



SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

*The National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa
A Member of the International Amateur Radio Union*



MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 13 APRIL 2019 AT THE DATA VOICE AUDITORIUM IN STELLENBOSCH

Present

Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, SARL President

Members present in person: 73

Members present by proxy: 298

Dennis Green, ZS4BS, SARL Secretary

Item	Discussion	For Action
	WELCOME	
1.1	Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, opened the meeting at 09:30 and welcomed everybody at the 2019 AGM. Certain administrative arrangements were explained. The Motions will be discussed at the AGM and the voting will take place two weeks after the AGM for a period of 10 days. A special word of welcome to Dennis Wells, ZS1AU who is 90 years old.	
1.2	The agenda is projected on the screen.	
2.	RULES OF DEBATE	
2.1	Nico, ZS6QL presents the rules of debate. It was projected on the screen for the meeting.	
3.	APOLOGIES	
3.1	Fritz Sutherland submitted his apology but also submitted a proxy form.	
4.	DECLARATION OF QUORUM	
4.1	Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT announced that a quorum is present at the AGM. The constitution stipulates that a 10% attendance including proxies is required to form a quorum. The SARL has 1 587 paid members. There were 73 registered members at the AGM with 298 proxies = total 371 present which is 23,4% of the membership. This is 20 members more than the 2018 AGM.	
5.	REMEMBRANCE	
5.1	Dennis Green, ZS4BS, read the Remembrance for the Silent Keys and the meeting stood for a moment of silence.	
	Chris Viljoen, ZS6BYQ; Mike Bosch, ZS2FM; P G Pretorius, ZS6PPE; Reg Barnes, ZS6AHB; Andre De Jong, ZS5AKQ; Clyde Hyman, ZS1CS; Garth Beresford, ZS6BER; Ashley Ware-Lane, ZS1ASH; Gert Louw ZS1FG; Willem Munnik, ZS6WDM; Ronald David Clark ZS6AQH; Arno 'Duppie' du Plessis, ZS6BDD; Barrie Neunborn, ZS5BTC; Louis Jordaan, ZS2EN; Glenham Duffy, ZS5GD; Basil Mac Dougal, ZS6BDS; Gordon MacMillian, ZS5GAM (ex ZS6GAM); Richard McNally, ZS6BWS; Mark Wilson, ZS4D; David le Roux, ZS1DAV; Dawn Snyders, ZS5ME; Johan Smit, ZS3AAK; Howard Ware, ex-ZS6ZS; Melvin Rautenbach, Ex ZS1MK; Gordon Prentice, ZR6RA; Harry Lautenbach,	

National Amateur Radio Centre, Sender Technology Park, 1 Octave Street, Radiokop
PO Box/Posbus 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735, South Africa/Suid-Afrika

NARC/NARS Telephone/Telefoon: 011 675 2393 Facsimile/Faksimilee: 086 299 0566 E-mail/E-pos: admin@sarl.org.za

SARL Secretary: secretary@sarl.org.za

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	ZS6LT; Fred Scheepers, ex ZS1FCS; Mannie de Beer, ZS6AK; Dior Dreyer-Juselius, ZS6DJD; Buzz Macy, ZR1AAC; Mary Harding, ZS6AKR; Neil Slogrove, ZR5NAS; Charl Cilliers, ZS1RE; Nick van Rensburg, ZS6NVR; Theo G Swart ZR6SG; Viv Moore, ZS2VM; Wolfram Wagner, ZS6KE; Francois de Villiers, ZR1ACF; Marie Aline Gosselin, ZR6MAG; Rev George Dobbs, G3RJV; Michael von der Heyden, ZR3M; Dick Veldkamp, ZR4DV; Albert von Wielligh, ZR6VON; Peter Scott, ZR1KW; Gordon Prentice, ZR6RA; Dick Stratford, ZS6RO.	
6.	APPROVAL OF LAST YEARS AGM MINUTES	
6.1	The minutes of the 2018 AGM were tabled for approval. The minutes were accepted, proposed by Gary Immelmann, ZS6YI and seconded by Jan Botha, ZS4JAN.	
7.	PRESIDENTS REPORT	
7.1	Nico, ZS6QL, presented the Presidents Report and the SARL Annual Report.	
7.2	<p>The 2018 year took off to a flying start with some demanding and exciting challenges to promote and expand on the amateur radio service in South Africa. With considerable success achieved on existing activities, we took on the challenge and successfully hosted the 2018 annual IARU Region 1 YOTA (Youngsters on the Air) summer event in August 2018 and participated in Hobby-X Johannesburg to promote and showcase amateur radio to the public in March 2019.</p> <p>From a financial perspective, we now begin to see the results of the measures that were introduced to strengthen the accountability for reporting within the Treasury portfolio. Overall, the SARL is in a good financial position with sufficient reserves to support and ensure continuous sustainability of the league going forward.</p> <p>The SARL is definitely not a one-man operation. I am satisfied and most thankful for the efficient and competent work being done by fellow councillors, portfolio managers and appointees who are all volunteers with full-time occupations, committing their personal time and expertise in running the SARL successfully.</p>	
7.3	It is unfortunately a reality that our pool of professionals is exceptionally small and at the same time, the requirements in certain areas are becoming more demanding, especially in the regulatory environment with less organisations being sympathetic to the amateur radio fraternity. We cannot afford this and need to identify individuals and develop capable working groups to carry forward the work required to take the amateur radio service forward in South Africa. Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary should you be able to assist with experience in the regulatory environment or a technical field.	

