

Minutes Of The Annual General Meeting Of WIC Held On 2nd May, 2007 At 3:00 PM At The Park Hotel

Meeting started at 3:15 PM.

The President welcomed the members and informed them that the Meeting would proceed as per the Agenda given and questions to be asked as per agenda point No 5. The President asked the floor for approval of the Minutes of May 2006 AGM. They were approved and proposed by Mona Aggarwal and seconded by Gita Devi.

She then asked her committee members to read out their reports.

Membership

Lynne mentioned that the year had been a difficult one for her personally, nevertheless the work of the membership committee continued much to the credit of her very experienced team. She thanked the membership committee for their support. 28 women were accepted in this club year, 15 more than last year. 7 represent India, 21 represent different countries. Vacancies remain in the International category.

Last years committee did an outstanding job of crafting a constitution and set of by laws for the club. Membership did their level best to adhere to these rules and guidelines. Lynne recommends that the next membership chairperson should continue to be guided by WIC's constitution and by laws. She wishes her successor all the best.

Hospitality

Nandini thanked her committee for their support and also thanked all the ladies who generously contributed their homes and food for the year. She wished her successor all the best.

Newsletter

Mona gave a big thanks to her committee and stated that this was a very interesting year for her both personally and professionally. Mona gave a thousand thanks to Emma for all her support regarding the newsletter and was very grateful for all her help through the year. Emma felt that distribution was better organized this year. Mona was happy to offer her little contribution and looks forward to the following year.

Treasurer

Mira thanked the committee and said it was wonderful working together. She said that the accounts have been circulated earlier for everyone to see.

Secretary

Sunaina thanked the committee for all their support through the year. She thanked the committee for also making her acquire a skill of hearing 7 ladies at the same time. She wishes Radhika all the best for the year 2007-08.

2nd Vice President

Smita said that she stands before the members with a sense of satisfaction. It was considered to take up socially relevant topics and contemporary issues for the General Meetings.

Eminent speakers told us about new laws on violence against women and Right To information Acts.

S.R Hiremath shared experiences of simple citizens crusade against the State and powerful Industries. Justice Michael Kirby, a gay sitting judge of the Australian High Court talked about sexuality and its challenges.

Sunita Kohli spoke about unparalleled heritage of jewellery from Mughal times to today.

Geeta Chandran, the famous danceuse explained the significance of Diwali in different parts of India.

Prof. Rajiv Lochan spoke about Art in India from Indus Valley to the contemporary times.

Smita profusely thanked all the hostesses for the General Meetings- Anita, Kusum, Isabel, Pimetel, Emma. She also thanked all the members who contributed food for other General Meetings.

She also stated that all the meetings were managed within the given budget. Lastly she thanked the Executive committee for giving exciting times- never a dull moment. She also gave a quote from the book 'Light from many Lamps'.

1st Vice President

Vaneeta first thanked Shawn and her committee for doing an excellent job last year. The circle leaders put together more than 40 programmes this year. The year 2006-07 has been a joint effort to make this years programmes a success. Vaneeta thanked all the speakers and hostesses for opening their hearts and homes for all the members. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

She also reiterated the fact and made a request to members to RSVP on time and to cancel or regret at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Last but not the least, she thanked all her circle leaders and personally gave them a gift for being her backbone for the year. She wishes the next committee all the success for the year.

President

She has been overwhelmed with the warmth and kindness that she received through the year. It was an honor and pleasure to be the President for this year. There was need to bring in new International Members to the club. There was fellowship, friendship and interaction with each other. Regular contact, personal calls led to the involvement of members and this is indeed what made the Gala Night the success it was.

The President acknowledges Gugu and Norma's role in organizing the coffee morning for the Executive in the 1st month of taking over. She thanked her committee for doing a wonderful job.

She complimented Vaneeta for the tremendous enthusiasm, Smita for putting together thought provoking meetings on social issues, Nandini for hospitality, Lynne as membership in charge, Mona for newsletter and Emma's effort in editing the newsletter, Sunaina's as secretary, Mira for giving a meticulous account.

She thanked all the hostesses and members who contributed food for the programmes through the year. Sincere appreciation to Bina Deogun for sending the Lunar calendar. She also thanked Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra, Peggy Sood, Gita Devi Kapurthala, Shawn Runacres, Frenny Billimoria, Bapsi Nariman, Kiran Anand, Prama Bhandari, Emma Horne and Diane Banz- Derez for their suggestions. A special mention to Radhika Birla and Shivani Wazir Pasrich.

In conclusion the one recommendation to the new committee is to carefully study the passport composition of the membership to get a clear idea of trends for future memberships. Her gift to the club is a suggestion that the club should try to create a category of 'revered members' who by virtue of long service to the club can be exempted from the requirement of attendance.

She ended by quoting a verse from the Vedas.

Audited Accounts And Balance Sheet Presented For Approval

There were several questions from the floor:

- . Gita Devi questioned loss of revenue on the covering letter of Balance Sheet. Mira explained that this was an assumption as she thought would be the revenue if the club had 200 members.
- . Mona Aggarwal commented that the General Membership should have been told about the guest fee hike from Rs.150/- to Rs. 200/-. Mira said that the point was well taken.

. Elaini Spachi commented on the Auditor accounts saying it was very confusing as different pages show different accounts. She asked if the Auditor's could specify under each category what it includes so that it is easy to understand.

It should also probably show the outstanding/liabilities for the next committee.

. Nima Malhotra questioned 'Gifts' on the balance sheet. Why show a separate account? Shouldn't it be included in the General Meeting or AGM account.

. Nina Dey questioned printing expenses.

Mira said that this included printing stationery like envelopes, letterheads etc.

Balance Sheet and Audited Accounts passed and proposed by Sheila Thadani and seconded by Shawn Runacres.

Questions from the floor on Membership

. 6-7 Indian members taken. Were they from the previous waiting list or taken randomly?

Lynne replied that they have been taken in chronological order as they applied. There was no waiting list.

. Mona Aggarwal questioned the re-application of Leena Singh saying that in her term as President she was on the waiting list.

Lynne replied by saying that she did not receive any application of Leena Singh From the former membership.

Nandita Lahiri- former membership in charge also stated that she did not receive Leena Singh's application form.

It has been advised that the new committee to look into past 2-3 years membership forms.

. Sheila Ghatate asked if any member has been taken from the 10% category of foreign passport holder residing permanently in India.

Lynne replied that 1 person has been accepted.

It was decided that questions like Mona Aggarwal and Sheila Ghatate to be sent in written to the new committee for them to review.

The President then thanked Shirin Paul not only for the Gala Night but also for hosting the AGM.

The President called upon the Nomination Chairperson Emma Horne to announce the new slate for 2007-08:

President	Eleni Spachi
1 st Vice President	Bina Deogun
2 nd Vice President	Janet Chawla
Newsletter	Christine Claeys
Secretary	Radhika Birla
Membership	Supriya Gupta
Treasurer	Sohinder Nabha
Hospitality	Sylvia Kaelin

The New President and her committee then took the chair.

Eleni said that she is moved and honoured to be the President of WIC. She looks forward to the challenges and will continue on the same steps.


She thanked Smita for organizing informative General Meetings and said that this year the General Meetings will be keeping in view relevant topics. Eleni also mentioned that a new Circle on music- Indian & Western shall be introduced. She also promises in addition a lot of fun, dance, lunches. She hopes that the members find the meetings interesting.

She thanked Vinu Baig and her Committee.



Vinu Baig

President



Sunaina Aggarwal

Secretary