

Scottish Older People's Assembly
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 28th October 2020, 2pm

This meeting was held online via zoom.

Participating: Diana Findley (chair), Sam Gibson, Elaine Alsop (Independent examiner), Anne Gallacher (guest speaker), Keith Guy, Agatha Kai-Kai, Eileen Wallace, Margaret Abebrese-Addo, David Paterson, Louise Nicholls, Graham Reece, Dianna Stirling, Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Patricia Iredia, Mary Osei-Oppong, Catriona Mason, Harriette Campbell, Anne Munro, Nancy Bryson, Mukami McCrum, Alan Sidaway, Jo Cowan, Matthew Hamilton, Ian Donald, Bella Kerr, Theresa Casey (coordinator), Chris Grant, Jo Cowan, Christine Wilson, David Olwa.

1. Diana Findlay warmly welcomed everyone to the AGM, especially our newest members from African Caribbean Elders Scotland.
2. Apologies were received from Maureen O'Neill, John Thompson, Gerry Kiernan, Lesley Stevenson, John White.
3. Diana invited all the meeting participants to introduce themselves and the organisations they represent.
4. Draft Minutes of AGM 7 August 2019 and Matters Arising. Proposed for approval by Elaine Thornton-Nicol, seconded by Eileen Wallace. Approved with no matters arising.
5. The Trustees' report was circulated in advance. Diana drew attention the successful Assembly held in the later part of 2019 at the Scottish Parliament and thanked all the partner organisations who assisted in creating a welcoming and interesting day. SOPA has continued to draw attention to the Assembly 'calls from action' and to participate in the Older People's Strategic Action Forum. Although this year has been extremely difficult for many of us, SOPA has worked hard to adapt. Trustees meeting and Planning group meetings are all now held via zoom, and Trustees share their minutes with members. SOPA undertook the *Older People – a Bonus not a Burden* film project during lockdown and this was very well received. We're pleased to be working on a follow up to that project with Strathclyde University School of Psychology.

6. The SOPA Annual Accounts were presented by Elaine Alsop the independent examiner. The accounts were approved at a Trustees' meeting and Diana thanked Elaine for her welcome assistance and professionalism in preparing the accounts. Elaine highlighted that it is impressive how much charities such as SOPA can achieve with relatively small amounts of funding.

Questions from the floor: Chris Grant asked about the Awards for All funding that SOPA had received. Diana and Theresa explained that because of COVID the National Lottery, like other funders, was prepared to be flexible on the deadlines and recognised that activities may need to be adapted. In SOPA's case funding was towards member participation and outreach, so it was used to invest in supporting online meetings and in the film project and information sheets. These supported participation in different ways.

Sam Gibson asked about reserves and Elaine Alsop explained that SOPA had sufficient in reserve for 3 months operation which is generally the level expected in the third sector. The reserves policy is detailed in the accounts.

7. Results of the election of Trustees

Diana announced the results of the election, which had taken place with email and postal voting options prior to the AGM.

Catriona Mason, Chris Grant and David Paterson were duly elected and Diana welcomed them to the Board of Trustees, and light-heartedly forewarned them of the hard work ahead!

8. Motions for resolution received in advance - no motions received.

9. Any other business notified in advance. A vote of thanks was given to Diana for her hard work all year as chair and adapting to the new operating environment. Eileen Wallace also thanked Theresa for her work while coordinator Caroline Clark was on maternity leave.

There followed a short discussion of some current issues of concern to members regarding GP appointments, access to flu vaccinations, access to dental care and concern that those who could afford 'go private' (and were prepared to do this) had quicker and wider access to basic health care. The issue of digital exclusion was also raised. Diana said that SOPA would take these issues to OPSAF.

AGM 2020; closed.

Guest speaker

Diana introduced our guest speaker Anne Gallacher director of Luminare, Scotland's creative ageing organisation. Anne shared a brief history of Luminare from its days as a festival to its development into offering a year-round access to engagement with the arts for Older People. She described collaborations including with LGBTI elders, National Theatre and Dementia choirs. Although during COVID activities have moved online, Anne described that they are also creating physical resources and packs including some exciting work soon to be launched with new songs commissioned renowned folksinger from Karine Polwart.

Anne led us through a creative activity which can also be found online in which all of the meeting participants created personalised poems. We were delighted that Margaret, Agatha, Mukami and Alan all shared their poems. Alan also gave us a reading of 'Imagine a World' and Anne finished with two further poems.

The Scottish Older People's Assembly is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Number - SC046520