- That the main reasons given for non-membership were not having yet got round to joining, and the costs.
- That an associate membership category for publishers had been introduced during the past year.
- That there would be no fee increase for 2018; however, this would be a one-time offer and would be marketed as such, and subsequent years would see an increase.
- That any Outreach ideas be shelved until such time as ROSA is more established.

**Resolved:**

- **That sections of the general ROSA newsletter be reserved for members only in order to increase the perks for members. This would be in addition to the existing members-only quarterly newsletters.** Action: RS
- **That a list of member benefits would be drawn up for prospective members.** Action: CvZ
- **This list of member benefits would be included in the next quarterly newsletter for existing members.** Action: RS

## **5. CHAPTER REPORTS**

**Noted:**

- That there was a Johannesburg, Pretoria, and an alternate Cape Town/Somerset West Chapter, as well as a new Durban chapter.
- The progress of each chapter was shared and discussed.

**Resolved:**

- **That the Johannesburg Chapter would be run by Ms Verbaan and Ms van Zwieten.**
- **That a ROSA calendar of events be drawn up outlining chapter, retreat, and conference dates.** Action: Chapter leaders, RS

## **6. WEBSITE, BLOG, SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEWSLETTERS**

**Noted:**

- That the ROSA website and blog had undergone a recent revamp.
- That there was a volunteer who was now in charge of the ROSA Pinterest, Twitter and YouTube platforms (Cliffordene Norton)

- That the ROSA Facebook page was the most active platform. However, there was a free forum platform which was currently underutilised.

**Resolved:**

- **That the ROSA blog was being regularly updated with content by Ms Page. There was a call for content – memes, articles, new releases, services outside of ROSA – for inclusion in both the blog and the newsletter. Action: All members**

## **7. CONFERENCE AND RETREAT UPDATES**

**Noted:**

- That ROSACon 2017 would be offering professional development to its members, with 16 guest speakers, including Jane Porter of Tule Publishing.
- That a Cape Town retreat with agent Louise Fury would be taking place on 3-4 March at Lalapanzi Lodge, Somerset West.
- That ROSACon 2018 would be held in Gauteng at Melrose Place.
- That there was a request for writing retreats that focused solely on a 'getting away to write' theme.

**Resolved:**

- **That the 2018 Conference Committee for 2018 was as follows: Ms Verbaan, Ms Sommer, Ms Van Zwieten, And Ms Jefferies. The main focus of the committee would be to source guest speakers for 2018 and to find new ways to promote the conference.**
- **A post conference survey would be created to ensure that the conference remains effectual, relevant, and offers value for money.**

## **8. CONTESTS AND AWARDS REVIEW**

**Noted:**

- That there was a need to find additional judges for the English Imbali entries.
- That the requirements for the Strelitzia award be limited to three chapters, and a synopsis in order to attract more volunteer judges.
- That there was a need for a bigger committee for the Awards.

**Resolved:**

- **That the 2018 Imbali and Strelitzia Award committee would be Ms Sommer, Ms Gaertner, Ms Jefferies, Ms Baxter (Strelitzia English), and Ms Welman (Strelitzia Afrikaans). The primary focus of the committee would be to source judges for the 2018 contest.**

## **9. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **Noted:**

- That the 2018 budget had been finalised.
- That Peter Barker has agreed to continue as Treasurer.

## **10. NEW INITIATIVES**

### **Noted:**

- That the pilot mentorship programme had been less successful than anticipated. It was suggested that the mentorship programme be linked to the Strelitzia award to ensure member commitment to writing.

## **11. ELECTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Noted:**

- That the following Executive Committee had been elected: Ms Sommer (Chairperson), Ms Gaertner, Ms van Zwieten, Mr Barker (Treasurer), Ms Jefferies, Ms Dodge, and Ms Verbaan.
- That Rebecca Crowley had been invited to stay on as a general committee member for the next year, though her resignation as co-Chair had been accepted.
- That a WhatsApp group be set up for ManCo communication purposes.
- That a co-Chair be selected from one of the other chapters.

## **12. CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

### **Noted:**

- That a call for volunteers would be sent out to members.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **14. MEETING CLOSED AT 17H00.**