



## MINUTES

### Of the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria

Saturday, 30 October 2021, 2 pm, via Zoom

Chair: Yuriy (George) Fedyszyn

Secretaries: Andrew Mykhaylyk and Marko Pavlyshyn

Note 1: These minutes provide an abridged outline in English of business conducted mainly in Ukrainian.

Note 2: Abbreviations used throughout these minutes include: Annual General Meeting (**AGM**), Association of Ukrainians in Victoria (**AUV**).

#### 1. Opening welcome

Acknowledgement of country by Slawko Kohut.

#### 2. Australian anthem

#### 3. Minute's silence

#### 4. President's opening remarks, by Slawko Kohut

- Outlined reasons for why AGM is being hosted via Zoom and why no voting is taking place during the AGM.
- Outlined purpose of AGM, namely election of:
  - General committee members; and
  - Audit committee membersand voting on resolutions.
- Resolutions must be submitted prior to the AGM. No resolutions were submitted prior to the AGM.
- Noted difficulty of voting over Zoom, for both members and the AUV in recording and maintaining integrity of voting process. Thus, voting occurred prior to the AGM via forms sent to all financial members.
- Provided overview of Zoom meeting etiquette.
- Introduced Yuriy Fedyszyn, AGM Chair, Andrew Mykhaylyk and Marko Pavlyshyn, AGM Secretaries.

#### 5. Meeting agenda

- Introduced by Chair.
- No changes to agenda were raised by attendees.

## 6. Salutations

- Received from Bishop Mykola Bychok, delivered by Felix Figurek.
- Received from Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, delivered by Stefan Romaniw.
- Received from Plast Victoria, delivered by Felix Figurek.
- Received from Kalyna Care, delivered by Felix Figurek.
- Received from Dnister, delivered by David Hassett.

## 7. Report of AUV Central

- Delivered by Slawko Kohut
  - Outlined composition and brief overview of General Committee, Audit Committee, Social Welfare committee, AUV Office, Archive, AUV Branch Presidents.
  - Honourable mention of and thanks delivered to members and community which assisted the AUV in various means.
  - Discussed status of financial membership, including breakdown by branch.
  - Outlined achievements and outcomes of AUV. AUV President elaborated on each point outlined on Slide 15 of supporting slides.
    - Particular elaboration on:
      - I. Federal government changes to welfare funding foreshadowed, which may adversely impact funding of AUV social services;
      - II. Changes to Ukrainian Studies, namely closure of program at Monash University, Deed of Trust binding Ukrainian studies required to be hosted at an Australian public university, agreement currently under negotiation with the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Arts; and
      - III. Youth and their increased involvement with the AUV.
  - Outlined challenges which the AUV incurred, namely:
    - Disruptions associated with COVID-19; and
    - Legal disputes relating to the AUV St Albans branch.
  - Delineated plans of the AUV for the future, as detailed on Slide 18 of the supporting slides.
    - Shared images of historic and current AUV Ukrainian Community Centre, in Essendon Victoria, recent refurbishment works on the balcony level of Centre, Archive facility improvements
  - Noted that his incumbency of the President's role will culminate in one year, where Slawko hopes someone else will be elected.

## 8. AUV Financial Summary

- Delivered by Slawko Kohut.
- Noted challenges of previous annum, with no hall hire, events as sources of revenue, but noted support of JobKeeper and other government grants.
- Noted that the financial report is available publicly on the AUV website.
- Outlined financial challenges, including:
  - Cost of insurance growing annually;
  - Land tax costs;
  - Foreshadowed change to government grants system which would adversely impact revenues which support social welfare;

- Absence of diversification in AUV's investment portfolio, with \$4.4 million invested entirely in 7 apartments, which deliver a 2.3% Return on Investment. Body-corporate fee erodes returns.
- Outlined financial and investment plans.
  - Noted advice from consulted advisor, which is not yet available. Flagged potential Extraordinary General Meeting to be held once any decisions are to be made regarding changes to financial and investment strategies of the AUV.

## 9. Reports from AUV Branches

- Wodonga Branch report
  - Provided in writing by Lyubov Slyvka. Slawko Kohut delivered summary on their behalf.
- St Albans Branch report
  - Delivered by Nicholas Angelowitsch, as per Slides 34 to 44 of supporting slides.
- Geelong Branch report
  - Delivered by Wally Rava, as per slide deck provided by Geelong Branch.
- Noble Park Branch report
  - Delivered by Liana Slipetsky, Branch President, as per Slides 46 to 56 of supporting slides.
- AGM Chair thanked all Branches for their presentations and efforts during the reporting period.

## 10. Internal Audit Committee Report

- Delivered by Michael Laba.
- Noted that Internal Audit Committee did not have much opportunity to conduct audits, however were able to audit the voting for this AGM, which was conducted to a satisfactory standard, as per the Committee's findings.

