

ELLA – 2006 AGM Minutes - DRAFT

June 26, 12:00 Barristers' Lounge

n.b.: minutes are made following agenda items, which are bolded.

Quorum was obtained – 18 members in attendance

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

<http://www.edmontonlawlibraries.ca/business/2005ELLAAGM.pdf>

- a. Approved.
- b. Noted that 2005 financials have not been posted.

2. Additions to the current agenda?

- a. None

3. Annual Reports

a. Michael Lines on programming and last year's resolutions

1. Events:
 - September 28 – Legal Information Buffet – what's new with 4 legal publishers.
 - October 24 – Joan Copp of CPLED on the new program.
 - November 21 – Brad Kring on Family Law Changes.
 - December 7 – Round Table champagne mixer – thanks to Norma Ann Power.
 - January – Carswell International luncheon
 - February – Research at the University – 4 legal research groups discuss their work and publications.
 - March – Dolores Noga of the Environmental Law Center on Environmental legal research.
 - April - QP Source: a demo of their new information services.
2. Resolutions: creation of a student membership
3. Request for programming ideas for the coming year.
 - L-N's new platform
 - Alberta Heritage Digitization Project
 - Knowledge Management
 - Panel presentation on how people are using RSS
 - Other library-relevant but not necessarily law library-specific topics
4. Marlice commented that the Executive will try to create and circulate a schedule of events before Sept., and that the Exec. welcomes members who can volunteer space to hold the events. This to provide variety and promote an active membership.

b. Marlice Schmidt on financials

1. Headstart numbers are not in yet, but since the account was approx. \$3000.00 at the start of 2006, there is no doubt that the program will remain in the black.
2. The current ELLA balance is \$503.00, and after today's lunch expenses, will be at about \$300.00. Marlice outlined some of the Exec's concerns that lunch fees are not recovered entirely, and that the expenditures from the account, though not excessive this year, could, in the absence of adequate sponsorship, drive the balance to zero. It was suggested that:
 - We have some brown-bag lunches
 - We purchase coffee urns to help reduce costs
 - We raise the membership fees to help offset the costs
 - We move some money from the Headstart account to the general ELLA account to help with the costs.

A general discussion on financials ensued, in which it was suggested that some of the Headstart reserve be transferred to the general ELLA account. On this topic there was a comment that Headstart should be costed and planned to break even in the event that all sponsorship that is at all contingent falls through, but that in the event of surpluses, they should be used for the good of ELLA.

3. The Books will go to Rick for auditing after all the invoices from HeadStart 2006 have been submitted.
4. The Financial statements will be posted to the website when they are ready.
5. Rick moved that the Executive consider the total picture of ELLA funds, and that they make recommendations to the membership on how best to use them.

c. Ana SanMiguel on the website

1. Ana was absent. Michael noted that the website is in need of improvement. Marlice communicated that Ana is interested in passing on her duties to another member. Shaunna volunteered to look at redesigning the website.

4. New Business

a. Motion to update the bylaws as required to accommodate voting by members in good standing by email.

Background: currently section 1D Voting states:

Any member in good standing shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the Association. Such votes must be made in person or by electronic mail and not by proxy or otherwise.

But some specific sections describing meetings contradict the above, such as 3B General Meetings, which reads:

The right to vote shall be restricted to members in good standing and must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.

- The motion was made, and it was pointed out by Rick that this general a motion may not suffice to effect the changed required, since a special resolution and exact wording is required. The motion was passed, and the Exec. will take steps to bring forward the exact wording and to effect a special resolution on this issue.

b. Motion to maintain the annual membership dues at their current level (\$25.00).

Background: last year the membership fees were raised to \$25.00, with the goal of accumulating a surplus of \$500.00 to be donated to the CALL AGM.

Maintaining the dues at this level will keep us in line with CLLG and VALL, and will enable ELLA to take on a some services that should be beneficial to the Association:

- **Rental of a post office box, so that our mailing address will be consistent over time (\$110.00 + GST).**
- **Payment for full-service web hosting (about \$100.00 + GST). The benefit here will be a better website, and experience to ELLA volunteers who would like to learn more about web services.**
- **Subsidizing lunches for members (the remaining approx. \$300.00). Please note that lunches usually cost between \$13.00 and \$15.00 per person, and we charge \$10.00 partly to make sure value is returned to the membership, and partly for the convenience of not making small change.**
- Considering the discussion that transpired previously, it was agreed not to make this motion pending fuller recommendations from the executive on the financials of ELLA.

c. Motion to establish annual student membership rates at \$10.00 plus a maximum of \$5.00 per lunch.

Background: To help renew our membership, to increase our numbers, and to raise awareness of law librarianship as a career option, we have established a student membership. Considering the value that student members will bring to the Association, as well as their likely financial limitations, a lower rate is proposed.

- The motion was made and passed. It was noted in discussion that there are various ways to reach the students, and that the Exec should look at various promotional possibilities.

d. Motion to extend the usual maximum monthly meeting time to 90 minutes.

Background: At the suggestion of some publishers, noting the practice of the CLLG, and considering the fact that our lunches sometimes exceed 60 minutes, extending our lunches to a maximum 90 minutes is suggested.

- In discussion it was agreed that this motion not be made, and that rather the Exec. give more precise estimates of the time lunches will take.

e. Motion that the executive should pursue co-sponsored local events with other library-related bodies, such as the SLA, the CLA, etc.

Background: We have seen some excellent programming in related library groups, most recently CASLIS and GELA offering the chance to hear Stephen Abrams speak at the Faculty Club in the evening.

- In discussion, it was thought a motion on this topic was not necessary. Rather it was agreed that this could be an interesting branch of programming, and it was suggested that the Exec. bring particulars of suggested events to the membership for consideration.

5. Other business

- Michael Storozuk asked about the availability of the student evaluations of the Headstart programs. Michael Lines gave a brief summary of their contents, and said that he would tabulate the results and make them available to the volunteers as soon as possible.
- It was suggested that the reactions of the volunteers to the evaluations be recorded, and made available to the next Headstart committee.
- Rick moved that the membership extend a thanks to the Exec. for their work this year. Carried.