



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 23 APRIL 2022 ON THE BLUEJEANS VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Present

Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, SARL President

Dennis Green, ZS4BS, SARL Secretary

Item	Discussion	For Action
	WELCOME	
1.1	Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, opened the meeting at 10:00 and welcomed everybody at the 2022 Online AGM making use of the BlueJeans platform. The Motions will be discussed at the AGM and the voting will take place after the AGM for a period of 10 days.	
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	
4.	DECLARATION OF QUORUM	
4.1	It was determined 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 1 691 paid members. There were 98 registered members at the AGM with 80 proxies = total 178 present which is 11,01% of the membership. This is 193 members less than the 2019 AGM.	
5.	REMEMBRANCE	
5.1	Dennis Green, ZS4BS, read the Remembrance for the Silent Keys and the meeting observed a moment of silence.	
	We pause in remembrance of the following radio amateurs who have passed on and gone home since the 2021 AGM held on 17 April 2021. Feruccio Ferucci, ZS1Z; Hendrik Toxopeus, ZS1ACD; Leon Nel ZS5QY; Frank Kriel, ZS1QRM; Barry Nugent, ZS2NF; Laurie Devereux, ZS5DL; Jan Jordaan ZS3JAN; Jerry De Ru, ZS6JDR; Danie Potgieter, ZS6AXX; Joffre Papenfus, ZS3EY; Charly du Pont, ZS5DU; Andre le Roux, ZS2AL; Paulina Cooper, ZS6PGC; Gerrie Barkhuizen, ZS6GSB; JP Venter, ZS6JPV; Hans Breebaart, ex-ZS6AXC; Phil Kauffman-Sorenson, ZS2NP; Johann de Beer, ZR6YV; Faisal Alajmi, 9K2RR; Peter Miller, ZS6DAD; Gert Byliefeldt, ZS4GB; Dirk Ligthelm, ZS2D; Jan Engelbrecht, ZS6JE; Frans Durand, ZS4FD; Theo van Wijk, ZS6BDF; Simon Prinsloo, ZS6SLP; André Smith, ZS6OM; Garnett Gould, ZS6ZTJ, ex ZS6ZT / ZS5ZT; Deon Alberts, ZS4AGP; PJ van Blerk, ZS6PVB; Shaun Cullen, ZS5C; Bernd Kindler ZR6KDL; FAG van Blerk, ZS6GVB; Len Jansen, ZS6JA; Mannie Petersen, ZR1AE; Phil	

