

***Indian Women's Association (IWA) Singapore
Annual General Meeting 2020
Minutes of the Meeting***

Date: 10th March 2020 (Tuesday)

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: Function Room, Spring Grove Condominium,
Singapore- 249565

Agenda

- 1) Registrations at 10:00 am
- 2) Call to Order 11 am
- 3) President's Welcome & Report
- 4) Treasurer's Report
 - a) Audited Financial Statement 2019
 - b) Appointment of Auditors for the next fiscal year
- 5) Secretary's Report
 - a) IWA Report 2019
 - b) Proposed Amendments to the IWA Constitution as attached
- 6) Nominations/Elections
- 7) Introduction of Team 2020
- 8) Group photos
- 9) Any other business as may be properly brought before the meeting
- 10) President's address & vote of thanks
- 11) Meeting adjourned

Attendees

IWA Committee Members present:

Anuradha Shroff, Selmé Singh, Nirupa Vasudev, Monica Dovedy, Rakhi Shankar, Dipanjana Sen, Tejali Sarangdhar, Seema Gupta, Padmaja Balaji, Gurpreet Kaur, Shradha Singh, Gowri Aiyar.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Opening of the Meeting

It was noted that MOH directives under the COVID-19 situation were followed by IWA for the AGM 2020. All members had to fill out the 'Health & Travel Declaration' forms. Temperatures were taken and duly noted.

Monica Dovedy and Dipanjana Sen introduced themselves as Secretary and Assistant Secretary of IWA 2019 respectively and welcomed, past president, and members, to the 23rd Annual General Meeting of IWA.

The Secretary, Monica Dovedy, called the AGM 2020 to order at 10:40 am as the quorum was met.

President's Welcome and Report

- President Anuradha Shroff, welcomed all members present and thanked IWA team 2019.
- She praised the Singapore Government for the very commendable actions undertaken to control the current COVID-19 situation. She also thanked all the Singapore COVID-19 volunteers working at the front line.
- Anuradha gave her overview of IWA activities 2019. She thanked members for giving her an opportunity to serve. She stated that her prime focus has been for IWA members to recognize the value of belonging to this organization.
- IWA continued the trend of progress in 2019 with steady growth in membership; member engagement; volunteering opportunities; bazaar profits; community outreach; integration efforts; and donations towards more meaningful causes.
- She explained the progress and developments of the ICARE projects, the donation drive with HOME and TWC2, Swami Home birthday and Christmas celebrations and all other ICARE activities that IWA undertook.
- IWA forwarded financial aid to a NUS student on request made by Ambassador Keshavpany from the Singapore Indian Association. IWA also contributed towards the President's Challenge Fund which serves various causes, in recognition of the Bicentennial Year of Singapore.
- She shared the experience of the Tea Appreciation get-together at SUTD and the feedback from the students about the changes that IWA Gyan Jyoti Study Award makes in their lives.
- She spoke the IWA SMU Vidya Scholarship being awarded to a student and how it has made an impact on his academic career. The student conveyed his intention to pay it forward and this led to a discussion to connect with all past students who have been recipients of IWA scholarships.

- IWA was also contacted by NUS representatives for contributions in the form of scholarships for needy students in future.
- Anuradha spoke about the integration initiatives undertaken by IWA during the past year.
- She continued to explain all the projects that have kept IWA energized: various Integration events with PA - Harmony Extravaganza - Holi and Eid celebrations with Siglap South CC IAEC – The Lisha Foundation Curry Festival, which earned IWA an entry in the prestigious Singapore Book of Records - Project Give with SINDA – PPIS, (Post Hari Raya Celebrations), with Singapore President Madam Halima Yaqoob – and a wide variety of festivals that IWA celebrated with various community partners.
- She reiterated that it was important for IWA to have these opportunities to connect with the community as they are also opportunities for Inclusion and Integration.
- Anuradha spoke about the success of the Summer and Festive Bazaars 2019. She also mentioned that the IWA Bazaar has now been definitely endorsed as ‘The Happiest Bazaar in town’.
- She apprised the members about, a first-time initiative of IWA for showcasing service vendors in the form of a very successful IWAPRENEURS and the relaunch of IWA Music Gala in the form of an outstanding event, IWA Gala - RANGMANCH.
- Anuradha shared some of the other well received initiatives undertaken by Team 2019 such as a Buddy system of the members and for the members, introduction of Members’ Announcement WhatsApp group, a complete revamp of the IWA Website and the incorporation of Online Banking for IWA.
- She thanked the 5 outgoing Team members for their contributions towards the IWA community and their support to the Team.
- She thanked the Exco, Committee members, Team 2019, and volunteering members, for their support and valuable contributions of time, knowledge and experience.

