



**Indian Women's Association (IWA) Singapore  
27th Annual General Meeting 2024  
Minutes of the Meeting**

**Date: 21st February 2024 (Wednesday)**

**Time: 10:00 AM to 11:20 PM**

**Location: Metropolitan YMCA, 60 Stevens Road, Singapore 257854.**

### **Agenda**

- Registrations at 10 AM
- Call to Order at 10:15 AM
- President's Welcome & Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Audited Financial Statement
- Appointment of Auditors for the next fiscal year.
- Secretary's Report
- IWA Club Reports for the year
- IWA Outreach Reports for the year
- Nominations/Elections
- Vote of thanks
- Group Photos
- Meeting adjourned.
- Networking Lunch

**Attendees: Along with 2023 & 2024 IWA members as per list**

**IWA Committee Members present: Abhinika Mitra, Rakhi Shankar, Shobha Singla, Vidya Dasgupta.**

**IWA Committee members absent with apologies: Padmaja Balaji, Sarita Prasad, Seema Gupta, Shradha Singh**

### *Opening of the Meeting.*

Girija Viswanathan introduced herself as Secretary of IWA 2023-2025 and welcomed the Executive Committee, Team, and members and guests to the 27th Annual General Meeting of IWA.

The Secretary called the AGM 2024 to order at 10:15am as the quorum was present in accordance with IWA's constitution.

### *President's Welcome and Report*

President Gauri Savadi welcomed all members and invited guests to IWA's 27th AGM and thanked them for their support.

1: Thank you for that warm welcome to ALL Girija  
As Secretary for IWA, you surely bring an angle of view into IWA helping keep the glue tight and we thank you for that.

2: Another year has surely flown growing all of us an inch taller fatter bubblier and our attitudes perhaps to be wiser!

26th year for IWA began with this team in 2023.

#eachonematters and we believe in each team member holding IWA flag high through their assigned roles.

Investment of your time as volunteers, bringing own wisdom and maturity to making decisions further benefiting anyone who touches IWA's threshold through the clubs & connections makes IWA stronger year after year.

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YOUR sincere attention to details towards your assigned roles is crucial. Team IWA you are holding in your hands the power to showcase to the society in Singapore what womanhood looks like.

You are the faces for IWA, your mannerisms, your conduct, your conduit every time you hold IWA banner outside definitely leaves an impact so much so that today we have many asking on how they can be part of team IWA as they see your value-add.

A tribe that continues to grow we as TEAM IWA have much much to be responsible for!

3: The past year, some words that have made new meaning for us and I hope you all will agree are: Equity, togetherness, TEAM, Relationships, Human nature, existence, identity, purpose, value-add, selflessness, inclusiveness, women-hood, unbiasedness, embracing, being present!

4: #eachone truly matters!

5: The world I come from exudes rawness of nature - both of humans as well as gods own creations!

Hence, with what my strengths are - of 'being-bare' I bring to you current teams update past one year of OUR term.

6: And with that we WELCOME, and, thank you all for being present here today!

As our team turns into its second year of term, yes this AGM stands at mid - point for the current team!

7: Happy Birthday Team 2023 – 2025

8: Processes are crucial to help follow a systematic methodology, incorporate innovation, help with better management to improvise daily running's leading to achieve IWA's ethos of CARE, CONNECT and CELEBRATE.

We would like to thank a few of our initial team members who started their journey with us. With them coming on board surely highlighted the gaps that needs some filling!

9: IWA HANDBOOK is a work in progress towards which our current team is working tirelessly to put together. A valuable asset that would be an added legacy for IWA. We urge team members to approach editorial desk with ideas if you may have for this project - to help us help YOU!

10: Today's world is also all about showcasing your stories and what if not for knowing our own IWA team mates.

This is achieved through our weekly newsletter, social media because we all know pictures speak a thousand words!

IWA weekly newsletter that arrives onto members as well as up to much wider audience email's by sharp 10:00 AM every Wednesday, carries vibrant information on daily happenings under our clubs, including outreach events, teams community interactions, stories about us - the team!

We thank Ms Sudeepa Dasgupta who held the position so very gracefully. It truly takes huge amounts of efforts, deadlines to follow and constant chasing.

Your dedication towards IWA has made many richer. I say richer because you have truly left your footprints deep amongst us all.

