



**MINUTES
18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 31 October 2009, 4.15pm**

Gold Coast Convention Centre
BROADBEACH. QLD.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Janet Scott, in the absence of Russ Schedlich, welcomed all members and thanked them for attending.

Apologies were accepted from;

*Scott Kitchener
Neil Westphalen
Geoff Robinson
Russ Schedlich
Kerry Clifford
Andrew Gordon
Elizabeth Livingstone
Robert Atkinson
Roy Beran
Robert Black*

2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM

The minutes of the 2008 AGM have been published on the AMMA web site and were agreed to be correct and approved.

Moved: Andy Robertson

Seconded: Greg Mahoney

ACCEPTED

3. Annual Report

President's Report published in the Annual Report, as part of JMVH Vol 17 No 4; and in the absence of Russ Schedlich was presented by Nader Abou-seif.

The President's Report (from Nader Abou-seif) was read:-

2009 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Written, presented by Nader Abou-seif

The full President's report is included in JMVH Vol.17 No.4.

The key points of his report are that we continue to face significant challenges. In the midst of the global financial crisis we have been faced with similar issues to a number of other organisations in relation to funding for our activities. This includes areas of membership, sponsorship and the publication of our journal.

Our total membership numbers have dropped for a variety of reasons, some of which relate to the unique nature of our membership. A number of members have not renewed on cutting ties with defence.

The format of JMVH continues to present a challenge. It remains a work in progress. Our Editorial Board and International Advisory Panel have worked to ensure high quality copy. In order to do this we have elected to publish three times in the last year rather than produce a journal of a lesser standard. The overall cost of producing the journal however is dropping. We are looking at alternative funding and publication options.

The 17th Conference in Hobart was a resounding success and our conferences continue to be major pillar in the funding of the Association.

The financial successes of our conferences continue to allow us to absorb the additional costs of producing the journal. In addition we have overseen a substantial decrease in our operating costs.

Council have altered our banking and financial arrangements to allow for better monitoring the costs of the three major streams of the associations activity – general administration,, conferences and the journal. Our aim is to ensure that each stream is financially self sufficient.

Council continues to address the challenges to the association and aim to meet the needs and requirements of our membership while avoiding significant increases in membership fees.

I would like to thank members of the Council and our Secretariat, Leishman Associates for their efforts over the past year and I would like the membership for their support over the past year and encourage your contribution in the future.

MOTION TO PROPOSE

I would like to use this opportunity to propose an extraordinary motion of thanks to Russ Schedlich who this month has stepped down from the Presidency after nine years, and has also stepped down from Council after serving since the second year of the Association. He is currently enjoying a well earned family vacation.

He was my Vice President during the five years of my Presidency before taking on the Presidency in October 2000.

Under his leadership the association has consolidated its position. We have developed partnerships with Joint Health Command highlighted by two successful joint AMMA (Defence Health Symposium) with a further meeting planned next year. This year we have collaborated with CCMT.

In addition, he has been the driving force behind the expansion of the Journal which is being developed into a stronger, standalone and independent publication consistent with the aims of the association. We have just had a review of our constitution which will be addressed later in this meeting.

His retirement from council is a great loss and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

Thank you.
Nader Abou-seif

Moved: Tracy Smart

Seconded: Graeme Shirtley

ACCEPTED

3.2 Secretary's Report

Janet Scott read the Secretary's report as published in the Annual Report, JMVH Vol 17 No 4.

Key points from the report were:

Continual work has been done on culling and following up on outstanding monies.

As at today 31/10/09 – AMMA has a 197 current members.

Through the review – 58 have indicated they do not wish to renew.

We have now 31 unfinancial members

I note that there are 180 non-members in attending the conference.

Janet called for comments:

Graeme Shirtley asked why there were so many non-members; and the response is that these attendees were those funded by ADF Health and that the rules of ADF prevent it from paying memberships for its personnel; but were able to cover the cost of professional development.

Moved: Peter Habersberger

Seconded: Norton Duckmanton

ACCEPTED

3.3 Journal Editor's Report

Andy Robertson read the Journal Editor's report as published in the Annual Report, JMVH Vol 17 No 4.

Moved: Tracy Smart

Seconded: Norton Duckmanton

ACCEPTED

3.4 Treasurer's Report

Janet Scott presented the Treasurers Report in the absence of Neil Westphalen; the report is as published in the Annual Report Vol 17 No 4.

Key points include:

The Association has made changes to the banking arrangement which has allowed for better management of the associations finances.

Moved over to a new software program to better manage the association; this was implemented close to 30 June and as a result; the amount of membership income received prior to 30 June is significantly lower than previous year; however it should be noted that the figures for 2008; were inflated due to a late collection of 2007 membership fees. It should be noted that the overall running costs of the association have reduced over the last 12 months; and this partially due to the streamlining of services and higher level. However the association has reported a loss of \$19,941 for the year ended 30 June 09.

