

4th Exec Meeting 2019-2020 - Minutes

Meeting held on Zoom, 29th June, 2020.

Present:

- Phyllis Charter President
- Bina Vyas Vice President
- Christine Kirby Immediate Past President
- Elizabeth Thomas Treasurer
- Corinne Dalleur Constitutional Chairman
- Ebe Martines VP Elect (Observer)
- Alan Phillips Administrator (in attendance)

Welcome and President's opening remarks.

Phyllis welcomed everyone to the 4th Executive meeting of the IW Year and to Ebe, as observer and as incoming Vice President; she reminded everyone that items discussed are for Executive members only; are not for discussion outside the meeting until the minutes are published and that the meeting was being recorded.

Minutes of previous meeting, February 2020

All agreed that the minutes were correct.

REPORTS:

- President Phyllis Charter
- Vice President Bina Vyas
- Immediate Past President Christine Kirby
- Treasurer Elizabeth Thomas
- Constitutional Chairman Corinne Dalleur
- Media Manager Kerstin Jonson (not in attendance).
- All taken as read, except for Treasurer's Report.

Bina said that she had received some reports late and will circulate those in due course.

Phyllis requested that a further item was added to the agenda, to discuss the Annual IIW Magazine, which was agreed.

Liz presented report to 30th June 2020, which was her first year as IIW Treasurer. The year started normally with many levels of IW sending in their Cap Fees by 31st October and reported that all receipts have been acknowledged. All invoices have been paid well within time and are well within budget, to some extent due to the effects of Covid-19 lockdown. The estimates for the year show that it should be £100,000 under budget; Cap Fees were over budget at £380,616; but directory sales were under, as not all countries had paid before the decision was taken not to publish a hard copy. No provision has been made for the ballot counting which may be higher than the £5,000 budgeted, because of the present difficult circumstances.

Total capital and reserves stand at £1,581,290.91 at 23rd June. Donations to the IIW Covid19 Fund total £6,435.03.

Membership statistics

Estimated membership is:

Countries: 101 (deleted Colombia, Georgia, Bahrain, and Thailand – the latter two may be revived);

Districts: 177 (new District in Nigeria but D.702 Jamaica has closed)

New Clubs: 102 (India 67; Nigeria 8; Italy 6; Nepal 4; Pakistan 3; Bangladesh 3; Germany 2; France 2; Denmark 1; Mexico 1; Togo 1; Philippines 1; Bulgaria 1).

Non-Districted Clubs: 68 **New** Spain 2 (Campoamor, Vigo); Uganda 1 (Ggaba), (IW Georgetown was discovered to be still active in Guyana)

Total Clubs: 3,948 (2019 - 4035)

New members: 3,099 + from new clubs 782 = 3,881

Total members: 109,683 (2019 - 108,696), There was slight difference with IIW HQ Figures.

Liz continued that of 68 clubs still active 13 have not paid this year's Cap Fees, with some local difficulties being a cause, whilst some regions are reluctant to pay. She expressed her hope for even more progress next year whilst working with Ebe on ND clubs.

Liz suggested to add name and contact details to Cap Fees form and would help keeping up to date information on Treasurers; will propose that RPG are re-appointed as auditors to June 2021; that the authorised signatories remain the same for the time being, with Bina's ascent, whilst keeping her aware of all payments. She said that IIW are hoping to offer alternative payment platforms, to help reduce the burden of bank charges when remitting payment to IIW.

Proposed that Ian Wynn from RPG should attend our Executive Committee meeting in October, assuming it takes place, to present the accounts himself and be there to answer questions. Stated that IIW had received a £10,000 grant from Trafford Council, and it was agreed by all that the compensation for lockdown should be kept in reserve.

There were various options discussed regarding the non-payment of Cap Fees and that the Charter could be removed from them for persistent non-payment as they are using IW Intellectual Property. Phyllis added that they should also not be included in the European rallies, etc., if they do not pay their Cap Fees.

Phyllis agreed that the issue of Swiss Francs should be further considered, but that this decision should not be rushed (after IIW's experience with the Krona account) and the investments will be for the next IW year

There was general agreement to the reappointment of auditors, RPG, which will be confirmed at the GBM.

