



**MINUTES OF THE ROMANCE WRITERS OF SOUTH AFRICA (ROSA) AGM
HELD ON SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 2021 AT 19H00**

1. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF THE QUORUM

Noted:

- Roll call was done by Romy Sommer and together with the number of proxies that were received, the required number of attendees and proxies for a quorum was attained.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Noted:

- That Ms Ewels welcomed everyone to the first AGM meeting with her as Chair.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Noted:

- That Ms Ewels advised the attendees had received the report together with the request to vote for the new ROSA EXCO for 2022. Those who had not yet read the report could do so at their leisure after the meeting.
- Ms Sommer raised questions concerning the budget figures for ROSAcon 2020. A profit of approx. R20,000 was shown in the report, where Ms Sommer requested an adjustment to be made whereby profit would be reduced to approx. R7,000. At the time of the report being created Mr Barker had not received these final figures. Some expenses had been allocated to different cost centres.
- The Treasurer's report is to be updated by Mr Barker.
- Ms Thebus proposed we could not approve the Financials at this time.
- The AGM attendees agreed to hold back on acceptance of the Financials until the report was updated, whereupon the new EXCO could approve such. The new Financials are to be distributed when complete.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEES & RENEWALS FOR 2021-22

Noted:

- Membership fees will remain as is, at R350 per annum for the year 2021-22.
- Membership numbers were down slightly for the year 2021-22. Our current membership is 84, which includes 2 new members. This has been largely attributed to the continued pandemic and financial constraints of many ROSA members.
- There are a number of sponsored memberships available but so far little uptake. Ms Ewels requested the members apply and/or put forward recommendation for application.
- Ms Verbaan requested all chapter leaders assist in application for assistance for their members as well as finding out whether all members have received the renewal notice. Renewal emails could be caught in spam filters.
- Ms de Villiers suggested we make contact with ex-ROSA members to find out whether they will reapply now that the renewal process has been automated.
- Ms Raal mentioned that the numbers will probably rise again once the pandemic recedes.
- Ms Thebus suggested she would like to create a monthly subscription option. As such she has agreed to be the new ROSA Membership portfolio holder.
- Ms Roos requested chapter leaders receive a list of members who have not renewed so they are able to approach these. Ms Ewels agreed to get this done.

5. CHAPTER REPORTS

Noted:

- Ms Ewels advised the attendees that chapter reports were included in the information package made available to members through the ROSA website (www.romancewriters.co.za) on the Annual Reports section. Those who had not yet read the reports could do so at their leisure after the meeting.
- Ms Ewels requested members to step forward to begin a Bloemfontein chapter as there are now a number of members in this area.
- ROSA membership age is confirmed as 18 years or older.
- Ms Ewels thanked the chapter leaders for their continued support and efforts to the ROSA organization.

6. ROSA BLOG, NEWSLETTERS & IDEAS

Noted:

- The ROSA blog has been inactive for a while. As we regenerate this, Ms Sommer has requested for topic suggestions, submissions, articles regarding the writing journey, writing craft and marketing. Please email your suggestions to newsletters@romancewriters.co.za.

- New topic columns to be included in ROSA's quarterly newsletters such as Ask Aunty ROSA which is sure to be a hit.
- Ms Welman suggested an area in the ROSA newsletters to be set up for "Looking for a Critique Partner". Ms Slater is also interested in this topic.
- ROSA EXCO put out a call to all members to submit their ideas on ways and means in which ROSA content, administration, etc could be improved. We welcome fresh ideas to improve the level of service we can offer as an organisation!

