



West of Scotland
Branch

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Thursday 29th April 2021, 13:00 hours, Online meeting via Zoom

1. Welcome, by the Branch Chairperson

(FC)

Members were welcomed to the virtual AGM meeting by Fred Cullum (FC), Branch Chairperson who advised that there would be slight change to the agenda with Vincent Ho speaking after the AGM.

2. The Chartered Journey

The Vice Chair, Alex Petrie (AP) explained that the WoS branch have a support group to mentor IOSH members on their Chartered journeys and that Keith Lyall (KL) and Susannah McIntosh (SM) are going to share their journey.

KL discussed his graduate to chartered membership journey and explained that this journey took 8 years and 2 attempts to receive chartered status. KL commented that this was a personal milestone for him but also show employers the depth of knowledge that a Health and Safety professional has. KL explained that he had received great support from the group – a great depth of knowledge within the group, understanding of the process and supportive network.

KL highlighted that the group was good for networking opportunities with group, face-to-face meetings (pre covid) and video chats and meeting like-minded people. KL thanked the Chair for offering this opportunity via the Branch and encouraged others to take the journey too.

SMcl started the Chartered Fellowship process in August 2020 and joined the CFIOSH WhatsApp group. SMcl wrote portfolio which described her voluntary work, research, community work and influencing / mentoring others. SMcl recommends that candidates are familiar with the IOSH Strategy and Blueprint.

Once portfolio has been submitted, this will then be marked and CPD records checked and then you are invited to an interview where you have to answer challenging questions about your career. SMcl thanked the CFIOSH group for the support.

AP and FC thanked both KL and SMcl for sharing their IOSH chartered journey experiences.

3. Sederunt and Apologies for absence

There were 42 attendees.

Apologies received from: Mo Naser (MN), William Lyon (WL), Brian Hume (BH).

FC welcomed Jimmy Quinn (JQ), IOSH President and Ciaran Delaney, IOSH Vice President for joining the West of Scotland Branch AGM and invited (JQ) to address those attending.

JQ thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak to members and advised that there would be changes to the current committee and highlighted that it is outstanding the people that volunteer on behalf of IOSH. JQ explained that IOSH is about the membership/committees/ Chairperson and thanked all for the work they are doing.

JQ thanked the committee members who are standing down and welcomed the new members joining the committee. He hoped to be able to attend a branch meeting when able to return to physical meetings.

4. Minutes of Branch AGM held 25th April 2019

AP shared on screen the minutes of the AGM held on the 25th April 2019. It was agreed that this was a true record.

Proposed by Jim Tassell (JimT) and seconded by George Mills (GM).

5. Treasurer's Report for 2020/21

Fraser Allan (FA) reported that there has been no activity in spend in 2020/21 as no physical meetings were held.

Going forward into 2021/22 IOSH had advised that physical activities will not be resuming until at least January 2022 so again no spend for meetings/venues. The proposed budget spends for 2021/22 was to be submitted in two halves. The only expenditure until September 2021 was The Certificate of Merit Award spend, which is £300.

6. Branch Chairperson's Report for 2020/21

When I took on the role of Branch Chair in April 2019 no-one could have foreseen the Covid19 pandemic and the implications. As a committee we had been planning our programme for the year ahead and arrangements were in place for our AGM and the Certificate of Merit Awards evening which could not be held in 2020 due to lockdown coming into place a month before the events. It has been two years since we were able to hold our Branch AGM and a lot has happened during that time.

Coronavirus has impacted on everyone across the world both physically and mentally. Being limited on what we could do and what we can do has presented some of the biggest challenges in our lifetime. Many still grieving from loss of family and friends and not being able to celebrate their life. I have heard many compare life on occasions to being part of a disaster movie with the plot constantly changing. Despite the difficulties during the past year, we have seen many examples of people rising to the challenges in everyday life helping others in our communities, not just the NHS workers, emergency services and retail workers but postal workers, transport,

cleansing, teachers, carers and so many more individuals supported by Health and Safety Professionals.

Many individuals and organisations have risen to the challenges collaborating in research to develop vaccines. Influencing others to adapt and find new ways of doing things by embracing greater use of digital technology and enhancing the lives of others through volunteering to help them.

Let us take a few moments to reflect on our loss during the past 14 months, for the support freely given by others and to reflect on the opportunities that lie ahead.

As a Branch we adapted by moving to virtual meetings with a range of speakers and topics. We have continued to look at ways to engage with members and to keep members informed of the changes within IOSH. From membership review, to competence framework, information on budget nomination and election.

