

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th May 2015 at 2.30pm at The Cervantes Institute, Hanuman Road, New Delhi.

The meeting began at 3pm.

WELCOME :

The president Mrs. Kiran Anand welcomed all the members to the final meeting of the year and requested all to observe a minute in reflection and silence for the fury of nature that was unleashed in Nepal a few weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayers for those lost forever, and for those who miraculously survived.

The president informed that the year has been a great one especially for the Executive Committee members who together responded to the trust and opportunity given to them like many in body but one in mind. She said that members make the club and the Executive its backbone. The year had been challenging and at the same time exciting. She thanked her committee members for their sincere diligence and dignity with which each one handled very very tricky situations.

On a personal note, the year had been one of growth, learning and real fun.

The president asked the secretary Leena Singh to introduce the committee members and present their reports.

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PRESENTATION OF REPORTS :

Report of the Hospitality Chairperson Iris Vogel

Iris said that it was a pleasure for her to provide the hospitality for the club for 2014-15. And gave her a chance to experience WIC behind the scene. She mentioned that after having a good experience in organizing with Doodle in Germany , she experimented the same in the club and it did work and help her organize a total of 30 circle meetings with a total of 700 participants , excluding the special events like Holi, Table setting and Street Food.

Iris thanked her committee members for the great time she had and to all the ladies for the wonderful get-togethers.

Report of the Newsletter Chairperson Sarah Schwering

Sarah said that it was a very interesting and fun year at the newsletter desk and very much enjoyed editing and writing the newsletter. She said WIC is a very special club and she is very amazed at the quality of events put together by the benevolence and free time of very busy and talented people who organize these events. Sarah said that the newsletter is of course a large team exercise, not just by the committee but also the many different circle event and other contributors, and thanked everyone who not only made it happen, but made it happen in time for each General meeting. She also thanked all the members for organizing multiple events, dates and venues often with very busy well known personalities and have these printed and distributed 7 weeks in advance.

Special mention was made appreciating the support extended by Mr Praveen of CMCS Printographics, our long serving printers. He has been extremely flexible and helpful and an absolute gem in helping getting the newsletter out on time.

She said she feels very privileged to have been a part of such a wonderful club and will miss this at their new posting in China.

She wished everyone at the club best going forward and wished her successor Christine success and as much pleasure and gratification from producing the newsletter as she did.

Membership Chairperson Sunandini Kapur

Sunandini said that 2014-2015 was a very busy year and with Executive Committee meeting, Membership committee meetings, General meeting, Circle meetings, coffee morning farewell lunches so on, WIC has taken over her life. Nonetheless, she has enjoyed it thoroughly. WIC gave her the opportunity to become close friends with many. She thanked the Executive committee and especially her sub committee members Francesca del Soldato, Patty Dhar, Rita Gharekhan and Shreedevi for their time, judgment and their discretion.

The membership committee has printed an updated membership directory 2014 – 2015.

Status of WIC membership as on date:

Total membership: 174 made up as under

International Members: 56

Indian Members: 96

Permanent Resident members. : 22

New Members inducted during the year: 12

International members: 07

Indian members: 04

Permanent resident: 01

Members resigned during the year: 11

International members: 08

Indian members: 02

Permanent Resident members: 01

The General Meeting attendance was an average of 85-90 members. The RSVPs, thanks to Iris, using the new tool Doodle was more accurate, making it easier for the hostesses to know how many to expect and cater for.

Sunandini also mentioned that the general feedback from International members was that they would prefer morning programmes. This may be something for the new committee to ponder on.

She wished her successor Frenny Billimoria , past president and a WIC veteran the very best and was confident that Frenny would definitely do a great job in bringing talented, enthusiastic new members.

Secretary Leena Singh

Leena said that she had an extremely satisfying and enjoyable year and thanked each and every member of her committee for their support, many moments of laughter and camaraderie that helped make her work so much easier. She wished Dakshina and the new committee the very best for the coming year.

2nd Vice President Anita Dua

As Anita was away from Delhi, her report was read out by Sarah.

Anita said that being part of an executive committee has been a fantastic learning experience and she learnt how to take direction, criticism, and compliments, the three things she wasn't so good at earlier.

She mentioned that nine General meetings, were held between Sept 2014 and April 2015. In addition there were two Special Meetings, apart from the special events held by the Special Events Circle. Vast range of subjects were covered, keeping in mind the varied and diverse interests of the members. The General meetings were very well attended ranging from 126 members to 80 members.

She mentioned that the club year began with an extremely knowledgeable discourse followed by a Dance recital on Sounds and Rhythms, Echoes of the intangible Heritage of Delhi by Navina Jaffa, at the ITC Maurya.

In October, "I am the Tiger" performed and conceptualized by our member Shivani Wazir Pasrich at Alliance franchise, reminding us about the environmental concerns that we face today, using tiger as a metaphor.

