



## *Indian Women's Association (IWA) Singapore*

### *Annual General Meeting 2019*

#### *Minutes of the Meeting*

**Date:** 14 February 2019 (Thursday)

**Time:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Location:** The Grand Patro's Ballroom, Chinese Swimming Club, 34 Amber Road, Level 2, Singapore 439950

#### *Agenda:*

1. Registration at 10:00 am
2. Call to Order 10:30 am
3. Music Performance
4. President's Welcome
5. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Audited Financial Statement
  - b. Fund Proposal for SUTD Scholarship, called IWA Gyan Jyoti
  - c. Appointment of auditors for next fiscal year
6. Secretary's Report
  - a. Club Introductions and Activities
  - b. Community Service Report
7. Dance Performance
8. President's Address and Report
9. Amendments
10. Nominations/Elections
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:*

Chandan Lehal, Anuradha Shroff, Selmé Singh, Tejali Sarangdhar, Raji Viswanathan, Preeti Dubey, Neeta Mirchandani, Priyanka Chandhok, Alka Joglekar, Gauri Savadi, Seema Gupta, Vidya

Dasgupta, Bhargavi Rathi, Jyoti Verma, Bhanu Ramchandran, Ruchita Chheda, Bhavani Banerjee, Ritu Kapoor, Nirupa Vasudeva, Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Praveena Jain, Monica Dovedy, Arpana Sarkar, Padmaja Balaji, Gurpreet Kaur, Madhu Suri.

*Invitees present:*

- **Beyond Social Service (BSS):**

Mr. Gerard Ee

Ms. Chiu Ying Yik

- **TWC-2**

Ms. Debbie Fordyce

Mr. Ethan Guo

- **H.O.M.E**

Ms. Sheena Kanwar

Ms. Sisi Sukiato

- **Sree Narayana Mission**

Mr. S Devendran

- **Sony**

Mr. Avinash Galav

Ms. Ikjyot Chandhok

- **People's Association**

Ms. Junie Pang

Ms. Ethel Tan

- **Indian Heritage Center**

Mr. Suraendhiran

- **SINDA**

Mr. Selvaduray

Ms. Swarnalatha

Ms. Vithya

- **SMU**

Mrs. Patricia Pereira

Mr. Sendil Sivakumar

- **Sasikala Devi & Associates**

Mrs. Sasikala Devi

- **Bridgeable**

Ms. Ramya Nageswaran

Ms. Shobha Pudukollu

- **Radio Masti**  
Ms. Renuka Arora Bhagat
- **Singapore University of Technology and Design**  
Ms. Noelle Yeo

### *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting*

#### *Opening of the Meeting*

Selmé Singh and Tejali Sarangdhar introduced themselves as Secretary and Assistant Secretary of IWA and welcomed guests, past presidents, and members, to the 22nd Annual General Meeting of IWA.

The Secretary called the AGM 2019 to order at 10:32 am as the quorum was met.

#### *Opening Performance*

IWA Members, Raji Viswanathan and Saraswathi Balakrishnan presented a welcome song.

#### *President's Welcome and Ratifications*

President Chandan Lehal welcomed all and appraised the august forum about the change in committee done in May 2018 due to residential status requirements by Registry of Societies. She asked for a show of hands to ratify the changes done in the Executive and Ordinary Committee. The members approved the same by show of hands.

Chandan Lehal thanked Immediate Past President Garima Lalwani and her team for all the good work done by them.

#### *Treasurer's Report*

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

Treasurer Rajashree Viswanathan was called to present treasury report.

Rajashree 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.

#### Proposal for creating a Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) Study Award:

It was proposed that a provision of SGD 30,000 be created to support one female student for 4 years at SGD 7,500 per annum. This was proposed by Rajashree and seconded by Preeti Dubey and carried forward unanimously.

#### Appointment of Auditors for next fiscal year:

It was proposed that Sasikala Devi and Associates be appointed as the auditors for 2019 as well. This was proposed by Rajashree and seconded by Nirupa Vasudev and carried forward unanimously.

