

Annual General Meeting 14th May 2024

Location: Zoom

Attendance

AOI Directors: David Gilbert, Daniel Moorey, Dan Woodger, Montana Forbes, Ciara Phelan, Jhinuk Sarkar, Rachel Gannon

Director Apologies: Deidre McDermott

Board Advisers: Gabriella Playford

AOI Staff: Rachel Hill, Derek Brazell, Tsveta Todorova, Sarah Morris, Tania Duarte, Natasha Knight, Marianna Madriz, Helen Ridley, Brittany Freeman, Dave Bain

AOI Members (noted by Zoom handle): Akesi Martinez, Anna Steinberg, Annie - Northern Bird Design, beach, Celine Velsen, David- Folio, Elly Bazigos, Francesca, Gunja Bhatt, James Cuggy, Jess Jenkins, Jo Philips, Maggie Stephenson, Maite Leon, Marie Lee, Miriam Beig, Nancy, Paw Wahab, Petra Kneile, Rachelle Panagarry, Rosetta Westbrook, Roy Bennett, Steve Iphone 13, Tomas Seelig (Teresa)

AOI Agenda

1. Opening Comments

David Gilbert welcomed the attendees. He reflected on the year under review 2022-23, which had been another successful year. He made an acknowledgment to the Directors and the members for their involvement in the work of the organisation. He also noted the strong performance of the CEO, Rachel Hill and the executive team.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved with no amendments.

3. Presentation of finance papers for financial year end 30th September 2023

David Gilbert presented the annual accounts to the members.

The income and expense statement, and the balance sheet were presented. There has been a growth in sales over the last one year. The administrative expenses also increased. This increase reflects an investment in people and services, such as the website redesign. This year the AOI made a small loss, which is an investment in the services and the future of the organisation.

Approval of Directors

Ren Renwick stepped down from their duties as directors in the last financial year. David Gilbert thanked her for her years of service to the AOI. .

David proposed Rachel Gannon and Rachel Hill to be elected to join the board of directors, and both were voted in by the members.

In line with AOI articles, the longest standing Board members (David Gilbert, Montana Forbes and Deidre Mcdermott) were suggested for re-election and voted in by the members.

4. Appointment of accountants for the AOI

Members were asked to vote the company's accountants for the next financial year. The recommendation to appoint Taylor Viney and Marlow was approved by the members.

5. Presentation of the annual report for financial year end 31/09/2023

A summary of the annual report was presented by Rachel Hill on Powerpoint. An extended version of the annual report is available [here](#).

6. AOB

There was no AOB.

7. Members Insights- breakout rooms discussion

Small breakout room discussions were led by AOI Staff and Directors. When asked what support the AOI could introduce in the following 12 months, members responded:

- Offer alternative methods of communications and support activities for neurodivergent members and members with disabilities
- Offer events at different times of the time to suit different schedules;
- Support with folio building and promotion of their work online.
- Guidance on ways to diversify income streams.
- Provide more information around pricing.

Notes from the separate break out rooms have been collected and will be taken into consideration when developing the AOI's initiatives for the year ahead.

8. Summary and Conclusion

Rachel Hill concluded the session by noting the skill, passion and commitment of our members, staff and board directors.