

Minutes
Visual Researchers' Society of Canada
Association des chercheurs en audiovisuel du Canada
Annual General Meeting
Thursday May 28, 2015 6:00 pm
The Spoke Club, 600 King St. West, Toronto, ON

Present:

Elspeth Domville	Kelley Fry (via Skype)	Tanya Fleet
Emma Kehaya	Elizabeth Klinck	Roy Harris
Laura Lucas	Celeste Mackenzie	Nancy Marcotte
Julietta McGovern	Kathleen McKenna	Mia Webster

Board of Directors: Elizabeth Klinck, Chairperson, Nancy Marcotte, Vice-Chairperson, Kelley Fry, Treasurer, Helena Raposo, Secretary, Mia Webster, Alexandra Yanofsky, Roy Harris, Celeste Mackenzie and Elspeth Domville, Officers

Minutes: Helena Raposo

1. Meeting Called To Order: 6:20 p.m.

2. Minutes of 2014 AGM Presented: Nancy Marcotte and Celeste Mackenzie motioned to accept minutes

3. Appointment of Officers and Board Elections:

- A) Elizabeth Klinck thanked outgoing board members Helena Raposo and Alexandra Yanofsky for their work on the board.
- B) Emma Kehayas, Laura Lucas and Marie-Josée Ferron put their names forward for the board. Kathy McKenna motioned to recognize the nominations, Mia Webster seconded the motion and a vote was taken. All were in favour and Emma, Laura and Marie-Josée were voted in unanimously.
- C) **Elizabeth Klinck resigned as Chairperson of the Board, after serving a stellar 10 years on the board!!** Elizabeth will step down in September. As Elspeth said, we thought Elizabeth would go on forever. A new Chairperson will be voted by the board in September (Note: This announcement came out the end of the meeting, but is placed under this agenda item).

4. Financial Report and Membership Update by Treasurer Kelley Fry via Skype:

The Barbara Sears Fund is growing. Educational workshop costs were recovered through sponsorships. The design bill for the new website is not in yet. We are able to maintain payments to the company Dream Host for hosting our website. It was financially a normal year.

Good news is that the VRSC Membership is now at 97 members. We had 9 new members in the last year.

Emma Kehayas moved to accept the Financial statement and was seconded by Laura Lucas.

5. Adoption of the Revised Bylaws (Update on Audited Report) by Treasurer Kelley Frye: Note: There were enough members present for a quorum to pass the by-law and member Monica Penner and Shiren Van Cooten voted by proxy.

The revised bylaws impact on the requirements of an auditor. The VRSC is a non-profit organization. Because it does not generate monies above \$50,000, an audit report is not legally required. In the past, the VRSC were fortunate to have audits done at very little cost. However, this is no longer the case and the fees are quite high and would impact on our small budget. The question was asked - Does the membership feel comfortable not having an audit and have our Treasure Kelley Fry tend to our financials with the assistant of Marc Lafontaine, an accountant she works with.

There were no objections to the revised bylaws and they were ratified by the membership.

6. Report from Quebec by Nancy Marcotte (includes educational events): Nancy was present at industry festivals this year. She set up a music workshop with Willa Cather that went very well. Also, a workshop on "best practices" for editors regarding visuals was very successful. Directors and producers attended and were very impressed. As a result, a template for "best practices" for editors was created and will be translated to English. This template will be distributed to all VRSC/ARAC members.

Nancy attended the Alliance Francophone Producers meeting. About 20 producers were present and the need and importance of researchers was discussed. Especially the need for French speaking researchers outside of Quebec.

Mia Webster announced that the G meaux Awards have updated the description for the researcher category. Although, they continue to be stubborn and will not allow a separate Visual Researcher category, they have allowed that visual researchers names be submitted with story researchers names for the general category of Best Research.

7. Barbara Sears Endowment Fund Update/Training: It is a modest sum each year, however, these monies can be used for upcoming events and workshops.

8. Discussion on the type of training our members want to see and format: Report from Nancy Marcotte and Elspeth Domville on Professional Development /Educational Events.

The "All Things Digital" with editor Murray Green was successful. He reviewed such topics as formats and pixels vs DPI.

Ideas for other educational sessions were discussed.

Tanya Fleet suggested having a feature film clip clearance workshop. Other suggestions were covering license agreements - terms and the language. Public Domain Memos etc..

Creating a best practices manual for visual researchers was discussed. Holding webinars was discussed and Roy Harris volunteered to look into this possibility.