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Item	Discussion	For Action
	Unterhorst, ZS6AZ/ZS5RJ; Tjaart van der Walt, ZS6KW; Hennie Theron, ZS6JHT; Pierre Lindeque, ZS4PF; Herman Horn, ZS5LH; Edox Earle ZS6EAR; Frank Schoombie ZR6RC; Joop Hesp, ZS6JP (ex ZS6AJS, ZS1AJS, and ZS6C); Pam Momberg, ZS1PAM/ZS6APT; Dick van der Berg, ZS2VV; Johan Loubser, ZS1ZE; Gert Coetzee, ZS6GAS, Hennie le Roux, ZS6LR, Ted Hart, ZS6TED; Neville McCash, ZS6MCC; Lionel Rowley, ZS1LSR (ex ZS6ALA); Paul Cornelius, ZS6PJC; Steve Vermeulen, ZR3SJD; John Crampton ZS5JG; Jan Hattingh, ZS6BMN/AG5RF; Douglas Stuart, ZR1DS; Manie Engelbrecht, ZS6HSE; Reverend Jan Kramer, ZS6JRK; Nic van Duffelen, ZR6AEZ; Alan Harrington, ZS1DOG; Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ; Casper Badenhorst, ZS6RA; Bob Bruninga, WB4APR; Frans Markram, ZS3VOS; Roy McKay ZS6RED; Roy Newman, ZS2RN; Louis Spadavecchia, ZS6CEV; Stef Terblanche, ZS4AX/6; Herman Rothenberg, ZS6JH; Johan van Tonder, ZS6TY	
6.	APPROVAL OF THE 2021 AGM MINUTES	
6.1	The Minutes of the 2021 AGM are accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Guy Eales, ZS6GUY and seconded by Noel Hammond, ZR6DX.	
7.	PRESIDENTS REPORT	
7.1	Nico, ZS6QL, presented the Presidents Report and the SARL Annual Report.	
7.2	<p>Every year around Easter, the SARL Annual General Meeting takes place and is it a time to reflect on the accomplishments and successes of the past twelve months, allowing us to review our goals and objectives for the next year.</p> <p>The previous two years was extremely challenging and difficult with not a single member that was left untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic which triggered dramatic change in the way we live our everyday lives. The impact on members and their families was horrendous. The loss of health, work and precious lives became subjects we experienced, witnessed and were exposed to as headlines in the local and international media daily.</p> <p>Everyone has a story to tell about the impact of the pandemic on society and then there are many stories of how amateur radio became a source of solace and strength during the lockdown period.</p>	
7.3	<p>As we are heading out of this pandemic, we have the opportunity to reshape and remould the way we think of a brighter future in our personal lives and for the Amateur Radio Service.</p> <p>In continuation of this statement, I would like to quote from the opening speech of Tim Ellam, VE6SH, President of the IARU during last year’s Region 1 General Conference and Workshop in October 2021. Tim remarked that “<i>Amateur Radio has changed and</i></p>	



“Shaping the Future of Amateur Radio”



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	<p><i>will continue to change. The IARU and its member-societies must be ready to adapt and respond to that change.”</i></p> <p>The question in my mind is clear. Are we aware of the many challenges that we must face as a society of radio amateurs in South Africa and are we ready to change and adapt to ensure that our beloved hobby includes an awareness and service to the community to survive well into the future?</p>	
7.4	<p>A difficult question indeed but on a positive note, I am pleased to report that the SARL is represented and is actively involved in the IARU Region 1 <i>Shaping the Future programme</i> launched during the General Conference and Workshop last year. This programme focusses on what needs to be accomplished to ensure that the Amateur Radio Service is sustainable and adequately equipped to face the current and future challenges to have the positive impact that we would like to see in the next 10 years.</p> <p>There are eight Strategic Objectives identified and for each a project team was establish. Although the SARL is one of the smaller IARU member-societies in numbers, I am pleased to report that we are participating as team members in four of the eight Strategic Objective Project teams. The outcome of the work from these project teams will be evaluated by Council to assist us in setting the direction for growing, supporting and developing amateur radio in South Africa. (See the heading “The IARU Region 1 “Shaping the Future” Workshop” below.)</p>	
7.5	<p>It is important that our members and affiliated Clubs take note of the challenges that we face, such as the attitude in the public domain where amateur radio does not matter as very little is known of our hobby. We need to improve on our public relations to strengthen our position as the current image in society is very often the amateur radio of the past. What is there that we offer to attract today’s generation if we do not embrace modern technology?</p> <p>To encourage and support this challenge, Council have tabled a motion titled “<i>The Giving Back to Clubs Scheme.</i>” The League has long recognized that it is in the best interests of amateur radio to encourage and support Amateur Radio Clubs. Clubs historically have recruited and trained new radio amateurs and have established the community setting for radio amateurs to write exams and continue their self-learning and discovering journey of the many aspects of amateur radio within the hobby. I trust that this motion will be welcomed and supportively voted upon.</p>	
7.6	<p>Despite the unexpected challenges and uncertainty that entered our world in 2020, I am pleased to report that the SARL maintained stability both from a membership and a financial perspective with sufficient reserves to support and ensure the continuous sustainability of the League.</p>	



