

WAVLI GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 25th, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Douglas College New Westminster, Room 1606

AGENDA

Attendees: Heidi Arends, Caitlin Barker Gore, Brenda Beuthin, Susi Bolender, Taylor Bouwmeester, Brianne Braun, Brenda Carmichael, Bryan Corry, Jennifer Cowan, Jessie Dawson, Simon Dorer, Kirsten Hagemoen, Maggie Harkins, Spring Herold, Nigel Howard, Jen Jahnke, Heidi Jantz, Stacey Kitteridge, Farah Ladha, Diana Lane, Katie Langford, Janet Lewis, Trevor Leyenhorst, Janice Lyons, Sara MacFayden, Jo-Ann Martin, Lisa McCarron, Rebecca McCormick, Rhys McCormick, Alana McKenna, Barb Mykle-Hotzon, Tyler Offer, Brooke Oviedo, Cheryl Palmer, Jane Pannell, Stacey Park, Diane Pattison, Larissa Peters, Deloris Piper, Karly Sandboe, Jessica Siegers, Caroline Tetreault, Brittini Vandusen, Kristie Walters, Miriam West, Shelley Williams, Barbara Zbeetnoff.

Proxies: Robyn Albert, Tyler Churchman, Karen Fran, Nathalie Freyvogel, Cindy Haner, Julie Hoas, Lisz Keallen, Kathy Keple, Trish MacAuley, Karen Malcolm, John Markin, Tarren McKay, Krista Parkinson, Nicole Pedneault, Laura Shepherd, Shayla Thompson, Vicki Yee, Sarah Zelitt, Amanda Zimmer.

Student Attendees: Vanessa Bailey, Alexandra Blackwell, Kristin Daly, John Rodger, Kristin Westcott, Jamie Wilson, Emily York.

1. CALL TO ORDER

10:05 a.m. no quorum – delay start of meeting

10:12 a.m. 58 members represented (56 required for quorum)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mover: Miriam West

Seconded: Brooke Oviedo

Motion: CARRIED

3. HOUSEKEEPING

- Washrooms
- Break at 11:30 a.m. Will sell tickets for Pie in the Face fundraiser, which will take place after the meeting outside.
- Comments to be made from the front of the room to accommodate online members (online members: Ashley Campbell (AVLIC VP) Denise Sedran and Susan Birley).

4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2014 SPRING GM MINUTES

“Special Resolution”

Mover: Jenny Cowan

Seconded: Caitlin Barker Gore

Motion: CARRIED

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

5.1. President – Caroline Tetreault

- 2018 Conference – Saskatchewan interpreters will host, WAVLI will bid for 2020 already have a chair/co-chair willing to plan 2020.
- AVLIC AC Presidents’ Meeting – national concerns: spoken language agencies hiring sign language interpreters. Request for discretion regarding postings from spoken language agencies.
- Annual Report Filing: has to be done and standardized.
- Question to report: lapsed membership re Ontario Item “g” in report. Answer: Ontario saw a lot of interpreters non-renewing AVLIC membership, therefore Ontario is starting a project to find out the reasons behind that

5.2. Past President – Jessica Siegers

5.3. Vice President – Brenda Carmichael

- Action Plan: WAVLI Board retreat weekend June 20 – new business has the action plan, open for feedback.
- Support president and committees.
- AVLIC AC Presidents’ meetings when possible – seeing how it works and prepare to possibly transition to presidential seat in 2016.

5.4. Treasurer – Simon Dorer

- Legal Contingency Fund: board feels there is currently not enough funds in contingency fund, in case of legal proceedings. Separate from the legal spending on a monthly basis with George Bryce.
- Possible motion at the Spring GM for an increase to the legal contingency fund.

5.5. Secretary – Julia Menzies

- Unable to attend.

5.6. Member-at-Large – Spring Herold

- Appointed in May.
- Getting in touch with association policies and procedures.

- Getting to know WAVLI members and bringing their voices to the board and meetings.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. Fundraising – VACANT

6.2. Membership – Erica Kosciuk and Jenny Cowan

- 212 Active Members
- 12 DI Members
- 21 Student Members
- Working with Tech for online proxies, directory, etc.

6.3. Newsletter – Caitlin Barker Gore and Kristie Walters

- Published and distributed three Ripples; fourth will be ready soon.
- Seeking committee members.
- Seeking contributions from all members not just one sector.
- Archiving of past Ripple editions is happening – will be available online.

