



Indian Women's Association Singapore

20th Annual General Meeting – Minutes of the Meeting

Date: 14 February 2017

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: Tower Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel, 22 Orange Grove Road, Singapore

AGENDA

- 1) Registration
- 2) Arrival of the GOH and other VIP Guests
- 3) Call to Order
- 4) Performance by IWA partner SIFAS
- 5) Felicitation of the GOH and her address to the gathering
- 6) President's address and report
- 7) Entertainment item by IWA Music Club
- 8) Treasurer's Report
 - i) Audited Financial Statement
 - ii) Appointment of Auditors for next fiscal year
- 9) Secretary's Report
 - i) Club Introduction and activities
 - ii) Community Services
- 10) Election / Nomination of New Committee
- 11) Any other business as may be properly brought before the meeting
- 12) Vote of Thanks, Lunch and Photos
- 13) Meeting adjourned



Attendees:

IWA Committee Members present:

Sukanya Pushkarna, Garima Lalwani, Sudeepta Dasgupta, Tejashree Datey, Chandan Lehal, Kavita Daga, Gowri Aiyar, Seema Gupta, Gauri Savadi, Abhinika Mitra, Selme Singh, Raji Viswanathan, Neeta Kapoor, Subina Khaneja, Nirupa Vasudev, Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Preeti Dubey, Padmaja Balaji, Shilpa Thapliyal, Anuradha Shroff, Richa Joshi Kaul, Vidya Dasgupta, Rakhi Shankar, Pooja Narayanan, Anjali Tripathi, Bhavani Banerjee, Madhu Suri, Neeta Mirchandani, Piu Lahiri, Latha Vinod, Rajni Arora

Invitees present:

Mdm Indranee Rajah, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Law

BSS - Ms. Chiu Ying Yik and Mr. Gerard Ee

HOME - Mr. Jolovan Wham and Ms. Jackie

SONY - Ms. Sathya Karanth and Ms. Jaspreet

SIGLAP South CC - Ms. Seema Jain

INDIA Se - Ms. Nithya Subramaniam

WOTY Judge - Ms. Ruchira Gupta

WOTY Judge - Ms. Daisy Irani

AUDITORS - Ms. Sasikala Devi

SMU - Ms. Patricia Pereira, Mr. Sandeep Singh

WOTY - Ms. DIPA Swaminathan

PA - Ms. Junie Pang, Ms. Ethel Tan and Mr. Gilbert Fernandez

TWC2 - Ms. Debbie Fordyce

SINDA - Mr. Barathan, Mr. Ravindran, Mr. Dhevicharon, Mr. Royston

RAFFLES Hospital - Ms. Doris Tay



ROTARY CLUB OF RAFFLES CITY - Ms. Nidhi Swarup and Ms. Corina Lai

WINGS WOMEN COUNSELLING CENTER – Ms. Hema Gurnani

AZIZ TAYBALI & ASSOCIATES - Mr. Singa Retnam

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting:

Opening of the meeting and call to order:

Chandan Lehal and Sudeepta Dasgupta introduced themselves as the Secretary and Vice-President of IWA, respectively and also as the MCs for the morning.

They extended a warm welcome to all present at the 20th AGM on behalf of the President and the Committee of IWA. They mentioned that apart from the regular proceedings of the AGM, this was also an opportunity to weld the community together - to laugh, to inspire and celebrate.

At 10:25am the meeting was called to order by Chandan Lehal

Performance by IWA partner SIFAS:

The event started with a kathak performance by Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society (SIFAS) gurus.

Felicitations of the GOH and her address to the gathering:

Sukanya was invited on stage to introduce and felicitate the GOH Senior Minister Mdm Indranee Rajah. She said that this AGM celebrates IWA's achievements and partnerships. She introduced the GOH, Ms. Indranee Rajah, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Law and noted that Ms. Rajah's passion for education and health issues and her constant encouragement and support for the Indian community at large made her an inspirational figure. She invited the GOH on stage and felicitated her with a plaque and a bouquet. Ms. Rajah was then requested to address the gathering and share her thoughts.

Ms. Rajah thanked IWA for extending the invitation to the AGM and said that she was happy to be there. She appreciated IWA for being a vibrant organization which brings

together women of Indian origin with such diverse talents. She mentioned that there are lessons to be learnt from the current geo-political events in the world, she reiterated Singapore's commitment towards building a more inclusive society. She outlined SINDA's community outreach programmes like "Project Read" which are focused on helping Indian children from disadvantaged backgrounds to level up and expressed hope that IWA members' drive and partnership will supplement these efforts.

President's address and report:

Sukanya was requested to address the gathering and present her report on the events and integration efforts of the previous year. The following are the highlights from the report:

- IWA today has an active membership of almost 300 and will continue to make efforts to engage the local Indian population to welcome them into our midst.
- Sukanya commended past President, Subina Arora Khaneja and her team for establishing the mission as "Care, Connect and Celebrate" and for bringing in several changes.
- She spoke about the 10 interest groups within IWA which meet regularly to enjoy the members' shared passions and are an attempt to build a community and expand horizons in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere.
- She elaborated on the community service initiatives with SWAMI Home, HOME, TWC2, BSS throughout the year. She congratulated the current SMU Vidya scholarship recipient, Sandeep Singh, who was present at the AGM.
- IWA has helped the Indian High Commission on occasion with events they need to run and the High Commissioner and/ or the First Lady have been an integral part of our Association since its inception in 1997
- She elaborated on IWA's increasing engagement with organizations like People's Association, SINDA, Siglap South IAEC, National Integration Working Group (NIWG), and efforts to reach the Malay community through our partnership with Jamiyah.
- IWA recently received a special award from the National Integration Council (NIC) for



its contribution towards integration in Singapore.