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	<p>Prior to the pandemic, we were accustomed to in-person AGMs and as we are heading out of this pandemic, Council is relatively confident that next year our AGM and Awards Dinner event will be an in-person occasion again. A motion in this regard was approved by Council and will be part of the motions to be voted upon.</p>	
7.7	<p>The SARL is a member’s society which relies on a group of volunteers to perform various tasks and to fill a number of portfolios. To recruit capable volunteers with the time, dedication and commitment to perform routine and time-consuming work within the SARL, is challenging. It is concerning to note that certain skills and the willingness of members to step forward to fill positions within the SARL is declining. Being optimistic, as always, I am grateful for the excellent work being done by fellow Councillors, portfolio managers and appointees with families and full-time occupations, committing their personal time and expertise at no cost in running the SARL successfully.</p> <p>When we focus on this group of volunteers, you will note that our news team ensures that a national news bulletin is compiled and delivered on a weekly basis for transmission on Sundays from various Clubs and by individuals. This includes the newsreaders and relay stations as well. The monthly SARL publication of Radio ZS is published through the dedicated work of the Editor of Radio ZS including the HF Happenings publication. A dedicated group of individuals attend to the Forum and Swop Shop, the Website and the Database Management work required. Then there are the portfolios pertaining to Awards Management, Repeater Coordination working groups, V/UHF working group, 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, the work done by our Legal Advisor, Treasurer and Councillors including the excellent work of the SARL HAMNET organisation serving our communities and providing a public service.</p> <p>Your hard work and dedication applying your talents and skills to fuel our mutual efforts in running the League is remarkable and sincerely appreciated.</p>	
7.8	<p>The SARL administrates the annual RAE examination during May and October every year on behalf of ICASA in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between ICASA and the SARL. The entire process allowing newcomers to the hobby to write the exam begins at Club level where dedicated lecturers provide the necessary training by means of online and in-person classes. The lectures include both theoretical and practical classes to candidates and the work being done is most remarkable. On a national level a huge coordination</p>	



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	<p>and administrative effort is required to accommodate the two examination sessions annually. This is accomplished with the dedication and commitment of the RAE Manager Noel, ZR6DX, Gerhard, ZS6CRS assistant RAE Manager and Kelley Dorey, our Office Administrator and all our Chief Invigilators countrywide.</p> <p>I am pleased and most thankful for the excellent work being done by these individuals, including everyone who continues to innovate and seek better ways to accomplish successful lectures, training and RAEs annually.</p> <p>There is, however, a concern that fewer Clubs are presenting lectures and noticeable is that there are less RAE enrolments annually. Taken from statistics captured since 2009, the SARL only retain around 44% of all RAE candidates which successfully pass the RAE to the hobby as members. It is also noticeable that candidates who successfully pass the RAE lose interest and do not renew their licences. The root cause is mainly that there is very little support after becoming licenced.</p> <p>May I encourage all Clubs to invest the necessary resources to ensure that we promote amateur radio not only through the provision of lectures and examination centres but also through continual support to newcomers to the hobby.</p>	
7.9	<p>The SARL commemorated 95 years since its founding in 1925 in 2020 and sadly we had very little opportunity to celebrate this anniversary. Within the next few years, we will celebrate the League’s Centenary in 2025. In preparation the SARL 100 project was launched in 2021 to celebrate this milestone and a big effort to capture the rich history of the league is being driven by Anette Jacobs, ZR6D, in cooperation with Mark Walker, ZS6MDX. In the planning is a 100-year Commemorative Handbook including various other activities and events. In addition to Anette and Mark, there is a group of individuals supporting and processing documentation, providing indexing as well as searching for historical artefacts. The research and processing of all historical information into a book is an enormous task and should you be in possession of any information to contribute to the wealth of historical SARL and amateur radio information, please do not hesitate to contact Anette and Mark via the SARL office. To everyone working in the background and supporting this most important project, a warm thank you. You are ensuring that the history of the League will be preserved for future generations.</p>	
7.10	<p>Amateur radio is a diverse hobby and service to the community with a substantial portion of spectrum strategically allocated worldwide to the amateur radio service. This in turn allows for and encourages a variety of technical investigations, experimentation and the various types of operating modes in use today.</p>	



