

Editors' Association of Canada/Association canadienne des
revisers Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2002
Hotel de l'Institut, Montreal,
Quebec 25 May 2002

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Jennifer Latham, at 4:30 p.m.

a. Appointment of parliamentarian

Moved by D. Hines, seconded by D. Smyth, that Tom Vradenburg be appointed as Parliamentarian. PASSED.

2. Approval of agenda

It was requested that "New Business" be added after the elections.

Moved by N. Flight, seconded by R. Tanner, that the agenda be approved as amended. PASSED.

3. Approval of minutes of 2001 Annual General Meeting, 16 June 2001

It was noted by Jennifer Latham that a motion presented last year by G. Ioannou apparently was unconstitutional. The wording in section 10, "that any proposed restructuring of the board be approved by two-thirds of the voting members in a referendum," effectively amended the constitution. As we did not call the meeting with the express purpose of amending the constitution, the amendment was unconstitutional. In addition, the constitution (section 4.2) already covers the issue, the need for 2/3 vote for any change to the number of national executive members. So this is redundant.

It was noted by a member, however, that the motion of last year cannot be changed now. The only recourse is to pass a new motion now.

Thus it was agreed that the minutes should be approved (if there are no further corrections) and that a new motion should be moved to negate the possible effect of the 2001 motion.

Moved by N. Flight, seconded by S. Wawanash, that the minutes of the AGM meeting of 16 June 2001 be accepted as distributed.

Discussion: The wording was still a concern. Lee d'Anjou suggested that G. Ioannou's motion be corrected to read "... be approved by two-thirds of the votes cast in a referendum."

The mover and seconder of the motion agreed to the amendment.

MOTION PASSED (nays - 2; abstentions - 7).

4. Approval of 2001/2002 Annual Report

There was concern expressed about the lack of detailed financial reporting about the cost of printing and distributing the *Directory of Editors*. The

treasurer, Jon Brehaut, said the information was not available at the moment but that he would get it to the person concerned.

Moved by D. Smyth, seconded by J. Irving, that the 2001/2002 Annual Report be approved. MOTION PASSED (abstentions - 2).

Moved by G. Ioannou, seconded by D. Peebles, that future financial reports be broken down by program.

Discussion: There was concern that members do not know how much the various programs cost and whether the members are getting value for money.

MOTION PASSED (abstentions - 3).

5. Approval of auditors' report

Moved by J. Brehaut, seconded by R. Tanner, that the auditors' report be accepted.

Discussion: It was clarified that the amount spent on design (\$4,072) was spent on certification. As for the big drop in expenses on publications (from \$9,526 in 2000 to \$3,290 in 2001), it was explained that the various publications such as membership forms, annual reports, the directory, etc. were all put under "Publications" before. These are now posted under the various programs, but this is still a work in progress.

MOTION PASSED.

6. Appointment of auditors for next year

Moved by J. Brehaut, seconded by H. Ebbs, that the firm of Cowperthwaite Mehta be appointed as auditors for EAC/ACR for 2002/2003.

MOTION PASSED.

7. Restructuring of National Executive Council of EAC/ACR

a. Report on referendum

Jennifer Latham reported that in the March/April 2002 referendum on restructuring, the national executive received a mandate to proceed with restructuring.

b. Report on next steps, the transition year

Amendment 4 of the restructuring proposal refers to a transition year. The new national executive (2002-2003) will be mandated to pursue restructuring. Some of the necessary activities are (1) clarification of policies and procedures; (2) review of committees in order to write clear mandates; (3) determining what outside advice is needed during this year; (4) determining the most essential internal policies that are needed. Policy development takes years; we have years of policies but they are not gathered together. Once this work is completed, we will have an organized collection of decisions taken over the years. Staff and committee relationships will be a priority. Another duty is to establish a framework and a slate for 2003-2004 for the new structure.

This agenda for the Council will in all probability mean a fifth meeting during the next 12 months.

8. Elections for National Executive Council and Membership Communications Chair

The past president, Rosemary Tanner, conducted the elections.

Rosemary first called upon the current executive to stand: Jennifer Latham (president); Karen Virag (vice president); Jon Brehaut (treasurer); Patricia Buchanan (secretary); Rosemary Shipton (professional development); Lannie Messervey (publications); Ruth Chernia (public relations); Winnifred Assmann (BC chair); Dianne Smyth (Prairie provinces chair); Andy Carroll and Elizabeth d'Anjou (Toronto co-chairs); Elizabeth Macfie (NCR chair); Christine Hastie (QAC chair). There was a round of applause for the outgoing executive.

