

RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LIMITED

COUNCIL MEETING 7 APRIL 2022

MINUTES

01/22 CALL TO ORDER: 6.24PM

02/22 HOUSEKEEPING: Delegates and visitors attending were made aware of the standard housekeeping policy, now that these meetings have returned to the SED Training Room since the relaxation of Covid regulations. Those Delegates attending on-line, were asked to make their presence known if it has gone un-noticed that they had a question.

03/22 SILENCE TRIBUTE, VALE & ODE: The Vale for December, January, February and March was read by George Royes, Greenbank's Delegate and a minute's silence was observed.

04/22 WELCOME: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President extended a warm welcome to the Delegates, SED Board members and visitors in attendance, including those Delegates on-line. He apologised for the late start.

05/22 PRESENT:

a. Executive: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President; Judith Munday OAM, Treasurer; Judy Alterator, Company Secretary; Peter Murray, Vice President; Steve Monteath, Vice President and District Welfare Officer; Matthew Rowe, Vice President (on-line).

b. Councillors:

ASHGROVE	Paul Prince
BAYSIDE SOUTH	Richard Smith
BEAUDESERT	Jon Forbe-Smith
BEERWAH & DISTRICT	Neville Layt
BULIMBA DISTRICT	Brian Daley OAM
COORPAROO & DISTRICTS	Dennis Collyer
DARRA & DISTRICT	Ted Fotek
DEFENCE SERVICE NURSES	Ann Martin (on-line)
DEFENCE SERVICEWOMEN'S	Eve Radford (on-line)
FOREST LAKE & DISTRICTS	Dan Baldwin
GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY	Peter Murray
GREATER SPRINGFIELD	Troy Best (on-line)
GREENBANK	George Royes
JIMBOOMBA	Lance Lorroway
KILCOY	Shane Williams (on-line)
LOGAN VILLAGE	Garry Alterator OAM (on-line)
MACLEAY ISLAND	Len Waldorff (on-line)
MANLY LOTA	Peter Kinsella
REDLANDS	Alan Harcourt

SALISBURY
SPRINGWOOD TRI-SERVICES
STEPHENS
SUNNYBANK
TOOWONG
WYNNUM
YERONG DUTTON PARK

Tony Stevenson OAM
Gary Sargent
John Strachan OAM
Harry Claassen
Ross Williamson (on-line)
Brad Hartnett
Dr Michael Naughton

06/22 VISITORS: Liz Layt, Beerwah & District RSL Sub Branch; Ian Gray, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Linda Harcourt, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Judy Strachan, Stephens RSL Sub Branch

07/22 APOLOGIES: Doug Egan, Senior Vice President; Dr Susan Kellett, City-New Farm RSL Sub Branch; Michael Weibler, Holland Park Mt Gravatt RSL Sub Branch; Graeme Mickelberg, Kenilworth RSL Sub Branch; Reid Stevens, Kooralbyn RSL Sub Branch; Eric Beutel OAM, National Servicemen's RSL Sub Branch; Darren Sapwell, Nerang RSL Sub Branch; Hugh Polson, Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch; Grahame Fullerton, Tramways RSL Sub Branch

MOTION

"That the Apologies be accepted."

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Salisbury

CARRIED

08/22 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:
Standing Conflict of Interest Declarations – Positions held by Board members:
Kerry Gallagher AM – AATTV Association and Chair of Anzac Day Committee
Judith Munday OAM – RSL Qld State Tribunal
Judy Alterator – President, Logan Village RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Peter Murray – Delegate, Glasshouse RSL Sub Branch Inc.
Doug Egan – President, Greater Springfield RSL Sub Branch Inc.
Steve Monteath – Senior Vice President, Beaudesert

MOTION

"That the Conflict of Interest Declarations be accepted."

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Coorparoo & Districts

CARRIED

09/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 2nd December 2021

MOTION

"That the minutes of the previous meeting's date be taken as read."

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Darra & District

CARRIED

10/22 AMENDMENTS: Nil

11/22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

12/22 ACTION ITEMS

- DVA Presentations - Thursday, 2nd June 1st September and 1st December is our chance to put together questions for DVA and applaud them for all the good work they are doing.

- Since the MVP wasn't approved at the State AGM, there is no change to Honorary Memberships.
- More information to follow regarding the Courier Mail funeral notices' discount.
- Steve Monteath is waiting for more information on Vpad and the requirement for advocates to record all interactions with veterans.
- The Senior Vice President will update the Council at the next meeting on Veteran Services.

