

Blue Pencil

Newsletter of the Society of Editors
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February 1990

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 7 March

The Society of Editors (NSW) will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7 March at 7.30 pm. As usual, the venue will be the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli. Wine, soft drinks and eats will be served free to members and at a cost of \$5 for non-members.

Business at the meeting will include the election of new committee members, and voting on an amendment to the Society's constitution (see below).

RSVP by telephoning Michael Wyatt on (02) 332 1414 by Tuesday 6 March. Please leave a message with his answering service if he is not in.

Important Announcement

Are you a proofreader, a newsletter editor or an indexer, perhaps even a picture editor? If so, according to the Society of Editors NSW constitution you may not be eligible to become a member. Under the existing constitution, members must be book editors. The constitution states the following:

4. Membership of this organisation is open to:
 - a) Any employee/employer who is engaged full or part-time in any aspect of book editing;
 - b) any self-employed book editor;
 - c) any former editor in either of the above categories.

Last year, in a bid to rectify this situation, we asked members to vote on the following proposed changes to the constitution. The changes were as follows:

4. Membership of this organisation is open to:
 - a) Any person who is engaged full or part-time in editing;
 - b) Any person interested in promoting the purposes of the Society of Editors (NSW).

The purposes of the Society of Editors are outlined in Clause 2, which currently states the following:

2. The purpose of this organisation
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shall be: to maintain and develop standards of editorial skills; to hold meetings, the purpose of which is to discuss subjects of particular interest to book editors; to promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas among book editors.

The committee proposes that the term "book editors" be replaced by "print editors" in this clause.

You can help us to make these changes by filling out the proxy form that is enclosed with this *Blue Pencil*. We need approximately 70 votes to make up a quorum. Voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting in March.

Over the past few years the Society of

Editors (NSW) has been trying to encourage new membership. Proofreaders and indexers are an integral part of the editing process. Indeed, some indexers and proofreaders have been book editors, and vice versa. We feel it is important that all editors involved in print media, including those who work on magazines, newsletters and film scripts, are eligible to become members of the Society. In this way they can share their professional expertise with other members, helping to provide a network of information and support for the industry.

Previous proxy votes on this subject are no longer valid, so even if you have voted before, you will need to vote again. Please do not forget to fill in your proxy vote and please make sure we receive it at least 48 hours before the 7 March meeting.

Society of Editors (NSW), PO Box 254, Broadway 2007

Committee 1989

Kim Anderson (President). Ph 888 4111 (Angus & Robertson)

Anne Sahlin (Treasurer). Ph 660 2425 (freelance)

Christine Mackinnon (Minutes). Ph 419 6867 (freelance)

Jeane Balcombe (Newsletter). Ph 212 4600 (Community Child Care) or 713 9696

Jill Wilson (Catering). Ph 439 3307 (freelance)

Michael Wyatt. Ph 699 9491 (Keyword Editorial Services)

Ken McGuire (Freelance Register). Ph 449 4255 or 44 6192

Anyone wishing to know more about the Society may write to PO Box 254, Broadway 2007 or telephone any committee member.

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New committee

If you would like to become a member of the new committee of the Society of Editors please contact any of the committee members. The committee meets once a month between March and October, usually on the first Tuesday after each Society meeting. The positions on the committee are as follows: president, treasurer, membership secretary, minutes secretary, catering organiser, newsletter editor, freelance register compiler, and librarian.

1989 Christmas party

The Society's Christmas get-together at the Safari Restaurant in Newtown was a great success, with approximately 40 people attending. We are always on the lookout for suitable Christmas dinner venues, so if, during the year, you come across one that might be suitable, please let a committee member know.

CEIDA seeks freelance editorial people

CEIDA, the Centre for Education and Information on Drugs and Alcohol, is seeking expressions of interest from freelance individuals and organisations who seek work in the areas of writing, editing, desktop publishing, design, finished art, and production management.

CEIDA publishes a large range of booklets, leaflets, posters, cards, stickers and a bi-monthly magazine, as well as producing audio and video resources on the subjects of alcohol, other drugs and AIDS. They are seeking people and organisations who

have wide experience in their chosen field, and who are able to consult with and relate to a diverse range of target audiences. Knowledge of alcohol, other drugs and AIDS issues will be an advantage.

Successful applicants will be recorded on file and may be offered work on particular publications or contracts to work with CEIDA for specified periods.

Applications should be made in writing to:

Dave Burrows
Acting Divisional Manager
CEIDA, PMB No 6
PO Rozelle NSW 2039

Membership renewals

The membership year runs from 1 February to 31 January so membership renewal is now due. This year the membership fee is \$25 instead of \$20, but will include the cost of attendance at meetings. Guests will be charged \$5 per meeting. It will still be necessary for you to let us know if you are attending a meeting because we need to know numbers for catering purposes.

Your membership renewal form is enclosed with this *Blue Pencil*.

Book editing and publishing diploma course

Information about this course was sent to the Society in December, so we were unable to let members know about it before the closing date for enrolment (6 February 1990). However, we thought you would like to know that it exists.

The Macleay College diploma course in book editing and publishing runs from 5 March to 4 July 1990 and covers editing manuscripts, specialised editing, book design, the production process, electronic editing and editorial management.

The course is run over two terms of eight weeks each. Classes are conducted over four hours on each of two nights a week. The cost of the course is \$1,900.

If you would like further information, send your request by freepost delivery to Macleay College Freepost No 2, PO Box 433, Paddington 2021. The telephone number is (02) 267 3311.

Future meetings

Please note that the April meeting of the Society of Editors will be held on Wednesday 4 April and the May meeting on Wednesday 2 May.

Copy deadline

The deadline for contributions to the March issue of *Blue Pencil* is Friday 9 March.

Survival in the 90s

Strategic Planning for the Small Publisher

The Australian Book Publishers Association in association with Coopers & Lybrand is holding a one-day seminar on this topic in Sydney on 16 March 1990.

The seminar will include an overview of publishing in Australia in the 90s by Michael Webster, a segment on strategic planning by Coopers & Lybrand, and talks on product selection (Sally Milner), marketing (Warren Schirmer), distribution (Peter Lothian), and finance (Coopers & Lybrand).

The cost is \$220 for ABPA members and \$270 for non-members. Both prices attract a discount if you pay before 21 February.

For further information telephone (02) 29 5422.