TSSA Retired Member's Group Committee

Minutes

Thursday 24th March 2022

Present; John Rees (Chair), Luke Howard (Secretary), Dave Porter (Treasurer), Bob Bayley (Newsletter), Tim Young (Minutes)

Apologies; Dinesh Bhardwa, Cheryl O'Brien

Chair; John welcomed those present.

Minutes; Minutes of the two most recent meetings were not to hand, namely the last Committee Meeting on 9th December 2021, and the last Member's Meeting on 3rd February 2022.

Secretary; i. There has been no further progress on hybrid meetings. Luke suggested that the next meeting on 28th April for all RMG members, be on Zoom and that we review making subsequent meetings hybrid after that. This was agreed. The Chair reported attending a hybrid meeting recently where only three people attended in person.

ii. Luke reported having difficulty getting documents posted to the TSSA website.

iii. There was some discussion regarding the lack of an election for the position of General Secretary. Our Treasurer had spoken to Manuel at another event and Manuel had maintained that such an election was neither required by our rules or by TU law. Luke found a document online which maintained that it was a legal requirement, but the current edition of the TSSA Rule Book did not reflect this legal requirement.

iv. The TSSA are setting up a working party to look at equalities research. They are recommending one person attend from each SOG. Luke felt that our representative should be an ordinary member (as opposed to a committee member) but had not had a willing volunteer come forward yet.

v. Luke reported that we have a table and marquee booked. We need volunteers to staff it when conference is not in session. All materials, leaflets, freebies etc., will need to be removed at the close of the Monday sessions as the exhibition area will be required to accommodate the Conference Banquet. There was some dubiety expressed as to whether those attending both the Special Delegate Conference on the Friday and the main conference from the Saturday onwards would receive an extra night's hotel stay on the Friday night in Sheffield.

Treasurer; Dave reported that he has paid expenses to Joel & Steve Whitehead to attend an NPC event. He has also just received an expenses claim from Cheryl. Once Cheryl's claim is paid, the RMG will have £712.41 in the bank.

There was an additional discussion as to whether a small prize should be awarded for the latest quiz in the newsletter that is on the cusp of being published. Amazon vouchers were discounted for ethical reason. It was agreed that the winning entry be rewarded with souvenirs from TSSA125 to an agreed value. Luke is intending to speak to Steve Coe with a view to Steve speaking at the All Member RMG meeting at the end of April, and will discuss this with him then.

Newsletter; The draft of the next issue has been circulated to Committee members. Some of the articles are long. Bob didn't feel empowered to abridge them. It was suggested to him to mix shorter and longer articles up, and add more 'white space', to make the whole newsletter easier to read.

Pre Ret. Seminars; The Chair had nothing to report. The Secretary reminded the meeting that following his visit to an All Member RMG meeting last year, we had agreed to provide Luke Chester with suggestions to improve online training, which we have not yet done.

Visits; It was considered too early to be considering resuming in person visits at this time

NPC; Joel Kosminsky joined the meeting for this item, reporting back on a recent NPC meeting attended by Cheryl, Steve Whitehead and himself. Joel had spoken to an RMT rep, Andy Warnock-Smith, from the Northeast with whom Joel thought we could form an effective alliance. The TSSA punches well above its weight. As Chair of SOC, Joel could see that stringent time keeping measures on speeches needed to be implemented if all the business on the agenda were to be dealt with effectively. The TSSA are entitled to a seat on the NPC's EC, and two on its National Council. The NPC are looking for potential new venues and Tim suggested the Mechanic's Institute where he'd been earlier in the day, in central Manchester. Joel will pass that suggestion on.

28th April; The draft agenda drawn up was considered satisfactory for the next all member meeting.

It was noted that any questions to the Report & Accounts need to be submitted prior to this date.

The question was raised that if the merger goes through, will the post of TSSA Treasurer disappear ?

IBB; Luke has drawn up an emergency motion, the wording of which was agreed. It was considered dubious as to whether it would be debated in the main conference, and equally dubious as to whether any emergency motion would be accepted at the Special Delegate Conference. Luke will therefore submit it to both conferences for consideration. There will also be an article in the soon to be published newsletter.

Next Meetings; All Member Meeting on 28th April by Zoom
Committee on 11th August by Zoom or Hybrid (Yet to be decided)