In November, It was time to address issues concerning our health. We learnt how to take care of our hearts. Heart diseases in Women. Who else, but an authority on the subject, Dr. Naresh Trehan could talk about the subject with great conviction.

December, ushered in Christmas, hosted at The Austrian Embassy. There was a very informative and interesting talk by Joanna full of anecdotes as to how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Iris Vogel and her choir enthralled us with Christmas carols, followed by delicious Christmas cuisine organised by the Pot of Culture and wonderful world circles.

January General Meeting. The Psychology of Marketing and the world of Brands by Suhel Seth was both witty and informative, held at the historical residence of Netherland Ambassador. Helene played a perfect hostess.

Wealth, Desire and Spirituality in Mahabharata was the subject of February General Meeting held at Kusum Ansals residence. Bibek Debaroy the author of 10 volume of Unabridged translation of Mahabharata, touched upon some aspects of the Epic.

Costumes and Royal Textiles of India, talk/ slide presentation by Ritu Kumar At Shireen Pauls residence, was a tribute to the skills of the Indian craftsmen and celebration of centuries of crafts, tradition and the survival of India's rich textile industry.

In April, an interactive session on "Prioritising Women" by Radha Kumar, an author and a scholar. The Meeting was graciously hosted by Eliese at Purple Hall, German Ambassadors residence.

In addition to 9 General meetings , we had two Fun filled Special meetings, where members decided to relax ,enjoy, dance and walk the ramp..

In March, in true WIC Tradition we had extravagant, colourful , fun filled Holi, (festival of colours,), celebration at Taru Kanwar 's farm house. Ladies joined the professional dancers on the floor. Our taste buds were tickled by the mouthwatering delicacies served by Taru.

The second Special Program was again, an extremely fun filled afternoon at Ms. Ritu Kumar's Khan Market store in May. A Revivalist preview of Vintage Sarees , Ladies modelled exotic screen printed, sarees from Ritu Kumars archives , walked the ramp to the live Bollywood songs and carried home exotic mementos , ' Ritu Kumar' designer scarves.

Lastly, we had the GALA NIGHT on the 10th of April. An enchanted evening was held at the Metropolitan Hotel. Highlight of the evening was "An international parade", depicting historical, cultural journey through the continents. 22 of our members dressed beautifully in their national costumes , walked the red carpet. Conceived by Maria, beautifully scripted and compered by Radhika Biirla, it was indeed a delight to watch.. Lights by Sunandini and Flower decoration by Sarah was totally professional to say the least. Leena and Devika, spent endless afternoons, doing the groundwork.

Estella Pinto, our singer from Goa, held the audience spell bound with her enchanting voice.

Raffle Prizes courtesy, Taj Group of Hotels, Creme spa. Three days/ two night stays at the exotic locations, courtesy Chitragadha Singh.

Anita said that her take away this year was to realize that being a part of a team is a lot more than just sharing credit, a team effort takes compromise and one has to at times, may be lead, follow, and more often than not, meet in the middle.

She thanked all her fellow committee members for their guidance, help , support and for being there, when she needed the most..

And wished the New Committee a very successful , fulfilling 2015-2016 WIC YEAR!

1st Vice President Maria Allgeier

Maria said that the Circles formed every year to organize different meetings or activities provide opportunities for members to meet and interact on a more frequent basis every month as well as to give colour and substance to WICs effort in bringing different cultures together. The different circles honour WICs tradition as well as introduce new ideas and spice to a greatly discerning membership.

- There were nine circles :
- ARTS AND MUSEUMS
 - HEALING TOUCH
 - HIGH TEA A CELEBRATION
 - INDIAN HERITAGE
 - INTERNATIONAL CUISINE, A POT OF CULTURES

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THE LIBRARY
TRAVEL DESK
WONDERFUL WORLD
WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

All the circle meetings were very well attended with an average of 18 – 30 members.

The special events ,mainly the Street Food hosted by Natalie Daalder at the Australian High Commissioners residence and the Table arrangements from all over the world hosted by Lise Fredriksen at her residence, and the coffee morning and lecture on the German Sculptures at the German Ambassadors residence hosted by Eliese Steiner, were a great success with 50 -70 members in attendance.

She thanked all her 34 circle leaders who went out of their way to create wonderful, interesting, novel and deeply enriching programmes. All the generous hostesses and all the members for their great interest , cooperation and participation in making the meetings beautiful and memorable.

Treasurer Veena Dass

Veena Dass presented the Auditors report and the Balance Sheet 2014-15. She asked if there were any doubts regarding the expenses occurred in the year.

Sheila Ghatate asked to clarify Rs. 40,000 under misc expenses . Veena explained that the above amount were gifts for Christmas, 1000/- for wreath for founder member Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra and the advance paid to the lawyer for the registration of WIC.

