

Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)**MINUTES of SPECIAL STATE COUNCIL MEETING
held at 7 Underwood Road, Homebush
on 8th July, 2005**

The meeting was called to discuss the new Draft RDAA Constitution.

Meeting opened at 11.45am.

Chairperson: Margaret Norman.

Present:**Board of Directors:**

Margaret Norman	President/EO
Fiona Little	Vice President
Jan Pike	Vice President
Gerard Murphy	Vice President
Jan Sharp	Treasurer
Bev Amery	Director

Regional Representatives and their Regions

Jess Horder	Riverina (apology sent for late attival)
Jean Clark	Northern Tablelands
Jackie Laing	Mid North Coast
Kerry Johnston	North Coast
Mima Ware	Southern Highlands
Olwen Smith	South West Slopes
Malcolm Storey	Hunter
Eric Lengling	South Coast (Alternate Regional Rep.)

Wendy Torr – Minute taker/Coach Co ordinator

1. Welcome:

Margaret welcomed all present and asked for 1 minute silence in respect for the people who had lost their lives or injured in the terrorist attack on London yesterday.

Apologies: Joe Orland, Alternate Regional Rep. for Metropolitan.
Western Region was not represented

2. Business on the new Draft RDAA Constitution.

Margaret informed the meeting that discussions had taken place earlier in the day at a brief RDA NSW Board meeting.

The Regional Representatives were then asked individually for their comments on the new draft RDAA Constitution. The following concerns were expressed:

- Fees
- RDAA Board to consist of minimum of 5 max of 7 people
- National Executive not defined
- Distrust of RDAA
- Reference to the Replaceable Rules are wishy washy
- Directors could be non RDA people which is a concern.

Margaret read opinions from David Johnston RDANSW's legal advisor, Jim Baillie Constitutional Lawyer and Joe Orland, of Ryde RDA Centre, and advised of discussions on obtaining Coaching Syllabus from Pony Club of NSW and several clauses in the draft Constitution, including 4.3b, 9.1 and 12.8. The Board's recommendation was put to the State Council:

In order to get the National Constitution that is fair and equitable, and true to RDAA's original Charter i.e. A body to liaise between the States, incorporating the principal and remaining true to the original philosophy of RDA. The Board reluctantly feels obliged to recommend that RDANSW withdraw from RDAA until such time as changes are incorporated into the National Constitution, that benefit RDA as a whole.

At this stage, Jess Horder joined the meeting (12.12.pm) Margaret briefed over previous discussions and then asked Jess for her comments on the new draft RDAA Constitution. Her concerns were the same as had been expressed previously by other Regional Reps.

Although not stated in the RDAA Constitution, Proportional voting was discussed. Mima, Olwen and Jess liked the idea of this style of voting. Jess did say for it to work we would have to induce the small states to agree. Malcolm had issues with this as he could see that small states may be disadvantaged.

Further discussion took place on clauses in the RDAA Constitution with input from all Councillors.

Eric Lengling asked the meeting if this was to be a Yes or No vote to day to accept the Constitution. It was agreed that a decision would be made today.

It was moved by Eric Lengling "That RDA NSW accept the current draft Constitution and vote Yes at the RDAA Council Meeting." Seconded by Fiona Little – Discussion.
All Against - MOTION LOST.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.07pm and reconvened at 1.50pm

Discussion then took place on the steps necessary to operate as an independent body regarding insurance, policies, coaching.

On the matter of coaching, Jan Sharp spoke about her conversation with Chief Coach of Pony Club NSW.

It was moved by Eric Lengling that " Based on the result of the previous motion it is moved that RDA NSW investigate the steps necessary to operate as an independent body." - Seconded by Kerry Johnston – **CARRIED Unanimously.**

Regional Representatives to inform their Centres why the Council rejected the RDAA Draft Constitution, 4.3b being the major concern and also that we do not know what the future Rules will be. In the Metropolitan region, Jan Pike will contact Ryde, Nepean and Blue Mountains and Gerard to contact Tall Timbers in the Metropolitan Region to inform them of the State Council decision. As western region has no Regional Rep., at present, Jean Clark offered to contact Dubbo, Mudgee and Orange. Eric Lengling suggested that contact be made with Bethany Jones from Bathurst for a personal approach.

It was recommended that Margaret draft a short notice to this effect for the Councillors to use when informing their Centres. At this point Eric offered to make an initial draft notice. After a short break, Eric returned to the meeting and tabled the initial Notice:

"At a State Council meeting of RDA NSW held on Friday 8th July 2005 a motion was put forward to accept the current draft constitution of RDAA.

This motion was lost.

This leaves RDA NSW no alternative but to put actions in motion to operate as an independent body from January 1st 2006.

Rationale:

Safeguard our finances

Ensure the right of centres to continue to operate as they are now

Ensure RDA NSW centres to a say commensurate with our National position."

Insurance was then discussed.

It was moved by Jan Sharp "that for the year 2006 RDA NSW will take their own insurance. Seconded by Jan Pike. **CARRIED unanimously.**

It was moved Bev Amery, " That RDA NSW notify RDAA that at a State Council meeting of RDA NSW a motion was put forward to accept the current draft RDAA constitution. This motion was lost. This leaves RDA NSW no alternative but to put actions in place to operate as an independent body as from 1st January 2006. Seconded Gerard Murphy. **CARRIED unanimously.**

Margaret thanked all Councillors for their attendance in particular, their input and teamwork displayed at such an important Meeting.

Meeting closed at 4.15pm

Chairperson

Date