### *Secretary's Report*

Selmé Singh and Tejali Sarangdhar presented the Secretary's report for year 2018. They reiterated that the vision of IWA is Care, Connect and Celebrate and it had been followed through by the 14 interest-based Clubs and the ICare programs that supported by IWA.

They gave a brief overview into the work, roles and contributions of the Committee Members, the dedication and hard work that makes IWA the organization it is.

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

- Two Bazaars
- Dhvani
- Events
- Membership Team
- Media Team
- Media Sales
- Membership Privileges
- Newsletter
- Social Media
- Website
- Three ICare programs
- 14 interest-based Clubs

### *Dance Performance*

A dance performance was showcased by IWA members Shaily Badkul and Ramanpreet Kaur Bhatia.

### *President's Address*

- Chandan Lehal was requested to present President's report and review of year 2018.
- President Chandan gave her overview of IWA. She thanked members for giving her an opportunity to serve. She mentioned that her main concern and focus has been for members to see the value of belonging to this organization.
- IWA continued the trend of progress in 2018 with steady growth in membership; member engagement; volunteering opportunities; bazaar profits; community outreach; integration efforts; donations towards more causes.
- She spoke about the integration initiatives taken forward by IWA during her stewardship.
- She reported on IWA Vidya Scholarship, Wings Counselling Center and Threads of Courage donations.
- The IWA Vidya Scholarship was awarded to Sendil Sivakumar and he came on stage to thank IWA for their contribution and the change this has made to his life.

- Chandan continued to explain all the projects that have kept IWA energized. Chingay Parade 2018 in Association with People’s Association and Community Expressions in association with Indian Heritage Centre. And the 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.
- She mentioned that during the queries received by Registry of Societies (ROS), it was highlighted that the constitution needed revisions. And to review and finalize these changes, a task force of 15 members was set up.
- She thanked the volunteers, committee members, task force members and community partners, for their support and valuable contributions of time, knowledge and experience.
- She announced her stepping down and handing the torch to Anuradha Shroff who would be a great and dynamic leader leading an energetic and enthusiastic committee of 2019.
- The committee members of 2018 were invited on stage, introduced and thanked for their work by Chandan Lehal.

### *Amendments*

Selmé Singh updated the members that the Task Force comprising of 15 members had recommended Four Amendments to the Constitution. The same had been shared as a part of the Agenda sent to members. The Task Force was thanked for their time and commitment.

## **PROPOSALS for AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - AGM AGENDA**

### **AMENDMENT 1#**

Existing **Clause 4.1**

#### **Ordinary Membership**

Ordinary Membership is open to women of Indian Origin over eighteen years of age, who may be single, married or widowed.

#### **Proposed Amendment**

Add the following language at the end of the above – “or women married to men of Indian Origin residing in Singapore.”

#### **Proposed Clause 4.1 to read as follows:**

Ordinary Membership

Ordinary Membership is open to women of Indian Origin over eighteen years of age, who may be single, married or widowed or women married to men of Indian Origin residing in Singapore.

#### **Clause 4.1**

Proposed by Seema Gupta

Seconded by Monica Dovedy

Followed by a majority show of hands from members.

## **AMENDMENT 2#**

### **Existing Clause 4.4**

Patron the Committee shall invite distinguished persons to become Patrons of the Society. The first Patron shall be Mrs. Veena Singh, wife of the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore. Patrons shall have no right to vote and hold office in the Society.

### **Proposed Amendment**

Clause 4.4 to be deleted

**Proposed Clause 4.4** to be deleted

### **Clause 4.4**

Proposed by Chandan Lehal

Seconded by Neeta Mirchandani

Followed by a majority show of hands by members.

## **AMENDMENT 3#**

### **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

An Assistant 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 Remove Assistant Secretary and have total 13 Committee members

**Proposed Clause 8.1** to be read as follows:

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.

#### **Clause 8.1**

Proposed by Rajashree Viswanathan

Seconded by Alka Joglekar

Followed by a majority show of hands by members.

