

СВІЙ ДО СВОГО



Ukrainian International Directory

Ukrainian Community Issues Newsletter



СВІЙ ДО СВОГО Ukrainian Community Issues – No. 32, 8 February 2018

Association of Ukrainians in Victoria,
AGM Continuance Sunday 18 February 2018
Branch Members Rights to Participate, Nominate and Vote

Recently, members of the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria personally received, by post, the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of November 2017 notification for the AGM continuation to be held on:

- Sunday 18 February 2018 1.30pm (registration prior)
- Ukrainian Hall, 3 – 11 Russell Street, Essendon

The notice states:

1. Proxies will not be accepted on the day. If you wish to cast your vote you must be present.
2. Only paid up financial members are able to vote at the AGM.
3. Payments for outstanding memberships will not be accepted on the day.

Have Branch Members been deceived as to their participation and voting right?
I raised this issue 12 months ago.

Precedence

The notion that Branches only have the right to only have two members participate and vote at any General Meeting is grossly flawed and by default over the years became, without question, a precedent.

Furthermore, then notion that only “Central” members have the right to nominate for any vacant position on the Executive Committee, Audit Committee or President is also flawed.

In an email dated 30 Oct 2017, to the Executive Committee, from a long standing well respected member of the Association, who said:

*“The AUV is one organization – (Central - branches) -Not Central and or branches.....”
“.....But I would suggest this is not in line with what the writers of the constitution had in mind.”
“In terms of being an executive member, every member of AUV (Central or Branch) has the right to nominate.”*

It appears that AUV Branch members have been discriminated against for all these years.

What this Notices fails to advise members, including Branch members:

All members of the Association, including members of “Central” and Branch Members have the right and are entitled and permitted to nominate for positions, participate and vote of the AGM.

Constitution clearly states:

Clause 2 (B)

“..... Branch Members shall have the same rights, privileges and obligations as Ordinary Members.”

Clause 4

“All members, except for Temporary Members, shall have the right to exercise active and passive rights of election. Members may take a personal part in General Meetings.....”

Clause 32

“Members of Branches may participate personally in Annual and Special General Meetings.....”

Notices of AGM

Given that the AUV provided written and posted notices to “Central” ordinary members over the many years, they have set a precedent and as such the same notice should have been sent to all AUV members including Branch members.

As the main reason for adjourning the AGM was to consider an amendment to the Constitution, any changes to the Constitution affects all AUV members (including Branch members), as such they should have been given a fair and equal opportunity to attend, participate and vote on this and any other issue.

Postponement of the AGM Continuance

Given that all Branch members were deliberately excluded from the notification, I call on the Executive Committee to cancel the AGM Continuance until such time that all members have been provided the appropriate written notification together with official advice of their legal rights:

1. to have the same rights, privileges and obligations as Ordinary Members
2. to exercise their active and passive rights of election, including nominations to the vacant positions.
3. participate personally in Annual and Special General Meetings

Cancellation of current nomination to vacant positions

Given that all Branch members were not given fair and equal rights for the nomination of position, the nomination process is flawed, as such the process of nomination should be cancelled and new nominations called.

Rectification

The President, the Executive Committee and the Audit Committee were given more than ample notice of this gross injustice perpetrated on Branch members and did nothing; simply saying they will look into this matter during the next Administration.

The AUV must act immediately to officially advise Branch Members of their rights and ensure that have an equal right to vote on this Constitutional Motion and all other issues.

Have your say

I strongly encourage all Branch members attend, participate and vote at this AGM Continuance.

It is your Association and not just “Central’s” Association.

Michael Karaszekwycz,
Director,
Association of Ukrainians in Victoria