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	<p>Our membership is steady, as seen the previous year, an average of 39% of all licences issued by ICASA are SARL members and there is a definite capacity for growth. This is well above the typical 30% in the world as previously mentioned in a report. The only way to ensure the future of amateur radio and the SARL is to promote the amateur radio services as was done during the Hobby X event.</p> <p>May I take this opportunity to challenge our clubs to include an exhibition event in your annual activities calendar to promote and educate the public what amateur radio is. You might be surprised, ending up with a number of new club members and amateur radio friends!</p>	
7.4	<p>The RAE sessions held annually with the associated administration thereof need to be mention. The work involved is no trivial exercise and is only possible with the dedication of the RAE manager, Noel, ZR6DX, Kelley Heslop, our Office Administrator, the Chief Invigilators and the lecturers all over the country. Without the teamwork and commitment of this group of individuals on national level, this will not be possible.</p>	
7.5	<p>The education of our youth is the foundation of preparation to ensure that our fascinating hobby will continue to exist into the future. This is one of the main reasons for hosting the YOTA 2018 event here in South Africa. This was the first time that this event took place outside of Europe and attended by a large group from African countries where amateur radio is very much a developing activity. Currently South Africa has more licenced radio amateurs than the rest of Africa combined.</p> <p>YOTA annually brings together for an entire week young radio amateurs and aspirant radio amateurs who have a passion for radio and technology and are keen to learn new skills, discuss and share ideas about amateur radio and work on its future.</p> <p>In total, 23 teams, from IARU member countries in Europe and Africa including the USA travelled to South Africa to participate. This would not have been successful without the tremendous amount of hard work of a group of dedicated individuals who rolled up their sleeves to pull it all together. The letter received from Don Beattie, G3BJ President of the IARU Region 1 as an attachment to this report.</p>	
7.6	<p>Council continued with the essential and most important work to affirm the role of the SARL in strengthening the relationship with the National Regulator to protect and further the aims of amateur radio in South Africa including the world and to protect the amateur radio spectrum. The details are captured in the section pertaining to the Regulatory Working Group in this annual report.</p>	
7.7	<p>We believe a well-educated radio amateur fraternity is a strong population. By nature, the fundamental dynamics of amateur radio</p>	

