

# Women's International Club, Delhi

Minutes of AGM held on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 11 am

Magnolia Room, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

## 1. Quorum

At the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting there was not a quorum present so President, Janet Chawla, adjourned the meeting. Within ten minutes the quorum was reached due to late arrivals and the meeting commenced.

## 2. Welcome Address by the President

President, Janet Chawla, pointed out the importance of the club Constitution (one booklet of this Constitution was given to each participant as a reminder). It has to be used as a model and reference in case of doubts or litigious points. Janet pointed out what should be the objectives of this club, friendly exchanges between various nationalities and we should try to broaden foreign membership to that end. She reminded us strongly that WIC is a non-political club, referring to the GM cancellation at the Pakistan High Commission.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

Secretary, Veena Hora, was absent for family reasons, so passing of minutes could not be done.

## 4. Committee Reports

**First Vice-President:** Radhika Birla, thanked all the Circle Leaders for organizing their various activities, with special thanks to Sunaina Suneja for her commitment. Special thanks also to the members of this year's Executive Committee lead by Janet Chawla and well wishes to the new committee which will be headed by Renu Mehra.

**Membership:** Monika Sharma, reported that a big job had been done to issue a new directory handed to members in September 2017. It was an important investment, but it means that next season only extra pages will need to be added. Monika referred to the difficulties encountered with the printer to make alterations because of mistakes in the previous edition. We are looking for new foreign members to enter the club, as one way to rejuvenate it. One problem in this regard is that less diplomats are coming accompanying by their family. We should look for new members in our own circles of friends. Another problem is with getting proposers, members are being asked to propose new-comers they hardly know - Monika suggested we should make it easier for new applicants. It was difficult to get payments of membership dues, with some cheques not coming until the end of the season. Monika conclusion, that the old club has to be younger.

**Newsletter:** Anca Radulescu, explained that this season was marked by the paperless movement. Anca had been working hard on sending WIC information by e-mails, monthly programs included. However, some of our older members are not comfortable with computers, so they have continued to received

paper versions as usual. The move to being paperless helped to save Rs 19000 this year. She referred to the importance of the WIC website with easy access and an increase of visitors, information on the circles meeting and the calendar of activities. There is an easy and secured access using the WIC password. Two versions of the newsletter are sent to members every month, the fancy program with an artistic presentation and a basic format for easy printing. Anca thanked people who helped her finding solutions or financial support.

**Hospitality:** Renu Gupta, initiated the use of Doodle for members to register directly to attend the monthly activities. The system is easy to use and works jointly with the newsletter. Catering for GMs is now being done by a caterer. Renu took over the position of Second Vice-President when Marianne Franzen had to resign after her move to Bangalore - it was a learning experience for Renu to step in.

**Treasurer:** Vibhuti Sharma, presented the audited financial accounts approved by the chartered accountant and noted points of interest. Printing of the directories was expensive but will last for several seasons. The 2016 Gala expenses are covered, the 2017 Gala was postponed. The final figures are positive. It has been suggested to create a special fund to have more quality events e.g. to pay musicians, or to improve the WIC website. Vibhuti pointed out the problems resulting from demonetization, and the requirement to only take cheque payments. Again, Vibhuti came back to the fact that attendance at the last two Galas was very poor so she was reluctant to allocate a large budget for a fancy Gala. More members will bring more budget, a revamping of the Constitution could allow sponsors to come in. Young members are needed to assure the future of the club. We have to mix young and veterans to progress into a new Club. Thanks to the Executive Committee for their support and thanks to Peggy for her invaluable support and advice.

## 5. Questions/Suggestions from the Floor

President, Janet Chawla invited members to ask questions or make suggestions and the responses included:

- The Club should invest in a webmaster to organize a good, attractive website.
- Should try to get a balance between Indian and foreign members, at present only 51 or 52 foreigners are members.
- There needs to be open discussion to solve the financial and membership issues.
- Question about the financial constraints - it is not necessary to hold the circle meeting every month, a balance could be found.
- WIC is an international club not an Indian Club, it is non-political based on friendship and cultural exchanges.
- Incoming President Renu Mehra pointed out that the new committee are going to meet the same problems next season. Problem of hosting the circle meetings when costs are involved. One solution would be to increase the membership fees. A new General Meeting may be called to discuss and vote it.
- Shall we allow authors to sell their books at Circle meetings? This will help members to get a signed book but there will be a commercial transaction and members are not allowed to undertake any financial transactions at club meetings.

- Peggy Sood drew everyone’s attention to the appropriate sections of the Constitution.
- Non-payment of membership fees should lead to an exclusion.
- A date should be fixed at a GM to discuss all of the issues pointed out today, especially about the on the Gala - whether to maintain it or not.
- It is not acceptable to send e-mails to everybody in the club on delicate, political issues. People should be ruled out of the club for this kind of behaviour.
- Thanks to WIC travel organizers, Leena for the trip to Azerbaijan and Seema for the trip to Aurangabad.

## 6. Approval of the New Executive Committee

Parbeen Kaur officially called for approval of the slate for the new Executive Committee. The members are:

President – Renu Mehra	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Leena Singh
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Seema Bhalla	Secretary – Dominique Chorosz
Treasurer – Anuradha Kumra	Membership – Karima Kaderi
Newsletter – Sabina Inderjit	Hospitality – Stevie Clayton

New Executive Committee members were invited to the front and presented with roses by their counterparts from the outgoing Committee.

## 7. Incoming President’s Speech

Renu Mehra thanked outgoing President Janet Chawla and the previous Executive Committee. She noted that it was the start of a new season for WIC, and that she was very much looking forward to working as a team with the new Executive Committee. She invited members to make suggestions to her regarding the Constitution and told members not to hesitate to contact any members of her team. Renu insists that we would maintain hard copies of the newsletter for old members, to help them keep the link with the club. Financial problems will be faced this year and Renu said that increasing the fees would have to be considered. Sunaina Suneja suggested that we could all come one hour before the start of the September GM to vote the increase of the fees – but other members noted that it was not compatible with the Constitution which only allows an increase at the AGM. The improvement of the website is to be continued and the challenge is passed on to Sabina Inderjit.

**Meeting Closed.**

<b>Renu Mehra</b>	<b>Leena Singh</b>	<b>Seema Bhalla</b>	<b>Dominique Chorosz</b>
<b>Anuradha Kumra</b>	<b>Karima Kaderi</b>	<b>Sabina Inderjit</b>	<b>Stevie Clayton</b>