



## 2021 MAVLI Annual General Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar

Saturday, March 13, 2021

9:00 am

A quorum of members was established.

### 1. Welcome, Housekeeping, House Rules and CASLI President's Message

- 1.1. Cindy Boscow welcomes and thanks all who are in attendance.
- 1.2. Cindy Boscow is joining the meeting from La Salle, Manitoba. She acknowledges she is on Treaty One territory: the traditional land of the Anishinaabe people and the homeland of the Metis nation.
- 1.3. Cindy Boscow recognizes that the 2020 MAVLI AGM was the last time we gathered together in the same space before COVID-19 restrictions were implemented.
- 1.4. Cindy Boscow explained the logistics with a virtual AGM via Zoom and thanks everyone for their patience while we navigate the technology.
- 1.5. ASL-English Interpreting students will be providing interpreting services for the meeting.
- 1.6. The MAVLI AGM will be following the Robert's Rules of Order and Terry Janzen will be acting as Parliamentarian.
- 1.7. The CASLI President, Jessica Siegers, is in attendance to bring greetings from CASLI

Thank you, Cindy, for inviting me to attend today. My name is Jessica Siegers and I am the current CASLI President. I am a non-deaf interpreter. My grandparents moved to Canada many years ago, so I am the granddaughter of settlers. The land I live on is the home of many nations, specifically the Kwantlen, Stohlo, and the Semiahmoo people. I am so appreciative of these nations for welcoming my grandparents to settle on their land. In the year 2000, there were only 10 fluent speakers of these First Nation's native languages. Over the last 20 years we have seen linguistic growth through the development of language programs for First Nations people. This coming fall, the University of British Columbia will be offering language certification courses in these First Nations languages, and all are welcome to register. I see some parallels between First Nation languages and ASL/LSQ. The K-12 public school system has historically only offered spoken language options for a language credit. Some provinces have now begun offering ASL as a language credit option. Hopefully in the near future ASL will receive equal representation in the school system. Perhaps our work as interpreters will become obsolete if ASL becomes a commonly used second language for non-deaf individuals. That would be a great problem to have! However, I digress about my own experience languages.

I am here today as a CASLI representative. The current CASLI board was elected this past fall. In January the board met to delegate duties. CASLI has begun to contact various Deaf organizations across Canada to engage in some dialogue. We know that there are numerous issues that CASLI needs to focus on, but we must first ensure that CASLI has a strong foundation through our mission statement, values and strategic plan. It is an exciting time of growth and change. We recognize the

similarities to the growth and change happening with the world today. It can be challenging, but we are persevering and focusing on the inward change in order to change the outer situations.

In the past 6 weeks the CASLI board has been in contact with Members of Parliament. The goal of this outreach is to request that ASL/LSQ interpreters be prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Interpreters are often asked to provide in-person interpreting services in hospitals and other high-risk environments. Many interpreters are willing to provide this service, despite a risk to their own safety. The CASLI board is advocating for the vaccine to be provided to interpreters. Health care is run by the provincial governments, so each province creates their own vaccine eligibilities. This outreach has seen some success so far in local agencies negotiating vaccine eligibilities with the health authorities. Just yesterday BC announced that any interpreter qualified for medical interpreting is now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It is a huge relief that our interpreters can now do their work in medical settings without the fear that they will contract the virus. Other provinces are beginning to recognize the importance of interpreting services, so hopefully they will also provide interpreters with the same protection.

The CASLI board will be meeting tomorrow to review the budget for 2021-2022 and select a 2021 AGM date. The 2021 CASLI AGM will be held virtually.

Today is an important day for MAVLI business and connection with each other, so I will conclude my comments. It was wonderful to be here today and see some familiar faces. In BC, we commonly conclude our gatherings with this saying: Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe. Thank you so much.

- 1.8. Suzanne's closet, a clothing exchange that was created to honour Suzanne St. Yves, will unfortunately not be occurring this year due to the virtual AGM. Cindy Boscow is wearing purple today to honour Suzanne's memory. She knows that Suzanne will help her lead this meeting.

## 2. Call to Order: 9:42 am

## 3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda as disseminated.

**Moved:** Hubert Demers                      **Seconded:** Emily Duncan

**No Discussion**

**Carried**

## 4. Business arising from the Minutes

- 4.1. None

## 5. Approval of the Annual General Meeting Minutes from March 7, 2020

Motion to accept the minutes as disseminated.