## 11. Attendee Questions and Comments

- Maria Brown-Shepherd commended the AUV for its efforts, noting difficulty of circumstances in previous two years.
- Tatiana Zachariak asked whether AUV is thinking about the issue of vaccinations.
  - I. Irene Stawiski noted that yes, everyone coming to the Ukrainian Community Centre will need to be double vaccinated or have an exemption and they are still working on how to monitor this.
- Tatiana Zachariak commended AUV President and Branches for their work during the reporting period. She also commended the Branch presentations and noted her pride in being an AUV member.
- Stefan Romaniw extended his commendation of the Branch's works.
- Ivan Guglak asked regarding the financial report:
  - I. For explanation of the difference between General Expenditure in 2020-2021 (\$71,000) and in 2019-2020 (\$6,000); and
  - II. Why legal costs for the dispute between AUV and former members of the St Albans Branch committee appear as costs to the St Albans Branch and not AUV Central.
    - Paul Herczaniwski responded that St Albans incurred these costs to repay borrowed amounts from AUV Central, whilst their funds were frozen during the period of legal proceedings. While the legal costs were paid by AUV Central, they were expended in recovering funds for St Albans.

- Ivan asked what the final legal costs were.
    - Slawko noted this totalled a \$88,000 net loss to the AUV.
- Marusia Jarockyj commended the Branches and the AUV for their efforts. She asked what the foreseen procedure for selecting a new leader of the Ukrainian Studies was, and whether the AUV committee would have any influence in this process.
  - Slawko noted that the AUV is the Trustee of the Ukrainian Studies Support Fund (USSF). He noted that he attends meetings of the USSF but does not have a voting right. Noted that the AUV and USSF will be represented in the committee which is foreseen to be formed to deal with Ukrainian Studies, alongside the University of Melbourne (**University**).
  - Marko Pavlyshyn noted that this process is currently in negotiation, between the USSF and AUV on one hand and the University (specifically its Faculty of Arts) on the other. He noted that the meetings have considered the governance structure of these studies and their structure within the University. An Advisory Group comprising two persons from the University and two from USSF/AUV will advise the head of the School where the position is to be located. Noted that the agreement/contract will be entered into a period of 3 years, which will allow progress and satisfaction by both parties to be reviewed toward the end of the contract period. Noted that, as the individual will fall under the employment of the University, so will report through the University's management structure. Noted that overall, the University was very satisfied with the Ukrainian community's interests and requests, with negotiations impending, but expected to be favourable.
- A member identified on the screen as "Ollie" extended congratulations to the AUV for their achievements despite the challenges faced.
- Ivan Guglak asked what the make-up of the costs and grants for the Essendon Centre's balcony works had been.
  - Slawko noted that a grant (\$38,000; this required matching funds from AUV) was provided for several works, including:
    - Balcony renovation;
    - Internet connection upgrades; and
    - Kitchen upgrades.
- Hubert Weisrock noted their excitement regarding the AUV's inroads into the University of Melbourne, and gratitude to all involved.
- Basil Chamula noted that building renovations may deliver only cosmetic upgrades, but do not address structural issues which may underly the base building. He suggested the AUV considers these longer-term considerations and issues, such that the community is future ready. Also noted that AUV Central should not be so supportive of Branches, as Branch's reliance on AUV Central may deter their self-sustenance.
  - Slawko responded, briefly noting that he supports Basil's first point completely, and, addressing the second point, notes that their support is more in the interest of aiding, rather than sustaining the Branches.
- Tatiana Zachariak noted the difficulty she faced in finding willing candidates to nominate for AUV president and committee roles. She noted they approached 22 individuals, of which only few individuals nominated.
- Liana Slipetsky echoed Tatiana's concerns regarding the need for succession planning as of paramount importance. Noted that this should supersede concerns for buildings. Also noted that the structural integrity of the Noble Park building is stable.
- Stefan Romaniw noted that the SBS is conducting their review, which occurs every 5 years. He called on all attendees to assist in the campaign to support SBS Ukrainian

radio, TV and other services for the Ukrainian community. Also noted that current ambassador Mykola Kulinich ends his term in Australia as ambassador on 9 December 2021, and hopes to visit Victoria for a farewell to the Ukrainian community.

- Iryna Adreeva requested that “Ukrainian House” (“Ukrains’kyi narodnyi dim” in Ukrainian) is used on all formal communication and documents, rather than “Domivka”.
- Tatiana Zachariak asked the status of ownership of Kalyna Care.
  - Slawko noted that his understanding is a separate entity to the AUV.
- Halja Bryndzia noted that Kalyna Care is a limited liability company owned by its members, who are entitled to \$100 if the organisation is liquidated, and is entirely separate to the AUV.
- Ivan Guglak asked why honorary memberships had been awarded, given that the Constitution requires that they be ratified by an AGM.
  - Slawko stated that there was only one honorary membership awarded, which was to Bishop Mykola Bychok, and admitted that it was his error to not await until the AGM to vote on the awarding of honorary membership. Noted that this will be the case in future years.

## 12. Election Results for AUV General Committee and Audit Committee

- AGM Chair reported on voting results, as provided on Slides 58 and 63 of the supporting slides.

## 13. Conclusion and Final Remarks

- Slawko thanked all who supported the AGM and notified all newly-elected committee members of next meeting. Slawko requested that newly-elected committee members attend the first meeting in Ukrainian national costumes.

## 14. Ukrainian Anthem

*Meeting concluded at 4:30.*

These AGM minutes are endorsed by

*George Fedyszyn* (Electronically signed)

George (Yuriy) Fedyszyn (chair)

*Andrew Mykhaylyk* (Electronically signed)

Andrew Mykhaylyk (secretary)

*Marko Pavlyshyn* (Electronically signed)

Marko Pavlyshyn (secretary)

*Slawko Kohut* (Electronically signed)

Slawko Kohut – President of the AUV  
On behalf of the AUV Board –

**Approval voted at AUV Board meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**