

G	government
S	superannuitants
A	association

Wellington Branch Annual General Meeting 2017

Minutes

The 96th Annual General Meeting was held at the Petone Working Men's Club in Udy Street, Petone on Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 11am.

Welcome

The Chair, Elizabeth Smaal, welcomed members to the 96th AGM of the Wellington Branch of the Government Superannuation Association, extending a special welcome to new members. Returning to a venue that had proved effective in the past ensured that a lift rather than just a staircase made it easier for all to enjoy the meeting. Members had received the minutes of the 95th AGM and the full financial report for 2016/17. Although 64 members attending was a little lower than previous AGMs, members could look forward to a good meeting and a well catered and enjoyable luncheon to follow.

Present

Elizabeth Smaal (Chair), Maggie Lee (Secretary) and 62 members and spouses.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Gerard Ellis and Judy Keesing.
The Chair moved that these apologies be accepted.

Chair/ Dallas Elvy

Deceased Members

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

Minutes of the AGM 2016

The minutes of the 95th AGM were taken as read and confirmed as correct.

Mike Smith/Val Watson

Annual Report

The annual report had been distributed in the May Branch Newsletter. The Chair highlighted the following from her report. Wellington now has 5,400 members, an increase of 345 over the previous year. This increase is the result of some excellent recruitment initiatives undertaken by Ian Clunies-Ross and his recruitment team. Twenty per cent of Wellington Branch members live overseas. There are still some 26,500 annuitants and pre-annuitants who could be members. Realistically, as the years go by, membership of GSA will inevitably decrease. GSA is a 'sunset organisation' and a key focus of the Board will be to consider what this will mean for the organisation in the years ahead. Peter Chambers and his committee have written a submission to the Board with regard to changes GSA will be facing in say 10 to 15 years' time.

All members were asked to sign a form giving their support to a petition to Government regarding the Cost of Living Allowance for pre 1985 members who are at present being unfairly treated. A form for signing, to be presented to the House of Representatives, was

included with the Annuity News and Branch Newsletter. Petition forms were put out on all the tables for members to sign if they had not already sent back a signed form.

The Chair expressed her thanks to Alan Peck the Executive Officer and Cathy Trewby with whom the branch shares an office and congratulated the Executive Officer on the high quality of the Annuity News circulated to members twice a year. Thanks were extended to the convenors of the sub Committees Ian Clunies-Ross and Peter Chambers and their teams and to the Financial Reviewer Kevin Duggan. In conclusion the Chair thanked all committee members and all present for their support through the past three years that she has been chairperson. She took particular pleasure in the fact that the branch was in a good financial position.

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

John Peacock/Dallas Elvy

Financial Report

The financial report for the year ending 31 March 2017 was presented by Peter Chambers. The surplus of \$6,000 was significant and was a result of good stewardship and an increase in membership. The branch has assets of \$40,000. Kevin Duggan as reviewer, was thanked; his work as reviewer had been greatly appreciated.

It was moved and seconded that the annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 be adopted.

Peter Chamber/Kraft D'Souza

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 2018.

Peter Chambers/Colin Macintosh

Election of Branch Committee

Nominated and elected for this year:

Chairman: Ian Clunies-Ross

Deputy Chairman: Peter Chambers

Committee Members:

The following members were nominated and elected en bloc as Branch Committee members. They are: Janice Campbell, Kevin Duggan, Wilf Haskell, Graham Hill, Colin Macintosh, Kay Monks, Elizabeth Smaal, Mike Smith, Bryan Whisker, Ray Woolhouse.

It was moved and seconded that the 10 members nominated be appointed en bloc.

Elizabeth Smaal/Alan Hair

Ian Clunies-Ross spoke about the wonderful job and progress that Elizabeth Smaal had made to the Wellington branch over the last three years as chair. Members applauded.

Speakers

a) GSA National President

The Chair asked Janice Campbell, National President, to highlight issues facing the GSA Board. The National President thanked members for supporting the AGM. She also thanked the past committee and welcomed incoming committee members. Members were urged to read the Annuity News with all its information and current issues and to sign and returned the COLA petition. The Board, realizing that GSA is a 'sunset

organisation', will look to the future. She expressed the Board's thanks to Dallas Elvy for his leadership on the 'futures' paper prepared by the Waikato branch. She was of the view that the newly retired seem to be the most difficult group to recruit. As time goes by it is possible there will be a smaller number of branches and this might call for social occasions closer to where the members live. The Board will look at reducing costs which might mean fewer Council meetings.

b) Recruitment Sub Committee Convenor

Ian Clunies-Ross as Convenor of the Recruitment Sub Committee said the biggest priority was to gain more members. GSA could do more to advertise what the organisation does and what the benefits are of being a member. The work that was done on the Electoral Roll proved very successful and the National President's letter sent out by Datacom gave a great boost to numbers. Bryan Whisker was looking to arranging a meeting with the State Services Commissioner with a view to gaining the Commissioner's support for GSA to contact the CEOs of government departments or HR departments to enlist more pre-annuitants as members. Checking the Maori Electoral Rolls would be the next membership drive.

c) SuperTravels Convenor

Graham Hill, as Convenor of SuperTravels, reminded members that the latest newsletter outlining the SuperTravels programme for the year had been sent to members along with the Annuity News and the Wellington Branch newsletter in April. They had organised one day trip to the Railway Museum. The proposed trip to Norfolk Island had had to be cancelled due to lack of support. In 2017 SuperTravels were offering a day trip to Whanganui, a trip to Weta Workshop and a trip to the Wairarapa. The AGM was to be held on Friday 26 May 2017 and members were encouraged to attend and offer any new ideas.

General Business

John Peacock queried the 2017 cost of living increase as he believed that the Datacom information differed from the information sent out from the Executive Officer. He had written to the GSA Board and received a reply he found difficult to understand. It was agreed that John's concerns would be addressed further and that all members would receive clarification of the issue that John had raised.

In closing the Chair reminded members of the other social functions planned throughout the year – a light luncheon at Anvil House in June following the branch committee meeting, a mid-winter luncheon at The Pines in July with a guest speaker, a luncheon in the Wairarapa in September and a Christmas luncheon in Upper Hutt in November. Members were encouraged to bring friends to the social occasions. They were thanked for attending the AGM and wished an enjoyable luncheon.

The meeting closed at 12.03 pm

Confirmed:



23 May 2018

