

PRESENT AND PAST GRAND REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2017, at the Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough, Western Australia, commencing at 3.30pm.

PRESENT: The President, Sister Ann Nixon, welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance. Bro. Paul Smith, WG Fraternal Correspondent and Patron of the Association was warmly welcomed along with distinguished guests – Sis Sandra Davis MWGM, Bro George Taylor MWGP, Bro Malcolm Baker, WGP of the Grand Chapter of NSW & ACT, Sis Winnie Mitchell WGM and Bro George Matron WGP of the Grand Chapter of Queensland, Sis Rhonda Screen WGM of the Grand Chapter of Victoria, Sis Carol Harper DGM and Bro Graham Deacon DGP of the Tasmania District Grand Chapter. It was mentioned that Bro Deacon is also the WG Fraternal Correspondent elect.

The President also acknowledged the presence of Honorary Members, Past Presidents and welcomed those attending for the first time. A Friendship Verse was then read.

TIME OF REFLECTION: The President asked members to pause and give thanks for the lives of those who had passed to a Higher Chapter since the last meeting – Sisters Narelle Ober OAM, Lois Olfen, Vickie White, Roberta O'Donnell, Nancy Croxford and Honorary Members Sis Norma Casley and Bro David Stewart.

SICK MEMBERS: The President advised that the Secretary/Treasurer, Sis Helen Williams, had been unwell but it was pleasing to see she had recovered and able to attend the meeting. Also ill at present were Bros Ian Burrows and Homer Fairley.

APOLOGIES: Sis Leanne Hamilton and those recorded in the Apologies Book.

MEMBERSHIP: Current membership totals 182 consisting of 6 Honorary Members, 115 Financial Members and 67 Unfinancial Members. The President advised members that the Association fee of \$10.00 for the 2017-2019 biennium became due on 1 January 2017. She thanked those who had renewed their membership prior to the meeting.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 March 2017 at the Bankstown Sports Centre, having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record on the motion of Bro M Baker, seconded Sis B Mannix.

Carried

Business Arising: Diaries were distributed to those attending the luncheon. Excess diaries are being sold for \$5.00 and were available from Sis Sandra Pearson.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward:

- Acceptances to invitations issued to attend the Grand Representatives lunch and AGM;
- Card of thanks from Sis Verlie Kirkness for condolences received on the passing of Sis Lois Olfen;
- Applications for membership;
- Receipts;
- Emails of a routine nature;
- Receipt for insurance.

Outward:

- Emails of a routine administrative nature;
- Minutes etc;
- Letters requesting payment of Association dues;

- Letters of thanks for dues payments;
- Sympathy cards to Sis Verlie Kirkness, the family of the late Sis Vickie White, and Sis Angela Sweeney following the passing of her mother;
- Get Well cards to Sis Helen Williams, Bro Ian Burrows and Bro Homer Fairley;
- Letter with cheque to Sis Faye Thornton for reimbursement of freight on diaries;
- Reimbursement to Sis Elizabeth Watt for payment of the International Grand Representatives Association membership;
- United Grand Chapter of Australia for insurance.

It was moved Sis L Ellison, seconded Sis R Thomas that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed.

Carried

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: A financial statement was made available to members. The balance at 30 April 2017 was \$3922.06. Held in trust was \$75 for the NSW/ACT sub branch, \$86 for the Queensland sub-branch and \$385.00 for the Victorian sub branch. It was moved by Sis C Vaessen, seconded Sis E Taylor that the Financial Report be received.

Carried

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

For ratification:

Chq 200003	\$40.00	Postage of diaries
Chq 200004	\$15.00	International Grand Reps dues (E Watt)
Chq 200005	\$195.00	UGCA, insurance
Chq 200006	\$500.00	MWGM & MWGP Charity

For payment:

Chq 200007	\$504.69	Sis Ann Nixon, expenses
Chq 200008	\$120.00	Sis Margaret Kestenbaum, placemats.

It was moved Sis H McLachlan and seconded by Sis J Wells that the payment of cheques 200003-200006 be ratified and cheques 200007 and 200008 be passed for payment.

Carried

The President and Secretary were authorised to pay for the complimentary lunches, banquet subsidies and complimentary drinks when the account is received.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Diaries: It was moved Sis L Ellison, seconded Sis B Mannix that the cost of diaries be increased to **\$6.00** each.

Carried

Association Dues: It was moved Sis L Ellison, seconded Sis F Thornton that Association dues be increased to **\$20.00**.

Carried

Thanks: The President conveyed her thanks to

- the Victorian Sub Branch for paying for the refreshments at the Grand Representatives Lunch;
- those who assisted in any way towards the lunch and meeting;
- those who accepted the invitation to serve as an escort or hostess;
- those who will participate in the Friendship Service during the Formal Opening of the United Grand Chapter the following day;
- those who generously provided raffle prizes [a total of 26 were received];

- the Western Australian Steering Committee who provided luncheon serviettes and the orchids for table decorations;
- Sis Margaret Kestenbaum for making the placemats;

Prior to the election of office bearers for 2017-2019, Sis Nixon thanked Association members for the privilege of serving them as President.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Bros M Baker and J Nantes were appointed Tellers.

President: Sis Elizabeth Watt was nominated by Sis B Watt, seconded Sis M Kennedy. There being no further nominations Sis Elizabeth Watt was declared elected.

Secretary/Treasurer: Sis Margaret Smith was nominated by Sis L Ellison, seconded Sis E Watt. There being no further nominations Sis Smith was declared elected.

Prior to vacating office Sis Nixon thanked everyone for their support, particularly Bro Paul Smith for his patronage during the term and his involvement with the ceremony at the Formal Opening. She congratulated the new office bearers, presented Sis Watt with the President’s badge and concluded with an appropriate prayer.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Sis Elizabeth Watt thanked everyone for their support and looked forward to serving the Association until the Sessions in Adelaide in 2019.
2. Sis Watt introduced Bro Graham Deacon of Tasmania, the incoming WG Fraternal Correspondent and invited him to sit with the new office bearers.
3. Sis Watt advised that the next meeting of the Association will be held in Brisbane next April.
4. Sis H McLachlan, on behalf of those present, thanked the outgoing office bearers.
5. Sis M Hillman spoke of the problems she had experienced after being given the incorrect name and contact details for her counterpart. Sis Ellison said she would investigate how this occurred.

RESPONSE:

Sister Sandra Davis, MWG Matron, spoke on behalf of all visiting dignitaries. She congratulated the new office bearers and thanked Sis Nixon and Sis Williams for their effort during their term in office.

The meeting was closed at 4.15pm and the competition drawn.

Prize winners were L Jennings, I McLelland, D Weimhier, R Humber, M Hillman, C Vaessen, S Deacon, P Forbes, B Watt, M Down, R Clelland, F Thornton, L Allen, P Leabetter, J Simpson, B Mannix, E Decker, M Pollitt, R Ruskin, M Struthers, M Nantes, G Deacon, J Whyte, G Mason, F Woodfield.

INCOME:	Raffle	\$823.30
	Diaries	\$365.00
	Dues	\$220.00

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/TREASURER