**Moved:** Emily Duncan                      **Seconded:** Brenda Rutherford

**No Discussion**

**Carried**

## 6. Executive, Committee, Representative, and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- 6.1. President.....Cindy Boscow

- 6.2. Vice President.....Meaghan Gessner
- 6.3. Treasurer.....Monica Furer
- 6.4. Secretary.....Sarah Szalai

Motion to accept the Executive reports as disseminated.  
**Moved:** Tracy Beaulieu      **Seconded:** Shaina Dumont  
**No Discussion**  
**Carried**

- 6.5. Fundraising.....Emily Duncan
- 6.6. MAVLI Education Committee.....Meaghan Gessner, Heather Hutchison Campbell,  
Joyce Sztandera
- 6.7. Member-at-Large.....Tessa Rogowski
- 6.8. Membership.....Emma Drury
- 6.9. Professional Development.....Sheryl LaVallee & Dawn-Marie Wilson
- 6.10. Public Relations.....Shelby Graham & Jordan Wynchuk
- 6.11. Webmaster.....Anna Salgado
- 6.12. AEIP Student Representatives.....Landon Cormack & Miranda Murphy
- 6.13. Suzanne St. Yves Award Ad Hoc Committee.....Hubert Demers, Monica Furer, Terry Janzen,  
Gina Perozuk, Sarah Szalai

Motion to accept the committee reports as disseminated.  
**Moved:** Amanda Pickering      **Seconded:** Janine Guinn  
**No Discussion**  
**Carried**

**7. Old Business**

7.1. Rescind 2020 AGM Motion 9.4

7.1.1. I move to rescind the Motion 9.4 passed at the 2020 MAVLI AGM: “Motion to transfer \$5,000, received as a bequest from Suzanne St. Yves’ estate, into MAVLI’s RRC investment fund in order to establish an award in her name to be paid out annually, the amount depending on the return of investment.  
**Moved:** M. Furer    **Seconded:** S. Szalai”

**Rationale:**

Funds may not be deposited into an RRC scholarship fund until terms of reference for the award have been established and reviewed by Red River College. MAVLI could not act on this motion following the 2020 AGM because the terms of reference for the award were still being discussed and revised. In the interim, the MAVLI board decided, at the recommendation of the award committee and taking into consideration suggestions made by membership at the AGM, to look into alternative investments for the award funds. Investing the funds outside of RRC allows for more flexibility in administering the award and for the opportunity to revisit the terms of reference at some future time.

**Moved:** Monica Furer      **Seconded:** Hubert Demers  
**No Discussion**  
**Carried**

## 7.2. Suzanne St. Yves Award

7.2.1. I move to accept the Suzanne St. Yves Award Terms of Reference outlined below.

**Moved:** Monica Furer

**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai

**No Discussion**

**Carried**

### **Preamble:**

MAVLI has received a \$5000 bequest from the estate of Suzanne St. Yves. Following discussion by the MAVLI Board, an ad hoc committee was created to develop a proposal for an award to be named in Suzanne's honour.

The committee proposes to use the money to give an award in Suzanne's honour as described below. The value of the award will be \$250 per year. A decision not to give out the award in any one year will be at the discretion of MAVLI. The Terms of Reference should be reviewed periodically.

### **Terms of Reference:**

Award name: Suzanne St. Yves Award of Excellence

#### Criteria:

This award is to be given to a graduating student of the Red River College American Sign Language-English Interpretation Program who reflects the values Suzanne brought to every aspect of her work in ASL-English interpreting: the highest ethical principles and actions, always striving for excellence, unwavering respect toward everyone she interpreted for, especially Deaf community members, and collegiality and friendships within her chosen field. The student selected to receive this award will demonstrate the following qualities in their final year of the AEIP:

- community involvement in the Deaf and interpreting communities (e.g. volunteer work)
- high academic achievement
- ethical conduct
- respect for consumers and colleagues

The nominees must be student members of MAVLI. Special consideration will be given to former signing Educational Assistants.