Please send ideas for workshops to Elspeth Domville. Her email address is: edomville@bell.net

9. Rate Committee Report – Mia, Nancy and Roy: Getty Images has let go Wilfred Tenaillon, one of the VRSC biggest supporters. The Montreal group bid farewell to Wilfred. Roy will contact Getty regarding rates.

VRSC no longer has preferred rates with Associated Press.

ABC NewsSource will only give the VRSC preferred rates for World, All Media and In Perpetuity. All other terms member will have to negotiate on their own.

Roy Harris and Nancy Marcotte to reach out to the CBC, regarding poor service.

The NFB rates for remain the same.

Elizabeth acknowledged the great job the Rate Committee has been doing over the years.

10. CSA and G meaux Awards Update – Elizabeth Klinck and Mia Webster: Mia Webster announced that the G meaux Awards have updated the description for the researcher category. Although, they continue to be stubborn and will not allow a separate Visual Researcher category, they have allowed that visual researchers names be submitted with story researchers names for the general category of Best Research.

Elizabeth reported that the Canadian Screen Awards continue to have two awards for research – editorial and visual. Three of our members – Elizabeth Klinck, Erin Chisholm and Sheila Mandell - were nominated this year. Congratulations!

11. FOCAL Juries Report: After 8 years heading up the FOCAL jury, Elspeth Domville will be stepping down. Elizabeth thanked Elspeth for her committed efforts over the years. Jivan Nagara will now be organizing the FOCAL juries.

Our French colleagues in Montreal also had a FOCAL jury organized by Mia Webster. Three members attended and Mia will be giving feedback to FOCAL.

12. Report from Ottawa by Celeste Mackenzie: Celeste and Wayne are trying very hard to recruit more Ottawa members to the VRSC through the Libraries and Archives of Canada researchers' list. At this time, no interest was shown despite their best efforts.

A discussion followed regarding LAC and their poor service. Mia has made attempts to reach out to LAC, however, they are disinterested.

Also, discussed was the possibility of having a designated VRSC member in Ottawa to deal with LAC requests.

13. Website Update Committee – Elspeth and Mary Rose:

The Website Committee members are: Mary Rose MacLachlan, Elspeth Domville, Emma Keyahas, Marc Pitre and Ian Glenn.

The committee hired web designer Cindy Jacobson to create a clean site to serve its members. The site needs some tweaking and the French translation has to be finalized. It is almost ready to go live.

For a sneak preview, visit www.visualresearch.ca/wp

Web highlights:

- Kept the clean, uncluttered look of the old site.
- Simplified the menu structure so that the information on the public site is more relevant to non-member visitors.
- The Find a Researcher page has a list of criteria that can be filtered to search for a researcher and this feature is available in both French and English. Members can edit their profiles through the Your Membership/Edit Your Profile page. It is very intuitive and easy to update. Members can add a blurb about their experience in the About My Work section.
- We will have a dedicated email address, contactus@visualresearch.ca, which will be monitored by committee members.
- There will be links to Facebook and Twitter (not active until website goes live) and the public news archive page could provide links to trailers of films/docs worked on by ARAC/VRSC members.

14. Volunteers for News Updates and Post VRSC/ARAC Job Offers:

Celeste Mackenzie volunteered to provide news updates to the members side of the website. Thank you to Nancy Marcotte who is stepping down from this position.

Laura Lucas volunteered to take over from Elizabeth Klink and post the VRSC/ARAC job offers. THANK YOU ELIZABETH FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE!!!

15. 10th Anniversary Committee – A Celebration in 2015

The VRSC/ARAC is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year!

A committee was struck to organize and mark our anniversary with a party.

The 10th Anniversary Committee is: Monica Penner, Roy Harris, Elspeth Domville, Kathleen McKenna, Helena Raposo and Talia Woodbrige.

16. Employment Temperature Taking – Roy Harris

A committee was struck to profile our members and learn how to serve them better.

The Survey Committee is: Roy Harris, Tanya Fleet and Julietta McGovern.

They will be creating a short survey to measure the needs of our members.

17. Other Business:

History Makers International / Sunny Side of the Doc (La Rochelle, France):

Elizabeth Klink reported that History Makers will no longer be giving out bursaries to visual researchers. Elizabeth approached Sunny Side of the Doc and is trying to reach out to them for possible bursaries, so that our members could attend their events.

Adjournment: Elizabeth Klink and Roy Harris moved to adjourn.