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	<p>During the past year, the SARL in collaboration with AMSAT SA continued the important work with online workshops to encourage self-learning, experimentation and innovation of new commercial and amateur radio technologies. The SARL online symposium held on Saturday 9 April 2022, catered for a diverse collection of topics and included international and local industry presenters. Of note were Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR, President IARU Region 1 and Mr Dominic White, CEO of Orange Cyberdefense. All presenters contributed to a successful event presenting excellent topics.</p>	
7.11	<p>Focussing on SARL awards, Council have identified a need for an addition to the SARL Awards during the recent Strategy meeting held at the National Amateur Radio Centre in February. A gap between the criteria for the Jack Twine Merit Award and the Willie Wilson Gold Badge presented an opportunity to expand on our awards thus resulting in the drafting of a motion as a Proposed Amendment of the Constitution and Rules of the SARL to include this award.</p> <p>The award is named in memory of two stalwarts of the South African Radio League namely Koos and Annie van der Merwe, ZS1AW and ZS1AZ respectively, who managed various aspects of the SARL’s day-to-day operations in Cape Town from 1958 to 1989. Koos and Annie passed away in the early 1990s and were inducted to the South African Radio League Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2017 with an excellent documented overview available of their exceptional and meritorious service to the League. I trust that this motion will be favourably voted upon.</p>	
7.12	<p>Looking towards our younger generation and youth activities it is encouraging to note that there is some renewed interest following the devastating impact of the pandemic on our youth events, locally as well as internationally. The well-known annual IARU Region 1 YOTA event will once again take place in August this year. The SARL was the host for the 2018 Summer Camp held in South Africa and we are planning to participate with a SARL team to the 10th edition of YOTA 2022 to be held in Croatia. Annually this event 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. More information will be announced in due course.</p> <p>I have in the past challenged our Clubs and will do so in future to start and support activities to regain the interest of our youth once more. Please allow these youngsters and newbies to operate the Club station under supervision using the Club call sign to learn all about amateur radio and gain operating experience. It is important to include the younger generation to lay a foundation for</p>	



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	them to be part of our fascinating hobby now and well into the future.	
7.13	<p>From a Regulatory perspective, ICASA introduced their online customer portal for industry during 2020. Amateur radio licencing is part of this portal and although ICASA and the SARL encouraged licence holders to register on this system, very few did so initially. The process to register on the Customer Portal was sent out via SARL Communications on several occasions and it was only recently that radio amateurs with the legacy license started to register. A vast number of e-mails and phone calls were received with many non-members requesting assistance from the League. It is in these instances that individuals recognise the importance and additional services provided by the SARL to its members free of charge.</p>	
7.14	<p>A huge effort by Kelley, our office administrator, Noel, ZR6DX, the RAE Manager, the Secretary, Dennis, ZS4BS and various Councillors ensured that all requests for assistance were attended too. I am sincerely grateful and thank you all for being instrumental in the success of this undertaking to assist with all the requests received for assistance.</p>	
7.15	<p>The SARL is currently managing a substantial amount of Amateur Radio Licences due to the current limitations on the ICASA system. ICASA is fully aware of it and a way forward is to be found to address this deficiency of the licencing system.</p> <p>The ICASA Type Approval topic is moving forward, the current status is that homebuilt equipment is exempted but commercial equipment requires type approval. The matter relating to only test facilities accredited by the SABS may issue certificates, was resolved. The new ruling is that any internationally accredited laboratory may issue compliance certificates for the purpose of type approval. The revised Type Approval Regulations have not been gazetted and are expected soon.</p>	
7.16	<p>May I use this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for another successful year. Your exemplary commitment over the past year has been pivotal to Council’s success and in managing the League.</p> <p>The future is knocking and with it comes the obligation to work not only harder, but smarter to advance the art, science and enjoyment of Amateur Radio, as well as keeping up the service being provided to our members.</p> <p>In closing, the level of support and the assistance from our members to the SARL Council has been outstanding. Without your dedicated support, the League will not be able to function. I sincerely thank you!</p>	
8.	FINANCES	