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	<p>is of such that it contributes to a continuous learning curve. The SARL in collaboration with AMSAT SA continued since last year the important work to foster and encourage self-learning and innovation of new technology. This was accomplished through various successful workshops held on topics such as SDR (Software Defined Radio), V/UHF propagation, RF noise floor monitoring and general aspects of RF interference to name but a few. On the topic of interference, WPT (Wireless Power Transfer) as applicable to current and future electric vehicles is a huge threat and is high on the IARU agenda for the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC 2019) later in this year. The SARL participates and plays a leading role in the IARU Region 1 EMC committee and the RF Noise Measurement campaign. Currently we are in the process of commissioning new monitoring stations to contribute to the pool of much needed research statistics.</p> <p>A recent development to encourage more activity on the V/UHF frequencies were the formation of a V/UHF Beacon Working Group. An enthusiastic and inspiring group of men working to establish new beacons countrywide and promote all aspects of V/UHF communication. If HF is not active enough in your opinion, then we encourage our members to get involved in long distance V/UHF activity.</p>	
7.8	<p>In keeping our members up to date and current with the latest developments, our news team ensures a national news bulletin for transmission on Sundays in conjunction with the dedicated work of the Editor of Radio ZS. Then, there is in the background a group of individuals looking after the Forum and Swop Shop, the Website and Database Management work. We must not lose sight of the portfolios pertaining to Awards management, Repeater coordination, QSL Bureau management, contest management, youth development, the Amateur Radio Today programme and Regulatory Affairs. We also acknowledge the indispensable work of the SARL/ICASA liaison committee meeting with the Regulator including the excellent work of SARL HAMNET serving our communities and providing a public service.</p> <p>A word of sincere thanks to every one of our team of dedicated and talented volunteers mentioned for ensuring the effectiveness of the SARL as the representative body for amateur radio in South Africa.</p>	
7.9	<p>I would like to thank all members for your support and dedication to the SARL's mission in advancing the art, science and enjoyment of Amateur Radio in South Africa and globally. Constant change is the driving force behind the fast-paced and ever evolving technological world that we live in today. Radio amateurs worldwide are actively involved in exploring and pushing the boundaries of technology thus adding to the excitement of our hobby. Being progressive,</p>	

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	<p>developing our operational skills and knowledge of radio technology is a well-known documented aspect of the Radio Amateurs Code.</p> <p>Let us keep moving forward as well as informed to open new doors together to ensure that amateur radio continues to grow and prosper into the future. Remember, none of this will be possible without the continuous support, commitment, sacrifice and dedication of our members.</p>	
7.10	Nico, ZS6QL highlighted activities happening in Clubs but it is not recorded; West Coast VHF communications, etc. groups doing similar things but not connected or sharing information.	
8.	FINANCES	
8.1	Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX presented the Financial reports and Documentation.	
8.2	<p>The Net Value of the South African Radio League grew by R211, 847 to R627, 902 during the year mainly due to the fact that Council was well aware of the fact that following the uncertainty that prevailed in the previous years there was a need to continue curbing expenditure and to build up reserves. Evidence of this fact was the growth in Cash and Cash Equivalents that grew by R599, 865 to R1, 799,931.</p> <p>This accomplished, Council approached and was granted at the AGM held in April 2018, the right to set aside R416, 055 for the 2018/2019 Budget. Managing of this additional expenditure is disclosed in the Year-To-Date Income and Expenditure Statement for the six months ended 31 December 2018 which I shall address at the AGM in April 2019.</p> <p>Turning now to the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2018 which shows a Net Surplus for the year of R211, 847, the notes at the bottom of the page fully disclose the reasons for the deviations both favourable and unfavourable from the budget. However, I would like to comment further on the following:</p>	
8.3	Subscriptions below Budget	
8.3.1	Council was a little ambitious in assuming that we would attract more members. However, percentage wise the shortfall equated to only 3.3%. That said, at the time of writing this report, I am aware of plans to not only attract those Radio Amateurs who are not members but steps to make the public more aware of the fascinating “World of Amateur Radio” e.g. stall at Hobby-X to be held in March 2019.	
8.4	Income not budgeted for	
8.4.1	Income received from the managing of the Radio Amateurs Examination and that of interest earned on monies held by ABSA have not been budgeted for in recent years, but Council will do so in the 2019/2020 year, now that we have a better idea of what has been achieved in recent years.	

