



## 2023 MAVLI Annual General Meeting Minutes

Zoom

Saturday, March 4, 2023

9:45 am

A quorum of members was established.

### 1. Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the Manitoba Association of Visual Language Interpreters is located on Treaty 1 Territory and our members are active on the Territories of Treaty 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

We honour the history and knowledge of the original keepers of this land.

We acknowledge the harms caused by colonization and recognize that this harm has influenced our practices as a profession. In our focus on working with members of a marginalized community, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, we have often neglected the unique experiences of Indigenous peoples. We are dedicated to a spirit of reconciliation and partnership; we commit to learning and growth. We thank those who have taken the time to teach us.

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

- 2.1. Meaghan Gessner is not able to attend the AGM today due to a family emergency. Erica Trethart, MAVLI Vice President, will be chairing the meeting.
- 2.2. Erica Trethart welcomes all who are attending the AGM today.
- 2.3. Meaghan Gessner wanted to thank the board for their support over the past year, and for their willingness to run the AGM in her absence.
- 2.4. MAVLI will be following the Robert's Rules of Order for this meeting. Monica Furer will be acting as parliamentarian.
- 2.5. This virtual meeting will be recorded for minutes taking purposes only and will be deleted upon the completion of the minutes.
- 2.6. Instructions are given about the logistics of this Zoom meeting.

### 3. Call to Order: 9:54 am

### 4. Approval of the Agenda

- 4.1. Josie Vitucci Spencer requests to add an item under New Business: 9.5 ECCOE

Motion to accept the agenda with the addition.

**Moved:** Shaina Dumont

**Seconded:** Miranda Murphy

**No Discussion  
Carried**

**5. Business arising from the Minutes**

5.1. None

**6. Approval of the Annual General Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2022**

Motion to accept the minutes as disseminated.

**Moved:** Dawn-Marie Wilson     **Seconded:** Chad Kroeker

**No Discussion  
Carried**

**7. Executive, Committee, Representative, and Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

- 7.1. President.....Meaghan Gessner
- 7.2. Vice President.....Erica Trethart
- 7.3. Treasurer.....Monica Furer
  - 7.3.1. Monica Furer explains that the financial statement appears to have a net profit of \$1,855, but we cashed a GIC for \$3,000 this year (can be found under Income). The GIC is not actually income from the year but is listed as such on the financial statement. Dianne Mondor’s report has the GIC funds listed under an investment category.
    - 7.3.1.1. \$1,000 of the GIC has been used so far for the DEIB consultant fees. The remaining \$2,000 is budgeted to be used for the same project.
    - 7.3.2. The Suzanne St. Yves award money also comes from GIC investments. If both of those amounts are removed, the actual operating net profit from the year is \$105.07.
- 7.4. Secretary.....Sarah Szalai

Motion to accept the Executive reports as disseminated.

**Moved:** Miranda Murphy     **Seconded:** Meg Toews

**No Discussion  
Carried**

- 7.5. Fundraising.....Position Vacant
- 7.6. MAVLI Education Committee.....Meaghan Gessner,  
Heather Hutchison-Campbell, Joyce Semchyshyn
- 7.7. Member-at-Large.....Jenn Horvath
- 7.8. Membership.....Emma Drury
- 7.9. Professional Development.....Sheryl LaVallee, Dawn-Marie Wilson, Meg Toews
- 7.10. Public Relations.....Miranda Murphy, Mariette Koop
- 7.11. Digital Media Coordinator.....Landon Cormack
- 7.12. AEIP Student Representatives.....Michaela McMechan, Shayna Hoggarth
- 7.13. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee.....Dawn-Marie Wilson

Motion to accept the committee reports as disseminated.

**Moved:** Cindy Boscow     **Seconded:** Brenda Rutherford

**No Discussion  
Carried**

**8. Old Business**

8.1. None

**9. New Business**

9.1. Waiving Public Accountant

9.1.1.I move that MAVLI waives the requirement for a public accountant to review MAVLI’s 2023 financials.

