Minutes of the DAISY Annual General Meeting May 9, 2023

**Location:** The meeting was held in the James Madison Building, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., hostedby the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, United States

# 01 Welcome and Meeting Arrangements

Maarten Verboom (MB), Chair of the Board of the DAISY Consortium opened the meeting and welcomed the Members, Friends, individual supporters, and external observers who were present in the room and online.

# 02 Attendance and Apologies

## 02.01 Voting Members Present

Maarten Verboom (Chair), Dedicon, Netherlands

Alison Long (Treasurer), Royal National Institute of Blind People, United Kingdom

Alice O’Reilly, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, United States

Arne Kyrkjebø, Norwegian DAISY Consortium, Norway

Basile Mignonneau, DAISY France Group, France
Daniel Dam Freiling, Nota, Denmark

David Andrews, National Federation of the Blind, United States (online)

Flavia Kippele, Swiss DAISY Group, Switzerland

Francisco Martínez, ONCE, Spain

Jongpil Won, National Library for the Disabled, Korea

Hiroshi Kawamura, Japan DAISY Consortium, Japan (online)

Joakim Uppsäll-Sjögren, Swedish DAISY Consortium, Sweden

Michael Johnson, Benetech, United States

Minna von Zansen, Finnish DAISY Consortium, Finland

Thomas Kahlisch, MEDIBUS, Germany (online)

## 02.02 Additional DAISY Board members Present

Daniel Frelén, MTM, Sweden

## 02.03 DAISY Consortium Staff Members Present

Participating in the meeting were:

Avneesh Singh, Chief Operating Officer, India

George Kerscher, Chief Innovations Officer, United States

Richard Orme, Chief Executive Officer, United Kingdom

There were other DAISY staff members observing.

## 02.04 Welcome to Associate Members, Friends, and Guests Present

Maarten warmly welcomed the other people attending, including Associate Members, Friends, and individual supporters from more than 20 countries.

## 03 Remembering Scott LaBarre

The meeting observed a minute’s silence to remember Scott LaBarre’s excellent contribution to the work of the DAISY Consortium board and his important role in establishing the Marrakesh Treaty.

# 04 Acceptance of the Agenda

The draft agenda was sent out in April. No other business was notified.

**Decision**: By a vote of the eligible members present the revised agenda was approved.

# 05 Confirmation of the Scribe

Maarten Verboom proposed Richard Orme as the scribe.

**Decision:** Richard Orme will take the minutes of the meeting.

# 06 Review and Approval of the Minutes of the General Meeting held online on May 24, 2022

There were no questions or comments on the draft minutes.

**Decision**: By a vote of the eligible members present the minutes of the 2022 General Meeting were unanimously approved without any changes.

# 07 Annual Report 2022

## 07.01 Annual Report: Overview

Richard Orme introduced the annual report for 2022, which provides an opportunity to describe and celebrate the DAISY Consortium, the progress of our projects and the achievements of our members.

The annual report begins with a welcome message from the President, and a reminder of our Vision, Mission, and key activities. It contains brief progress reports on DAISY’s technical developments, and training activities, and work on inclusive publishing. Links are provided to learn more about any of these topics. And it includes members highlighting innovations that are happening around the world.

Richard informed the meeting that the voting members and observers all have been provided a copy of the draft Annual report. Some minor amendments were made, and an updated version has been sent to voting members. If approved by the AGM, the report will be finalized with a front cover and will be published on the DAISY website.

## 07.02 Annual Report: Financials

The Financial Report is part of the Annual Report, and this was presented by Alison Long, Treasurer for the DAISY Consortium. The 2022 year concluded with an operating surplus of USD 164K. The total reserve now stands at USD 478K.

The independent auditor has recommended that the 2022 accounts be approved.

Maarten informed the General Meeting that the Board meeting yesterday discussed the Financial Statements and recommended to the General meeting that they be accepted.

There were no questions.

## 07.03 Approval of the Annual Report 2022

**Decision**: By a vote of the eligible members present the General Meeting approved the draft annual report for 2022, including the financial statements for 2022.

# 08 Discharge of the Board for 2022

**Decision**: By a vote of the eligible members present the board’s actions in 2022 were approved, and the board was discharged.

# 09 Decision on the Membership Fees for 2023

Alison explained that following a survey of board members’ views and taking into account the current financial position of the DAISY Consortium, her proposal to the General Meeting was that the membership fees for 2023 are increased by 2.5%.

**Decision**: By a vote of the eligible members present the General Meeting decided that the membership and joining fees from January 2024 will be increased by 2.5%.

# 10 New and Changing Memberships

Maarten introduced a very special motion for decision under this item.

American Printing House for the Blind (APH) have been Associate Members of the DAISY Consortium for more than 15 years. Last year Nicole Gaines formally wrote to the President requesting to upgrade their Associate membership to Full membership.

On 30 June the Board of the DAISY Consortium voted to approve APH as a Full Member, effective from July 1, 2022. It was further noted that:

“APH is known as an important, strong, and active organization developing, producing and delivering accessible media. The Full Membership will give APH, the DAISY Consortium and its members great opportunities for collaborative initiatives which bring closer equal access to information for people with print disabilities.”

The decision made by the board is subject to ratification by resolution of the General Meeting.

**Decision**: By a vote of the eligible members present the General Meeting approved the application from the American Printing House for the Blind to convert from Associate Membership to Full Membership effective from July 1, 2022.

# 11 Election of the President of the DAISY Consortium

Alison reported that following due notification and the required period, there is one candidate for the post of President. Alison asked the General Meeting to vote on the election of Maarten Verboom to the role of President.

**Decision**: By a vote of the eligible members present the General Meeting elected Maarten Verboom as President of the DAISY Consortium for another four-year term.

Maarten thanked the board for their confidence in him and looks forward to working together with the board and staff of the DAISY Consortium for success in interesting and challenging times.

# 12 Location of the General Meeting 2024

Maarten informed that next year the meeting will be in Paris, France hosted by DAISY France.

# 13 Presentation of topical DAISY activities

Richard introduced the presentation by remarking that the DAISY Consortium is the global authority on accessible publishing and reading. DAISY’s team of international experts develops standards, tools and best practices that are embraced by the library services, publishers, and the leading technology companies.

The first presentation reported on the project with Microsoft and our partnership with disabled persons organizations to extend accessible reading in some of the world’s most underserved regions.

The second presentation was a notable example of DAISY Consortium working together on a shared mission, the Nordic Inclusive Publishing Initiative.

The third presentation was about the ebraille project to enable a braille reading experience, bringing the advantages of transcribed braille with the accessibility of DAISY and EPUB.

The last presentation was about the Accessible Publishing conference and DAISY Technical Meetings in London in November.

All the presentations will be available on the DAISY website.

# 12 Close of meeting

There was no other business, and Maarten closed the meeting.

**These minutes were approved at the General Meeting of the DAISY Consortium held on May 30, 2024.**