Eligible students will not need to apply for the award. The committee will invite nominations for the recipient of the award from members of the Deaf and interpreting communities, consumers, practicum supervisors, instructors and fellow students. Nomination letters may be provided in ASL or English and will need to outline the nominee's qualities as per the above criteria. Eligible students will be permitted to give out nomination request letters to people who are familiar with the student's contributions. A suitable candidate for the award will be selected by a three-member ad hoc committee chosen annually by the MAVLI Board, consisting of at least two MAVLI members and at least one Deaf community member.

MAVLI will announce the award recipient annually.

## **8. New Business**

### 8.1. Webmaster Title Change and Bylaw Revision

#### 8.1.1. I move that MAVLI bylaw 4.1 (1) (ratified 2020)

(1) The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Fundraising Committee
- MAVLI Education Committee
- Membership Committee
- Webmaster
- Professional Development
- Public Relations Committee
- AEIP Representative

#### **Be amended to:**

(1) The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Fundraising Committee
- MAVLI Education Committee
- Membership Committee
- **Digital Media Coordinator**
- Professional Development
- Public Relations Committee
- AEIP Representative

#### **Rationale:**

The title 'Webmaster' is an outdated term for said position on the MAVLI board. The term refers exclusively to maintaining a website. According to the Policies & Procedures Manual, Webmaster is responsible for various duties aside from the website such as managing the Facebook page, and other tasks that require some level of digital media literacy. The title 'Digital Media Coordinator' is a more accurate and current term for the position. Additionally, having a clear and accurate title may help future members in their decision to nominate and/or run for the position on the MAVLI board.

**Moved:** Anna Salgado  
**No Discussion**  
**Carried**

**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai

### 8.2. Waiving Public Accountant

8.2.1. I move that MAVLI waives the requirement for a public accountant to review MAVLI's 2021 financials.

**Rationale:**

According to the Government of Canada requirements for financial review of not-for-profit Corporations with annual revenues <\$50,000, MAVLI requires the appointment of a public accountant. However, “members may waive appointment by annual unanimous resolution”. Waiving appointment of a public accountant will allow MAVLI to hire a skilled accountant who does not have the certification of PA, such as Dianne Mondor or Doug Momotiuk.

**Moved:** Monica Furer**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai**Discussion:**

8.2.2. Monica Furer added that she met with Dianne Mondor this past January to review the 2020 financials. Working with Dianne was a fantastic experience. Dianne patiently explained everything so clearly to Monica and taught her some valuable skills to use in the Treasurer position. This experience was much better compared to working with a public accountant, and MAVLI received the exact same documents from Dianne that the public accountant provided. Monica hopes to continue to work with Dianne to review MAVLI’s financials. The cost of hiring Dianne was only \$275, compared to the \$1,500 that we paid to the previous public accountant (which was already a much-reduced rate). Her price is much more affordable for MAVLI and the quality of her work is at least equal, and probably even superior, than our past reviews. Monica wants to emphasize her support in MAVLI waiving the public accountant and appointing Dianne Mondor for our 2021 financial review.

**Carried****8.3. Appointing Accountant for 2021 Financial Review**

8.3.1.I move to appoint Dianne Mondor to do MAVLI’S 2021 financial review.

**Rationale:**

It was suggested at last year’s AGM that we alternate between Dianne Mondor and Doug Momotiuk yearly. However, it takes extra time to review financials when the account is new and makes more sense to use the same accountant every year for efficiency, so long as the individual is available and willing. Doug is supportive of MAVLI’s decision to hire Dianne. However, he is willing to review our finances in the future if ever needed.

**Moved:** Monica Furer**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai**No Discussion****Carried****8.4. Proposed 2021 Budget**

8.4.1.I move to approve the proposed 2021 MAVLI Budget as outlined below.

