



Wellington Branch Annual General Meeting 2019

Minutes

The 98th Annual General Meeting was held at the Petone Working Men's Club in Udy Street, Petone on Wednesday 29 May 2019 at 11am.

Welcome

The Chair, Ian Clunies-Ross, welcomed members to the 98th AGM of the Wellington Branch of the Government Superannuation Association. He thanked members for attending the AGM. Members had received the minutes of the 97th AGM and the full financial report for 2017/18.

Deceased Members

Members stood for a minute for respect and reflection remembering members of the Association who had died in the past year.

Present

Ian Clunies-Ross (Chair), Jirayu Brennan (Secretary), 47 members and spouses.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul London, Gray Nelson, Dallas Elvy, Bryan Whisker, Mike Smith, and Kay Monks.

The Chair moved that these apologies be accepted.

Chair/Ray Woolhouse

Matters Arising from the 2018 AGM Minutes

Members attending the AGM dropped below 50 this year. In answer to a question from the floor, it was confirmed that 20 members would be required for a quorum.

A question was asked as to whether Peter Hughes, the State Services Commissioner (personally a member of GSA), had agreed to promote GSA membership to current GSF pre annuitants. The Chair responded that the Commissioner had been very supportive and this had led to a significant increase in numbers of pre annuitants joining GSA.

Minutes of the AGM 2018

The minutes of the 97th AGM were taken as read and confirmed as correct.

Chair/John Peacock

Annual Report

The annual report was distributed in the April newsletter. The Chairman acknowledged the new Secretary, Jirayu Brennan, who had been with the branch for 7 months. Jirayu has shown a lot of initiative in supporting the branch committee, she has made every effort to understand the many processes required of a GSA branch secretary including answering the often tricky questions from members. Jirayu was thanked for her commitment to her new position. The Pines. Fleur Fitzsimmons (the newly elected Southern Ward Wellington City Councillor with Social Development included in her Council Portfolios) was the guest speaker. 40 members attended the Masterton luncheon and 78 members were present at the Christmas function at Te Marua Golf Club. The branch hoped to welcome more members this year to these functions.

The branch has been discussing ways to support members in getting to functions. The branch puts on a free bus for members to attend functions such as the AGM and the mid-winter luncheon in July and is exploring transport options for the Wairarapa luncheon in September. The Chairman acknowledged the SuperTravel Fund enabling members to access a free bus to events. The MacKenzie Trust is also able to support individual members who have difficulty in accessing the current transport provisions. If requested, a taxi can be provided either directly to the venue or to the bus being used by other members.

The Chairman and Deputy Chair represented the branch at the Council meeting in September 2018. Tony Hamilton was elected GSA President. At the time there were no nominations for Vice President. Recently, the Board has appointed Dallas Elvy as Vice President.

Wellington branch membership numbers as at 31 March 2019 were 5,245. This was down 130 or 2.4% from the previous year. It was slightly better than the national membership average which declined by 3% possibly due to there being more pre annuitants joining Wellington branch where a bigger pool of public servants reside.

Through the year, 3 committee members had resigned; Colin MacIntosh, Janice Campbell and Wilf Haskell. Colin MacIntosh and Janice Campbell both have given great service to the GSA. The Chair thanked them for their contributions. Wilf Haskell has more than 10 years of service with the Wellington branch. He was interested particularly in the Tax Equity issue. The Chair thanked Wilf for his service. Wilf responded by thanking the Chair, by offering his services in the future and by wishing GSA all the best.

A question was asked as to whether any special effort was made by the Wellington branch or the National Office to recruit surviving spouses who are non GSA members. The Chairman agreed that this was an area that could be explored. Also relating to recruitment, the Wellington branch has taken the initiative to draft a poster to promote GSA. The Board has agreed to its circulation to other branches. The poster focuses on 'reasons' to join GSA and it will be generic so that other GSA branches can use it. The poster could be placed in schools, sport clubs, etc. and current members encouraged

to talk to potential members when they meet them. The Chairman invited members to contact the branch committee if they had any new ideas about recruitment.

It was stated that the Government Superannuation Fund Authority (GSFA) and Datacom have engaged UMR Research to conduct a survey of GSA members. An individual's response to the email/telephone survey would remain confidential. It was noted that the survey was not about GSA membership issues but about the service provided by Datacom and GSFA, with a view to improving and developing their services in the future.

A question was asked about the outcome of the Cost of Living Allowance (CoLA) petition that was presented to parliament last year. The petition was in support of those members who retired before 1985 and who do not receive a 100% annual cost of living increase. The issue has been heard by the Finance Select Committee and GSA is still waiting for a response.

