**EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

**GENERAL MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE MONDAY 18TH APRIL, 2016.**

Meeting declared opened at 19.05 hours

**PRESENT:** Vicki Quinlan, EO Merv Austic, Doug Bell, George Woolston, John Iffla, Lynette Varris, President Michael Quinlan.

**APOLOGIES:** John Twaddle

**MINUTES:**

***MOTION:***

***Moved J. Iffla Seconded: D. Bell***

***That Minutes of February meeting as distributed be accepted.***

***Motion: Carried***

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**WEBSITE:** Doug has spoken to a local provider who is putting together a quote.

**CONFERENCE:** Program progressing, DFES have suggested we have Euan Ferguson speak at the Conference. Any questions to him would have to be “on notice”. Agree to the Mental Health session.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP BADGE:** The badges are done, supplier in process of Plating the Name tag. Should be ready Thursday.

**RULES & REGS:** DFES have approved & formatted these, a couple of changes were noted so are just waiting for DFES to approve those and then they are ready to go. Michael thanked Marion, Vicki & Merv for all their efforts in getting these done.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:**

Have been contacted by Augusta/Margaret River Shire Council about 10 Brigades they have that wish to become a VFES. They are wanting a copy of our Rules & Regs and also wish for us to do another presentation to them. Send them a copy of the Rules & Regs CLEARLY marked Draft. Michael requested this information remain confidential.

SWORD have again lost their vehicles. Have gone back to D/C Steve Fewster very disgruntled about this occurring again/still. Mentioned to A/C Fewster how frustrating it is that we are constantly going over the same ground time & time again. Currently the SWORD are going back and forth to Workshops (Forrestfield to O’Connor) to “borrow” vehicles for training. Supt M. Jose and A/C Gary Gifford have a meeting with Workshops on Friday.

A/C Fewster mentioned that things could be very different once the Ferguson Report comes out. Merv mentioned he has had calls from the Captain at SWORD expressing his unhappiness at the way SWORD are being treated. Michael to follow up with him.

Our report into the Waroona Fire is now on the Ferguson enquiry website, were asked by Mr Ferguson and A/C Fewster if okay to do this.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT:**

Letter from Mukinbudin has gone into DFES with regards to becoming a VFES, Cervantes have gone through the Shire Council Process. The feeling is that A/C Bailey is putting barriers in the way of these units converting over.

Recently visited Coral Bay & Onslow, unfortunately Onslow will be losing their Captain, main issues are still with Capital and minor works. Dave Wilson from DFES now has this position so will keep in touch with him. Meeting with A/C Graham Swift this week and will also raise with him.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Books are currently at Auditors and as soon as have them back will claim remainder of Monies from DFES. Michael & Vicki’s Accountant has done this for us for free.

***MOTION  
Moved: V. Quinlan Seconded: L. Varris***

***That financial report as distributed be accepted.***

***Motion: Carried***

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**VESPAG** – Lynette attending and provided a report, which has been sent to committee members. Michael thanked Lynette for her report. Minutes from this meeting have also been sent out.

**FUTURE FLEET** – Have heard nothing of this.

**PERMITS** – OBRM are doing a review of Bushfire permits. Dave Edwards, Bremer Bay and John Twaddle have gone on this committee.

Need for all delegates to express to DFES that copies of all meeting invites and Minutes are sent to the [office@esva.asn.au](mailto:office@esva.asn.au) , so they can be disseminated properly.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

**FUNDING LETTER:** Current funding arrangements are only in place until end June 2017.

The feeling was that if DFES want the Association to exist they should fund us appropriately and we shouldn’t have to go out and raise funds to operate. Especially as DFES no longer make contact with Volunteers, all communication is done through the Assoc’s.

Michael asked everyone to put a submission in of their ideas/ thought to this letter.

**SERVICE MEDALS:**

DFES now have these on hand. Vicki also has one for Merv to take around on his visits to the Brigades. The eligibility criteria have been finished off by Assoc and Media Dept. and is now before the CLT. Medals can be applied for now.

**FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL SERVICE:**

This year’s event will be on Sunday May1st, encourage members and volunteers to attend. Once again have a Bullsbrook member doing the “Colour Party” for us.

**PATHWAYS:**

The issue of having to do Structural firefighting prior to doing Road Crash Rescue is causing issues for FES Volunteers.

Need to work out a diplomatic way of going to DFES and changing our Pathway. DFES need to be made aware that our Brigades are established to cover what their community wants, not what someone else thinks they should be doing. Over the last 10 years VEFS’s have attended 506 RCR’s to 234 Structural fires.

Committee to give a report on what they feel should be the Basic pre-requisites before a volunteer can do RCR training.

Invite Pathways group to July meeting.

Next VPAG Meeting is June 11th

VFPAG & VESPAG Sept 3rd

Doug mentioned that from July 1st there is changes to the way an Incorporated body operates. Vicki hoping to attend one of the workshops.

**AVBFB:** It was mentioned that Dave Gossage has been elected as their new President.

There being no further business Michael thanked everyone for their attendance and declared meeting closed at 20.20 hours.