

Women's International Club, Delhi

Minutes of AGM held at the Metropolitan Hotel in a hybrid fashion on Wednesday
May 11, 2022 at 2:30 pm.

The AGM was conducted by 2nd Vice President Madhavi Goradia Divan.

1. Quorum

The quorum was complete at the start of the meeting, the AGM started at 2:30pm.

2. Welcome Address and President's Report - Monika Sharma

The President welcomed and thanked the members of WIC for their unwavering support and continued participation at all the programs in spite of Covid restrictions.

She mentioned she had to step in and fill the void after Yuka Ando had to leave for Japan. She thanked the members for placing their trust in her halfway through 2021-2022.

She mentioned that this EC had successfully implemented the following programs as per Yuka Ando's suggestion.

1. Changing the timings of meetings from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
2. Starting meetings from July and August 2021.
3. Setting up a WIC website.

She thanked all the EC members for their great efforts and continued involvement, particularly in setting up a WIC Website, initiated by our technology team, Noor Anand Chawla, Rosie Sahani and Smita Mankad which took months of hard work.

She mentioned that our project to compile our WIC History Book was realised this year. She extended her gratitude to Peggy Sood, Prama Bhandari, and Nayana Goradia for taking this project on themselves. She thanked Rosie Sahani for coordinating the printing of the WIC History Book.

The Golden Jubilee Medallions were distributed this year to our members at the March GM and the AGM.

She mentioned that Rosie also succeeded in recovering a long pending refund from the Habitat Center.

Finally she requested everyone to observe a minute of silence in the memory of our two lovely stalwarts of WIC- Rita Gharekhan and Prem Gupta.

She then welcomed Suneeta Trivedi and her incoming team for 2022-2023 and wished them luck and assured them all the cooperation and assistance to her and her team from our EC.

3. Secretary's Report and Approval of Minutes- Surrinder Kaur Sarna

The minutes of the last AGM held via zoom on Wednesday May 19th, 2021, were sent to the club on the 25th April, 2022. Surrinder asked for the minutes to be formally approved and passed.

Proposed by Prabheen Kaur

Seconded by Sheila Ghatate

Surrinder shared with the club that we had continued as the previous EC did in maintaining all of our records on Google Drive along with the paper records which are traditionally passed from one team to the other team. She mentioned that almost all of the EC meetings were conducted virtually save a few that took place in a hybrid fashion as the world started to open up.

All these meetings have recorded minutes that are approved and passed by the EC.

These minutes are all stored digitally in the Executive Committee Google Drive which will be passed to the next EC.

She thanked everyone for their active participation via zoom and for taking the jump with us as we slowly brought our meetings back into person.

She thanked her EC for a wonderful working environment, their hard work and commitment to the club.

She thanked Yuka Ando for leading the club with such dedication and grace before she had to leave for Japan.

She welcomed the new Executive Committee and wished them all the best for their term.

4. 1st Vice President's Report- Rosie Rameet Sahani

Rosie thanked her EC and Yuka Ando for the amazing teamwork which helped us achieve many milestones, like the Website and the History Book.

Rosie presented a slide show for the club....which inspired Yuka Ando and her to build a website and the History Book.

She mentioned that a lot of hard work our predecessors had done for the CD rom which are missing.

She said that we have documented most of our content and are hopeful that it will be carried on in the future.

She wished the new EC an extremely successful year ahead.

She mentioned that the members have raised a few points which she discussed as:

1. Responsibility of the members. WIC functionality can be divided into four categories. a) EC and the sub- committees. b) Circle Leaders. c) Hostesses. d) Members Audience. Each category is important and it's our responsibility to fit into one category every year in the interest of the club.
2. Admission of the expats. She suggested adding circle meetings with the GM for the international members to attend so as to speed the process of the expats' admission to the club. They could submit the membership form after attending a circle meeting or a GM.
3. The Attendance of the members is important for the energy of the club. She suggested that some members who do not fulfill their stipulated attendance for the GM and the CM should be questioned, and their spots given to the others in the waiting. For members who are unable to attend meetings due to health reasons she pointed out a clause in the constitution (slide). Article III-

Membership , Section 6- Classification of Membership. e) A member who is unable to attend the expected number of meetings on an on-going basis due to age, disability or ill health may apply to the Executive Committee through the Secretary for a relaxation of the rules on attendance. f) Such members will not be counted in the number of members for the purpose of determining whether the Executive Committee should place any limitations on membership. This way we can create a category of Golden members and slots could be filled by new members.