Whilst moving to a virtual platform has had a number of benefits including allowing us to link with branches globally many of us miss the networking opportunities that come from physical – face to face meeting with others and the number of people attending meetings has reduced. Probably one of the biggest strengths of IOSH over the years has been the opportunity to engage with others at meetings and not feel isolated. In going forward we hope that there will be regular opportunities to have physical networking but also recognise that meeting virtually on occasions provides an opportunity for members who are not always able to attend physical meetings due to travel distance to benefit from engagement. There is also the benefit of sharing globally from the comfort of our home. It is likely that going forward there will be a blended programme of physical and virtual meetings.

As of March 2021, our branch membership was 1594

- 580 Chartered Members and Fellows

- 424 Graduate members (up by 6)

- 336 Tech members (down by 58)

- 277 Associate, Affiliate and other Members

We will continue to work with other organisations such as IEMA in arranging meetings on topics of common interest. I would like to thank all our speakers who have freely given their time and to you, our members, for your support during the last few years.

For many years we have had a close affinity with Glasgow Caledonian University in supporting staff and students on the BSc course in health and safety and sadly this course is being discontinued. We thank them for their past support in hosting evening meetings. We also look forward in supporting the University of the West of Scotland who will be the only university offering the BSc course. I would like to thank Anthony Atencio IOSH Scottish Regional Manager for his support and our Branch Executive Committee for their voluntary input particularly during 2020 where so much more time was given to ensure support was provided to members through our virtual meetings.

This year marks 29 years of the Certificate of Merit Awards and whilst we are unable to host a dinner and physical award ceremony, we hope that many of you will be able to join in our virtual awards ceremony on 27th May to celebrate the achievements of non-safety professionals. A special thank you to the Group led by Alex Petrie for making this possible.

In January Blair Boyd received a Distinguished Presidential Service Award in recognition of his voluntary service, he continues to give of his time with the Branch Committee, IPD/CPD and to the “Safer than your average” podcasts.

Joan Thomson, who has held the role of Communications Coordinator since it was created is stepping down from the committee and Brian Beck, a member of the committee for several years, who in recent years was Branch Environmental Group Chair is also stepping down. Both individuals have given so much to the Branch and on behalf of the Committee and the members I thank you both for your commitment and wish you well for the future.

During the year with help from Blair Boyd and William Lyons supported by several other volunteers, some from other branches in Scotland, we have helped members gain Chartered Membership and others move to Chartered Fellowship. On behalf of the branch, I am delighted to congratulate the following on their achievement:

Chartered Members

James Brown
Jason Connelly
Derek Morley
Katrina Moses
Keith Lyall
Jonathon Bruce
Neil Laing
Neil Blackadder
Ross Glen
Uche Okoli
Lorna Stewart
Scott Wright
Richard Cassidy
Derek Morley
Norma Watson
Kevin Campbell
Thomas Wallace
Richard Graham

Chartered Fellows

William Lyons
Susannah McIntosh
Russell Keir

7. Ratification of elected Principal Branch Officers for 2021/22

Elections for Principal Branch Members and committee members were carried out by on-line voting this year.

Principal Branch Officer – **Fred Cullum**
Vice-Principal Branch Officer – **Alex Petrie**
Secretary - **Naser Ighizan**
Treasurer – **Fraser Allan**
Communications Coordinator – **Blair Boyd**

8. Ratification of elected Members of the Branch Committee for 2021/22

Branch committee members are George Mills, Susannah McIntosh, Fiona Duff, Keith Lyall, Kenny Brown, Brian Hume and William Lyon.

FC thanked Joan Thomson and Brian Beck for their contributions to the committee over the years and welcomed Kenny Lyall and Keith Brown to the committee.

9. Confirm relevant Regulations as the branch, district and section constitution and rules

Branch constitution to be reviewed and agreed with committee.

GM asked if the committee members had to be ratified. Laura Miles (IOSH Corporate Governance) confirmed that there was no requirement for ratification as the details were being shared at the AGM for clarification of who is a committee member.

10. Address – Vincent Ho, IOSH Past President

FC welcomed Vincent Ho to the meeting. VH intimated that he was originally going to talk about his career journey but decided to talk about Risk Management.

VH provided a brief overview of previous work and the industry sector that he has been employed in, including his time as a police officer and his continuing input to various university courses. Having worked in the field of Nuclear Power Supply and his work with NASA the Defence Industry and in Rail Transport Vincent provided an insight into his views on risk management.

AP, on behalf of the Branch thanked Professor Vincent Ho for taking the time to attend and deliver an interesting presentation, noting that it was late evening in Hong Kong.

11. Any other business

There was no other business.

12. Close

FC reported that the next branch meeting would be held on the Thursday 27th May at 13.30pm and John Cairns would be discussing the LOCHER project and declared the meeting closed at 14.53pm