We wish you Dear Lokhi happy settling back in Motherland.

11: Our team mates work hard and are THE faces of IWA. We are grateful to our partners some of whom are seated here today to extend invites for both ExCo as well as team members when requested and even sometimes begged!

It is imperative that Team-mates get opportunities to meet many in the community via IWA platforms for when they feel included, we know individuals thrive, learn, embrace and with such rich interactions they the club chairs can bring back much for our members.

We thank editorial team for helping edit team members stories so our members can get to know us better....

12: Yes! Inclusivity is the big word for us. Our team members got out there! #eachonematters and we encourage all on the team to raise your hands for such engagements were you represent IWA.

Current team wants all out there to see, interact, engage with our ladies of talent!

13: Our IPP's and advisory play a crucial role.

They are IWA's past leaders who have paved the way for us the next generation. Connections made in the past only must foster deeper into the future. Thank you for representing TEAM IWA in the community.

14: Further continuing IWA's relations, a few more slides for your viewing were our team members integrated with community at large keeping IWA roots stronger and deeper. We appreciate our team members enthusiasm to attend events that have now been opened for them to attend!

15: Time and again IWA gets invites to host public personalities, and, celebrities visiting Singapore! In deed tough choices have to be made. We are grateful to fellow women led associations for collaborating with us over one such occasion.

16: CARE element in IWA begins right at home. We have shared with you previous slides, were our doors are open for suggestions. We believe in getting our team included in wider events and more! Yes, by doing so, we are encouraging many from the members pool to raise their hands to take on roles as office bearers. We must seek to grow the next generation of leaders!

17: On that note: our team did begin a journey of sustainability by adopting greener ways!

18: Even today the door gifts you all have received is just a small way of perhaps embracing sustainable living! Yes, in-deed a challenge, hence we want to sprout this thought amongst you all on 'how' can we as individuals make a difference!

How many of you in the audience wrote your names on your water cups. We are thankful to the venue management for not providing plastic water bottle as with that each one of us is forced to walk-health, pour-selfcare, and use biodegradable paper cups, with your name on it till the event ends!

Well moving on with business...

19: Our i-care wing under purview of VP1 Ms Preety Agarwal saw many laurels. Her constant conversations with i-care chairs alongside our partners is humbly appreciated. A true asset to the team Preety you bring angles of critiques to the table for which we are able to manage much affairs with much insight. Thank you for that Preety!

20: Continuing her dedication towards TWC2 Transient Workers Count Too the hidden backbone of our society Ms Shradha Singh plans, executes much interactions with TWC2 officials and our unsung heroes.

From movie tickets donations from members, to chaperoning a visit to the Singapore flyer, tying of Rakhi's to our worker brothers, Shradha truly steps up each time. Today she is here as our official photographer. Shradha TEAM thanks you for all your efforts in 2023 and knows we have much to look up to for TWC2 under your care.

21: Humanitarian Organisation for Migrant Economics (HOME) is being ably led by Ms. Padmaja Balaji.

HOME (Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics) is dedicated to supporting and empowering migrant workers who experience abuse and exploitation. IWA members contributed to the purchase and delivery of groceries as per the wish list of the residents.

IWA is thankful to their members who contributed and made this possible.

We are also grateful to our members for time and efforts over DIWALI celebrations which was received with much glee. Flowers 'rangoli, wall decor, 'mehandi', Bollywood dance, games like Bingo with lots of gifts and prizes generously donated by IWA members, 'biryani' lunch and ice cream brought lots of smiles and tears of joy to the HOME members. Requests for much such happy engagements is put forth by HOME ladies.

22: Ms Sarita Prasad's sincere work towards BSS (Beyond Social Service) - a charity that's dedicated to helping children and youths from less privileged backgrounds break away from the poverty cycle, she has helped with liaising with members for the monthly cake sponsorship for celebrating kids' birthdays, voucher distribution requests, clothes distribution and any other request that comes our way. IWA was invited by Beyond Social Services (BSS) to their boutique fair, to man the Sew Can We booth.

Sew Can We is a local community initiative that empowers women from low-income backgrounds to generate income through sewing projects, with this year's focus being on up-cycling and repurposing.

It was a fulfilling and humbling experience for the volunteers. Sarita IWA truly is thankful for you handle BSS with such care.