She congratulated the circle leaders for the marvelous job done this year and for the early start in July. They had 60 programs out of which 12 were physical. She mentioned that zoom was a blessing in disguise that helped to get renowned speakers and programs from around the world.

She thanked Peggy Sood, Prama Bhandhari and Nayana Goradia for all their hours of labor to create the History Book - Golden Years.

She thanked her circle leaders and gave out certificates of appreciation.

Green Thumb - Fatimata Kane Haidara, Atsuko Watanabe Jakhar.

Book Shelf - Lakshmi Chandra, Stevie Clayton

Dramebaaz - Sinia Dugal, Prabheen Kaur

Folk and Culture - Dominique Chorosz, Shalini Chand Kanwar

Cooks and Chefs - Bindu Talwar, Devika Anand

Textile Glory - Sunaina Suneja, Seita Vaidialingam, Veronique Dieu

Inherit-age - Seema Bhalla, Suneeta Trivedi, Anushree Mahajan, Ashwini Pai Bahadur.

Hostess:

Beatrice Correa do Lago, Smita Divan, Sohinder Nabha, Bubbles & Mohini Suneja, Hemant Pasrich, Deepak Chopra, Christine Hakim Samandari, Fatima Kane Haidara, Anita Dua.

Special Programs:

Dr. Latika Nath, Mr Andre' Correa Do Lago, Gita Devi, Salonika Aggarwal, Veena Dass, Midori Suzuki, Yuka Ando, Noor Anand Chawla, Surrinder Kaur Sarna.

Unconditional Support:

Radhika Birla, Stevie Clayton

5. 2nd Vice President's Report- Madhavi Goradia Divan

Madhavi welcomed everyone and said that the year had been both exhilarating and challenging. As zoom gave us the freedom to think out of the box and source presenters from across the globe but we needed to keep programs engaging without meeting physically.

Overview of General Meetings:

General meeting in September 2021- Program on assisted productive techniques and surrogacy- that bristles with legal, social, economic, ethical issues and issues relating to reproductive autonomy for women. Speakers

included a medical practitioner, a gay rights lawyer, a family lawyer and a social worker who gave us varied sides of the issue.

General meeting in October 2021- Program on the variety of floor arts from across India, variously named, Rangoli, chowk purana, Alpana and Kollam. We got a peek into the beautiful home of Nilima and Amrita Kilachand from Mumbai and a demonstration of how grains, colours, paint, mirrors and flowers are used to create stunning patterns. Dr Madhumita Dobe from Kolkata gave us a presentation on Alpana designs from Bengal. A priest from Kerala, Suryanarayanan Namboodiri told us about astronomical patterns he creates in temples and homes.

General Meeting in November 2021- Celebrated the 200th birth anniversary of the literary giant Dostoevsky. His works reflected the political, social and spiritual upheavals in 19th century Russia. We were treated to an artistic, literary and musical extravaganza from Russia, organised by Ekaterina Semenushkova . That included a presentation by Svetlana Romanova from the Russian book club and a choir performance conducted by Nazehda Balyan.

General Meeting in December 2021- Marked the birth anniversary of the legendary dance maestro Uday Shankar who took Indian dance to the world. Dr Sulakshana Sen, a dancer and a professor whose Ph.D. thesis studies the work of Uday Shankar, gave us an audiovisual presentation on the life and work of Uday Shankar, who expressed through his dance the aspirations and challenges of a new India.

General Meeting in January 2022- Program on the unusual subject of the Iranis of Mumbai, a small immigrant community from Iran that settled on the west coast of India. Sifra Lentin, a Mumbai historian, told us about this community that made its mark on the city's landscape through its trademark cafes. A short film was screened on Irani cafés that have come to form an indelible part of the heritage of Mumbai. There was also an exclusive interview with famous Bollywood actor Boman Irani who shared his own family's immigrant experience.

