

## DRAFT MINUTES

Society for Socialist Studies / Société d'études socialistes

### General Assembly Membership Meeting (AGM)

May 29, 2023

1:30-3:00 pm Eastern

In-person at Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2023

Founder's College, Room 203, York University, Toronto, ON

Chair: Megan Aiken

Secretary: Jamie Lawson

Electoral Oversight: Cheryl Hewitt

1. Megan called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.  
Jamie Lawson presented our acknowledgement to the Indigenous Nations on whose traditional lands we were meeting.
2. Quorum was confirmed – those in attendance constituted quorum
3. Approval of the agenda

**Moved by Paul Kellogg and seconded by Bill Carroll** to adopt the agenda as circulated. **Carried.**

4. Approval of the minutes from the 2023t General Assembly Meeting Membership Meeting of June

**Moved by Megan Aiken and seconded by Cheryl Hewitt** that we adopt the minutes of the 2023 General Assembly Membership Meeting of May 29, 2023. **Carried**

5. Presentation the financial statements of the Society for the previous financial year by Cheryl Hewitt, Treasurer

Highlights:

We received \$1000 un donations (most in memory of Frank Cunningham)

MMS, the FHSS membership database, continues to be problematic, and we are looking at alternatives

Our membership declined somewhat

We increased support to the Journal

Despite the appearance of deficit, we were very close to break-even

**Moved by Cheryl Hewitt and seconded by Paul Kellogg** that we adopt the financial statements as circulated. **Carried.**

6. Approval of budget for 2023/2024 (attached)

Cheryl Hewitt, Treasurer, presented the budget on behalf of the SSS Executive.

Paul Kellogg noted that we should be able to generate more revenue at next year's Congress.

**Moved by Phil Henderson and seconded by Will Kujala** that the SSS budget for the year 2023/2024 be adopted as circulated and posted at <https://socialiststudies.ca/2023-toronto/>  
**Carried.**

7. Highlights of Executive Reports on activities and decisions since the previous annual General Meeting

Several written reports were available on website by mid-May 2023

- a. Board report – Jamie Lawson – included actions re affiliation issues raised at 2022 GAMM)
- b. Treasurer’s report – Cheryl Hewitt
- c. Membership Committee report – Megan Aiken
  - i. 75% of notices not getting through under MMS
  - ii. Membership was as low as 78 members prior to Congress
- d. Journal Editor’s report – Sandra Rein - the Journal needs more volunteers in all areas
- e. Congress Committee report – Megan Aiken
  - i. Megan ought feedback on what worked and what didn’t
  - ii. 97 attendees
- f. Book Prize Committee report - Will Kujala
  - i. Will presented the prize to Paul Kellogg with a commendation on behalf of the committee.
  - ii. Paul Kellogg offered some words of thanks.
- g. Governance Committee report – Jamie Lawson
  - i. Overview of the year’s events and work on updating the bylaws
  
- h. General discussion of potential and essential revisions to Constitution and Bylaws

8. Motions pursuant to Executive Reports

**Motion re: Journal Editor**

**Moved and seconded by the SSS Executive** that the SSS extend Sandra Rein’s appointment as Editor of the Journal of the Society for Socialist Studies until June 1, 2024. **Carried by consensus.**

**Motion re: General Meeting to consider amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws**

**Moved and seconded by the SSS Executive** that the SSS Executive call a special membership meeting between September 15 and December 15, 2023, to consider revisions to the SSS bylaws, including provisions relating to affiliate memberships; and that all members be invited to offer feedback by September 15, 2023 to the Governance Committee established by the SSS Executive;

and that the Governance Committee recommend revisions to the bylaws for the Executive to present to the membership before December 15, 2023. **Carried by consensus.**

9. Election of directors (*see Notice of GAMM Call for Nominations 2023/2024 at <https://socialiststudies.ca/2023-toronto/>*)

Megan Aitken resigned as Member at Large to seek the Membership Secretary.

Nominated prior to the AGM:

Mara Fridell – President  
Phil Henderson – Member at Large  
JP Sapinski – Member at Large

Nominated from the floor:

Megan Aiken – Membership Secretary  
Burak Reisyman – Activist-Scholar  
Faisal Alakoozi - Student  
Alex Corey—Activist Scholar

As there were no further nominations from the floor, all six were elected by acclamation. There are 3 rather than 2 Member at Large positions on the Executive, so we had two vacancies, not just one as posted.)

10. Call for volunteers for the 2024 Congress Committee - Phil Henderson and Bill Carroll agreed to put the Conference Committee together.
11. Will Kujala volunteered to lead the Book Prize committee for the coming year.
12. Adjournment