23: SWAMI Home

Sunshine Welfare Action Mission (SWAMI Home) is an established voluntary welfare organization that runs an integrated nursing home care and services to the elderly. In this endeavour they are supported by IWA.

Ms Nirupa Vasudev IWA liaison managed to hold a physical birthday celebrations at the SWAMI home facility. Our members young children also enthusiastically went onto the stage to entertain the elderly. Certain essential items such as cardigans, bolsters, pillows, radios, sweaters, blouses, T-shirts etc. as per the wish-list of the residents were also procured by Nirupa along with sponsoring the birthday cakes for residents celebrating their birthdays. Although physical visits were again curtailed for volunteers Ms Nirupa has tirelessly tried to connect with officials on the ground. IWA beneficiary for years now, SWAMI home is truly close to our hearts towards which an yearly fund is directed towards.

We thank you the members for helping us help the locally established organisations receive benefits through IWA.

24: IWA annual commitments towards

Beyond Social Service

HOME (HOME FOR MIGRATION ECONOMICS)

Singapore Management University: IWA Vidya Scholarship are well received as well as appreciated.

Communication channels are on with SUTD towards signing 2024 to 2027 donation agreement towards IWA Gyan Jyoti Study Award.

25: IWA Iconic events

Summer Bazaar 2023 had MP Mdm Sim Ann Senior Minister of State for National Development Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs as our Guest of Honour.

She was delighted with the warm hospitality given by IWA's charming ladies. Beautifully overwhelmed by the generosity of bazaar vendors Mdm Sim Ann felt in her own words 'humbled' and lucky that she accepted the invite!

26: IWA Festive BAZAAR was delighted to have truly an unexpected GOH.

Ukraine's Ambassador Extraordinary to the Republic of Singapore Mdm Kateryna Zelenko.

Having showcased some of Ukraine's textile and jewellery samples, Mdm Kateryna was impressed to see the vibrant colours, atmosphere, galore at the bazaar showcasing Indianness through vendors wide range of display of products. She herself also purchased displayed products.

Not wanting to leave the event, Ms Kateryna is keen on maintaining future collaborations with IWA.

27: IWA is grateful to our privilege partners who have brought to our door step opportunities for IWA members to look beautiful adorning MALABAR gold whilst keeping Health in good check through affordable packages provided for health check-up at Raffles Hospital.

Thank you for your attendance to at IWA AGM today!

### *Treasurer's Report*

1. Bhavani started by saying our president Ms. Gauri Savadi has covered details of (I W A) connections with our beneficiaries.

She presented the financials for the period January - December 2023.

For any further details on the numbers, Bhavani asked to be reached post the meeting.

2. A detailed audited report, has been shared with current members also to be uploaded on (I W A) website.

The financials were audited and signed by the auditors.

3. Looking at the Highlights of Financials of 2023, Income and Expense details, and Membership Trend for last 5 years, and the Reappointment of Auditors.

IWA in the last year has added an income of \$198,987.

The total expenditure for the last year was \$124,743 and IWA has made a net profit of \$74,244/- in 2023.

The summer bazaar income was \$61,105/- and the festive bazaar income was \$85,665/- Other income includes membership income \$34,320/-, advertisement on newsletter \$4,279/- and interest from FD is \$9,588/-

4. Yearly commitment towards our beneficiaries has been fulfilled namely towards Beyond Social Services, H.O.M.E (Humanitarian Organisation Migrant Economics), SMU - Vidya Scholarship, Swami Home partial donation, Transient

Workers Count 2 (TWC2)- \$13,286/-

The expenditure for the summer bazaar was \$35,639/- and Festive bazaar \$43,270/-

Other expenses includes

Membership Lunch \$5,702/-

Software subscription \$5,678/-

Storage facility \$1,783/- and other expenses \$19,385/-

*Refer to: footnote for question posed at this juncture >>>*

5. Treasurer further mentioned: It's our pleasure to inform to all the members that IWA has added \$74,244/- dollars to the corpus fund this year.

6. If we look at the membership trends over the last 5 years, you can see an increase in the membership numbers post covid.

The important agenda and the last point is appointment of Auditors - Sashi Kala Devi Associates. Treasurer proposed Sashi Kala Devi Associates to be re-appointed as auditors for the Financial Year 2024.

The proposal was seconded by Vidya Dasgupta.

Further, the treasurer welcomed Shashi Kala Devi and associates as the auditor for Financial Year 2024.