General Meeting in February 2022- Acclaimed film critic and author, Anupama Chopra gave us an insight into the evolving role of women in Indian cinema. The silver screen has essayed powerful and inspiring female characters. But it has also objectified and sexualised women and encouraged patriarchy. Conducting this conversation with Anupama was Noor Anand Chawla.

General Meeting in March 2022- The program explored the troubling but important subject of marital rape. It was the first physical general meeting in two years, giving us the much-needed opportunity to meet one another. Discussing different sides of the challenge were two eminent lawyers- Rebecca John and Sai Deepak who argued the case before the Delhi High Court. Discussed at the meeting were the evolving notions of marriage and marital expectations, the importance of consent, and whether non-consensual sex in marriage should be punished at par with rape.

General Meeting in April 2022- As April is the month when Sakura or Cherry Blossoms bloom in Japan, our General Meeting followed that theme. Our members from Japan, both past and present, made it possible for us to experience some heavenly Sakura sights in different parts of Japan. A special thanks to Yuka Ando, Midori Suzuki, Tomoko Kurihara for making this possible.

She thanked her EC members for their support and welcomed the new EC.

6. Membership Chairperson's Report - Nandini Pattani

Nandini welcomed everyone and informed that current membership stands at 136 members: 85 Indian members and 51 international members.

She informed the club that we have taken 17 new members, all international:

Agnieszka Burakowska from Poland, Beatrice Correa do Lago from France, Fukino Aoshima from Japan, Fumie Takahashi from Japan, Patricia Lacina from the United States, Alice Cheng from Singapore, Maiko Fink from Japan, Liza Dwivedi from Ukraine, Svetlana Romanova Tomar from Russia, Teresa Adegas from Portugal, Soha Kamal from Egypt, Isabelle Touyarou from France, Anna Jha from Ukraine, Ismarlinda Eriza from Indonesia, Laura Amalir from France, Indri Adinarto from Indonesia, Karima Kaderi from Morocco.

She informed us that 4 of our Indian members have resigned and they are: Gita Abhiyankar, Sarla Daga, Aruna Mehta and Reva Singh.

The 8 international members who have left are Yuka Ando, Lidia Trofimova, Tomoko Kurihara, Emma Horne, Marcia Hermann, Meike Franke, Coralie Srivastava, Binta Bah.

She thanked her membership sub-committee Smita Divan, Radhika Birla, Lidia Trofimova, and Ekaterina Semenushkova, for their unstinting support.

She thanked Yuka Ando, Monika Sharma and her fellow EC members.

7. Hospitality Report- Midori Suzuki

Midori informed the club that she had a wonderful experience here in India working as hospitality chair for WIC.

She mentioned that she attended all the GMs and most of the CMs. She did most of the dry runs for the CMs. She arranged gifts for the speakers and the hostesses. She thanked Noor, Surrinder, Stevie Clayton and Radhika for their help whenever needed.

She stated that it was a pity that about 50 members had not attended a single meeting this year and about 35 members had not attended any circle meetings at all.

She urged the WIC members to attend more meetings as so much hard work goes into getting speakers of high reputations.

She suggested that we continue with a few zoom meetings to stay connected with our members who are unable to attend physically due to health reasons and to get speakers from around the globe.

She thanked Yuka Ando for the GM in April from Japan.

She thanked Nandini and the EC for their support.

8. Newsletter Report - Noor Anand Chawla

Noor welcomed everyone to the AGM which was a physical one after two years. She mentioned that for the first three months we met on zoom and then October onwards began experimenting with a few physical meetings.

She reported that since we started the year early under President Yuka Ando and she made 10 newsletters.

She mentioned that she hosted all the GMs held on zoom and a few CMs. Some of these meetings had dry runs.

The recordings of these meetings were earlier saved on the WIC EC Google Drive but later relied on Zoom Recordings as an easier and inexpensive option.

She mentioned that the EC embarked on a momentous journey of initiating the first ever WIC website.

She talked about the attendance format which previously relied on Doodle, a paid platform that was now changed by this EC to Google Attendance Form which was free of cost and easy to maneuver. Keeping the functionality of both the platforms in mind the next EC could take a call for the future.