Janet called for comments from the floor:

Bill Heddle questioned why the membership income was low; and this was outlined in the report – due to a change in operating procedure.

Graham Boothby supported the fluctuations in membership income, indicating this was not unusual The Treasurer's report was then accepted.

Moved: Andy Robertson

Seconded: Bill Heddle

ACCEPTED

4. Any Business of which notice has been given

Janet advised that she had received notification from Russ Schedlich proposing a number of changes to the AMMA Constitution. These were not received within 42 days of AGM; and she therefore gave notice that these amendments would be posted on the AMMA website, and will be put to the 2010 AGM.

Amendments are as follows:

Amendment - Emeritus member

Amendment Clauses 2.7.2(d) & 2.7.3 - expulsion of member

Amendment Clauses 2.9.4 - disclosure of interests

Amend Amendment Clauses 2.9.6 - Corporate Manager

Amendment Clauses 2.9.18 - Accounts books & records

Amendment Clauses 2.9.20 - Auditing accounts

Amendment Clauses 2.9.22 - Disputes

Amendment Clause 2.4.7

Amendment Clauses 2.9.1(e) - exclusion of Council member

Amendment Clauses 2.9.5 - Executive committee

Amendment Clauses 2.9.10(a) - Treasurer's duties

Amendment Clauses 2.9.19 - Auditor

Amendment Clauses 2.9.21 - Service of notices

Motion: Brian Pezzutti: That constitutional change is conducted via electronic vote.

Based on the constitution – the agreement in writing of 10% of the AMMA membership could agree to this; and the following members agreed to this proposal.

Jeffrey Rosenfeld

Peter Habersberger

Kevin Donovan

Brian Pezzutti

Nader Abou-seif

Greg Mahoney

Gerard Tacil

Adrian Smith

N.A. Duckmanton

G.S.A. Bayliss

P. Sharwood

J. Ross

W. Heddle

S. Hodson

J.F. Scott

A. Robertson

J. Lumsden

T. Smart
W. Harrex
G. Shirtley
R. Storey
G.Boothby

Moved: Andy Robertson

Seconded: P.Habersberger

ACCEPTED

5. Announcement of newly elected Council

The Secretary advised that she had received notice of resignation from the current President, Russ Schedlich.

In accordance with the Constitution of AMMA, one nomination for President of the association had been received, that of Greg Mahoney. One nomination for Vice President has been received, that of Nader Abou-seif. Six nominations for the six vacancies on Council had been received, from Janet Scott, Andy Robertson, Geoff Robinson, Kerry Clifford, Neil Westphalen, and Stephanie Hodson.

Therefore, as the number of nominations for each position equaled the number of positions, no elections were necessary. All nominees were accepted unopposed and the Council for 2010 stands as:

President	Greg Mahoney
Vice President	Nader Abou-seif
Council Members	Janet Scott
	Andy Robertson
	Geoff Robinson
	Kerry Clifford
	Neil Westphalen
	Stephanie Hodson

6. General Business

Norton Duckmanton congratulated the members on the number of delegates who were wearing uniform.

Janet responded by saying that as per the rules of the association; AMMA is independent from the ADF

However, those delegates sponsored by the ADF were advised to wear Uniform of the Day.

This was supported by Peter Habersberger stating that these were in accordance with the rule.

James Ross congratulated Greg Mahoney on his appointment as President.

There was considerable discussion regarding membership; and attracting new members, Graeme Shirtley suggested that we should use the separate groups ARMY / NAVY / AIRFORCE – headed up by 1 stars that they could encourage their staff to consider membership of AMMA and use the professional development fund to pay for their membership?

Tracy agreed this would be a good suggestion; and will put this in place.

Action: LA to follow up Tracy.

Brian Pezzutti suggested that Tracy's suggestion be given to the other services, i.e. Robyn Walker et al or alternatively something from Paul Alexander.

Jenny Lumsden spoke about a mentoring system – in particular for publication in JMVH.

Greg Mahoney indicated this had already been discussed and would be reviewed and acted upon.

Peter Sharwood suggested that we are not using the triumvirate; and this would not only provide a good source of research material for publication in JMVH, but would provide potential increase to membership.

There are two triumvirate meetings being held in the next two weeks, one in SA and one in NSW.

Janet indicated that she would distribute information about AMMA.

James Ross also mentioned that he would promote AMMA through the ASPEN MEDICAL Clinical Newsletter.

Stephanie Hodson, spoke about the number of craft groups at this conference; where research was being discussed. This would also be another source of potential membership and contributions for JMVH.

Action: LA to follow up these offers

7. Next AGM

Janet announced that the 2010 AGM would be held in Canberra on Saturday 30 October 2010.

Peter Habersberger asked where future conferences were being held; Greg Mahoney responded and said the council were considering Perth – however they were aware of the risk associated with this location.

Further discussion from the members on potential venues included:

Townsville

Darwin

Sydney – at a regional / suburban venue such as Novotel Brighton were considered

Council will make a decision based on this input.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.09pm.