6.4. Professional Development – Janet Lewis and Jessie Dawson

- Campbell McDermott - Paraphrasing workshop a success, but did not break even.
- Working with Karen Malcolm to develop a medical/mental health practical workshop for November 15 2014 – announcement is out – registration is via email.
- Online store is not yet ready for use.

6.5. Professional Standards – Miriam West

- Busy summer with Occupational Title Protection – letters sent out to many places.
- CAEDHH conference – booth at conference regarding OTP not a lot of time to speak to attendees, but good to have presence there.
- Goal is to have some community workshops around OTP.
- AVLIC conference: opportunity to ensure that the national bylaws have WAVLI concerns at the forefront. National unity felt after explaining how OTP in BC affects the country.
- Question: Interpreter roster? Could you explain that point?
Answer: Roster of Interpreters: this is specific to OTP as per our bylaws and policy and procedures regarding complaints. The third phase of the complaint process requires practicing interpreters to be involved with deciding on

issues. We are responsible for holding a roster, not necessarily USING the roster. Requirements to be on the Roster: 1 COI holder, 1 DI, and will have to review again to have that information.

6.6. Public Relations – Brooke Oviedo and Amanda Noiles

- Collaboration with Professional Standards.
- WAVLI swag – looking into pens/stylus.
- Promotional materials.
- AVLIC discounts, looking into how WAVLI members can capitalize on them.

6.7. Technology – Bryan Corry and Trevor Leyenhorst

- Website revamp – old website far too complicated, need for redesign felt. Tyler Churchman took on a lot of the revisions. New website – based off of WordPress - launched in September 2014.
- Current online directory is Technology Committee supported – If members want something different, a design specialist will be retained for modification purposes. Looking at how to create a downloadable PDF directory.
- Question: AVLIC has a name change committee – looking into changing names, maybe WAVLI should wait.
Answer: If we need to do a major redesign, we would wait for the fallout from that decision. Right now it is just a clean up.
- Question: Website management/directory - is it manageable?
Answer: Members should be responsible for their own updates, but with WordPress, Technology Committee has to do edits. Still a lot of work for us
- Question: Can you switch to something different to lessen tech workload?
- Answer: Maybe.

6.8. Student Representatives – Jamie Wilson and Kristin Daly

- First years: 17 students
- Second years: 18 students
- Proud of large numbers – but short on observational opportunities and volunteer opportunities – please connect with Barb Mykle-Hotzon or Douglas IEP if hours are available.
- Thanks from the students to the working interpreters in the community.

Motion to accept reports
Mover: Barb Mykle-Hotzon
Seconded: Stacey Kitteridge
Motion: CARRIED

Motion to open Old Business
Mover: Spring Herold
Seconded: Jo-Ann Martin

Motion: CARRIED

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1. Dissolution of Fundraising Committee

Jessica Siegers

Special resolution from October 21, 2014 General Meeting regarding dissolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee (the Board) hereby directs the President to act pursuant to bylaw 2.10(d) and strike-out the Fundraising Committee as a standing or special committee of the Association; the Committee endorses and supports this action; and the Committee further directs that the organizational structure of the Association be amended accordingly.

Questions: none

7.2. Health and Safety Committee Update

Caroline Tetreault

Update: Spring 2014 GM – draft Health and Safety paper – committee is in progress, Spring 2015 GM will have a full report.

7.3. Communication Accessibility Ad Hoc Committee Update

Barb Mykle-Hotzon
Susi Bolender

- Spring 2014 GM motion to draft a document regarding accessibility for public events, etc.
- Committee has 10 members – tried throughout the summer to get a rough draft together. Committee became a bit sidelined by other issues – draft IS in the works regarding hiring interpreters, guidelines for working interpreters, nowhere near completion – but looking like the one document will become three separate working papers.

Motion to close old business
Mover: Sara MacFayden
Seconded: Rebecca McCormick
Motion: CARRIED

Motion to open new business:
Mover: Jenny Cowan
Seconded: Miriam West
Motion: CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Motion

I move that WAVLI strike an ad hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of establishing a provincial certification system for sign language interpreters.