**Moved:** Monica Furer**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai**No Discussion****Carried****MAVLI PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET**

	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,455.00</b>	

**Income:**

Membership	\$3,000.00	
Fundraising	\$1,000.00	
MAVLI K-12 PD Day	\$1,000.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	

**Expenses:**

Annual Insurance Fee	\$850.00	
Accounting Fee	\$500.00	
Annual Corporate Return	\$40.00	
MAVLI Board Wind-up (max \$20/person)	\$300.00	
MAVLI AGM (awards, snacks, interpreter honoraria, tech costs)	\$525.00	
AVLIC 2021 AGM	\$750.00	
Affiliate Memberships (MDA, MCSD, WASLI, ?SLIC)	\$510.00	
Post Office Box Annual Fee	\$210.00	
Microsoft Office 365 Software Annual Fee	\$90.00	
Web host, platform and domain	\$320.00	
4M events	\$60.00	
Community Support/Donations	\$200.00	
Additional Admin costs (stamps/stationery/bank fees)	\$100.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,455.00</b>	

**Total (Loss)**

**\$545.00**

**9. Nominations**

9.1. Nominations for Treasurer:

9.1.1. Monica Furer has accepted a nomination by Meaghan Gessner

9.1.1.1. Monica has already complete two terms as MAVLI Treasurer, so a vote from membership is required to allow her to accept a third term as Treasurer.

Motion to allow Monica Furer to accept a third term as MAVLI Treasurer.

**Motion:** Emily Duncan                      **Seconded:** Chad Kroeker

**Carried**

9.1.2. No other nominations received.

9.1.2.1. Monica Furer is declared Treasurer by acclamation.

9.2. Nominations for Fundraising:

9.2.1. Emily Duncan has accepted a nomination by Aja McMillan

9.2.2. No other nominations received

9.2.2.1. Emily Duncan is declared Fundraising by acclamation.

9.3. Nominations for Manitoba Education Committee:

9.3.1. Meaghan Gessner has accepted a nomination by Dawn-Marie Wilson and Erica Trethart

- 9.3.1.1. Meaghan Gessner added that Joyce Sztandera and Heather Hutchison-Campbell are not trained interpreters and therefore cannot be MAVLI members and accept a position on the board. Meaghan has been the chair of the MEC committee, and Heather and Joyce are on the sub-committee.
- 9.3.1.2. Monica Furer added that while Heather Hutchison-Campbell and Joyce Sztandera can't officially be the co-chairs of MEC, they are both very experienced and have worked for many years in the K-12 setting. They are highly skilled and the MAVLI board is thrilled to have them on the committee. The only issue is that a MAVLI member must chair the committee. The MAVLI board appreciates their involvement on this committee.
- 9.3.2. No other nominations received
  - 9.3.2.1. Meaghan Gessner is declared Manitoba Education Committee by acclamation.
- 9.4. Nominations for Digital Media Coordinator (formerly Webmaster)
  - 9.4.1. Landon Cormack has accepted a nomination by Cindy Boscow
  - 9.4.2. No other nominations received.
    - 9.4.2.1. Landon Cormack is declared Digital Media Coordinator by acclamation.
- 9.5. Nominations for President:
  - 9.5.1. Hubert Demers is nominated from the floor by Monica Furer
    - 9.5.1.1. Seconded by Terry Janzen
    - 9.5.1.2. Hubert Demers thanks Monica and Terry for the honour of the nomination but respectfully declines at this time.
  - 9.5.2. Mar Koskie is nominated from the floor by Monica Furer
    - 9.5.2.1. Mar Koskie is not a MAVLI member, therefore cannot accept a nomination to the board according to MAVLI's bylaws.
  - 9.5.3. No other nominations for President. The position will remain vacant.
    - 9.5.3.1. Cindy Boscow is stepping down from the President position but will continue to support the MAVLI board as Past President. The MAVLI board will be seeking a member to appoint to the President position. The Vice President, Meghan Gessner, will temporarily act as President while the position is vacant.
    - 9.5.3.2. Meaghan Gessner added that she did not accept a nomination for the President position because of her involvement in the Manitoba Education Committee position. She greatly values that board position due to her work as Educational Interpreting Consultant and wants to ensure it remains filled. She is willing to fill the MEC and Vice President positions simultaneously but filling the President position along with MEC wouldn't be possible due to the added responsibilities of the President position. She wants to execute her positions on the board well and would not be able to commit to both the President position and MEC with the focus that each position deserves. She is willing to be Acting President, along with MEC, with support from Cindy Boscow as Past President. In the future she may be willing to be MAVLI President, but with her busy family life she currently doesn't have the time to give it the appropriate attention. She thanks everyone for their understanding.

Nominations were closed.