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8.1	The Financial Report from the Honorary Treasurer, Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX.	
8.2	<p>Also find attached a simplified summary of the Income and Expenditure Statement, containing all the pertinent information extracted from the AFS. The purpose of the summary is to assist those who do not have an accounting background or who are not familiar with International Accounting Standards and Practice.</p> <p>Total income received amount to R787 924 against a budget of R676 500; R62 106 or 8,6% higher than the previous financial year.</p> <p>Total expenditure was R576 929, which is an amount of R124 771 below budget, but R110 877 up on the previous year. Council had no choice but to write off pre-paid AGM costs paid to service providers and subsequently not recoverable when Covid-19 resulted in the cancellation of the AGM and service providers going ‘out of business,’ i.e., insolvent.</p> <p>Because the League is in a healthy financial situation, due to the prudent management of the League's finances by Council the previous years, Council resolved to carry over R55 000 for the hosting of a replacement AGM and Symposium. The Covid-19 waves have left a lot of uncertainty as to the holding of face-to-face events in the near future, but should these events be possible, the SARL will be prepared. The auditor waived his fee of R13 444 for 2021 but though not spent, provision for the audit fee for 2022 should remain in the budget.</p> <p>In line with its forward-looking policy, Council resolved to add an additional R100 000 to the Headquarters (NARC) savings fund. This fund is held in a Long-Term High Interest savings facility. Despite Council being proactive, the SARL has still not been able to reach any arrangement with SENTECH for accommodation of the NARC when the current 30-year lease comes to an end. It is therefore both wise and prudent to make provision for SARL accommodation.</p> <p>Because SARL HAMNET is an integral division of the SARL, the SARL has legal responsibility for all monies including those set aside as HAMNET funds. On the current account, HAMNET operations produced a surplus of regional funds of R21 924 compared with an operating deficit of R24 104 in the previous period.</p>	
8.3	Income and Expenditure. The SARL budgeted for an operating deficit of R25 500 for the year, but I am pleased to report that due to good financial management, the League produced a surplus of the year of R91 363.	
8.4	<p>Balance Sheet. Turning to the Balance Sheet, I am pleased to report that the League has improved its nett worth to R608 920.</p> <p>Cash held in investments and in the current account amounted to R2 386 124; R189 759 higher than the previous year.</p>	



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8.5	Conclusion. As Treasurer, I wish to express my gratitude to the members and Council in particular for the continued efficient management of the SARL. The present Council has certainly ensured that the League remains solvent.	
8.5	The Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 30 June 2020	
8.5.1	The electronic voting for the 2021 Annual Financial Statements took place from Monday 21 February to Thursday 3 March 2022. There are 1 648 members entitled to vote of which 187 cast their vote (11,35%). Votes in favour - 181. Votes against - 1. Abstain - 5. The 2021 AFS are thus accepted.	
8.6	Receive Interim Financial Statement for the 8 months ending 28 February 2021	
8.6.1	The Interim Financial Statement was approved by electronic voting. Votes in favour: 260, votes against: 12 and Abstentions: 16.	
8.7	Budget for the Year ending 30 June 2022	
8.7.1	The budget is accepted by electronic voting. Votes in favour: 323, votes against: 5 and Abstentions: 11.	
8.8	Receive and ratify the proposed subscriptions for year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	
8.8.1	The proposed subscription was accepted by the electronic voting. Votes in favour: 325, votes against: 4 and Abstentions: 10	
8.9	Appointment of Auditors	
8.9.1	Council proposed that C J L Du Plessis Inc (Practice No 902388) be reappointed as the Auditors for 2021/2022. The proposal was approved by electronic voting. Votes in favour: 328, votes against: 3 and Abstentions: 8.	
9.	MOTIONS	
9.1	Motion 2021-05: The Giving Back to Clubs Scheme. The motion was approved by electronic voting. Votes in favour: 319, votes against: 9 and Abstentions: 11.	
9.2	Motion 2021-06. Proposed Amendment of the Constitution and Rules of the SARL. The motion was approved by electronic voting. Votes in favour: 315, votes against: 3 and Abstentions: 21.	
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 2023 SARL AGM – Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX; Guy Eales, ZS6GUY; Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT, Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL and Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN.</p> <p>The following Councillors are at the end of their two-year term of office which ends at the 2022 SARL AGM - Dave Higgs, ZS2DH, Louw Erasmus, ZS6LME, Chris Turner, ZS6GM, Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT and Dennis Green, ZS4BS.</p> <p>By 31 January 2021, nominations, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, were received for Dave Higgs, ZS2DH, Louw</p>	