Treasurer’s Report

The link to the Auditors Report has been sent along with the Notice of Meeting, of the AGM.

Treasurer Rakhi Shankar was called to present treasury report.

Rakhi thanked all Club Chairs for their support and cooperation.

The sources of revenue (including membership, ad sales, website, the two Bazaars) as well as the expenses for 2019 were presented.

The broad trends over the last five years were presented briefly.

Disbursement/donation of profits made to various community projects supported by IWA was also shown.

Rakhi also apprised the members and that online banking transactions have been operationalized in 2019 and the short-term deposits have been increased and restructured with a better interest rate.

Appointment of Auditors for next fiscal year:

It was proposed that Sasikala Devi and Associates be appointed as the auditors for 2020 as well. This was proposed by Rakhi Shankar and seconded by Monica Dovedy and carried forward unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Monica Dovedy and Dipanjana Sen presented the Secretary's report for the year 2019. They spoke about the spirit and vision of IWA, diligently and enthusiastically followed by the ICare programs, Interest groups/Clubs, Scholarship programs, IWA Events, Integration projects, that are supported by IWA.

They gave a brief overview into the work, roles and contributions of the all the Team members.

The report highlighting the activities and events of the following was presented:

- ICare: BSS, H.O.M.E, Swami Home, TWC2
- SUTD & SMU Scholarships
- Holi by the Sea with IEAC of Siglap CC
- Post Hari Raya (PPIS) & EID (Siglap CC) celebrations
- Harmony Extravaganza (participation for Singapore Bicentennial Year)
- LISHA Curry Fiesta (entry into the Singapore Book of Records)
- IWA with SINDA's Project Give
- Summer & Festive Bazaars
- IWAprenuers 2019
- Rangmanch – IWA Gala
- 13 interest clubs/groups
- Membership Team
- Dhvani
- Media Team
- Logistics

Monica took this opportunity to thank all Team members on behalf of the Executive Committee for their dedication and hard work that makes IWA the organization it is.

Amendments

Monica Dovedy updated that the Committee has recommended five Amendments to the IWA Constitution. The same had been shared as a part of the Agenda sent to members.

PROPOSALS for AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - AGM AGENDA

AMENDMENT 1#

Existing Clause 6.2

For retiree memberships, the entrance fee is waived, and the annual subscription is reduced by half.

Proposed Amendment

Clause 6.2 to be deleted.

Clause 6.2

Proposed by Vidya Nair

Seconded by Vijaya Sharada Ramakrishnan

Followed by a majority show of hands from members.

AMENDMENT 2#

Existing Clause 8.1

The administration of the Society shall be entrusted to a Committee consisting of the following to be elected at each Annual General Meeting:

A President

2 Vice-Presidents

A Secretary

A Treasurer

8 Ordinary Committee Members

Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, majority of the Committee Members shall be Singapore Citizens. In addition, the President, Secretary, Treasurer and their deputies shall be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents. Foreign Diplomats shall not serve as Committee Members.

Proposed Amendment

Amend 8.1 to read, majority of the Committee Members shall be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents.

Proposed Clause 8.1

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A President

2 Vice-Presidents

A Secretary

A Treasurer

8 Ordinary Committee Members

Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, majority of the Committee Members shall be Singapore Citizens or **Singapore Permanent Residents**. In addition, the President, Secretary, Treasurer and their deputies shall be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents. Foreign Diplomats shall not serve as Committee Members.

Clause 8.1

Proposed by Gowri Aiyar

Seconded by Abhinika Mittra

Followed by a majority show of hands by members.

AMENDMENT 3#

Existing Clause 8.2

Names for the above offices shall be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting and election will follow on a simple majority vote of the members. All office-bearers, including the Treasurer may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. The term of office of the Committee is 1 year.