Liz suggested there be investigation into the cost of providing the directory in an online version, as this would substantially reduce distribution costs

Matters arising

Liz said that even though it had been discussed at the previous meeting and minuted, that canvassing has still been continuing, she believed. Phyllis said that nobody has the resolution to put this in writing that canvassing happens so, only then can the Exec act upon it. Asked whether Liz had anything concrete, but she did not.

Liz said that announcing the election results did not go to plan, Chris suggested that people think that the guidelines regarding social media are for everyone else, but themselves. Phyllis explained

that she'd asked for people not to publish on social media until the nominees had been informed. It was agreed that the process for announcing the results would be amended.

Alan clarified that a pdf could be produced for the opening pages (circa 10 pages) of the IIW Directory for a few hundred pounds. All agreed to go ahead.

Correspondence

Phyllis brought up the topic of proposed new districts being created without the correct processes being followed. It was agreed that charters should not be sent until this has been settled to IIW's satisfaction and all due processes had been followed.

Corinne explained the background to an enquiry regarding Members at Large, and everyone agreed that Corinne would write and explain the Exec's thinking and the preferred options.

Corinne outlined how some anomalies in the voting process had been rectified and Bina suggested that in future, countries are given deadlines to ensure that matters are progressed and as soon as possible.

Replacement for 'caring for women and girls'

Phyllis said as they had already been agreed, the eight suggestions have been selected.

Bina agreed and said that they can be discussed at the next GBM.

Changes to Blueprint

"The Way Forward", which was discussed at the Melbourne Convention and agreed by the Inner Wheel membership was reviewed, with there being a range of views on its applicability. Phyllis pointed out that the membership had said that as it is an international organisation, it wanted an international convention.

Bina said that business session, will continue as previously happened, with Three Presidents presenting their reports. The suggestion from "The Way Forward" from members for changes in procedure and contact would be implemented. Bina wanted to know where the members' wishes had been documented and Phyllis explained where it had been agreed.

MGA

There were three successful nominations for Margarett Golding Awards and one which the Exec have requested further information. There were five unsuccessful nominations.

Constitutional Matters

Name Changes

Corinne explained that Vordingborg-Storstrømmen IW, in Denmark, wants to change their name to Vordingborg Inner Wheel Club and the history of different clubs in Vordingborg. Corinne was to write to explain that it could be confusing to other members and the Exec suggest calling Vordingborg Central.

Alan explained the motivation for the change from Aarhus Vestre Inner Wheel Klub to Aarhus Inner Wheel Klub, as the Aarhus club had closed many years previously. Corinne to write similarly and explain similarly to Aarhus Vestre Inner Wheel Klub Denmark, to change to Aarhus Central.

Corinne outlined that she had just received a request for opinion on the refusal of a nomination that was not accepted. It was agreed that this is an internal country matter, and if it cannot be resolved, then the NGB of the country could write to IIW Exec.

Corinne provided an explanation of NGB situation in Germany; NR Germany was allowed to rewrite the bylaws, that all were then to agree. The existing bylaws would then be actualised and sent clubs and districts; who will submit proposals and suggestions to be discussed. The results would then be scrutinised at a Germany wide symposium and the draft sent to IIW for approval, to form the basis of a strong NGB. It was decided that a 2/3 majority would be required for the formation of an NGB.

Bina said that there should be motivation given to them for the movement to NGB, as it is a large IW country. Phyllis explained that it needed to be a 2/3 majority, as it is too risky to go ahead with a simple majority.

Convention

Alan explained that comments on contract had been sent to LCC and that the minutes of the previous meeting would be circulated later today. Phyllis pointed out that replies still had not been received to the questions raised at the meeting and that with the contract in its current form, would mean IIW providing an open ended cheque. Alan further added that parts of the contracts would mean that IIW would underwrite any decision that LCC took, with the document as it stands.

Liz said that there was an email from insurers, saying that they would only provide a quotation one month prior to event.

Trustees

It was established at the last meeting that the Trustees would, in future, be written to on a cyclical basis, maybe every three to five years, asking whether they want to be re-elected. Chris added that this would give the Trustees the option for to evaluate whether they wished to continue.

It was agreed that a further discussion will take place at the GBM regarding page 21 as written in the C&H.