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8.5	Council keeps the cost of meetings and travel well below budget.	
8.5.1	The convening of meetings via Skype has gone a long way to achieve these savings. This has however meant that the President, as well as most if not all of the Councillors, have had to communicate with each other via their own personal service providers.	
8.6	Over expenditure of AGM	
8.6.1	Without a doubt the publicity management, as well as the supporting programme for the hosting of this event was of such a level that many members were eager to attend. However, it must be said that some of the motions were not to the liking of a huge majority of the members and they were determined to ensure that these were not adopted. Evidence of these two facts are that some 121 members attended the AGM whilst 120 members and partners attended the Awards Dinner.	
8.7	Conclusion	
8.7.1	To conclude, I wish to thank the President, fellow Councillors and members of the finance committee for their support throughout the year as well as Corrie De Beer for processing weekly payments as part of our steps to ensure segregation of duties and governance. Council is also to be congratulated for the decision they took to outsource the accounting work. This has gone a long way in ensuring that we receive financial statements on time, maintain proper and accurate accounting records and continue to remain Tax Compliant. I trust I have ensured that members are satisfied that all financial matters are fully disclosed and transparent.	
8.8	The audited accounts for year ending 30 June 2018	
8.8.1	The audited accounts were approved by the meeting. Proposed by Gary Immelmann, ZS6YI and seconded by Tjerk Lammers, ZS1J.	
8.9	Receive the unaudited accounts for the period ending 31 December 2018	
8.9.1	The unaudited accounts were approved by the meeting.	
8.10	Budget 2018/2019 vs Proposed Budget 2019/2020	
	The budget is accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Paul Johnson, ZS1S and seconded by Dick Coates, ZS6BUN.	
8.11	Receive and ratify the proposed subscriptions for year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020	
	The proposed subscription was accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Hendrick Visagie, ZS1EEE and seconded Paul Johnson, ZS1S. Voting – For: 349; Against: 22; Abstentions: 0.	
8.12	Appointment of Auditors	
	Council proposed that C J L Du Plessis Inc (Practice No 902388) be reappointed as the Auditors for 2019/2020. The proposal was unanimously accepted and approved.	
9.	MOTIONS	

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9.1	<u>Motion STB2019 001 Change to rules with regards the Willie Wilson Gold Badge.</u> Accepted by the meeting.	
9.2	<u>Motion STB2019 002 Management of the financial reporting at the AGM.</u> Council must look at the time period from 30 June when the financial documents have to be submitted to the auditor. Accepted by the meeting.	
9.3	<u>Motion STB2019 003 SARL attendance at IARU Region 1 Conference and to enhance the value IARU membership offers.</u> Accepted by the meeting.	
10.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL	
10.1	<p>The following Councillors are in the middle of their two-year term of office which ends at the 2020 SARL AGM, Louw Erasmus, ZS6LME, Chris Turner, ZS6GM, Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT, Dennis Green, ZS4BS and Glynn Chamberlain, ZS6GLN.</p> <p>By 31 January 2019, nominations for the five vacancies had been received from Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL; Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX; Geoff Levey, ZS6C; Philip van Tonder, ZS6PVT and Guy Eales, ZS6GUY.</p> <p>As there are five nominations for the five vacancies, the above nominees are elected to serve on the SARL Council from 13 April 2019 until the 2021 AGM.</p>	
11.	OTHER MATTERS	
11.1	<u>IT Matters.</u> Chris Turner, ZS6GM discussed the IT system and the SARL web site. There are various databases and web sites behind the SARL web site – and this covers a period of more than 20 years.	
11.2	How do we make the amateur radio service more accessible for younger people, looking at new technology? Council has looked at a number of web site developers; one developer has been identified that can provide what the League wants – smart phones, tablets, computers.	
11.3	The web site must be interactive and user friendly. The development of an app will come later. The POPI Act will also have to be looked at with the development of the new site.	
11.4	The time scale – the web developer will do a presentation in two months' time. The Web Working Group will be working closely with the web site developers.	
11.5	<u>Radio Amateur Examination.</u> Between 220 to 230 candidates write the RAE, but what happens to them? It is found that there are two kinds of clubs – an active amateur radio club or a social club. New radio amateurs get no support and no help from the social clubs.	
11.6	<u>Thank You.</u> The Meeting expresses a Word of Thanks to the Boland ARC for the arrangements for the AGM and the Awards Dinner.	
12.	THE 2020 SARL AGM	

Item	Discussion	For Action
12.1	Noel Hammond, ZR6DX proposed that the Sandton ARC and the ZS6ZU Hammies would host the 2020 SARL Day of the Radio Amateur.	
13.	CONCLUSION	
13.1	The meeting closed at 14:00	

In terms of Rule 13.1, these minutes were ratified at the Council meeting held on 11 June 2019.

The Minutes were approved by electronic vote. 262 votes in favour; 2 votes against and 24 abstentions.

17 April 2021