**Rationale:**

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

**Moved:** Monica Furer  
**No Discussion**  
**Carried**

**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai

9.2. Appointing Accountant for 2023 Financial Review

9.2.1.I move to appoint Dianne Mondor to do MAVLI’s 2023 financial review.

**Moved:** Monica Furer  
**No Discussion**  
**Carried**

**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai

9.3. Proposed 2023 Budget

9.3.1.I move to approve the proposed 2023 MAVLI Budget as outlined below.

**Moved:** Monica Furer

**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai

**MAVLI 2023 BUDGET**

	Estimated	Actual
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	

**Income:**

Carry-over from 2022 (cashing of GICs for DEIB)	\$2,000.00	
Membership	\$3,000.00	
Fundraising	\$250.00	
MAVLI K-12 PD Day	\$750.00	

**Expenses:**

Annual Board Insurance Fee	\$1,020.00	
Accounting Fee	\$300.00	
Annual Corporate Return	\$40.00	
Domain Maintenance (GoDaddy)	\$90.00	
Website Hosting (DreamHost)	\$220.00	
Website Renewal (Weebly)	\$100.00	
Zoom Subscription	\$250.00	
Post Office Box Annual Fee	\$220.00	
MAVLI Board Wind-Up (max \$20/person)	\$300.00	
MAVLI AGM	\$300.00	
CASLI AGM	\$350.00	
Affiliate Memberships	\$160.00	
Community Support	\$300.00	
SSY Award	\$250.00	
Misc. admin costs (stamps/bank fees)	\$100.00	
DEIB Consultant	\$2,000.00	

**No Discussion  
Carried**

9.4. MAVLI Membership Fee

9.4.1. I move to increase MAVLI’s membership fee for Active members from \$35 to \$40 per year, effective for the April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, membership year. The student rate and Deaf interpreter rate will remain unchanged at \$20 per year.

**Rationale:**

MAVLI’s annual budget is always tight and we typically depend on additional fundraising to meet our operating expenses. Increasing MAVI’s membership fee by \$5.00 per year for active members should not create undue hardship for members, but will generate an additional income of about \$450.00 per year. The additional income will mean that MAVLI can continue to run revenue-neutral PD workshops and forego fundraising except if required for exceptional circumstances.

**Moved:** Monica Furer

**Seconded:** Sarah Szalai

**Discussion:**

9.4.2. Monica Furer explains that MAVLI is currently has the lowest membership fee for CASLI’s affiliate chapters. ASLIA is \$100, ASLI-NB is \$55, MAPSLI is \$50, NAVLI is \$50, OASLI is \$50. WAVLI does not have their affiliate chapter membership fee listed.

9.4.3. Cindy Boscow comments that ASLIA is the most comparable to MAVLI in terms of membership numbers and they charge \$100 for their affiliate membership fee. Cindy suggests raising membership fee by more than \$5 to account for future year spendings.

MAVLI provides a lot of workshops for membership and a higher membership fee would allow for even more opportunities for our members.

9.4.4. Terry Janzen agrees with Cindy's comments and suggests a \$10 increase to the membership fee.

9.4.5. Mandy MacDonald agrees with the suggestion of raising the membership fee.

9.4.6. Erica Trethart reiterates that raising the membership fee will eliminate the need for fundraising, except for extra funds for special projects.

9.4.6.1. Cindy Boscow comments that professional organizations do not typically have a fundraising coordinator and suggests eliminating fundraising chair position. The board will discuss this at a future board meeting.

9.4.7. The motion put forward can be amended.

9.4.7.1. Amended motion: I move to increase MAVLI's membership fee for Active members from \$35 to \$45 per year, effective for the April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, membership year. The student rate and Deaf interpreter rate will remain unchanged at \$20 per year.