She thanked her fellow EC members for their patience and guidance, especially Yuka Ando and Monika Sharma.

9. Treasurer's Report - Smita Mankad joined us via Zoom from Oxford, UK

She thanked the Nomination Committee for appointing her as the Treasurer for 2021-2022 and placing their trust in her. She thanked her EC for their support in both managing expenses within the budget and helping with collection of membership fees.

- Total income for the Financial Year 2021-22 was Rs. 3,46,892 and total expenses were Rs. 1,74,750 giving us a surplus of Rs. 1,72,142 for the FY (March 31st, 2022)
 - The surplus was used towards Gala in April, AGM in May, printing of the History Book, and other expenses till the new EC takes over
- Membership fee remained main source of income outside of interest income
 - Continued with the reduced membership fee of Rs. 2,500
 - 119 members paid within the financial year 2021-22 totaling Rs. 2,97,500
 - 13 members paid in the current financial year 2022-23
 - 5 members remained unfinanced as on May 11, 2022, as approved by the Membership Committee
- Interest income totaled Rs. 49,389 of which Rs. 43,156 was from our Fixed Deposits of Rs. 9 lakhs

- General and circle meeting expenses totalled Rs. 37,994 as a majority of meetings were virtual
- Accounting and audit expenses were Rs. 26,700, with no increase from the previous year
- Recovered the advance paid to the India Habitat Centre of Rs. 56,000 from 2020, in May 2022
 - As the rates at the Metropolitan Hotel were the same as the Indian Habitat Center the EC chose to go with the better environment of the Metropolitan
 - Just to note that the 2020-21 EC recovered the advance of Rs. 59,000 from Aleph in June 2021
- Zoom subscription costs Rs. 1534 a month which enabled us to conduct virtual programming
- Google storage for 100 GB costs Rs. 1300 per year
- Did not renew Doodle subscription as our mostly virtual events didn't require it
- The main expense of the year was the new WIC website for a total cost of Rs.84,194
 - We first evaluated three vendors based on the following criteria: best quality, best cost, flexibility with our requirements, and maintenance support. They are as follows:
 - Broclick - quoted Rs. 80,000 only for setting up the website since he will have to separately invest in the software required for a semi-private website like ours.
 - Flying Star - quoted Rs. 40,000 – 45,000 only for website features
 - Manohar Bhagoliwal - quoted Rs. 35,000 only for website features.
 - We went with Manohar Bhagoliwal, who also offered maintenance and hands-on support at Rs. 4000 per month or light hand-holding for Rs. 2000
 - We took on the extra hands-on service for the first quarter after launching as we needed maximum support in the initial period
 - Breakdown of website costs
 - Website Development Rs. 41,300.00
 - One-time Set-up Cost with basic website features - Rs. 35,000 (+18% GST)
 - Maintenance 3 Months Rs. 14,160.00
 - 3 months @ Rs. 4000 per month = Rs. 12,000 (+18% GST)
 - GoDaddy Hosting + SSL Rs. 21,053.51
 - We got the Deluxe Linux Hosting with cPanel plan for 3 years at a discounted price of Rs. 10,764
 - SSL the security layer cost us Rs. 7038 for 2 years
 - We got our .COM Domain Registration for FREE for 3 years
 - One Professional Email ID for FREE for 1 year
 - WordPress Rs. 7,680.00
 - Now members can use a built-in online payment option through the private section of the website to pay their membership fee
- Gala expenses totaled Rs. 1,71,940
 - After a gap of two years, Gala was held at the Le Meridien Hotel with an excellent turnout with food, drinks, games, and a fashion show.

- The event was free for members and at a cost of only Rs. 2000 for spouses and guests
- Expenses of 2022 AGM will be paid by us
- Printing Directory pages of New Members was done and distributed
- History Book Project was printed at the cost of Rs. 405 each
 - 90-page book in an 8” X 6” size
- 50th-year commemorative silver medallions are part of the Assets in our Balance sheet
 - Of the 160 coins, 65 were distributed, and 95 remain as of March 31st, 2022
- SUMMARY as of March 31, 2022
 - Cash Balance of Rs. 115,324
 - Bank Balance of Rs. 2,62,424.54
 - FDs of Rs. 9,00,000 (No FDs were liquidated during the year)
- At the time of handover as well (post AGM), there is a sufficient cash and bank balance for the new EC to be able to operate comfortably.