## Secretary's Report

I W A Team comprising of Executive Committee, Committee, 15 Club Chairs, Newsletter team, editorial, Bazaar team, Social-media, media sales, membership team and website all of whom work hard towards keeping our vision of Care, Connect and Celebrate. Girija started her report about Clubs:

### **Act Of Kindness** headed by Ms Jagariti Mathur

The sessions organised by you have been quite an eye-opener, Members recent visit to office of BABES and interacting with the beneficiaries truly showcased to us yet another side of our home. Thank you for creating such a humble opportunity! IWA thanks you for your efforts Jagariti.

### **Adda club** chaired by Ms Saraswathi Balakrishnan

Thank you, Sara for the impactful sessions which make us introspect and reflect. Members always look forward to ADDA events as they know that the takeaways will truly be meaningful.

### **Book club Chair** Ms Vidya Dasgupta

Thank you, Vidya for the Regular review and analysis of different genres of books. The array of choice selections infuses the love for reading among our members who look forward to having intimate viewpoint sharing sessions.

### **Creative Hand Club** helmed by Ms Jolly Vatsa

So many skill-based learning sessions have been put together at CHC. Our members truly are invigorated to continue the experiences gained at home after each session. IWA thanks you for that Jolly.

### **Entrepreneur Club** chaired by Ms Chhaya Banga

Has given opportunities for network to our member entrepreneurs helping opening doors as an encouragement for budding and existing business. IWA thanked her for her efforts - Chhaya.

**Gourmet Goddess Club** enthusiastically led by Ms Anita Goenka has brought to us lip-smacking experiences. Varied vibrant events that you plan's surely are a crowd puller and IWA thanks Anita-ji for this!

**Games Club chair** Ms Shobha Singla & Ms Priyanka Chandok together have complimented each-other to bring on board such variations of games. Your partnership shines through your events and IWA are truly thankful for your efforts!

**Family club** a newly introduced I W A club headed by Ms Abhinika Mittra is to create opportunities for members families to bond over experiences. Events under Family club saw collaborations with other clubs. Thank you, Abhinika for liaising with club chairs.



**Health & Fitness Club** led by Ms Raji Viswanathan motivates members with her regular walks at different locations of Singapore to attain fitness goals. Thank you so much Raji for keeping members under check through health all the time.

**Movie Club** chair Ms Mala Dave to whom the role is rather new is in the process of curating interesting events for our members. Thank you, Mala for stepping up to the challenge.

**Music Club** chaired by Ms Monika Bhagwat has regular sessions which brings out the musical talent of our members to the fore. A culturally oriented club, we do seek members from here to showcase their talent at stages such as of community centres in Singapore. Thank you, Monika for helping to coordinate such events helping IWA achieve integration goals!

**Performing Arts Club** helmed by Ms Anindita Ghosh offers opportunities for our members to showcase their stagecraft. From new cinema musicals to sharpening acting skills, this club offers opportunities to our members to present their talents in the community at large. Thank you so much Anindita for helping bring IWA to bigger stages into the wider population.

**TextStyle club** chaired by Kumuda and co-chaired by Mansi, have curated events where history of weaves comes alive. Self-care, usage of prints, creating own wearables to bring out each one's personality is the aim of this club. Thank you, Kumuda and Mansi for your partnership.

**Travel Club** led by Ms Sukanya Pushkarna has rekindled the travel bug to explore new and historic places within our little red dot. We always look forward to more such experiences, Thank you Sukanya.

**Writing Enthusiast Club** chaired by Ms Alka Balain and co-chaired by Ms Mita Bhatt were they hold sessions to encourage appreciation for language and literature. You have brought to IWA members platforms for them to be able to showcase their writing skills making them yearning to write more.

Thank you Alka and Mita for always encouraging budding writers.

Now we come to I W A outreach

**Newsletter** is managed by Ms Jayshree Bhattacharjee who ensures the newsletter is sent to members inbox by Wednesday morning 10AM. You are managing quite well Jessie. Thank you for your hard-work!

**I W A Website** is under Ms Rakhi Shankar's purview, who efficiently keeps the website updated to the latest happenings!

Timely inputs by the **Editorial** headed by Ms Priya Aditya sums up our outreach in a crisp and succinct manner. Thank you, Priya for your timely and quick edits!