**Moved:** Terry Janzen

**Seconded:** Cindy Boscow

**Discussion:**

9.4.8. Cindy Boscow asks if an \$10 increase will be enough to cover MAVLI's operating costs.

9.4.8.1. Monica Furer comments that an increase of \$10 would bring in close to \$1000 per year, which is exactly what MAVLI needs to cover all expected costs.

**Carried**

## 9.5. ECCOE

9.5.1. Josie Vitucci Spencer thanks the board for the opportunity to address the membership regarding ECCOE and the changes that have occurred in the past year.

9.5.2. Jane Langes is the new Executive Director and Josie is the new scheduling coordinator. ECCOE has a fantastic team that all works together.

9.5.3. With the new staffing, ECCOE is doing things differently than the past.

9.5.4. ECCOE's goal is to create a welcoming and supporting work environment and to be seen as a community interpreting agency.

9.5.5. ECCOE recognizes that many interpreters have other employment but would love all to be involved with ECCOE in some capacity.

9.5.6. ECCOE's primary objective is to serve the Deaf community and the only way they can serve the Deaf community is by having enough interpreters. Some requests are not able to be filled or need to be renegotiated due interpreter availability.

9.5.7. In the past there was the perception of 'all or nothing' and that is no longer how ECCOE is operating. ECCOE will work with your availability, whatever it may be, because it all helps to serve the Deaf community.

9.5.8. ECCOE will also honour setting-specific requests from interpreters.

9.5.9. Josie emphasizes that if ECCOE reaches out to an interpreter and the interpreter is not able to fill the request, they will ask again.

9.5.10. ECCOE is the keeper of the on-call system, which is a critical service needed to accommodate after-hours emergencies.

9.5.10.1. Any availability given to the on-call rotation is appreciated.

- 9.5.11. If you are interested, please email [booking@eccoe.ca](mailto:booking@eccoe.ca), call 204-926-3271 during business hours or look on the website for more information.
- 9.5.12. Terry Janzen asks how much ECCOE work is currently remote and what the projection of continued remote work is.
  - 9.5.12.1. During COVID a lot of work was virtual, and 35-40% is still happening remotely. There are some interpreters who only do virtual work, so that is also an option for ECCOE work.

## 10. Nominations

### 10.1. Nominations for Digital Media Coordinator:

- 10.1.1. Amar Schiwietz has accepted a nomination by Landon Cormack.
  - 10.1.1.1. Amar shares that he is a recent graduate. He is interested in the Digital Media Coordinator position because of his experience working with 'back end'/IT systems. He wants to be more involved in MAVLI and the interpreting community as a whole and sees this as a great opportunity to do so.
- 10.1.2. Shaina Dumont nominates Landon Cormack
  - 10.1.2.1. Landon declines the nomination.
- 10.1.3. No other nominations received.
- 10.1.4. Amar Schiwietz is declared Digital Media Coordinator by acclamation.

### 10.2. Nominations for Manitoba Education Committee:

- 10.2.1. Shannon Graham and Kristen Hunt have accepted a nomination by Monica Furer
  - 10.2.1.1. Shannon shares that she has wanted to join the MAVLI board for a little while but felt more comfortable with a co-chaired position. She has some experience with educational interpreting, which is the setting she enjoys the most. She wants to be more involved and feels that this position is a good place to start.
  - 10.2.1.2. Kristen shares that she has also wanted to join the board and has been an educational interpreter since graduation.
- 10.2.2. No other nominations received.
  - 10.2.2.1. Shannon Graham and Kristen Hunt are declared Manitoba Education Committee by acclamation.

### 10.3. Nominations for Fundraising:

- 10.3.1. No nominations received.
- 10.3.2. Following the motion regarding increasing the membership fees, the board will be discussing eliminating this position.