13/22 CORRESPONDENCE – Inwards and Outwards

This covered the period from 28th November to 7th April and there wasn't anything specify that the Council wished the Company Secretary to address. The only update was that the Banka Island commemorative service went very well.

If there is any specific item on which the Delegate requires more information, please contact the District Secretary.

MOTION

"That the Inwards be received, and the Outwards be adopted"

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Greenbank

CARRIED

14/22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

The Delegate from Forest Lake & Districts requested that the District Secretary weekly updates be circulated earlier, and it was agreed that these should be emailed no later than Thursday afternoon.

15/22 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The District President reported that he was urging RSL Qld for quicker answers. He is about to sign off on a letter to the State President stating that action for authorisation is taking too long, despite raising various issues at a series of District Presidents' and State Board meetings. Ashgrove and Bardon's proposed amalgamation is a current example.

There is a serious issue with one of the Sub Branches which is taking up a fair amount of time, but the District will continue to work with that Sub Branch to get them through a very difficult period.

SED is currently knee deep in preparations for ANZAC Day Parade Brisbane. The District President reminded all present about ANZAC Day and hoped there would be a very significant turn out, not only in the Sub Branches, but also at the Dawn Service and Parade through Brisbane.

The Delegate for Coorparoo asked about the order of march for ANZAC Day and it was confirmed that the Navy will start the Parade this year.

MOTION

"That the District President's report be accepted as presented."

Moved: Kerry Kallagher AM

Seconded: Coorparoo

CARRIED



16/22 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer moved her financial reports as presented. There were no questions.

MOTION

"That the financial statements be received and current accounts be passed for payment"

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

Seconded: Manly Lota

CARRIED

SED SOLVENCY STATEMENT

"That in the Management Committee's opinion, the Returned and Services League of Australia South Eastern District Ltd is solvent and there are reasonable grounds to believe that it will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable".

MOTION

"That the Solvency Statement has been accepted."

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

Seconded: Redlands

CARRIED

17/22 REPORTS

- a. SED District Wellbeing Report - Steve Monteath asked that his report be tabled as read. In addition, he reported on his recent trip to New South Wales and Victoria where he visited Bendigo, Holbrook, Berrigan and Narrandera Sub Branches. He discovered that their members are experiencing the same difficulties as SED with finding volunteers due to busy lives; and advocates despite the rewards of this qualification, due to ADTP's training regime and increasing demands for more information and interviews. Also, the logistics of organising buses to go to Albury for advocacy matters is challenging. The Delegate for Stephens asked if RSL Qld were going to provide more paid advocates. The District President recently met with Graeme Alley, General Manager, Service Delivery RSL Qld who confirmed that they are doing their best to increase the number of available advocates, although some of their recent trainees were assessed as not being suitable. The process is not as fast as they would like it to be and they are also willing to talk about increasing the number of advocates based out amongst the veterans.
- b. Sub Branch Reports – Bayside South, Beaudesert, Beerwah & District, Forest Lake & Districts, Greenbank, Kilcoy, Macleay Island, Salisbury (October and November)
- c. Sub Branch Newsletters – Sunnybank plus Community Activities and 2022 Calendar
- d. Membership Demographics
Due to the Senior Vice President's absence, there was nothing significant to report.

MOTION

"That the reports be accepted as presented."

Moved: Darra

Seconded: Defence Servicewomen's

CARRIED



18/22 NOTICES OF MOTION – raised by Bayside South

a. **Motion: that RSL QLD establish an appointment to specifically address Allied Service Membership and Concerns.**

- i. Significant numbers of Allied Service Members are embedded in our Sub Branches but there is little corporate effort to grow these numbers.
- ii. The advantages of Allied Service Members belonging to Sub Branches needs to be made more relevant.
- iii. Provide a contact point for all Sub Branch Welfare Officers requesting Service Records for a poppy eulogy service.

Rationale

Such an allocation of a dedicated staffing position by RSL Queensland would be an acknowledgement that Allied Service members are accorded the same status in their treatment as ADF members. This would clearly demonstrate to any potential Allied Service member the benefits of belonging to a RSL Sub Branch.

b. **Motion: that the electronic voting data, in relation to the electronic voting at the RSL Queensland AGM, is not deleted within 10 minutes of the vote being taken but is retained for the purposes of “data mining”.**

- i. This would enable all data to be harvested to enable any trends to be identified.
- ii. Delegates would be held to account to reflect Sub Branch intention and not any individual personnel preference.
- iii. The veil of secrecy is removed to avoid any opportunity for manipulation.