#### **AMENDMENT 4#**

##### **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 members. All office-bearers except the Treasurer may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. The term of the Committee is 1 year.

##### **Proposed Amendment**

Amend 8.2 to allow Treasurer also to be re-elected for a second term along with the rest of the Committee.

**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 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 the Committee is 1 year.

##### **Clause 8.2**

Proposed by Preeti Dubey

Seconded by Seema Gupta

Followed by a majority show of hands by members.

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

#### ***Nominations and Election***

Selmé Singh 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 15 December 2018 and the results were compiled by the President and the Secretary. 16 nominations were received for 14 positions. After a couple of withdrawals all the positions were now unopposed. As on the date of AGM, there were 13 positions, which comprised of 7 citizens and 6 PRs in compliance with ROS. As per the nominations received, she then proceeded with the election process by proposing and seconding each name followed by a show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Anuradha Shroff** was nominated for **President**. Proposed by Chandan Lehal, Seconded by Preeti Dubey, voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Selmé Singh** was nominated for **Vice President 1**. Proposed by Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Seconded by Jolly Vatsa, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Nirupa Vasudev** was nominated for **Vice President 2**. Proposed by Hetal Shah, Seconded by Padmaja Balaji, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Monica Dovedy** was nominated for **Secretary**. Proposed by Ramanpreet Kaur Bhatia, seconded by Sharmila Banerjee, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Praveena Jain** was nominated for **Treasurer**. Proposed by Gurpreet Kaur, seconded by Bhavani Banerjee, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Dipanjana Sen** was nominated for **Assistant Secretary**. Proposed by Monica Dovedy, Seconded by Ritu Kapoor, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Gowri Aiyar** was nominated for **Committee Member**. Proposed by Shilpy Aggarwal, Seconded by Saraswathi Balakrishnan, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Gurpreet Kaur** was nominated for **Committee Member**. Proposed by Mansi Shroff, Seconded by Sarika Jain, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Kantamsetty Rama Madhavi** was nominated for **Committee Member**. Proposed by Savita Guntury, Seconded by Rithu Patke, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Padmaja Balaji** was nominated for **Committee Member**. Proposed by Neeta Yadav, seconded by Neeta Bhatt, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Seema Gupta** was nominated for **Committee Member**. Proposed by Arundhati Ghuman, proposed by Nishi Dhir, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Shraddha Singh** was nominated for **Committee Member**. Proposed by Alka Joglekar, Seconded by Rajashree Viswanathan, voted in by a majority show of hands.
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Tejali Sarangdhar** was nominated for **Committee Member**. Proposed by Rithu Patke, Seconded by Priya Aditya, voted in by a majority show of hands.

Selmé thanked all the members for formally completing the elections process. She invited the incoming President Anuradha Shroff for her address.

### *President's Acceptance Speech*

- In the words of Mother Teresa 'Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is beginning of love'. She wished the august forum a very happy valentine's day.
- She thanked Team 2018 for all their hard work. She thanked all the 14 past presidents and 22 committees which has made IWA what it is today, and she assured she will carry the torch forward with all her dedication and commitment. She also thanked all the family members of the committees past and present for sharing their time with IWA.