### 10.4. Nominations for Treasurer:

- 10.4.1. Monica Furer has accepted a nomination by Sarah Szalai.
  - 10.4.1.1. Monica shares that she is willing to stay on as Treasurer, but she would be happy to mentor someone else in the position. She encourages others to be nominated.
  - 10.4.1.2. Monica has already completed three terms as MAVLI Treasurer, so a vote from membership is required to allow her to accept a fourth term as Treasurer.
- 10.4.2. Motion to allow Monica Furer to accept a fourth term as MAVLI Treasurer.  
**Moved:** Janine Guinn **Seconded:** Terry Janzen  
**No Discussion**  
**Carried**

10.4.3. No other nominations received.

10.4.3.1. Monica Furer is declared Treasurer by acclamation.

10.5. Nominations for President:

10.5.1. Meaghan Gessner has accepted a nomination by Monica Furer.

10.5.2. No other nominations received.

10.5.2.1. Meaghan Gessner is declared President by acclamation.

Nominations were closed.

## **11. Appreciation and Acknowledgements**

11.1. 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.

11.1.1. Meg Toews, past award recipient, presents the award.

11.1.2. Meg is honoured and proud to be presenting the award this year. This student's academic success is proven by their GPA which is currently over 4.0. This student is involved in the Deaf and the Deaf-Blind Community. They attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Deaf-Blind camp. They are currently a MAVLI board member and have volunteered at many Deaf and interpreting community events. On Fridays this student goes to the Deaf Centre Manitoba to interact with residents there. They are deeply passionate about the community and the relationships that are cultivated there. This student is originally from Saskatchewan where they have been involved with the community there. The recipient this year is Shayna Hoggarth. Congratulations!

11.1.3. Shayna thanks the community for their support and is excited to see where her future goes.

11.2. Vice President Award

The Vice President Award acknowledges a member whose actions have benefitted MAVLI.

11.2.1. Erica Trethart, MAVLI Vice President, presents the award.

11.2.2. The recipient this year has gone above and beyond. It's a transition year out of COVID and we have needed people to step up to create opportunities again. This person is one of the first people to volunteer and even presented a workshop for our membership for no cost. They immediately volunteered to interpret the AGM today. The recipient this year is Sue Schmid. Congratulations!

11.2.3. Sue is thankful to be able to give back to the community and the interpreters. She is very appreciative of this honour.

11.3. President Award

The President Award acknowledges a board member and their contributions.

11.3.1. Erica Trethart, MAVLI Vice President, presents the award on behalf of Meaghan Gessner, MAVLI President.

11.3.2. The recipient this year was an easy choice. They have done an amazing job. They are on the MAVLI executive and always available to respond to questions or concerns. They are so

valued and have gone above and beyond what anyone can ask from a board member. The recipient is Monica Furer. Congratulations!

11.3.3. Monica is so thankful for this honour. It's very kind and unexpected.

## **12. Confirmation of Acts**

I, as Vice President for the 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:** Erica Trethart  
**Carried**

**Seconded:** Jenn Horvath

## **13. Announcements**

- 13.1. Thank you to the interpreters, Sue Schmid and Emma Drury, for being willing to interpret today.
- 13.2. Thank you to the board for their support for today's AGM. Thank you for Sarah Szalai and Landon Cormack for running the technical aspects today, Sarah Szalai for taking minutes, Jenn Horvath for running nominations and Emma Drury for checking our quorum. Apologies to anyone who was missed from this list.
- 13.3. The Deaf Camp Ukrainian dinner fundraiser is tonight.
- 13.4. The CDCC is April 20-23 in Morris.
- 13.5. There is an AEIP bowling event March 23.
- 13.6. The Manitoba Deaf Dart banquet is April 29.
- 13.7. Dawn-Marie Wilson shares that Amber Galloway will be presenting a workshop on music interpreting on July 13-15. More details will be coming.
- 13.8. Jane Langes shares that ECCOE's virtual AGM will be March 21, 6:00pm. If you are interested, please contact [booking@eccoe.ca](mailto:booking@eccoe.ca) to register.
- 13.9. Jane Langes adds to the above ECCOE discussion that ECCOE now pays interpreters via e-transfer at the end of each month.

## **14. Erica Trethart moves for adjournment at 11:06 am.**