Foundation

Chris said that it was not a popular programme when it began and that Rotary have far more money at their disposal. Liz recounted the experience of GB&I, whilst Phyllis pointed out the countries that do have Foundations: IWUSA & IW Philippines.

Corinne said that there were serious issues and that there are many factors to be considered, possibly not until the 2024 convention.

It was agreed that there were many issues, implications and potential costs to be considered and that further investigations and work would be needed.

Received Minutes

Minutes were received on time from five NGBs and from three countries without NGBs.

Liz said that she noted that several NGBs mentioned the aging memberships and that GB&I clubs not having met for three months and potentially not meeting till January, some may choose to close their clubs.

Phyllis made reference to the foundation, the costs and its potential impact on membership if further costs are added to members' fees.

Chris provide an addendum to report, to which she wished to add a further addendum as she'd told that a new club would be chartering in Chad. The new club in Ecuador requested that the NR from Mexico to represent them and asked for opinions. After some discussion it was agreed that it should be investigated and a solution found, as this is not without precedent in Inner Wheel.

UN Meetings

Bina said that detailed reports have been submitted and circulated. On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the UN, a Conference of NGOs who are in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO) was held. International Inner Wheel has endorsed the Statement and has been recognized in the Statement to show our solidarity with the UN in its mission. In this time of International crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN has planned to turn this crisis into an opportunity. The IIW name was mentioned prominently in the minutes from the UN.

IIW Magazine

Phyllis said that there have been 4 web magazines and that the Annual Magazine is in production, which is normally approved by the President and Executive at the 4th Executive meeting, although due to not being able to meet, this would be done remotely. Any changes to the printing process / magazine content, it was agreed, needed Executive approval. Bina agreed that this is an annual magazine to cover each President's year.

Phyllis said that ND clubs need encouragement and she wanted this included in the Magazine.

AOB

A question regarding finances had been raised and Chris suggested that district Treasurer to explain the process.

PayPal or other platforms

Liz said that she had mentioned earlier in her report, but it won't be available for the Cap Fees letter, to be sent early in the new IW year. However, it will state that it's being investigated and further information will follow. Phyllis suggested that Cap Fees may be remitted later than normal this year, with lockdowns, etc.

Due to the restriction on travel due to Covid-19, Bina requested that a ceremonial chain / badge be created in India, so that it could be worn at the many events that she was attending online. It was agreed that it would be too much of a risk to send any of the Presidential regalia via courier and that many would not accept the carriage of 'jewellery' Bina said that it could be produced locally in India for circa £35 and it was agreed to go ahead.

Closing Remarks

Phyllis thanked everyone for attending the 4th Executive meeting and for your reports. The first eight months of the year as normal IW and the subsequent four months of Zoom meetings, which has been very different, but very useful. She expects that some meetings will continue over Zoom, to help contain expenses, only meeting face to face one or twice per year. Phyllis then thanked Alan for his work beyond the call of duty. Thanks to Elaine, for her hard work, especially through lockdown.

She wished Bina and Ebe all the very best for a successful Inner Wheel 2020-2021.

Vote of Thanks

Bina proposed the vote of thanks, for the last time as VP. She gave her heartfelt thanks to President Phyllis for conducting the meetings so meticulously, and gave thanks for her wise counsel when it was required; she thanked the Exec for their valued input and guidance and to the Media Manager,

she offered her congratulations for the magazines. Congratulations to newly elected VP, Ebe and to the new Board Directors, and her thanks to Alan and Elaine in the secretariat in trying year.

Chris gave a farewell address – it had been her great pleasure to work with people from around the world who appreciate the consultative process, for the last three years; she gave thanks to Phyllis in possibly one of the hardest IIW year's anyone could imagine, and she flourished; she gave thanks to Alan for his calm, business acumen and to Elaine for her vast experience and guidance; she wished incoming President Bina and incoming VP Ebe, very best wishes for 2020-2021.

Corrine thanked Alan and Elaine for the all the help given to her and to Alan for facilitating and helping with all the Zoom meetings; to Phyllis, she thanked her for her support, leadership and friendship in a less than easy year; to Liz, she thanked her for her friendship and explaining Luxembourgish words and sentences; Bina, she wished her a happy and successful year; congratulations to Ebe on her role as incoming VP and happy she joins the team; to Chris, for her friendship, always encouraging words and for introducing her to Australia.