Rationale

Currently in BC, members of WAVLI are recognized by the general public as being qualified to do their job if they are able to say to the hiring body or client “I am a Registered ASL-English Interpreter” (or other protected title). This is recognized as a level of competence as WAVLI members are required to have graduated from a recognized interpreter education program.

Interpreters are encouraged to and typically strive for more advanced recognition post-graduation. Since 1990 the only Canadian standard has been AVLIC’s Certificate of Interpretation, but the Canadian Evaluation System has had a low pass rate since its inception, with the current number of COI holders being at only 9% of membership; it is our belief the public is not served with such a low rate of certification.

We believe that provincial certification of members may:

- 1) Protect WAVLI's status as an association with registered titles.
- 2) Assure the general public that they are working with educated, highly trained interpreters who "meet or exceed basic professional level interpreting standards" ([Russell & Malcolm, 2009, p. 355](#)), as was originally intended with AVLIC’s CES.
- 3) Provide greater professional recognition as an association with a certification process.
- 4) Encourage members to more actively seek advanced qualification. Graduation from an IEP and Active WAVLI membership should not be the only provincial standard. AVLIC's CES and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf in the US do not currently provide a viable alternative, due to the low percentage of interpreters in BC who attain these certifications.
- 5) Establish a base line from which interpreters across BC can potentially branch off into specialized fields, such as medical or legal interpreting.

The goal of this motion is simply to investigate provincial certification. There are many questions requiring answers. That is why we are asking the membership to approve an ad hoc committee that would work with the WAVLI Board to investigate whether or not this is a feasible and desirable option for WAVLI.

Moved by: Jessica Siegers
Seconded by: Robyn Albert
Motion: CARRIED

Discussion:

AGAINST

- Already too many other projects on the go.
- OTP education and mentoring more important at the moment.
- Danger of becoming “lazy” regarding continuing education when certification reached.
- Provincial certification waters down the idea of national certification.
- BC already has a good IEP.
- AVLIC has a task force of people who already have knowledge of interpreting education and screenings and – we should let them do their job.
- Interpreters are already too uninvolved.
- COI review already in process.
- BC already has MIS and PCAS.

SUPPORT

- It is just investigation.
- Research level – data collection is imperative to find out who wants what.
- Provincial and national certification and screenings are all outdated. Research to find out what is happening is a good idea. If this turns out to not be a good idea, then we have options.
- If we find something that we are “missing” then we have the option of implementing it.
- OTP concerns – being tied to national decisions may negatively impact retention of title protection.
- Open dialogue for something new and exciting.

NEUTRAL

- Hire qualified researcher to find out what the community wants.
- Deaf community is requesting “something” in BC, a valuable point WAVLI needs to recognize. Who are the stakeholders in this process?
- Interpreters (WAVLI) have responsibility to live up to expectations of the community.

8.2. Website Walk Through

Trevor Leyenhorst
Bryan Corry

- Registering for the website requires a time delay in order to make sure those who register are actual WAVLI members.
- Video tutorials to explain how to complete registration, directory, profile, etc.
- WAVLI store not functioning yet – but will be soon.
- Directory searchable by category or by name/qualification.
- Directory visible by all website visitors, usernames and passwords are for personal use only and do not show up anywhere else.

8.3. WAVLI Retreat Update

Brenda Carmichael

- June 2014 at Douglas College.
- Looked at the past present and future of the professional association in BC.
- Created goals and action plans:
 - ASL accessible website
 - More visual directory
 - Policy and Procedure in ASL – goal is January.
 - WAVLI mission statement found and given new life to help focus the board in the processes we undertake.
 - Professional development workshops to meet the need of all members' not just newer members.
 - Mentorship or internship process – looking at partnering with MIS for some of this work.
 - DI and remote community reps on the board.

8.4. AVLIC 2015 Non-Conference AGM

Caroline Tetreault

- Saturday, June 27, 2015 in Vancouver
- Members asked to make sure they are represented. Last time AVLIC non-conference AGM hosted in Vancouver, could not make quorum.
- More information coming in the spring.

8.5. AVLIC 2020 Conference Bid

Caroline Tetreault

- 2018 survey brought in positive response
- Corinna Salvail and Susi Bolender have volunteered to co-chair conference planning committee.
- WAVLI will ask for bidding committee for the 2020 bid for the 2016 conference in NB – excited to host 2020 in Vancouver with involvement from members.

