

# *International Association of Counseling Hypnotherapists*

## *Minutes of the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Annual General*

The sixth annual general meeting of the International Association of Counseling Hypnotherapists was called to order on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 10:15 at the Coast Plaza Hotel, Vancouver, BC.

President Sheldon Bilsker thanked the board members for their diligent work. The members of the Board of Director are as follows: Gabrielle Lightfoot, Diane Auld, Tyler Gjernes, Theresa Dupuis, Kristina Vandervoort, Joanna Komorowska, Carole Keane and Michael Maniotis.

President Bilsker welcomed the members who were able to participate in the meeting. He reported that there are more than sixty members of our Association. A brief introduction of members and guests followed.

A motion to adopt the agenda was moved, seconded and carried.

Mover: Carol Keane

Secunder: Dian Auld

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were moved, seconded and carried.

Mover: Diane Auld

Secunder: Carol Keane

Election of Officers:

- Sheldon Bilsker was elected president by acclamation. This is a one year position.

Reports from the Board of Directors:

President's Report:

President Sheldon Bilsker reported that:

- The Association has approximately \$8000.00 in the account and strives not to go below a buffer of above \$5,000. Sheldon stressed the importance of spending money on educational speakers. He would like the Association to invest on training but regional distance is a problem and therefore the Association is investigating having more information on line. Sheldon reported that the Association now has an account with Vimeo.com to broadcast videos at USD\$60.00 per year.

- Individual Liability Insurance - This is highly recommended. Sheldon cannot recall any law suit in hypnotherapy in Canada, however the insurance demonstrates a high level of professionalism. All professional associations have liability insurance as a requirement. Individual Professional Liability Insurance is available and payments can be spread over two months. The range is from \$350 to \$550 per year for 2 million coverage. Information is

forthcoming on the IACH's web site. Sheldon noted that he keeps the Orca Institute and the IACH completely separate.

- In reporting on the Standards Committee, Sheldon stated that the only substantial change is that of the Hypnotherapy Teacher position. Regarding membership standards, the Association could have more members if we lowered our standards but we have no interest in doing that.

The report was moved, seconded and carried.

Mover: Carol Keane

Secunder: Theresa Dupuis

Treasurer's Report:

Our treasurer, Theresa Dupuis, reported that there is a balance of \$7,345.00 in the IACH's account and that it is holding its' own. The revenue is strictly from the association's members. The full financial report may be viewed on the IACH's website in our newsletter..

The report was moved, seconded and carried.

Mover: Tyler Gjernes

Secunder: Diane Auld

Newsletter Editor's Report:

Diane Auld requests articles for the IACH's Newsletter. She invited members to submit articles, which will often be kept to use when there is a theme for an issue. Diane hopes to use stories and metaphors which can be a section of the Newsletter. Members were reminded that the Newsletter can be what we want it to be and Diane spoke about creating a "Share Your Story" section. We all have a variety of clients and our Newsletter can be used to assist in communicating with clients. Diane addressed future Newsletter developments with contributions of information, studies which are not necessarily only on hypnotherapy but also in the counseling field.

The report was moved, seconded and carried.

Mover: Carol Keane

Secunder: Ginger Titchener

Technical Directors Report:

Tyler Gjernes reported on the forthcoming data base upgrade which should be completed by the end of June. This will enable potential clients to search for a therapist within their geographical area.

A referral data base will requires quite a bit of work, however Sheldon has an informal referral base he currently uses as he refers approximately two clients a week. The referral base will include the general geographical area, therapist's specialty and photo and will be a free advertisement. This is a future project which would benefit both members and the IACH.

The report was moved, seconded and carried.

Mover: Theresa Dupuis  
Secunder: Diane Auld

#### Standards and Ethics:

There was an open discussion regarding the IACH's standards and ethics. Members spoke about their appreciation of the Associations high standards and that being an IACH member actually means something. There was consensus that the dues are fair and should remain at their current level.

#### New Business:

Motion: That the president's honorarium should be raised to \$125.00 from \$100.00 per year.

Mover: Theresa Dupuis  
Secunder: Diane Auld  
Carried

Motion: That there be a professional development page on the IACH's web-site.

Mover: Diane Auld  
Secunder: Carol Kean  
Carried

The meeting adjourned at 11:20.

The meeting was followed by our guest speaker: Dr. Jim Brown

#### Guest Speaker: Dr. Jim Browne - Counsellor Regulation in BC Legislation Update

Dr. Jim Browne, Coordinator for the Task Group for Counsellor Regulations in BC, gave an informative historical overview of the BCACC which was formed in 1997 by concerned health professions counselors.

Dr. Browne then presented a legislation update on the Task Group for Counsellor Regulations in BC. The group member organization collectively represents over 2600 therapists who practice in BC. The task group has proposed that the provincial government create a College of Counselling Therapist under the Health Professions Act of BC. The entry level is based on the "National Entry to Practice Competency Profile for Counselling Therapists"

[www.bccounsellors.org/file/CounsellingtherapistsCPMay2007.pdg](http://www.bccounsellors.org/file/CounsellingtherapistsCPMay2007.pdg) .

Currently the proposal is in a line-up waiting on priority-based review with other health professions. The provincial government is focused on bringing health professions under individual statues under the Health Professions Act.

The Task Group has had indications from Government that Counselling Therapy should come up in the Fall, 2009. It is proposed that IACH members should be part of the BC College of Clinical Counsellors.

After Dr. Browne's presentation, the executive and members were provided lunch at the Coast Plaza Hotel after which they participated in a special workshop.

Workshop Presenter: Livingstone Finch M. Ed., RCC

In the afternoon, Livingston Finch presented a fascinating three hour workshop on the Creative Unconscious. Members participated in experimental exercises that explored their individual and collective resources – the unconscious mind. Many IACH's members are familiar with Liv's greatly respected work having attended his previous lectures or weekend workshops, such as Introduction to Neuro-linguistic Programming.