

TPI Association WA
General Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 11th May 2021

1. **Meeting Opened:** 1030hrs

2. **Departed Comrades:** Rod Vladich

ODE

3. **Attendance:** As per register

4. **Apologies:** John Kelly, Ray Pearce, Damien Casey, Brian Morton, Peter Knight, David Menzies, Michael Nettleton, Len Farmer, Tony Flanagan, Bill Sturgess, Trina Blum, Trefor Thomas, John Carreras, Carlos Fragomeni & Frank Billing

5. **Welcome to New Members:** William Fox, John Vincent, Martin Andersen & Michael Sweeney.

6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting held at the General Meeting dated the 9th March 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: George Van Beek

Seconded: Pat Heatly

CARRIED

7. **Business Arising from Minutes:**

- **Motion put forward – Rick Ryan** – I forwarded a motion by email that I wanted to put on as a motion on notice, I don't see this on the correspondence list.

Colin Benporath – Rick, you sent that email to my home email and not into the office. We can only put on the correspondence list the mail that is sent to tpiwa@tpiwa.org.au.

8. **Presidents Report:**

Nil

9. **Correspondence:**

IN:

6th April North American Veterans' Unit Letter Re: USA Memorial Day Postponement

OUT:

7th April Members Email Re: Notice of AGM

8th April Members Email Re: Australian Army Museum Flyer

14th April Rick Ryan Email Re: Unauthorised Handouts

27th April Members Email Re: Office Closure

3rd May Members Email Re: Office Open

3rd May Members Email Re: May General Meeting

3rd May Members Email Re: Will Information Sessions Flyer

10th May Pat McCabe Email Re: Proposed Gold Card for Partners of TPI/SRs

11th May Darren Chester Letter Re: Proposed Gold Card for Partners of TPI/SRs

Motion: That the Correspondence be accepted.

Moved: Doug Williams

Seconded: Kevin Fowler

CARRIED

10. **Business Arising from Correspondence:**

- **Proposed Gold Card for Partners of TPI/SRs – Les Verco** – This has been brought up before and has been flatly rejected. Also, a couple of years ago it was said that the Widows weren't going to get a Gold Card at all. We could be fighting a losing a battling considering this has been brought up before.

Colin Benporath – The original proposal was for all partners to receive a Gold Card and that was rejected. This current proposal applies to partners upon reaching the age of 65, so we feel it does stand a chance of getting up. It has already been raised with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and he was quite comfortable with it. His comment was, "It's not going to cost a great deal because they would already be covered by Medicare anyway." In reference that the Widows would not be receiving a Gold Card, this was a proposal by the Productivity Commission. They were proposing that from 2025 the Gold Card would not be passed on to the Widows but the Government has already thrown that out.

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Rick Ryan – I had mentioned this to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs on Sunday 2nd May and was very receptive to this proposal and since then I have had great feedback from Defence Force Welfare Association, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation, all saying that they are going to support this proposal. It seems that it is gathering momentum throughout the Veteran community and I believe that the DVA Minister will follow through on this proposal.

11. Financial Statement and Treasurers Report:

Motion: That the Financial Statement and Treasurers Report be accepted.

Moved: Wayne Sprlyan

Seconded: Les Verco

CARRIED

12. Federal Business:

Colin Benporath – Currently there are two Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade References Committees underway. One inquiry into the TPI payment (Special Rate of Disability Pension). The second on the Accuracy of Information provided to DFRDB Members. Both of these committees are scheduled to report on the 24th of June 2021.

The TPI Federation has put in a submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade References committee. I had not seen it prior to it being submitted by the President and Vice President. I was only made aware of the actual content of it last night when I downloaded a copy of the submission.

At our Committee meeting last week, we moved a motion to suggest that the TPI Federation make a submission to the Minister for Veterans' that the Partners of TPI's and SRDP recipients should be issued with a Gold Card upon reaching 65, we also resolved to directly propose it to the Minister, from TPIWA. In July, nominations will be called for the position of Federal President. It is not known at this stage if the incumbent President will be re-nominating, but it is expected that there will be a t least one other nomination.

Any financial member is eligible to nominate, however, the voting for the position is only by Federal Directors.

The next Federal Congress is scheduled to be held in September, COVID permitting, at a date to be decided to coincide with Federal Parliament sitting dates.

The Federal Budget gets handed down today. Tomorrow the Deputy Commissioner of DVAWA, Mr Peter King, will be giving a briefing in the DVA offices in Perth to ESO representatives. I shall be attending and will report back.

13. General Business:

- **Motions on Notice – Colin Benporath** - Due to the seconder of both motions on notice not in attendance, they will be deferred until the June General Meeting.
- **John Hughes – Les Verco** – I think that the Association should write a thank you letter to John Hughes for all the spotters fees he passes on to the Association.
Colin Benporath – We will send John a letter of thanks.

14. Motions on Notice:

- **Motion:** That a vote of no confidence in the current TPI Federation President Pat McCabe OAM be passed. That the Directors of TPI Association WA branch raise this issue at the next Federation Congress this month, and in accordance with the Federal Constitution move to have the Federation President removed from office under a Schedule 8.
Should other Directors of the TPI Federal Association fail to have the Federal President removed then the TPI Association WA branch should consider resigning from the Federation as has TPI Association Victoria branch formally done so.
Moved: Rick Ryan W4623 **Seconded: John Riley W5851** **DEFERRED**
- **Motion:** It is proposed that the TPIWA Association re-affirm its commitment to the definitions which are currently shown under the VEA as being distinct from one another and to be accepted as the Association's definition of warlike and non-warlike service.
Moved: Rick Ryan W4623 **Seconded: John Riley W5851** **DEFERRED**

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15. Raffles:

Door Prize Paul Falzun

Meat Tray Pat Heatly

Cash Raffle

1) \$50.00 Terry Priest

2) \$30.00 Mal Johnson

3) \$20.00 Graeme Colyer

16. Next Meeting: **General Meeting Tuesday 8th June 2021 @ 1030hrs**

17. Meeting Closed: 1104hrs

Dated this 8th day of June 2021

Damien Casey
Chairperson