## **10. Appreciation and Acknowledgements**

- 10.1. The MAVLI Student Achievement Award



The MAVLI Student Achievement Award acknowledges an AEIP student. Selection is based on academic standing and involvement in MAVLI, the interpreting community, Deaf community and the community at large. The past recipient, Miranda Murphy, will present the honour.

10.1.1. The criteria for the MAVLI Student Achievement Award have changed to reflect the changes in the ASL-English Interpretation Program (AEIP). Students eligible are currently in their first year of the AEIP.

10.1.2. Miranda Murphy explains that the award is intended to recognize an AEIP student who shows academic achievement and is involved in the interpreting community, the Deaf community and the community at large. She is thrilled to present the honour this year. This year's recipient is an impressive student who has a GPA over 4.0. They are involved with the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and interpreting communities. During their year off from school, they continued to be involved in these communities. They are always willing to volunteer their time at various events. Their goal is to continue being involved in the Deaf community to further their education in Deaf culture and ASL. This year's recipient of the MAVLI Student Achievement Award is Meagan Toews. Congratulations!

10.1.2.1. Meagan Toews thanks MAVLI for this honour.

#### 10.2. Vice President Award

The Vice President Award acknowledges a member whose actions have benefitted MAVLI. The Vice President, Meaghan Gessner will present the honour.

10.2.1. The Vice President Award recipient this year worked so hard at the CASLI AGM this past year. They are always willing to help and support CASLI members in any way necessary. The recipient this year is Laura Patterson. Congratulations!

#### 10.3. President Award

The President Award acknowledges a board member and their contributions. The President will present the honour.

10.3.1. This award is presented to a MAVLI board member to recognize their contributions to the board in the past year. This year the award will be going to two recipients. When the COVID-19 pandemic began last year, the world struggled to figure out how to connect with others. The recipients of this award did not let pandemic slow them down. They exhibited so much energy and creativity in planning their events. It was incredible to watch. They figured out how to overcome the challenge of virtual gatherings to connect with members. When energy levels were diminished among the board, these two recipients had the energy to keep us going. The recipients of the President's Award this year are our Professional Development co-chairs Sheryl LaVallee and Dawn-Marie Wilson. Congratulations!

### 11. Confirmation of Acts

I, as President, move that all acts, contracts, bylaws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made done or taken by the Directors and Officers of the Manitoba Association of Visual Language Interpreters for the last 1-year term and the same as set out or referred to in the minutes of the Board of Directors or in Financial Statements submitted to this meeting be hereby approved and affirmed.

**Moved:** Cindy Boscow

**Seconded:** Monica Furer

**Carried**

### 12. Announcements

- 12.1. Cindy Boscow thanks the interpreting students, and Mandy MacDonald for supporting them, for interpreting the AGM today. We acknowledge that it is intimidating to interpret in front of your peers and future colleagues. Thank you for your willingness to provide this service. Great job!
- 12.2. Cindy Boscow thanks Terry Janzen for acting again as our parliamentarian for the meeting. MAVLI appreciates your work and your support.
- 12.3. Cindy Boscow thanks the MAVLI board. She has been President for the past 6 years, and typically the AGM is not difficult to plan. This year was completely different with having a virtual AGM. She thanks the board members for all of their support and hard work in the AGM planning.
- 12.4. Cindy Boscow shares that she has been on the board for a total of 12 year, 6 years as President. She has felt honoured to have this experience on the board. She has learned a lot and has connected with so many students and interpreters around Manitoba and across Canada. She is so appreciative to have been taught by so many individuals over the past 12 years.
- 12.5. MAVLI is currently holding a Mom's Pantry fundraiser, which is closing tomorrow. Please take the opportunity to place your order before the deadline.
- 12.6. Meaghan Gessner wants to thank Cindy Boscow on behalf of MAVLI for her work on the board over the past 12 years and her dedication to our interpreting field. MAVLI is so fortunate to have had her as our President for the past 6 years. Her knowledge, connections and skills as a team player are invaluable. As Vice President, Meaghan has appreciated working under Cindy's leadership. The MAVLI board will miss her constant presence on the board.
- 12.7. Cindy Boscow thanks everyone in attendance today.

**13. Cindy Boscow moves for adjournment at 12:05pm.**