7. REVIEW OF 2021 IMBALI & STRELITZIA CONTESTS

Noted:

- As the winner announcements had not yet taken place, only general discussion around these awards was possible at this time.
- Ms Verbaan provided feedback on the Imbali competition for 2021.
- We encountered several challenges on the technology side with some of our social media posts this year. Our apologies to all entrants.
- That the following number of entries received for the Imbali award were:
 - English: 11 – one less than 2020
 - Afrikaans: 5 – one more than 2020
- The judges' feedback on this year's entries has been wonderful.
- Kim Hunter assisted in the Imbali Awards for 2021. Ms Hunter has agreed to run the Imbali Award 2022. Ms Verbaan has stepped down from running this contest.
- Ms Sommer announced that this is also her last year of running the Strelitzia Awards.
- Ms Ewels who assisted with the Strelitzia contest in 2021 will be running the award in 2022.
- The setup of the Strelitzia award was changed so that more entrants would come away with a completed manuscript at the end of the contest.
- As a result of some entrants not being able to complete their Strelitzia entry, we received a total of six full manuscripts for evaluation.
- Due to the amount of time spent on the creation of a full manuscript, the mentorship phase was much longer, sometimes leading to a lack of enthusiasm. Ms Sommer requested suggestions be made on how to keep the entrants motivated during this time.
- Several suggestions were made with regard to creating sprinting sessions or implementing a maximum word count to alleviate the work required by the judges. Ms Ewels will take these in consideration for the next contest.
- Ms Ewels thanked those involved in running the Strelitzia and Imbali Awards. These contests could not be run without the support of our judges.

8. ROSA OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Noted:

- Sadly, the Outreach programme has stalled for the moment as this is something that needs to be conducted via in person events. This has been deferred to such times as the pandemic will allow this to happen.
- Sunel Combrinck of the ROSA Pretoria chapter has approached ROSA with a request to

participate in a membership programme for budding young matric authors at a Pretoria high school, launching in January 2022.

- Ms Roos suggested we invite high school students to attend ROSA webinars. Ms Ewels confirmed this would be an option to consider.
- Kathy Bosman volunteered to mentor a student.
- Ms Verbaan requested members approach ROSA with their outreach suggestions.

9. REVIEW OF ROSA ANTHOLOGIES

Noted:

- After a delay caused by the pandemic, the 2020 Anthologies in the Steamy, LGBTQ+ and Sweet categories were finally published during the 2021 winter period.
- All members of the ROSA EXCO thanked Dani René for picking up on the organisation and production of these anthologies. There was an enormous amount of pressure on Ms Renee to get three anthologies out in quick succession.
- The sales numbers were disappointing. Much was learned by all involved and this new knowledge will be used in future ROSA anthologies.
- Ms René suggested the next anthology run should not exceed more than two volumes per annum, and these should be separated by at least a six-month period.
- The anthologies were also included in the Amazon Kindle Unlimited programme.
- Ms Verbaan noted that Ms Beaton and Ms Karlson did an outstanding job promoting the anthologies.
- Ms René mentioned she's already putting together a list of ideas for the next anthologies.

10. REVIEW OF THE ROSA CONSTITUTION

Noted:

- Ms. Sommer advised that the 2014 constitution has been brought up to date, to bring it in line with ROSA's needs as well as the South African legal requirements for non-profit organisations. The updated constitution, including notes on the changes made, were distributed via the ROSA newsletter.
- The updated constitution includes the reworded vision statement agreed upon during the 2020 ROSA AGM.
- The updated constitution was approved by a resounding majority and will be lodged with the Department of Social Development.

11. ROSACON 2021

Noted:

- Ms Ewels informed us that the programme was nearing completion and details regarding content, guest speakers, etc will be forthcoming soon.

- Conference dates are Friday 12 November up to and including Sunday 14 November.
- The provisional programme was made available on the ROSA website.
- Conference fees for the online conference have been reduced for 2021.
- There were glitches in the booking system as was discovered by members immediately trying to book and pay for the conference during the AGM!

12. ELECTION OF ROSA 2021-22 EXCO COMMITTEE

Noted:

- Ms Ewels thanked the outgoing ROSA EXCO committee and thanked them for their support during her first year as Chairperson.
- That the following Executive Committee had been elected:
 - Dorothy Ewels
 - Romy Sommer
 - Peter Barker
 - Mandy Verbaan
 - Vash Karuppa
 - Dani Rene
 - Michael Cordes
- Ms Ewels thanked all members who voted and all those who volunteered to become a member of EXCO.
- Ms Verbaan thanked Ms Ewels for taking over the role of Chairperson and to Ms Sommer for her support during the transition period.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

14. MEETING CLOSED AT 20H11.