

1 June 2018

First Floor  
134 Tooley Street  
London SE1 2TU  
**Tel: 020 7833 0777**

**President:**  
Olivia Hetreed  
**Chair:**  
Gail Renard  
**General Secretary:**  
Ellie Peers

Dear WGGB member

I am urging to you attend this year's Annual General Meeting in Birmingham on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018. It is going to be one of the best yet.

Along with the usual business of running our union, at this year's AGM guest speakers include;

At 11am, Deborah Dunnett (Channel 4, Nations & Regions executive) who will speak on the television industry and how Channel 4 is working to produce TV across the nation. Also her opinion on how broadcast television is changing as audiences continue to fragment.

At 3pm, Roxana Silbert (Artistic Director, Birmingham Rep) and Jessica Dromgoole (Director/producer BBC Radio) on the changing opportunities and constraints of writing for theatre and radio. How these industries work today and in particular how it works for writers in London and out of it.

And to cap off this wonderful day at 7pm, members are invited to a drinks reception hosted by the Royal Television Society at The Colmore Club, 85-89 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BB

### Details of AGM

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 20th June 2018
<b>Time:</b>	10.30am to 5pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Room 103, Library of Birmingham, Centenary Square, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EP
<b>Nearest station:</b>	Birmingham New Street

If you live a long way from Birmingham please contact the WGGB office and we will help to get you there.

#### Affiliated to:

British Copyright Council, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, Creators' Rights Alliance, European Writers' Council, Federation of Screenwriters in Europe, Federation of Entertainment Unions, Filmmakers' Alliance, International Affiliation of Writers Guilds, Performers' Alliance, Trades Union Congress, Union Network International, World Intellectual Property Organisation

The meeting is open to all members. Admission to the AGM is by a current membership card. Full Members and Life Members may vote on all matters. Affiliate Members may vote on the presentation and approval of the Accounts. Tea and coffee will be available.

### **AGM 2018 Final Agenda**

1. Quorum: 27 Full Members and/or Life Members
2. Standing Orders Committee Report
3. Appointment of tellers. *Two required*
4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2017
5. Chair's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Presentation and adoption of audited accounts
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Guest Speaker(s): **Deborah Dunnett** (Channel 4, Nations & Regions)
10. General Secretary's report
11. Results of elections and announcement of vacancies

### **Lunch – approx. 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

12. Motions

#### **a) Minimum age for membership of the WGGB**

This AGM resolves to change the rules of eligibility and add a minimum age of 18 to all membership eligibility criteria. Current rules do not include any age restriction on eligibility for WGGB membership. Under safeguarding guidance and regulation, all organisations that come into contact with children should have appropriate safeguarding measures in place. In this context, a child is anyone under the age of 18.

If anyone under the age of 18 were to join the WGGB, then to comply with the regulations all staff and some union officials will have to undergo Disclosure and Barring Checks and safeguarding training. This would add an administrative burden and could deter members from volunteering for roles.

The introduction of a minimum age requirement negates the need to undergo these checks and training. WGGB has no members under 18 years of age so there are no implications for current members.

Motion: Add '**18 years of age and over**' to rules 5.1(a), 5.1(b) (ii) and 5.1(b) (v)

The revised rules would read:

#### 5.1 Eligibility

(a) A Full Member shall be any person **18 years of age and over** who has accumulated 8 Membership Points.

(b) (ii) An Affiliate Member shall be any such individual person **18 years of age and over** or corporate body as an agent, technical adviser, researcher or consultant, engaged in a professional relationship with any Writer. Eligibility for Affiliate Membership shall be at the discretion of the Executive Council.

(b) (v) A Candidate Member shall be any person **18 years of age and over** intending to qualify for Full Membership, but who does not yet qualify. A Candidate Member who becomes eligible for Full Membership must transfer to Full Membership, in order to retain membership.

