

AGENDA | Ambulance Service Welfare Fund Inc

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date | Time Wednesday 30th October 2024 at 1:00pm

Location 13 Hindmarsh Place, Hindmarsh

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
- 4. Chairperson's Report
- 5. Treasurer's Report
- 6. Appointment of Auditor
- 7. General Business
- 8. AGM Close
- 9. Questions from Members

If you are unable to attend either in person or via Zoom, we encourage all members to register their vote by proxy using the attached notice which can be returned to our office via fax **8340 1811 or email info@aswf.net.au**

MINUTES | Ambulance Service Welfare Fund Inc

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date Time	Thursday, 26 October 2023	11:30am
Location	13 Hindmarsh Place, Hindmarsh	
Present	Stacey Solomou (Chairperson), Sarah Beale (Treasurer), Judy Goodes (Director), Kym Tank (Director), John Noble, Kate Dorrington, Deborah Workman, Robert Leigh	
Via Zoom	Chris Cotton, Adam Hughes, Andree Hutchinson	
Proxies	Andrea Papini, Scott Payne, Bernie Morellini, Steven Wright	
Minute Taker	Kate Dorrington	

MINUTES of the MEETING

1. Apologies

Andrea Papini, Bernie Morellini, Steve Flaherty, Cliff Pinkard, Stephen Hambling, Sharon Noack, Helen O'Loughlin, Sue Linn, Greg Ware, Christopher Taliangis, Diane Weston, Carol Hodgkinson, Andy Russell, vanessa Sandercock, Andrea Borrett, Lindy Jones, Stacey White, Alison Christie, Leanne Reed, Cat Herine, Catherine Brown, Nicole Chamberlain, Andrew Parker, catherine Doughty, Nick Worthley

2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

S Solomou welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with an Acknowledgement to Country.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOVED: K Tank SECOND: J Goodes

"That the minutes of the AGM held 26/10/2022 be accepted as a true and correct record"

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

4. Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson, S Solomou, reported on the activity of the fund over the past 12 months.

MOVED: S Beale Second: R Leigh

"That the Chairperson's Report as tabled be accepted"

CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report

S Beale presented the Treasurer's Report with the Auditor's Report tabled as part of the Treasurer's Report.

MOVED: J Goodes

SECONDED: K Tank

"That the Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report as tabled be accepted"

CARRIED

6. Election of Board Members

S Solomou provided the results of the election as follows:

- Anastasia Bougesis 109 votes (elected)
- Anthony Pryzibilla 77 votes
- Kym Tank 92 votes (elected)
- John Noble 128 votes (elected)
- Justin Cowan 86 votes

S Solomou welcomed A Bougesis and J Noble to the Board and gave a heartfelt thankyou to outgoing Directors A Pryzibilla, JA Martin and S Wright for their contributions to the Fund over an extensive period of time, and for the guidance and mentorship.

7. Appointment of Auditor

MOVED: J Goodes

SECONDED: S Beale

"That D W Johns be re-appointed as Auditors of the Fund"

CARRIED

8. General Business

S Solomou presented the 2 offers for the purchase of 13 Galetzer Rd, Watervale.

MOVED: S Solomou

SECONDED: J Goodes

"That the Board accepts the offer of \$370,000 for the sale of 13 Glaetzer Rd, Watervale."

CARRIED

J Goodes asked for the Board to consider a change to the Constitution and Rules that would allow Associate members to vote in an election.

R Leigh added it would be hard to get 75% of the membership to engage in a rule change if only 214 responded to the election out of a possible 999 members.

S Solomou responded with it is time to modernise and evolve to increase the Fund's profile and member engagement but still have platforms for long standing members so we don't alienate them.

The item was held over for discussion at the next Strategic Planning Meeting.

9. AGM Closed at 14:46am

Chair Report – AGM 30th October 2024

2024 has been a challenging year for our workforce for many reasons. The changing face of healthcare along with financial instability with rising interest rates has seen the need for support rise amongst our colleagues. Financial hardship, increasing sickness and carer requirements along with personal and professional pressures impact the wellbeing of so many of us. The Welfare Funds true purpose is to:

“To support the wellbeing of our members through the provision of financial and social benefits”.

The ASWF plays a pivotal role, however we cannot be complacent when ensuring what we offer is a true reflection of what is required.

The ASWF has not been idle. Over the last 12 months much activity has commenced to explore:

- Our purpose
- Our membership
- Our benefits
- And our strategic planning for future sustainability, IT security and marketability

We sadly said goodbye to long standing board members Anthony Pryzibilla and Julie-Anne Martin and welcomed with enthusiasm John Noble and Anastasia Tomich to the board.