- IWA has worked with various cultural groups to bring Indian artists, actors, authors and change makers to our members and events featuring Nagesh Kukunoor, Anshu Gupta, Dipti Naval, Biking Queens of Gujarat were examples of this.
- The Sony IWA Woman of The Year Award in partnership with Sony and Project Smile celebrated women and the gathering lauded the winner, Dipa Swaminathan who was present.

Ending her address, Sukanya hoped everyone is inspired to do more with their membership and thanked the community partners.

Entertainment:

Taniya Hathiramani and Payal Mandal, IWA members from the Music Club put up a lovely musical performance for the GOH, guests and audience. The GOH took her leave from the gathering after the performance ended.

Treasurer's Report:

The link to the auditor's report had been sent to all by email as per the requirement of the Constitution. The Treasurer, Tejashree Datey was called upon to present her report.

Tejashree thanked all Club heads for their support and cooperation. The state of treasury and sources of revenue including membership, ad sales, website, and the two Bazaars run by the Association were presented.

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

Appointment of Auditors for next fiscal year - It was proposed by Tejashree that Sasikala Devi and Associates be appointed as the auditors for 2017-18 as well. This was seconded by Chandan Lehal and carried forward unanimously.



Secretary's Report:

Chandan Lehal and Sudeepta Dasgupta presented the Secretary's report for 2016-17. They reminded everyone that the vision of IWA is to CONNECT with the members and society at large through I-CARE volunteer programs & various initiatives that CELEBRATE talent by providing a platform to interact & showcase skills and to use these common interests to draw women from different walks of life together.

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

- The ten interest clubs
- The three I care programmes
- The two bazaars
- Media
- Membership
- Membership Privileges
- Dhvani

After the report, Sukanya came on stage to thank the outgoing committee for the support and working cohesively together over the past year. The committee members were invited on stage, introduced and thanked for their work by Sukanya.

Election / Nomination of New Committee:

Chandan Lehal took to stage to update the members on the nomination of the next IWA President. The committee had proposed the name of Garima Lalwani and the nomination forms for the next President were sent out to all the current members over email in November 2016 and Garima's nomination was returned uncontested and unanimous.

Based on the response from the returned nominations, Sukanya Pushkarna proposed the name of Garima Lalwani for the post of the IWA President 2017-18 and this was seconded by Subina Arora Khaneja.

In her acceptance speech, Garima thanked the previous teams and past Presidents for their wonderful efforts in taking IWA forward. She laid out her vision which aims to look at new ways to integrate and engage with the community we live in, nurture their existing



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relationships with local organizations and continue to make IWA a welcoming place which celebrates its' members' talents. She went on unveil her vision statement IWA WINS - a Welcoming place, Integration, Nurture relationships, Step-up member participation.

Garima then proposed the names of the Executive Committee 2017-18 as follows:

Sudepta Dasgupta was proposed for **1st Vice President** by Garima Lalwani and seconded by Sukanya Pushkarna

Chandan Lehal **was** proposed for **2nd Vice President** by Garima Lalwani and seconded by Neeta Kapoor

Tejashree Datey was proposed for **Secretary** by Garima Lalwani and seconded by Seema Gupta

Anuradha Shroff was proposed for **Treasurer** by Garima Lalwani and seconded by Preeti Dubey

Kavita Daga was proposed for **Media Director** by Garima Lalwani and seconded by Seema Gupta

This was followed by announcement of the names of the rest of the Committee members by Garima:

Advisory - Gowri Aiyar, Preeti Dubey and Sukanya Pushkarna

Legal Affairs - Bhavani Banerjee

Events - Neeta Mirchandani

Membership - Gauri Savadi and Abhinika Mittra

Membership Privileges – Vidya Dasgupta

Media sales - Seema Gupta

Website – Jyoti Verma

Newsletter – Rakhi Shankar

Dhwani – Alka Joglekar

Bazaar - Gowri Aiyar and Richa Joshi Kaul



BSS – Bhanu Ramchandran

SWAMI Home - Raji Viswanathan

Migrant Workers' Relief Team - Neeta Kapoor

Interest Groups/Clubs:

Adda Club - Nirupa Vasudev

Book Club - Lakshmi Padmanabhan

Entrepreneur Club - Richa Joshi Kaul and Vinnie Mehta

Fitness Club - Padmaja Balaji

Creative Hands Club – Monica Dovedy

Gourmet Goddess Club – Taniya Hathiramani

Movie Club - Selme Singh

Music Club - Madhu Suri

Scrabble and Mahjong Club – Anshoo Berry

Writing Enthusiasts' Club - Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal

Announcement of two new clubs was also made:

Acts of Kindness - Ritu Kapoor

Travel Club – Sukanya Pushkarna

Vote of Thanks:

With all items on the Agenda being transacted, Garima Lalwani, IWA President, thanked the members and invited guests for attending the AGM.

Thanks were also extended to:

- Shangri La Hotel - Banquet staff and team
- DJ Khan for Audio and Sound support
- Gargi Mazumdar Mukherjee for photography



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Meeting Adjourned:

At 1:25pm, the meeting was adjourned and the attendees were invited for lunch.