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	<p>Erasmus, ZS6LME, Chris Turner, ZS6GM, Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT, Dennis Green, ZS4BS and Kobie van Zyl, ZS6KVZ.</p> <p>At the Council Strategic Meeting on Friday 18 February 2022, Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX told the meeting that he wishes to step down as a Councillor as from 23 April 2022 and that he would still be willing to execute the financial tasks for Council. In terms of Rule 19.3, Council has appointed Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX as Honorary Treasurer as of 24 April 2022.</p>	
10.2	<p>There are six vacancies and six nominations and in terms of Rule 16.5, such nominees and retiring members shall be declared by the chairman of the relevant AGM to be duly elected. ZS6QL declared hat the following members are duly elected to Council - Dave Higgs, ZS2DH, Louw Erasmus, ZS6LME, Chris Turner, ZS6GM, Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT, Dennis Green, ZS4BS and Kobie van Zyl, ZS6KVZ.</p>	
11.	OTHER MATTERS	
11.1	<p>The IARU Region 1 “Shaping the Future” Workshop https://www.iaru-r1.org/stf/workshop-result/ Core Purpose - Provide an accessible way that people can enjoy and personally grow from experimentation with, and utilisation of, the radio spectrum, bringing together like-minded people in a community of common interest and offering social and economic benefit to others in our areas of expertise.</p>	
	<p>Overarching goal Amateur Radio is booming across Region 1. It has evolved to become one of the leading communities of expertise for science and technology enthusiasts. It is rightly respected and admired, both for the self-development opportunities that it offers and for the value it delivers to society as a whole.</p>	
	<p>Strategic Objectives</p> <p>1 — Amateur radio is continually redefined and refocused to be relevant and appealing to a wide range of science and technology interest groups.</p> <p>2 — Amateur radio is seen as a welcoming and accessible activity for people of all ages, backgrounds, genders, and ethnicities, providing fun, social community and personal development.</p> <p>3 — Amateur radio is seen to be providing social, economic, educational, and other benefits to society.</p> <p>4 — Experimentation, innovation, and creativity are central to amateur radio, which is publicly recognised as the leading non-commercial community on wireless communication.</p> <p>5 — Amateur radio provides a supportive environment for self-development and excellence within communications and technology, supporting the development of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) skills.</p>	



“Shaping the Future of Amateur Radio”



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	<p>6 – Governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), professional bodies and academia acknowledge the relevance and technical capability of the amateur service and its benefit to society.</p> <p>7 – Amateur radio has an extensive media presence from its accessibility to new entrants to its high value technical and scientific contribution.</p> <p>8 – IARU has an active programme and supporting tools to strengthen member societies, their mutual cooperation and their development and growth.</p>	
12.	THE 2023 SARL AGM	
12.1	The Bloemfontein Radio Group will be arranging and hosting the 2023 SARL AGM.	
13.	CONCLUSION	
13.1	The meeting closed at 14:00	

Proposed: Kevern Burger, ZR2BK

Seconded: Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN Date: 22 April 2023