Proposed Amendment

The term of office of the Committee is 2 (two) years. All office-bearers, excluding the President, Secretary and Treasurer may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. The President, Secretary and Treasurer can be re-elected to different posts in committee for a consecutive term of office.

Proposed Clause 8.2 to be read as follows:

Names for the above offices shall be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting and election will follow on a simple majority vote of the members. **The term of office of the Committee is 2 (two) years.** All office-bearers, **excluding the President, Secretary and Treasurer** may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. **The President, Secretary and Treasurer can be re-elected to different offices of the Committee for a consecutive term of office.**

Clause 8.2

Proposed by Anuradha Shroff

Seconded by Subina Arora Khaneja

Followed by a majority show of hands by members.

AMENDMENT 4#

Existing Clause 9.5

The Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Society and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. She is authorised to expend up to \$ 500.00 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Society. She will not keep more than \$ 500.00 in the form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in a bank to be named by the Committee. Cheques, etc. for withdrawals from the bank will be signed by the Treasurer and either the President or the Vice-President or the Secretary.

Proposed Amendment

Delete the section: She is authorised to expend up to \$ 500.00 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Society. She will not keep more than \$ 500.00 in the form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in a bank to be named by the Committee.

Proposed Clause 9.5 to be read as follows:

The Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Society and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. Cheques, etc. for withdrawals from the bank will be signed by the Treasurer and either the President or the Vice-President or the Secretary.

Clause 9.5

Proposed by Rakhi Shankar

Seconded by Padmaja Balaji

Followed by a majority show of hands by members.

AMENDMENT 5#

Proposed Amendment addition of new clause 9.7

Replacement of a Committee Member in case of non-performance.

Proposed Clause 9.7 to be read as follows:

Ordinary Committee Members if found unable to perform the duties allocated to them shall be given a maximum of three written notices with clearly defined expected performance outcomes. In case they still do not perform, then with two thirds of Committee votes, they may be asked to leave the Committee.

Clause 9.7

Proposed by Shaily Badkul

Seconded by Preety Agarwal

Followed by a majority show of hands by members.

The Secretary announced all the above-mentioned Amendments as voted and passed.

Nominations and Election

Monica Dovedy then proceeded to the Nomination and Election process.

She updated all that as a part of the IWA committee election process, nomination forms were sent out on 8th December 2019 and the last date of submission 10th January 2020. The results were compiled by the Secretary. 20 nominations were received for 13 positions. After a couple of withdrawals all the positions were now unopposed. As on the date of AGM, there were 11 positions, which comprised of 6 citizens and 5 PRs in compliance with ROS. As per the nominations received, she then proceeded with the election process by requesting a proposer and seconder for each Committee position and to be followed by a show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Anuradha Shroff** was nominated for **President, 2020.**

Proposed by Ramanpreet Kaur Bhatia

Seconded by Nirupa Vasudev

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Selmé Singh** was nominated for **Vice President, 2020.**

Proposed by Seema Gupta

Seconded by Dipanjana Sen

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Nirupa Vasudev** was nominated for **Vice President 2, 2020.**

Proposed by Abhinika Mitra

Seconded by Vimmi Vaid

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Monica Dovedy** was nominated for **Secretary, 2020**

Proposed by Tejali Sarangdhar

Seconded by Mansi Shroff

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Rakhi Shankar** was nominated for **Treasurer, 2020.**

Proposed by Neeraja Rao

Seconded by Bhavani Banerjee

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Gowri Aiyar** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2020.**

Proposed by Bhanu Ramchandran

Seconded by Gurpreet Kaur

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Gurpreet Kaur** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2020.**

Proposed by Sharmila Banerjee

Seconded by Shaily Badkul

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Jyoti Verma** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2020.**

Proposed by Ramanpreet Kaur Bhatia

Seconded by Vidya Dasgupta

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Padmaja Balaji** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2020.**

Proposed by Abhinika Mittra

Seconded by Praveena Jain

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Seema Gupta** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2020.**

Proposed by Bhanu Ramchandran

Seconded by Abhipsha Thakur Arora

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Tejali Sarangdhar** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2020**.

