

MINUTES

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Vocational Rehabilitation Association – BC Society (VRA BC) took place on Friday, November 8th, 2019

Fletcher Challenge Canada Theatre Simon Fraser University Vancouver, BC

1. Determination of quorum and adoption of rules of order. 20 VRA members in attendance.
2. Call to order at 13:08.
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary Dominique Povey by Sheryl Thompson, President and Chair.
4. Approval of Agenda – Sheryl Thompson

Motion – To approve the agenda of the 2019 VRA BC AGM

First by: Claire Benson - Mandl

Seconded by: Brenda Hockley

Carried

5. Approval of minutes of 2018 AGM – Sheryl Thompson

Motion – To approve the 2018 AGM minutes

First by: Pamela MacDonald

Seconded by: Christine Reynolds

Carried

6. Chair & Board Report

Reference by Sheryl Thompson that the President's Report, Financial Report and Committee Reports were available for review in the Training Day booklet.

7. 2018 Financial Report and appointment of 2019 auditors – Pamela MacDonald.

Pamela MacDonald gave short update on memberships stating they have decreased.

Question from attendee: What are you doing about increasing membership?

Sheryl Thompson replied: Membership has dropped and this in part is due change in designation structure and pattern across Canada. New members have been joining and there is feedback that those members that are not renewing are actually retiring out of the profession and so this is due in fact to life changes. To increase memberships there is development with the online learning academy as well as reduction in insurance and travel incentives. Also confirmed VRA are working with a marketing team to boost retention.

Pamela MacDonald added: There is a training event in May 2020 coming up in Victoria, which will be a great opportunity to boost membership. Pamela stated more board members are required to assist in events and to reach out to new people. Also informed the floor that members don't have to be a professional in the field, people fulfil roles to help with organisation and coordinating of the VRA who are affiliated and not necessarily professionals in the VR field. Survey will be sent out to attendees to collate feedback on this. Training is provided at discounted rates, further information within the Training Day booklet. VRA also sourcing other training course to offer.

Brenda Hockley added: When the board is small and on a volunteer basis, when there are such a small number participating, the workload is left to a very small group of people and are very stretched and cannot necessarily get out there to recruit new members.

Pamela MacDonald added: There is so much work that goes into the running of VRA and especially in the planning and organizing of these events.

Brenda Hockley added: The team are working more efficiently by utilising templates housed in a directory to simplify the working process of the association.

Question from attendee: A representative from SFU mentioned there may a doubling of the Diploma of the Disability Management course – will this increase membership?

Pamela MacDonald replied: VRA BC needs people local to the school in order to be able to attend and inform the students of the association and how they can get involved. It would be ideal for someone from this meeting today to come forward and get out into those classes to educate people on how to become involved in VRA.

Motion – To approve the 2018 Financial Report

First by: Pamela MacDonald

Seconded by: Colleen Avery

Carried

Motion – To appoint Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Co. to conduct the 2019 review auditors

First by: Sheryl Thompson

Seconded by: Brenda Hockley

Carried

Pamela MacDonald stated that the review comes in at max of \$2,500 which is the same as the previous year.

8. Nominating Committee Report and election of Officers – Sheryl Thompson

Sheryl Thompson called twice for nominations from the floor. No new nominations came forward.

Sheryl Thompson informed the floor she is stepping down as President and no longer continuing on the board with VRA.

The following were named as board members for the 2019-2020 term; Karen Cross, Sharon Smith, Florence Rickards, Renuka Goodapati, Laurie Hornsby, and Pamela MacDonald.

Motion – To approve the slate of Officers as presented

First by: Colleen Avery

Seconded: Stuart Lee

Carried

9. Other Business

No other business

10. Adjournment – Sheryl Thompson at 13:27.