Rationale

The current ‘one Sub Branch, one vote’ does not necessarily address the intent of RSL Qld membership. A motion can be passed, or rejected on the basis of the lowest common denominator, i.e. the Sub Branch. Is it morally defensible that a Sub Branch with 200 members has the same voting power as one with 20 members?

The Company Secretary explained that these notices of motion, due to their importance to Bayside South, were added to the agenda after the first circulation of the Council documentation. The updated agendas were available at the meeting and the District President explained that they were relatively clear. The Delegate for Bayside South gave a Powerpoint presentation on the two motions with the hope that they could be adopted at the RSL Qld AGM in June.

The presentation was well received and there was a lengthy discussion. The District President thanked the Delegate for Bayside South for putting forward these fundamental issues; and asked the Delegates to discuss these motions with their Sub Branches in order to be able to have a comprehensive discussion on Thursday, 5th May. The District Secretary to circulate the PowerPoint presentation to all Sub Branches.

19/22 HONOURS AND AWARDS:

Sub Branch 100th anniversary certificates are to be presented personally by the District President to Toowong and Stephens Sub Branches at their next general meeting. This will be organised with the Sub Branches.


20/22 General Business

- a. In response to Forest Lake & Districts' Delegate's request for an update on the RSL Board, the District President confirmed that there have been no specific resignations other than a change of State President, and no retirements. However, the issue has been raised and the RSL Qld Board will consider some papers that are currently being developed by the Executive team as to what is the way ahead rather than 'death by a 1000 cuts'.
- b. The welfare caravan is currently based on Macleay Island, but is available for other Sub Branches to use, if required. Please could any requests, with a clear and strong case for the use and storage of it, be sent to the Facilities Officer. It was noted that Beaudesert are happy to store it.
- c. The District President urged Delegates to canvas their Sub Branches for anyone who has the experience and commitment, and the willingness to replace Peter Beauchamp OAM as Advocate. Any responses to be sent to the District Secretary.
- d. The District Secretary gave an update on the following:
 - i. RSL Qld will cover the cost of the Delegate and their partner and Sub Branches will need to cover the cost of their replacement Delegate and partner at the State Congress in June.
 - ii. On-line registrations will be able to proceed once Sub Branches have copied their signed Delegate verification form to the District Secretary with a copy of the minutes mentioning the Sub Branch Delegate details.
 - iii. Governance Training is available on 13th and 14th April at SED. Apologies were requested for the short notice and another opportunity will be organised as soon as possible.
 - iv. Hospital packs will be available again soon. Please send quantity requests to the District Secretary.
 - v. District Secretary updates which give important information and deadlines to be circulated on Thursdays. Any feedback on the format would be gratefully received.
 - vi. Poppies are available for collection.
 - vii. ANZAC Day events are now up on the RSL Qld website on the 'What's On' page and you are encouraged to email the link to anyone who is interested.
- e. The Delegate for Manly Lota reported that Tom Dickinson, a relation of his wife through marriage, was announced on a recent Vale report. Alan and Linda Harcourt at Redlands Sub Branch were complimented on their helpfulness and efficiency in which they were able to assist the family with a poppy service.

21/22 NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 5th May commencing at 6.00pm.

Ashgrove-Bardon, Bayside South and Beaudesert to give a short presentation so all the good action amongst the Sub Branches can be spread to the district more broadly.

- 22/22 The Delegate for Salisbury reported on a WWII veteran's (98 years old with a 92 year old wife) experience of becoming flood bound and the importance of the existence of Sub Branches. Sub Branch members are the only people who can be contacted in a crisis and there isn't always anything spontaneous on hand. In this case, the veteran was told to contact the Salvation Army or Open Arms. The District President urged that this story be recounted to the DVA, and a serious discussion should take place during their visit to the Council Meeting on Thursday, 2nd June and that Salisbury Sub Branch should apply for a COF application to reimburse the money spent on helping this veteran's family. The District President also reported that Redlands had

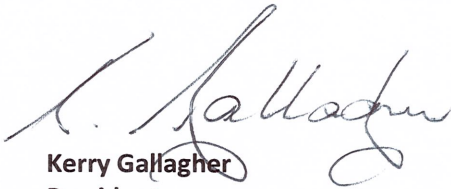


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raised a similar issue. RSL exists to help veterans but sometimes when the veteran has a need, they are told to contact someone else.

23/22 CLOSURE

The District President thanked all in attendance for their forbearance with the impact of having to arrive early to attend part 2 of the AGM; and for the very important issues that were raised at the Council meeting. There was no further business, and the meeting was declared closed at 7.27pm.



Kerry Gallagher
President



Judy Alterator
Company Secretary