Proposer Lisa Holdsworth Seconder William Gallagher

Supported by the Executive Council

*Note: Motion (a) is a rule-changing motion and therefore requires a two-thirds majority*

#### **b) Bullying & Harassment**

This AGM resolves to include intolerance to bullying and harassment within our rules, in recognition that all members should treat each other with respect.

Motion, delete the Rule 6 xiii and replace with new Rule 6 xiii

Delete old Rule (xiii) Members shall use civil and comradely language in all their communications on Guild business, with fellow Members, Officers and Officials, and avoid abusive expressions and defamatory statements. "Communications" include, but are not limited to, speech, e-mail, letters, telephone calls, and text messages.

Replace with new Rule (xiii) The Guild does not tolerate bullying and harassment. Members will behave in a respectful and comradely manner in all their dealings with fellow Guild members, officer and officials, and avoid abusive behaviour, expressions and defamatory statements.

*Proposed by William Gallagher Seconder: Dave Cohen*

*Supported by the Executive Council*

*Note: Motion (b) is a rule-changing motion and therefore requires a two-thirds majority*

#### **c) Bringing the union into disrepute**

This AGM resolves to change the rules to introduce a new rule that allows the union to discipline a member if they bring the union into disrepute.

Motion to introduce a new rule 6 (xiv)

6xiv Members shall not engage in actions that could reasonably be interpreted as bringing the union into disrepute and/or being contrary to the objects of the union as defined in Rule 4.

*Proposed by William Gallagher      Seconded: Dave Cohen*

*Supported by the Executive Council*

*Note: Motion (c) is a rule-changing motion and therefore requires a two-thirds majority*

#### **d) Regulate or Mediate**

This AGM resolves to amend Rule 4.3 as it is not the job of the WGGB to regulate relationships between members, but to mediate if relations break down.

Motion, to replace 'regulate' with 'mediate' so Rule 4.3 now reads

4.3 To mediate the relations of members amongst themselves and between them and their producers, publishers, licensees and other business associates.

*Proposed by Gary Thomas      Seconded by Malcolm Kat*

*Supported by the Executive Council*

*Note: Motion (d) is a rule-changing motion and therefore requires a two-thirds majority*

#### **e) Scope of advice and representation**

This AGM resolves to change Rule 4.6 there are areas where WGGB cannot furnish members or their representatives with advice on 'all questions affecting them as writers' we will always endeavour to do so but we may not be able to do so.

Motion, to remove 'all' so Rule 4.6 now reads

4.6 To furnish advice to members and their representatives on questions affecting them as writers and to assist members and their representatives, either financially or otherwise, in any legal proceedings relating to their rights, duties or liabilities in connection with working under contracts insofar as it is considered by the Executive Council to be desirable and possible so to do.

*Proposed by Gary Thomas      Seconded by Malcolm Kat*

*Supported by the Executive Council*

*Note: Motion (e) is a rule-changing motion and therefore requires a two-thirds majority*

13. Guest Speakers: **Roxana Silbert** (Artistic Director, Birmingham Rep) and **Jessica Dromgoole** (Director/producer BBC Radio)

14. Annual report: section by section

15. Election of Standing Orders Committee for 2018-2019

16. President's closing remarks: Olivia Hetreed

17. Any other business

**AGM papers:**

Papers can be downloaded from the Guild website <https://writersguild.org.uk/birmingham-to-host-this-years-agm/> alternatively if you would like a paper copy sent to you in advance of the meeting then please contact us on 020 7833 0777 (please leave a message with your membership details) or via email [admin@writersguild.org.uk](mailto:admin@writersguild.org.uk).

There will be limited copies of papers available at the meeting, if you require a large print version then please contact us in advance.

The meeting is open to all members. Admission to the AGM is by a current membership card. Full Members and Life Members may vote on all matters. Affiliate Members may vote on the presentation and approval of the Accounts.

Regards and best wishes,



**Ellie Peers**

General Secretary  
Writers' Guild of Great Britain