8.6. Motion

I move that WAVLI immediately retain the services of George Bryce, attorney, to assist with the complete revision and rewriting of WAVLI Bylaws, to be ready to present to the membership by the Spring 2015 GM.

Rationale:

- Upon Board review of the Bylaws, there are many discrepancies in process and procedure that need to be rectified.
- There are missing links to the new BC Society Act as well as the Canada Not for Profit Act that need to be brought into line.
- Cost: The minimum estimated cost for the review and revision is: \$1200. WAVLI is financially able to take on this expense.

- Having George Bryce write the revisions that are required will ensure that all necessary pieces are included, discrepancies avoided, and legalities satisfied.
- The WAVLI Board would collaborate with Mr. Bryce to read through all revisions before bringing a finalized version to the Spring 2015 GM to be ratified by members and subsequently filed with Victoria.

Mover: Jessica Siegers
 Seconded: Miriam West
 Motion: CARRIED

Motion to close new business
 Mover: Barb Zbeetnoff
 Seconded: Janet Lewis
 Motion: CARRIED

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

9.1. Douglas College Interpreting Program Updates

Cheryl Palmer

- Deafhood courses running again on Tuesday evenings in January and open to practicing public.
- All Douglas IEP instructors going to conference next week.
- Observation opportunities wanted.
- Second year students looking to volunteer interpret – opportunities to pair with working interpreters not just with students if possible. Not practicum type work, but still opportunities to try work. Not a student replacing a working interpreter, but a student where there might not be a team needed. Experience would be appreciated.
- Question: Can Douglas provide working interpreters with guidelines was to what is appropriate for students at this level of practice?
 Answer: There is nothing at the moment, but Douglas can look into developing a document.

9.2. PCAS Update

Piper

- Piper replacing Rhys McCormick while he is on educational leave to attain his MA.
- Interpreter directory – interpreters with COI not typically required to take screen, therefore are sometimes not on post-secondary lists for work announcements.
- Pre-screen workshop for feedback and ideas.
- One workshop is not enough – more opportunities sought for pre-screen mentoring or prep time.
- PCAS is coming up on 20-year anniversary. Wanting feedback from community on how to improve for the next 20.

- Feedback regarding post-secondary type workshops requested.

9.3. WIDHH Update

Janice Lyons

- WIDHH was established 60 years ago to provide services to the community and includes medical interpreting and community interpreting.

9.4. Legal Interpreting Services Update

Janice Lyons

- Legal interpreting services working with police, particularly VPD. WIDHH will send an interpreter for any emergencies or scheduled appointments that require an interpreter.
- The only qualified interpreters are currently COI holders but this is in conflict with COI availability and the nature of emergencies.
- Trying to figure out best way to figure out provision of service, particularly how to mentor interpreters into the field who do not have certification.
- WIDHH has done some education to police departments to educate on the reason and need to hire qualified interpreters.

9.5. MIS Update

Janice Lyons

- Workshops and pre-screening.
- Written test for medical terminology can be taken right after graduation from IEP.
- Skills test requires minimum of two years' experience working in the field.
- Written and skill testing offered two times a year.
- Information on widhh.com under services then interpreters.

9.6. CIS Update

Janice Lyons

- Always open to receiving cover letters and resumes and interest cis@widhh.com.

9.7. VRI Update

Janice Lyons

- Through WIDHH.
- Uses interpreters' own equipment, at home, using PC software and headset.
- Not yet started – too many interpreters have Macs, which is incompatible.
- Equipment set up at WIDHH and interpreters can try it out by appointment.
- Hopefully this will mitigate some issues with MIS and LIS, and with places with overnight shifts and meetings.
- Presentations made to Deaf community and there is a lot of support for this type of interpreting.

9.8. AVLIC 2016 Fundraising "Pie in the Face"

Caroline Tetreault

- Will draw three names of who will get pied in the face after the GM is adjourned. This will be filmed and put online.

9.9. VCC Ethics Night

Tyler Offer

- On November 6, 2014, Vancouver Community College hosting discussion evening on ethics for working post-secondary interpreters on how institutional ethics and interpreting ethics can be in or out of sync and how interpreters can navigate these issues.
- Tanny Marks, who has studied law, will be available to discuss the legal responsibilities.
- Karen Malcolm will be available to answer interpreting type questions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

Mover: Miriam West

Motion: CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.