Proposed by Shradha Singh

Seconded by Abhinika Mittra

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

Monica thanked all the members for formally completing the elections process. She invited the incoming President for 2020, Anuradha Shroff for her acceptance speech.

President's Acceptance Speech

- President Anuradha Shroff began her acceptance speech by thanking each and every IWA member for instilling their belief in her and Team 2019 and giving a mandate for them to continue serving IWA for another year in 2020.
- She explained why the IWA Summer Bazaar had to be cancelled: a decision, though tough, taken considering our social responsibility at a time of this current COVID-19 situation.
- She highlighted that owing to this situation some of the IWA clubs will conduct online events, to engage the members in productive and creative ways.
- IWA is proud to be associated with MCCY, Peoples Association, Siglap South CC IAEC, SCWO and will also continue to support the High Commission of India in Singapore. She said that the major IWA activities and events in 2020 will be focused on 'INTEGRATION', in partnership with MCCY. IWA is also a part of the National Integration Working Group for Community, participating in forums for national integration. These discussions highlight the work being put in by the Government, and how as IWA, we can do our bit to make society more harmonious. We aim to work in elevating the image of IWA on the Singapore volunteering map and come to showcase how we at IWA are perfect examples and representatives of the Singapore Integration Mission, Unity in Diversity.
- The dynamic Media team will continue to keep all members connected through the voice of IWA eDhwani, the buzzing social media, our super informative newsletter, the revamped website, our media and privilege partners.
- She asserted that we need to communicate with each other and work for the common good of women amongst us. Uplifting each other and being with the ones who are vulnerable is the need of the hour. Self-care series and IWApreneurs are two such examples of projects we wish to undertake. With BSS this year we have had more opportunities to work with women from low income families and teach them to become self-sufficient. More such projects will come during the course of the year.

- She said that her Team is committed to leaving IWA footprints on uncharted territory with our old and new community partners.
- Moving forward as the President of 2020, she hopes to walk hand-in-hand with all present to make IWA achieve success and acquire partnerships that represent the quintessential Woman.

Anuradha then announced the names of the Team 2020 as follows:

IWA Committee & Team 2020:

- **President** - Anuradha Shroff
- **Vice-President 1** - Selmé Singh
- **Vice-President 2** - Nirupa Vasudev
- **Secretary** - Monica Dovedy
- **Treasurer** - Rakhi Shankar
- **Assistant Treasurer** - Preety Agarwal
- **Bazaar Chair** - Gowri Aiyar
- **Bazaar Chair** - Pallavi Malviya Gupta
- **Editor** - Sukanya Pushkarna
- **Editor** - Priya G. Aditya
- **Membership Chair** - Tejali Sarangdhar
- **Membership Chair** - Abhinika Mittra
- **Media sales** - Seema Gupta
- **Newsletter Chair** - Ramanpreet Kaur Bhatia
- **Website Chair** - Jyoti Verma
- **Logistics Chair** - Bhavani Banerjee
- **Social Media Chair** - Abhipsha T Arora
- **BSS Chair** - Nayani Sharma
- **H.O.M.E Chair** – Mini Kapur
- **TWC2 Chair** - Shradha Singh
- **SWAMI Home Chair** - Sharmila Banerjee
- **Acts of Kindness Club Chair** – Jagariti Mathur
- **Adda Club Chair** – Vijaya Sharada Ramakrishnan
- **Book Club Chair** - Sudeepta Dasgupta
- **Creative Hands Club Chair** - Jolly Vatsa

- **Dance Club Chair** - Arpana Sarkar
- **Games Club Chair** - Manju Banka
- **Gourmet Goddess Club Chair** - Shaily Badkul
- **Health & Fitness Club Chair** - Padmaja Balaji
- **Movie Club Chair** - Neeraja Rao
- **Music Club Chair** - Gurpreet Kaur
- **Privileges and Entrepreneurs Chair** - Vidya Dasgupta
- **Travel Club Chair** – Praveena B Jain
- **Writing Enthusiasts' Club Chair** - Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal

Vote of Thanks

Anuradha Shroff thanked the members for their support and cooperation. She also thanked them for attending AGM 2020 especially under the current COVID-19 situation.

Meeting Adjourned

The Secretary, Monica Dovedy declared the AGM 2020 adjourned at 12:20 pm.