**Minutes of the Equity AGM**

**March 20th 2016**

**Liberty Hall**

**Dublin**

Chair: Padraig Murray, Equity President.

There were apologies from Gerry O Brien (Vice President), Bob Kelly, Clelia Murphy and Annette Kelly.

There was a minute’s silence for deceased members Frank Kelly, Noelle Middleton, Tich Meagher, John Murphy and Bob Carrigford.

The meeting opened with the Living History Film produced by Irish Equity featuring the story for the development of Irish Equity. The President expressed words of thanks to Laurence Foster, Sharon Coade, Dermot Doolin and Gansee Films for their assistance and co-operation in making this short but important film.

**Minutes of the Previous AGM**

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and adopted on a proposal from Joe McKinney and seconded by Eimear Morrissey.

**Matter arising**

On matters arising there was a query on who the union solicitors were and the meeting was informed that SIPTU retained the firm of Bowler Geraghty. There was a short discussion on the motions from the previous year and whether the information through the year from the Executive had been sufficient to keep the membership informed.

**Policy**

The Arts Policy of the Arts & Culture Sector was adopted by the meeting with 2 abstentions.

The Union policy on dealing with Bullying and Harassment in the Arts was then outlined for the meeting.

The Union policy on dealing with Bullying and Harassment in the Arts was then outlined for the meeting.

**TV Drama Contract Proposals**

Karan O Loughlin introduced the terms of the Indigenous TV Drama Contract and there was a general discussion on this. It was confirmed that the contract provided only for minimum terms for performers for TV Drama and there was a further discussion on the following;

1. Equitable Remuneration and what this means
2. Rights of the Producer versus rights of the performer
3. Confirmation that incoming productions from the UK and elsewhere remain unaffected
4. The need for actors to develop a clear understanding of their own contract

The document was then put to the meeting and was adopted with 6 votes against and 3 abstentions.

**Motions.**

Padraig Murray presented motion number 1 on behalf of the Executive.

***Having regard for the policy motions passed at the 2015 AGM and carried unanimously at the SIPTU Biennial Delegate Conference also in 2016 the Executive would like to further build on these policy initiatives. With this in mind the Executive Committee call on the AGM 2016 to agree that one person from the Executive be put forward for election to the SIPTU National Executive at the Services Divisional Conference 2016.***

This motion was seconded by Denis Murphy and unanimously carried by the meeting.

**Election of Officers**

Padraig Murray was returned unopposed as President

Gerry O Brien was returned unopposed as the Vice President

**Election of Executive**

The Executive we returned unopposed as follows:

1. Ann Russell
2. Dick O Leary
3. Sharon Coade
4. Bryan Murray
5. Melissa Nolan
6. Freda King
7. Annette Kelly
8. Elaine Reddy

\****It was agreed by the meeting that the 2 remaining vacancies could be filled by the Executive via cooption if desired.***

Eimear Morrissey was returned unopposed as the Trustee.

Ann Kent and Kathleen Barrington were returned unopposed for the Appeals Committee.

There was a general discussion on the adherence to minimum rates by productions in receipt of public money and on the pressure on actors to work for free. It was agreed that the union could look at policy advice for profit share productions.

It was also agreed that the union would continue to inform and encourage members to join the Irish Collecting Society RAAP.

There was a general discussion on advertising and Voice Over fees and the difficulty the union was encountering on negotiating and publishing minimum rates because of the ban by the Competition Authority.

That concluded the business of the meeting.