

Minutes
Visual Researchers' Society of Canada: Annual General Meeting
Thursday May 5, 2011, 6:00 pm
The Spoke Club, 600 King St. West, Toronto, ON

Present:

Erin Chisholm Nancy Marcotte Odette Desormeaux Monica Penner
Roy Harris Liz Etherington Helena Raposo Laurie Near
Kathleen McKenna Laura Blaney Donna Dudinsky Anne Davidson
Elizabeth Kelly Elizabeth Klinck Willa Marcus
And briefly, Bonnie Rowan (Washington D.C. researcher)

Minutes: Helena Raposo

Call To Order: 6:15 p.m.

2011 AGM Agenda: Approved by Roy Harris and Nancy Marcotte

Minutes of 2010 AGM: Approved by Monica Penner and Laura Blaney

Elizabeth Klinck introduced and recommended the services of Bonnie Rowan, a Washington, D.C. based researcher.

Chairperson Report: Elizabeth Klinck reports that overall the VRSC had a good year, but there was a decline in membership to 65 members. This to be expected, some visual researchers changed careers, etc. We need to look at new business opportunities for visual researchers.

Financial Report and Presentaion of 2010 Financial Statements: Treasurer, Erin Chisholm, reported that finances were in good standing. We have \$3,900 in funds. The VRSC Training Week received \$2,800 from the following sponsors: WPA Film Library, FramePool, and Thought Equity. The Financial report was presented; there were no issues. The audit statement will be sent to member by email. Erin reminded the members that the Board of Directors need to appoint a President, Treasurer, and Secretary. This will be determined at next board of directors meeting.

Appointment of Auditor: Erin Chisholm recommended that we retain the same auditor. No one had any objections.

Training Week Report: Roy Harris reported that the VRSC of received 7 applications for 3 places for the VRSC Training Week. The following applicants were selected. Liz Etherington, Elizabeth Kelly and Kathy Fisher. The VRSC Training Week ran from Monday March 7 to Friday March 11th.

We received great support from the National Film Board, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, The Canadian Music Centre, Willa Marcus and Laura Blaney. All session were good, with the exception of the cataloguing session at the CBC. This was too detailed and would need to be modified in future. It was discussed that for future Training Weeks, when calling out for candidates, the qualifications should be more specific.

Footage Forum Report: Helena Raposo reported that a lively round of discussions occurred. The morning panel guests were: Jennifer Baird and Carol Ashurt of CTV Archive Sales, Yen Chu of Thought Equity, Nan Halpern of Canamedia/ITN Source, Ragnhild Milewski of NFB, Diane Paradiso of WPA Film Library, Wilfred Tenaillon of Getty Images, Collette Forest of Radio Canada, Guy Paquin and Paul McIntyre of CBC Archive Sales, and Jordan Katz of Framepool. The morning topics were "Shrinking Budgets and Increasing Costs" and "New Technology and Opportunities". The afternoon panel consisted of: Michael McNamara and Jen Recknagel of Markham Street Films, Lisa Fitzgibbons of DOC and Kristina McLaughlin of Primitive Entertainment. Topics included: "Rights: Fair Dealing" and "Archive Issues". An open session of questions ended the day, followed by a reception. Willa Marcus suggested that future Footage Forums could provide an opportunity to create policy.

Train Week and Footage Forum Reports: Approved by Monica Penner and Erin Chisholm.

Rate Committee Report: Nancy Marcotte and Odette DesOrmeaux reported on their meeting at Radio-Canada, with Robert Trempe, Director of Revenues and Colette Forest, Director of Archive Sales, to discuss archive rates, dubbing and research costs. VRSC/ARAC member Terry Foxman was also in attendance at this meeting. They voiced their concerns regarding Radio-Canada's rising licensing rates, costs of screening & transfers and the fact that the Radio-Canada website does not provide an online search engine. They tried to get a preferred rate for VRSC members.

Results: no preferred rate for members and research fees remained the same (70\$/hr). But, VRSC members get a 33% rebate on screening costs on site. Dubbing costs have slightly decreased and there was a promise of a comprehensive rate card, the same sliding scale as CBC and NFB was granted. No online search engine will be available in the short term, but Radio-Canada is part of a French language worldwide project for making archives available online sometime in the future. The actual archive section of the Radio-Canada website remains an educational tool for the general public.

It was suggested by Roy Harris that ARAC attend the CRTC hearings, approach the CMPA and Production Associations in Quebec.

Barbara Sears Endowment Fund Report: Elizabeth Klinck reported that Barbara Sears estate had been settled.

New Business Report: It was suggested that a committee be formed to examine possible new markets for visual researchers. (Markets such as, interactive eBooks, gaming, advertisers). Monica Penner and Erin Chisholm agreed to attend a Toronto book fair, taking place in June.

Website Renewal Committee: It costs \$1,800 a year for our webmaster. The website should be updated. Committee to be determined.

Other Business: The membership fee for VRSC/ARAC to possibly increase.

Adjournment: Roy Harris and Nancy Marcotte moved to adjourn