- She welcomed all the partners and guests and assured them of continued relationships and promised to look for new opportunities to partner with them.
- She thanked each member of IWA for instilling belief in her and the team 2019. She also thanked past president Garima Lalwani for being her mentor.
- She shared her vision that she believed that ‘Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality’ and hoped she will be able to walk the talk. Her mantra for the year is ‘be the change you want to see’.
- She addressed the members of IWA stating “The members of IWA come from various age groups, ethnic, cultural and religious beliefs and have varied expectations from the organization. The Committee finds avenues to fulfil the needs of all and still maintain the freshness and uniqueness. We must continue finding ways to create harmony in this diversity, which is one of the strong pillars of Indian ethos.”
- She continued by stating that the arching vision statement of IWA of Care, Connect and Celebrate has been the guiding principle for the last few years and this has been an all-encompassing vision giving the newer teams the versatility to incorporate new partners, clubs and integration events to showcase Unity in Diversity. Team 2019 is committed to take it forward as they perform familiar tasks in a new way, thereby making the experience more engaging and fun.
- She called upon all the silent members of IWA to reach out and give feedback so that they can be more active. She said membership buddy program will be introduced to facilitate constructive feedback and friendships.
- She addressed the ICare partners and thanked them for their continued opportunities to IWA to serve them. She also mentioned IWA has cherished new relationship made during 2018 and will continue to find new projects to work together.
- She said the clubs would continue to give exciting projects to the membership and collaborate with at least one ICare partner to give back.
- Membership buddy system would be introduced between members and the team to get more feedback and more engagement from members.
- The dynamic ‘Media’ team would continue to keep all connected through the voice of IWA Dhwani, the buzzing social media, our super informative newsletters, the IWA website, our media sales and our media partners.
- The IWA summer bazaar is on April 30 and the process of finalizing the date of festive bazaar was underway.
- Holi with Siglap South CC IAEC is on March 17th.
- Plans to work with National Heritage Board and projects with PA for the Bicentennial celebrations.
- IWA is proud to be associated with MCCY, Peoples Association, Siglap South CC IAEC, SWCO and would continue to support the High Commission for India in Singapore.
- We are committed to leave IWA footprints on uncharted territory with our old and new community partners.
- Anuradha addressed all the strong, beautiful and powerful women present with Hilary Clinton’s quote that we are the ‘largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world’. Moving forward as the President of 2019, she hoped to walk hand-in-hand with all present to make IWA reach successes and partnerships that represent the quintessential Indian Women.

Anuradha then announced the names of the Team 2019 as follows:

***IWA Committee & Sub Committee 2019:***

- **President** - Anuradha Shroff
- **Vice-President 1** - Selmé Singh
- **Vice-President 2** - Nirupa Vasudev
- **Secretary** - Monica Dovedy
- **Treasurer** - Praveena Jain
- **Assistant Secretary** - Dipanjana Sen
- **IPP** - Chandan Lehal
- **Bazaar Chair** - Gowri Aiyar
- **Bazaar Co Chair** - Pallavi Malviya Gupta
- **Dhwani Editor** - Sukanya Pushkarna
- **Dhwani Sub Editor** - Hetal Shah
- **Membership Chair** - Tejali Sarangdhar
- **Membership Co Chair** - Abhinika Mittra
- **Media sales and Social Media Chair** - Seema Gupta
- **Membership Privileges and Entrepreneurs Chair** - Vidya Dasgupta
- **Logistics Chair** - Bhavani Banerjee
- **Newsletter Chair** - Ramanpreet Bhatia
- **Website Chair** - Jyoti Verma
- **BSS Chair** - Bhanu Ramchandran
- **Migrant Workers' Relief Team**
  - **H.O.M.E Chair** - Kantamsetty Rama Madhavi
  - **TWC2 Chair** - Shradha Singh
- **SWAMI Home Chair** - Sharmila Banerjee
- **Acts of Kindness Club Chair** - Ritu Kapoor
- **Adda Club Chair** - Rashmi Gogna
- **Book Club Chair** - Sudeepta Dasgupta
- **Creative Hands Club Chair** - Jolly Vatsa
- **Dance Club Chair** - Arpana Sarkar
- **Fitness Club Chair** - Padmaja Balaji
- **Games Club Chair** - Manju Banka
- **Gourmet Goddess Club Chair** - Shaily Badkul
- **Movie Club Chair** - Neeraja Rao

- **Music Club Chair** - Gurpreet Kaur
- **Writing Enthusiasts' Club Chair** - Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal
- **Travel Club Chair** - Open Position

### *Vote of Thanks*

Selmé thanked the members for attending the AGM and for their patience and cooperation during the proceedings. She thanked them for continuing to believe in IWA and welcomed all to join the lunch.

### *Meeting Adjourned*

The Secretary, Selmé Singh declared the AGM adjourned at 12:35 pm.