It was moved and seconded that the annual report as printed be adopted.

Chair/Elizabeth Smaal

Financial Report

The financial report for the year ending 31 March 2019 was presented by Peter Chambers. The surplus of \$ 10,997 was significant and was the result of two factors. Firstly, the increase of subscription fee from \$1.65 to \$2. Secondly, the National Office, in 2018, took over the printing cost of branch newsletters a saving to the branch of over \$3,000. With this surplus, the branch committee decided to reduce the cost for members attending the AGM and the Wairarapa functions from \$29 to \$10 as both these meetings are business meetings and members are encouraged to attend. A recruitment agency was involved in the appointment of our new secretary and the \$3,500 cost was a one-off expense in 2018. The branch has cash and term deposits totalling over \$81,000 and total assets of just over \$82,000. The branch has one liability payment of \$500 to the branch auditor.

A question was raised about the increase in expenditure of \$800 under the item called 'Organisation'. This item in the accounts includes committee expenses, attendance at meetings, and any deducted refund from the National meetings. It was expected that the budget for the next financial year under 'Organisation' would be less and the branch expected a surplus of under \$1,500. It was agreed that in next year's accounts the expenditure attributed to 'Organisation' would be itemised.

Kevin Duggan as Reviewer was thanked. His attention to detail has made the job easier for the Deputy Chair and the Secretary.

It was moved and seconded that the annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019 be adopted.

Peter Chambers/John Peacock

Financial Reviewer

It was moved and seconded that Kevin Duggan be appointed Financial Reviewer for the Wellington Branch of the GSA for the year ending 31 March 2020.

Peter Chambers / Val Watson

Election of Branch Committee

Nominated and elected for this year:

Chairman: Ian Clunies-Ross

Deputy Chairman: Peter Chambers

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman were appointed unopposed and by acclamation.

Committee Members:

Seven nominations had been received. The Chairman asked those nominated to stand to make themselves known to members. They are: Kevin Duggan, Graham Hill, Kay Monks, Alan Peck, Elizabeth Smaal, Mike Smith and Ray Woolhouse.

It was moved and seconded that the seven members nominated for the Wellington Branch Committee be appointed en bloc.

Wilf Haskell/John Franken

The Deputy Chairman thanked the Chairman for his year leading the Wellington Branch.

The Chairman acknowledged Peter Chambers who heads the Policy subcommittee and who has responded positively to all submissions requested by the Board. Kay Monks and Elizabeth Smaal were thanked for their leadership of the Social subcommittee together with the Secretary. The Chairman thanked Wilf Haskell for his support on the Recruitment subcommittee.

The Chairman invited members in the Wairarapa to consider becoming a committee member. The branch needs to have a committee representation from the Wairarapa.

Speakers

Tony Hamilton, the GSA President, was invited to speak at this AGM but he was engaged with another AGM. Dallas Elvy, the Vice President was also invited but he was unable to attend and gave his apology. However, he passed on the following update from the Board:

1. The Centennial book on the GSA 100 year history has been drafted and is planned for publication next year.
2. The Board has established several subcommittees. The Board has divided its work into sub-committees. These cover –
 - a. Finance
 - b. Centennial planning
 - c. Future planning, this includes review of our three year Strategic Plan
 - d. Recruitment and retention
 - e. Branch support. (Note. Each branch will be asked to report on its current status to assess support needed)
 - f. Risk and Audit

- g. Employment (for paid staff)
- h. Honours for Life Members

Sub-committee meetings are held using phone, emails and Skype to keep costs down.

The Finance subcommittee is working on the future planning that includes a review of the 3 year strategic plan, the Recruitment and Retention subcommittee is looking at support for some small struggling branches.

3. There is an ongoing issue with recording and updating members' email addresses in the database. The Board urges members to help the association in this matter.
4. The Board has a good ongoing relationship with Datacom and GSFA.

General Business

Members were reminded about the upcoming functions. The Mid-Winter at The Pines on 24 July. This year the Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Seniors, has accepted an invite from the branch to join the lunch and to talk to members about the new Seniors Policy. Diane Turner, Director of the Office for Seniors will also attend the luncheon. The Wairarapa Luncheon is scheduled in September. The committee was looking at the possibility of providing a free bus through the Wairarapa as the luncheon would be in Masterton again not in Greytown as advertised.

Kiwibank would halt cheque services after February 2020. Members were asked to think about how they might pay for events in the future.

The Chair closed the AGM 2019 at 12pm.



Confirmed

26 November 2020