The slate of candidates for the 2002-2003 national executive council, as distributed to the members, is the following:

Voting members

President	Jennifer Latham (NCR)
Vice-President	John Eerkes-Medrano (BC)
Secretary	Perry Millar (PPB)
Treasurer (contested)	Ann Fothergill-Brown (NCR), Stephen Roney (PPB)
Francophone Affairs	Suzanne Aubin (QAC)
Professional Development	Rosemary Shipton (Toronto)
Publications Chair	Lannie Messervey (Toronto)
Public Relations Chair	Stephanie Fysh (Toronto)

Corresponding members (non-voting)

Membership Chair (contested)	Tammy Bokhari, Greg Ioannou (Toronto)
Active Voice	Sheila Wawanash (Toronto)
Directory Chair	Laura Byrne Paquet (NCR)

a. President, vice president, secretary

Candidates are Jennifer Latham (president); John Eerkes-Medrano (vice president); Perry Millar (secretary). Nominations from the floor were requested three times; there were no further nominations.

Acclaimed.

b. Francophone affairs, professional development, publications, public relations

Candidates are Suzanne Aubin (francophone affairs); Rosemary Shipton (professional development); Lannie Messervey (publications); Stephanie Fysh (public relations). Nominations from the floor were requested three times; there were no further nominations.

Acclaimed.

c. Active Voice editor, directory chair

Candidates are Sheila Wawanash (*Active Voice*) and Laura Byrne Paquet (Directory chair). Nominations from the floor were requested three times; there were no further nominations. **Acclaimed.**

d. Chair of Member Communication Committee (not a board position)

The candidate for this position is Art Cuthbert. Nominations from the floor were requested three times; there were no further nominations.

Acclaimed.

e. Treasurer

Candidates for this position are Ann Fothergill-Brown and Stephen Roney. Nominations from the floor were requested three times; there were no further nominations.

Ann gave a short speech about what she considers are her qualifications for the position. Greg Ioannou then read a speech from Stephen Roney (who was not present) on his qualifications.

Ann Fothergill-Brown was elected (84 to 23).

f. Membership chair

Candidates for this position are Tammy Bokhari and Greg Ioannou. Nominations from the floor were requested three times; there were no further nominations.

Tammy gave a short speech, outlining her qualifications and her plans for the coming year if she is elected. Greg then also spoke about issues that needed to be addressed, such as membership categories .

There followed several questions from the floor for the candidates on issues of professionalism ,attitude toward growth in EAC/ACR, level of services EAC/ACR provides for its members.

Tammy Bokhari was elected (66 to 39).

g. Board members not elected by members at the AGM

Rosemary Tanner then announced the names of the six board members who are not elected by members at the **AGM**: Rosemary Tanner (honorary past president); Faith Gildenhuys (BC representative); Dianne Smyth (PPB); Andy Carroll (Toronto branch, co-chair with Elizabeth d'Anjou); Elizabeth Macfie (NCR); and Christine Hastie (QAC).

Moved by R. Chernia, seconded by R. Knight, that the Restructuring Committee be thanked for all its work and that Rosemary Tanner be thanked for running the election. PASSED.

9. Other business**a. Ad hoc membership committee**

Moved by S. Protti, seconded by F. Godard, that an ad hoc committee, drawn from the general membership, be struck to re-examine EACIACR's membership categories and the criteria for them and report to the 2003 AGM what changes, if any, would be desirable. The committee's work should involve ongoing and broad consultation with the membership and take into account the situations and needs of the variety of Canadian editors. These situations and needs should include, not exclusively: freelance and in-house editors; part-time and full-time editors; Anglophone and Francophone editors; editors who work entirely on electronic documents and those who work in more traditional media; individuals who both edit and engage in other work, especially in the general field of communications (translation, writing, design,

public relations, and so on); individuals who manage or teach other editors; and long-time editors who are nearing or have reached retirement age. The committee should also examine the privileges and fee structures for the membership categories.

Further moved that Heather Ebbs be named as chair of the committee.

Discussion: This centred on whether striking such a committee (reporting to the membership, not the board) would remove many of the responsibilities from the just-elected membership chair, or whether the committee would be relieving an already-busy membership chair. Some members pointed out that similar committees have been struck in the past, with a very specific mandate. However, others believed it was odd that the research would not be under the responsibility of the membership chair, and that such a committee could be equated with a second order of government. The mandate of such a committee falls under the responsibility of the membership chair.

