



**MINUTES OF THE ROMANCE WRITERS OF SOUTH AFRICA (ROSA) AGM
HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 15H30**

In Attendance: Romy Sommer (Chairperson), Mandy Verbaan, Rebecca Crowley, Elsa Winckler, Peter Barker, Annemarie Gaertner, Marie Dry, Rae Rivers, Judy Wood, Cindi Page, Fellicia Mosibudi, Suzanne Jefferies

Proxies received from: Lorna Senior, Inge Saunders, Hayley Lipchin

Apologies: Jayne Bauling, Kathy Bosman, Malene Breytenbach, Sharonlee Holder, Kay Montgomery, Yolande Plenaar, Clare van Zwieten, Kristien Wolmarans

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Noted:

- That Ms Sommer opened the meeting and welcomed all those present, particularly those who had flown in for the ROSA Conference.
- That it was confirmed that there were sufficient present to form a quorum.
- That there were 34 members of ROSA in total.

2. INTRODUCTION OF THE CURRENT COMMITTEE

Members of the 2015-16 Committee were identified as follows: Ms Sommer (Chairperson), Ms Crowley (co-Chair), Mrs Verbaan (co-Chair), Mr Barker (Treasurer), Ms Jefferies and Mrs van Zwieten.

3. READING OF THE ROSA VISION STATEMENT

Noted:

- That Ms Sommer read through the ROSA vision statement.
- That although there were a number of followers of ROSA, the focus needed to be on why those followers were not joining ROSA as members.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Noted:

- That there was a need to make membership of ROSA more valuable.
- That there was a fairly active social media base.
- That it was suggested that the ROSA social media group be open to both romance writers and those writers who include romantic elements.
- That it was agreed that the membership fees were reasonable.
- That there was a need to promote ROSA membership, perhaps by including more exclusive opportunities.
- That any Outreach ideas be shelved until such time as ROSA is more established.

Resolved:

- **That should any member have any suggestions as to how to increase ROSA membership, to please email Ms Sommer/the Committee. Action: All**
- **That Ms Sommer would inquire from IT about online group meetings/Skype sessions. Action: RS**

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted:

- That the highest expenses were in terms of the annual conference.
- Other expenses include website domain renewal, web hosting and bank charges.
- That no budget for 2017 had been drawn up as yet.

6. CHAPTER REPORTS

Noted:

- That the JHB Chapter meets approximately five times per annum, with the Pretoria Chapter more active, but with fewer members.
- That there was an opportunity for local chapters to engage in professional development workshops/conferences.
- That the Cape Town Chapter was holding a one-day conference in February with literary agent Louise Fury

7. CONFERENCE REVIEW

Noted:

- That the 2016 Conference had 33 paying delegates, as opposed to 23 in 2015.
- That the 2017 Conference would be held in Johannesburg.

- That it was worth investigating levels of membership, similar to the RWA, to accommodate those members who need to travel in for the Conference. Also, payment options, including staggered payments for classes of membership be reviewed.
- That sponsorship for attendees with financial issues be investigated.

8. CONTESTS AND AWARDS REVIEW

Noted:

- That the 2016 Imbali Award had received ten entries. There were five judges; however, one judge did not receive the material and therefore did not take part. All of the entries were reviewed at least twice, most three times, and there was a clear winner.
- That the 2017 Imbali Award be opened up to include as yet unpublished authors as well as published authors. The not yet published authors' works could be read and reviewed by either ROSA members or Mills & Boon SA readers. This would mean two different categories of the award.
- That there was a need to get both local and international bloggers involved in the competition.

9. ELECTION OF NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Noted:

- That the following Committee has been elected: Ms Sommer (Chairperson), Ms Crowley (co-Chair), Ms Gaertner, Ms van Zwieten, Mr Barker (Treasurer), Ms Jefferies. For additional assistance: Ms Dry and Ms Winckler.

10. CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Noted:

- That the following volunteers were elected:

JHB Chapter:	Ms Crowley and Ms Sommer
CPT:	Ms Wells and Ms Rivers
PTA:	Ms Dry and Ms Mosibudi
Newsletter:	Ms Sommer
Membership Liaison:	Ms van Zwieten
Contest Committee:	Ms Gaertner (English), Mrs Winckler (Afrikaans)
Media Liaison:	Ms Jefferies and Ms Dry
2017 Conference Committee:	Ms Rivers, Ms Gaertner, Ms Dry, Ms Verbaan
ROSA Blog:	Ms Page and Mr Ehlers
Twitter:	Ms Page and Mr Ehlers

11. MEETING CLOSED AT 16H30.