

Minutes of the CAJ members' meeting 2010

May 30, 2010, Montreal

Present:

Paul Schneidereit (past-president, chairing the meeting)

Mary Agnes Welch (President)

Raj Naraynsingh

Wendy Holm

Robert Frank (CAJ Montreal representative board member)

Hugo Rodrigues (National director, communications co-ordinator)

Dale Bass (B.C. Region rep board member)

Terry Field

Charles Bury

Anja Karedeglja

Meeting convened at 10:20 a.m.

Robert Frank noted that there is not a quorum present and is concerned that this is not reflective of the openness that is required at such an important juncture.

Charles Bury explained how previous AGMs have worked relative to quorum. Charles Bury indicated that there may not be a quorum. It was stated that a meeting could still go ahead and the decisions sent out for affirmation by e-mail. Robert Frank stated that he has a concern with acting like a meeting is taking place when there is no quorum. Robert stated that he expressed concern about the election mechanism for the board a few months ago and that board members are being recruited at conferences, should become more effective as a membership organization and should involve the membership more. Paul Schneidereit stated that the members have been notified, rules for the election have been followed.

Charles Bury moved that in the interest of the association, we move on unofficially and all motions today go to the members for ratification by e-mail. Seconded: Mary Agnes Welch. Motion carried, one abstention

Approval of Agenda

New business addition: Revitalization of membership

Also note there is no communication report.

No other new business

Moved by Wendy Holm. Seconded: Mary Agnes Welch
Carried.

Approval of the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting –

Moved: Mary Agnes Welch Seconded: Dale Bass

Under financial 2008 – Has Hugo Rodrigues as the mover. He was not the AGM last year. Dale Bass speculated that it may have been her. Therefore, Dale Bass states that she was the mover.

Carried as amended.

Business Arising from the Minutes: None.

President's report: Mary Agnes Welch

Been a fairly brutal year, lost good board members, there remains a core group who are active. We have some plans and names and ideas for the board and the future of the CAJ. Thinking about next round of conferences, hoping for two, smaller, more targeted, more focused. One in Alberta, one crime-themed in Toronto or Ottawa, hopefully. We have a committee working on this.

Looking for more regional training opportunities.

Website is finally online and Hugo Rodrigues has put in yeoman's work and it's more functional, increasing opportunities for webinars and other things.

Plan to go smaller with events because they can be more successful.

Hopefully doing better job communicating with the members, thanks to Hugo Rodrigues and others, through social media and monthly updates to members from Mary Agnes Welch.

Hoping to do a summer membership drive where we go to the members and recruit key people to help boost memberships. Now at about 900 members, many of those are unemployed and paying that rate, which has affected income.

Want to do an online survey of our members, Hugo Rodrigues will be working on it, asking for what are the important issues, what kind of training you need, what would you pay for, would anyone pay for you – an attempt to reach out and find out what the members want.

We've partnered with groups at this conference to try and broaden our reach and share the costs. ONA has suggested joint memberships. These discussions are in the early stages of development.

We are starting to talk more actively with other groups on the conversation about revitalizing each group, etc.

You need somebody to reach out to the members to get them involved and we don't have a lot of board members doing it.

Hoping to have a face-to-face board meeting this fall, which is critical. Hopefully we will have some new board members from this conference and some other new people by the fall to get more momentum.

Terry Field: model being used in Alberta. His group started doing smaller events in different areas, mainly the same agenda modified for the area, and managed to increase interest of the members. He's suggesting why not four regional annual conferences that happen the same Saturday and connect them with a theme, people in each region who could do them at lower costs, connect them electronically, keynote and AGM electronically, for example.

Paul Schneidereit: reality is with a smaller board, it would be hard to do but it's a good goal to look at.

Wendy Holm: been going to farm writers' conferences and they're small and CAJ could look at joining with the smaller groups that represent journalists. They want conferences with more practical stuff, etc. Approach some of them and you might increase membership, etc. Bring together affiliated groups, tie the conferences together.

She asks about moving elections up to address the elections but is advised by Paul Schneidereit advises it's fine. She has nominated someone.

Wendy Holm moves receipt of the president's report. Seconded by Hugo Rodrigues. Carried.

Mary Agnes Welch takes the chair so Paul Schneidereit can give treasurer's report.

Motion to approve 2009 and 2010 budget: Dale Bass; Seconded: Wendy Holm
Carried.

Approval of financial statements of 2009: Charles Bury, Mary Agnes seconded
Carried

Appointment of Alan Gutman as auditor – Moved by: Mary Agnes Welch; Seconded:
Dale Bass – Carried

Ratification of board motions: No board action items required ratification by the membership during this past year.

Returning Officers report: Paul Schneidereit

Three national director positions were open for election. Three nominations received.

- 1) Raj Naraynsingh - Freelancer
- 2) Hugo Rodrigues - Woodstock Sentinel Review
- 3) Elizabeth Thompson - Sun Media

Paul Schneidereit noted since there were no other nominations for the three open positions, all nominated members are acclaimed.

Notices sent out for Regional Director positions:

Dale Bass nominated for B.C./Yukon and acclaimed

Mary Agnes Welch nominated and acclaimed for Manitoba and NW Ontario.

There are still openings for the following regional director positions on the CAJ board:

Quebec Region

Atlantic

Alberta/Northwest Territories

Returning Officer's report acceptance moved by: Dale Bass; seconded: Charles Bury
Approved.

The election results do not have to be ratified by the AGM.

New Business:

CAJ Revitalization:

Discussion ensued. Some concern that it's dominated by eastern big-media interests.

Talked about the need to send out membership list twice yearly to chapter presidents.

This will be done shortly.

Also need to look at links to chapters and chapter activities on website.

Also need to consider joint memberships.

Need to consider going to campus and doing campus talks. – Might be a good volunteer initiative.

Paul Schneidereit observed that this all makes sense. Noted that the board was 13 strong and we were well represented. Where Paul Schneidereit sits, the downturn in the industry affected the board too. All of a sudden finances change, board size changed. Suddenly you all of a sudden have to start focusing on the core things. In the last two years we have just been trying to survive.

Motion to adjourn: Wendy Holm Seconded: Mary Agnes Welch
Carried.

Members' meeting resolutions requiring ratification by CAJ members:

1. Approval of the minutes from the 2009 annual general meeting, as amended.
Moved by Mary Agnes Welch, seconded by Dale Bass.
2. Approval of the CAJ's 2009 year-end financial budget and 2010 CAJ budget.
Moved by Dale Bass, seconded by Wendy Holm.
3. Approval of the 2009 financial statement. Moved by Charles Bury, seconded by Mary Agnes Welch.

4. Approval of the appointment of Alan Gutman as CAJ auditor. Moved by Mary Agnes Welch, seconded by Dale Bass.

The minutes of this meeting were approved by resolution at the 2011 AGM, May 13-15, 2011.