Bina Deogan asked about the Special Events expenses. Veena said that all accounts were consolidated under each head and exact break up given.

General Meetings : 1,12,000/- including gifts

Circle Meetings : Less than 30,000 (including Gifts – no different head for gifts)

Bank Charges : For revalidating cheques issued by Standard Chartered. Veena also mentioned that we did not earn money on interest as our A/C had not been opened. HSBC wanted a lot of details. Account finally opened on the 1st of Dec 2014, but we lost interest from April to December.

She informed that there are 2 lacs in fixed deposits with HSBC and suggested that the new committee collect subscription right away so that we earn interest immediately.

Cash in hand: Rs. 60,000. There were no donations for the Gala Night. Last years expenses were more than this year. She said that the committee organized the Gala night for the members and their spouses as they wanted the interaction amongst the members. A very good deal was given by the Metropolitan Hotel...2 lacs for 100 pax , drinks, snacks and food all inclusive. Although 122 persons attended only 100 were charged. The break up of the Gala Night expenses are given in the account statement.

Since all doubts were cleared Veena asked for the Audited Accounts and the Balance Sheet to be passed. Bina Deogun proposed and Mona Aggarwal seconded it.

Since S.K. Vohra (CA) has been handling the club accounts for years, she asked the membership if we could carry on with his services. This was agreed upon. Nimma Malhotra proposed and Nina Dey Gupta seconded.

Any Other business:

Gita Devi our long standing member complimented and congratulated the committee for their great work .

Bina Deogun said that she has been a member for 35 years and that the club is known as a club for the most talented women. Many of the young Indian members and international members have contributed a lot to the club. She asked Sunandini whether selection of members were done on the basis of Talent as priority or social prestige. Sunandini said that all were taken on the basis of talent.

Bina Deogun inquired if letters were sent to all the members who do not attend the club meetings and what action were taken. The president Kiran said that emails were sent to members regarding attendance issue but no reply received. None of the members have been removed but have been told very politely & informally. Kiran also mentioned last year 2 letters were sent and the response was not good.

Zakia Zaheer voiced that new members who are not even a year old, are taken on the Executive committee. Kiran said that it is very difficult to get people to come on the committee. The nominating committee Mona and her team had great difficulty in convincing members to come on board, took almost 4 weeks to get an answer. Bina Deogun said that since the International members are here for a short time the 1 year rule need not apply but the Indian members should be at least a year old to come on the committee.

Presentation of the WIC Executive Committee 2015 - 2016

The President requested the Nominating committee chairperson Mona Aggarwal to welcome the new incoming Executive Committee for 2015-16 :

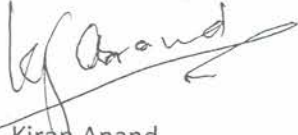
- PRESIDENT : JOSEFINA YOUNG
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT : ALA MADHU
- 2ND VICE PRESIDENT : NEELAM PRATAP RUDY
- SECRETARY : DR.DAKSHINA GAMMANPILA
- TREASURER : SUNAINA AGGARWAL
- MEMBERSHIP : FRENNY BILIMORIA
- HOSPITALITY : ROSIE SAHNI
- NEWSLETTER : CHRISTINE SAMANDARI HAKIM

Welcome speech by the New President Josefina Young

Josefina thanked the club on behalf of the entire committee and said that she was looking forward to a good year.

Tea

The meeting concluded with tea and refreshments.



Kiran Anand
President



Leena Singh
Secretary

Zakia also inquired if a copy of the constitution is handed over to the new members. It was clarified that a proper welcome kit with all details of the club and a copy of the constitution is handed out at the coffee morning.

Nina Dey Gupta said that it is mandatory for all members to go through the constitution, and any member less than a year old should not be taken on the committee.

Mona Aggarwal said that as per the constitution, the membership sub-committee should comprise of 2 past presidents and two from former executive committee members. This rule was not adhered to. Kiran said it was correct and a mistake and apologized for overlooking the rule .

Brinda Singh raised the issue that since our Auditor S.K.Vohra is very influential, why was it difficult to get the accounts going for the club. Kiran said that the bank wanted details that were tough to collect. PAN cards, etc procedure was very complicated. But Vohra did manage, because of his connections, in 6 months time. The Drafts lay for 6 months plus we had to pay for revalidation.

Sunaina Aggarwal said that members don't want to serve on the committee and the same members are taken over and over again. Members should give back to the club also. Kiran said one cannot force any member to come on board.

Vimla Rajan has been a member for 35 years and said cannot serve on the board because of her busy schedule but has contributed by hosting meetings, given talks for the club.

There are some members who do not contribute in any way. Maria said that members participate and that is also good.

Radhika Birla thanked Iris for introducing the club to the " Doodle Link" and hoped it would be continued.

Gifts were given to all the Circle Leaders.