Smita congratulated Gitanjali Mehta on becoming the new Treasurer and wished the incoming EC a successful year.

1. Motion to pass the audited financial accounts for the year 2021- 2022.

Proposed by Stevie Clayton

Seconded by Radhika Birla.

2. Resolution to change the Authorised Bank Signatories from the outgoing President, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Member to the incoming President, Treasurer, and First Vice-President, as per the Constitution.

Proposed by Sheila Ghatate

Seconded by Bubbles Suneja

3. Reappointment of the Auditors was

Proposed by Titli Sahani

Seconded by Seema Bhalla.

10. Other Business

Smita Divan questioned why the 5 members who have not paid for a full year are still in the club? What was the course of action taken to reach out to them? She said that these are bad debts to give to the next EC. Rosie replied that some are sick and some are not contactable. She said due process had been followed. Smita Mankad said that it had been very challenging to send numerous emails, phone calls and messages to these members to pay. Stevie added that the constitution has a clause that allows the Executive Committee to keep a member ‘unfinanced’ for a certain period of time if required. The new committee will take further action on this. Lakshmi Chandra said that no names should be taken as it’s a terrible violation of privacy. Frenny Billimoria said that she

would get the subscription from one of the unfinanced members who is sick. Gita Devi said that one of the unfinanced members should resign as she is probably not returning.

Another question raised by Smita Divan was what was the surplus this EC is going to leave after the AGM and Gala? Smita replied saying that we have about Rs 65,000 -70,000, and a bank balance of about Rs 15,000 and if we process the breaking of an FD that will come in and if the membership money flows in that might not be required. There is enough to take care of the GMs and CMs and other petty cash for the next few months.

11. Endorsement and Installation of the 2022-2023 WIC Executive Committee

Rosie invited the new EC on the dais and each of them were welcomed with flowers by their predecessors.

The motion to accept the new Executive Committee slate was:

Proposed by Nayana Goradia

Seconded by Ruchika Rajan.

12. Speech by incoming President Suneeta Trivedi

Suneeta Trivedi expressed her gratitude for the honor of being entrusted as the new President of the club 2022-2023.

She congratulated the outgoing EC for giving an outstanding year of varied and interesting programs.

She thanked the Nomination Committee for bringing together her EC for the new WIC year 2022-2023.

She made a few announcements :

1. Her team will continue to follow the calendar of General Meetings and Circle Meetings as was being done prior to 21-22. Hence the first GM will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month of September followed by the consecutive CMs.
2. They will revert to the initial timing of the meetings to 3 pm.
3. The annual subscription of the club will now go back to Rs 4,500/-.
4. Finally she announced that she and her team will intend to work in detail on the provision of the Article VII, section 4(b)(1) and Bylaw 5, of the WIC constitution "The President shall provide leadership and direction to the club and accept overall responsibility for the efficient and effective conduct of all operations, programs and activities."

For this she will prepare a special purpose vehicle a white paper to investigate and report on options for enlivening the club.

According to the Bylaw 5, an Adhoc Committee can be appointed by "the President for a specific purpose and a finite period of time." The proposal along with the formation of the Adhoc Committee, the scope, the terms of reference along with a detailed framework would be submitted for the consideration of the House at the forthcoming General Meeting.

The transfer of the Ceremonial Necklace was done for three years between Anita Meattle,(20-21) Monika Sharma (21-22) finally to Suneeta Trivedi (22-23).As this could not be done earlier due to Covid.

She proudly welcomed and introduced her new Executive Committee to the club.

Dr. Seema Bhalla- 1st Vice President

Megan Reid- 2nd Vice President

Anuradha Kumra - Secretary

Gitanjali Mehta- Treasurer

Svetlana Romanova Tomar- Newsletter

Pamela Bhagat- Hospitality

Membership- Dr.Ekaterina Semenushkova.

13. Close of the meeting- Madhavi Goradia Divan

Madhavi thanked all the members on behalf of President Monika Sharma and the outgoing Executive Committee and declared the AGM 2022 closed.