Having members on the committee from across the country and from different fields of editing was the aim of the ad hoc committee. It was then pointed out that such committees are always composed of members from across the country, whether the committees report to the board or the members.

Nancy Flight requested that the motion be called (A two-thirds yes vote is required to put the motion.)

Yeas - 70; nays - 31; abstentions - 1. Yeas = 68.7%

MOTION DEFEATED (nays - 69; yeas - 32; abstentions - 5).

Jennifer Latham noted that the issues raised in the above motion are very important and will be addressed.

b. Ad hoc committee on problems in publishing industry

Moved by G. Ioannou, seconded by G. Mekler, that an ad hoc committee drawn from the general membership be struck to develop and implement strategies by which EAC/ACR might mitigate the impact on its members of the publishing industry's current economic struggles.

Discussion: It was noted that ad hoc committees are appointed at various times by the board and they are of assistance. However, the wording of the motion that the committee should not only develop but implement strategies caused some concern.

A friendly amendment was suggested:

Moved by G. Ioannou, seconded by G. Mekler, that an ad hoc committee drawn from the general membership be struck to develop and recommend implementation to the national executive of strategies by which EAC/ACR might mitigate the impact on its members of the publishing industry's current economic struggles.

The amendment was agreed to by the mover and seconder.

These ad hoc committees struck at an AGM give a good indication of the priority placed on certain issues by members. Although the situation with the Toronto editors provided the impetus for the motion, editors across the country are affected.

MOTION PASSED (yeas - 56; nays - 15; abstentions - 8).

Moved by D. Peebles, seconded by G. Ioannou, that the floor be opened for nominations for the chair of the committee to look at the problems in the book publishing industry.

Greg Ioannou was nominated by Claudia Forgas, Claudia Forgas was then nominated by Greg Ioannou, to be a co-chair of the committee.
MOTION PASSED.

c. Ad hoc membership committee, version 2

Moved by S. Protti, seconded by C. Bedry, that an ad hoc committee, drawn from the general membership and chaired by the membership chair, be struck to re-examine EAC/ACR 's membership categories and the criteria for them and report to the 2003 AGM what changes, if any, would be desirable. The committee's work should involve ongoing and broad consultation with the membership and take into account the situations and needs of the variety of Canadian editors. These situations and needs should include, not exclusively: freelance and in-house editors; part-time and full-time editors; Anglophone and Francophone editors; editors who work entirely on electronic documents and those who work in more traditional media; individuals who both edit and engage in other work, especially in the general field of communications (translation, writing, design, public relations, and so on); individuals who manage or teach other editors; and long-time editors who are nearing or have reached retirement age. The committee should also examine the privileges and fee structures for the membership categories.

Discussion: The issue has more clout and strength if it has come formally from the membership. Jennifer Latham noted that these are key issues under the responsibility of the membership chair. Previously it appeared from the job description of the membership chair that the primary focus was publishing a booklet, etc. Members now appear to want concentration on more policy-oriented action.

MOTION PASSED (yeas - 91; nays - 6).

Tammy Bokhari, membership chair 2002-2003, said she was looking forward to the input and ideas from members across the country and asked that members share their views and concerns.

d. Policy for hiring office staff

Moved by R. Packard, seconded by G. Mekler, that (1) the national executive create a policy for searching for and hiring permanent office staff and (2) a hiring committee consist of an equal number of national executive members and of non-executive members, the latter being chosen by the Member Communication Committee.

Discussion: Some persons spoke against the policy as a non-confidence motion in the board; others believed that such a policy would be overkill in day-to-day operation. Normally the office manager is responsible for hiring the staff reporting to him/her. It was noted by the current association manager that, if the manager is not allowed to manage, he or she then loses control over the staff. As well, EAC/ACR has received advice from professionals that the association manager should have the power to hire office staff. The mover of the motion suggested rewording the motion:

Moved ... searching for and hiring future executive directors and (2) a hiring...

The seconder approved the amendment. It was noted that proper job descriptions are required before any person is hired.

MOTION DEFEATED (nays - 59; yeas - 27; abstentions - 7).

e. Special interest group for editors with work from the United States

Greg Ioannou has a lot of work from the United States but there is no association in the US equivalent to EAC/ACR. He is asking anyone who is in this situation to contact him with the aim of creating a SIG.

10. Adjournment

Moved by N. Flight, seconded by R. Shipton, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION PASSED.

There was a vote of thanks to Tom Vradenburg for acting as parliamentarian. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jennifer Latham, President

Patricia Buchanan, Secretary