Several Strategic planning meetings commenced with valuable, honest, and respectful discussions identifying the need for improvements in our ongoing presence and membership attrition along with the need for sound and transparent frameworks to support our future direction and decision-making processes. Identification of our financial model vs our current position was explored. The need for rebranding, IT system overhaul, improvement of our social media presence and analysis of future and ongoing member benefits were prioritised for action by the board on behalf of the membership.

A membership survey has been actioned to further explore engagement, benefits, and potential for system improvements and benefit usability to drive potential change in the acquisition of such benefits and assets.

The Treasurer will present her report with further discussion on our current financial standing with transparent and streamlined reporting.

It is important to highlight some significant work that has been completed and currently being actioned:

Funeral Benefit - The board unanimously agreed to increase the currently benefit from \$5,500 to \$9,000 which has now been actioned and messaged to our members

Property

- The sale of Watervale and subsequent purchase of Auburn with availability from November
- The development of property checklists and scheduled inspections
- The inclusion of Linen at our properties
- The development of scheduled maintenance and checks such as gutter cleans, white ants etc
- Significant improvements, upgrades and repairs to Goolwa, Lady Bay and Grange
- The development of a proposed review of Edithburgh and a future purchase of a 6th property
- The ongoing review of occupancy with potential for the inclusion of a last minute reduced booking process

Ongoing Free Give-a-ways - Opportunities are consistently being sourced to acquire free passes to sporting events including merchandise along with other opportunities outside of sporting events.

Financial Assistance – The board continues to prioritise the approval of financial assistance for members when such requests are made. Which subsequently leads to ongoing discussions around board communication and improvement strategies we can adopt to provide timely decisions.

Other work in progress projects include:

- Potential for discounted legal fees
- The membership survey
- Rebranding of ASWF
- Improvement to social media engagement
- Membership expansion and retention
- Improvements to the induction package, IT Platforms and website
- Efficiencies for time management in board meetings and improving communication strategies.
- Consideration for PTSD / Mental health Care / Domestic Violence expansion into benefits

This year also sadly saw the passing of 3 our members and it would be remiss of me to not pay tribute to Annette Weerts, Valerie Schomann, Stuart Brand and Rod Kershaw.

The board is continually assessing the changing face of the workforce which drives the need for benefit review and ongoing strategic projection and planning. The results of the survey will be tabled at a future board meeting with subsequent strategic planning meetings to evaluate these results and develop recommendations.

I propose the year ahead to see the evolvement of strategic planning and consolidation of projects in progress with further expansion to our available benefits with a strong focus on health and wellbeing. That we continue to grow our membership, review our processes and continue to evaluate the day to day functions of the ASWF

Stacey Solomou

Chairperson

AMBULANCE SERVICE WELFARE FUND AGM

TREASURER'S REPORT – SARAH BEALE

Welcome to all attendees

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's report for the financial year ending June 30, 2024. Our year involved the sale of a longstanding property asset at Watervale, with the purchase of a replacement property coming to fruition just after the close of the financial year. This meant a significant increase in our cash assets for a portion of the year, allowing a significant down payment of our Grange home loan. In order to remain competitive in an ever-expanding holiday rental market the decision to offload the older property led to a loss of rental income for a significant period of time, but with a key goal of improving our offerings to members in a region which has continued to prove popular amongst the ASWF family.

As we began this fiscal year, we were in a strong financial position with total net assets valued at more than 2.3 million dollars, including cash assets of 389 thousand dollars.

Over the course of the year we saw an increase in member subscription payments, reversing a downward trend noted in the previous financial year. We recorded a net profit of 285 thousand dollars, which is a significant decrease from 2022-23 but also accounts for an increase in member benefit payments to a total of nearly 260 thousand dollars, almost doubling that of the previous year. The sharp rise in payments follows a similar trend to the previous year and will likely need further review and consideration to ensure we remain relevant and profitable in a growing workforce and can continue to support our members into the future.

The decrease in our overall operating profit may also be attributable to a loss of rental income between the sale of Watervale and purchase of a new property in addition to the aforementioned increase in member benefit payments. Whilst significant expenditure occurred to purchase a new property at Auburn, the growth in net equity of the fund has been substantial now totalling over 3 million dollars across our holiday home portfolio and shares account.

I can report we remain in a strong financial position as a member-focussed fund. Future plans to update, replace and expand our services and homes will need to be well considered and planned to ensure financial stability and sustainability, but with careful consideration and targeted fiscal management I am confident we will continue to remain relevant and profitable in a competitive landscape.

I would like to thank the Board and our dedicated administrative team who have continued to support my role as Treasurer. I believe we are well positioned to continue to grow and provide support to our membership now and ahead, and I look forward to the further development of a future-focussed welfare fund which continues to assist its members and provide quality offerings and benefits.

I now move that the Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Report as tabled be accepted.