

Indian Women's Association (IWA) Singapore
24th Annual General Meeting 2021
Minutes of the Meeting

Date: 23rd February 2021 (Tuesday)

Time: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Agenda

- 1) Members welcomed on Zoom at 10:00 am
- 2) Call to Order 10:30 am
- 3) President's Welcome & Report
- 4) Treasurer's Report
 - a) Audited Financial Statement 2020
 - b) Appointment of Auditors for the next fiscal year
- 5) Secretary's Report
 - a) IWA Report 2020
- 6) Address by Vice-President1
- 7) Address by Vice-President2
- 8) Outgoing President's Vote of Thanks
- 9) Nominations/Elections
- 10) Incoming President's Address
- 11) Introduction of Team 2021-2023
- 12) Any other business as may be properly brought before the meeting
- 13) Meeting adjourned

Attendees

IWA Committee Members present:

Anuradha Shroff, Selmé Singh, Nirupa Vasudev, Monica Dovedy, Rakhi Shankar, Seema Gupta, Padmaja Balaji, Gurpreet Kaur, Jyoti Verma.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Opening of the Meeting

Monica Dovedy introduced herself as Secretary of IWA 2020 and welcomed the Executive Committee, Committee, Team, and members, to the 24th Annual General Meeting of IWA. The first online AGM for IWA.

The Secretary, Monica Dovedy, called the AGM 2021 to order at 10:35 am as the quorum was met.

President's Welcome and Report

- President Anuradha Shroff welcomed all members to IWA's first virtual AGM. It would go down in IWA history as a milestone.
- She spoke about the challenges that 2020 threw at the World.
- When the Government declared DOSCORN Orange, we were unprepared and had to scale down the IWA AGM and cancel all physical events. As the situation worsened, we needed to deal with the situation and come up with an alternative plan to move forward.
- IWA started its online events journey from April 1, 2020. The team re-invented, recreated and showed immense resilience.
- Each member of the IWA team rose to the occasion, brought forward their best ideas and created the most amazing experiences for the members online. IWA did more than 100 online events to keep the members engaged.
- Anuradha shared the different projects under IWA ICARE, the food distribution and the orientation session with BSS, the EZlink card top-up for the residents of H.O.M.E, the promotion of Giving.sg platform for migrant workers, ice-cream distribution and the virtual Christmas celebrations at Swami Home.
- She shared the experience of meeting the student who is the recipient of the IWA SMU Vidya Scholarship.
- IWA met its commitment for the IWA Gyan Jyoti Study Award with SUTD.
- The Integration Fund of \$5000/ was used for the Invictus Fund, this met our responsibility to contribute for the frontline workers and government.
- Anuradha thanked the team and members for their support as IWA was able to meet all its commitments of \$24,000/
- She regretted that under the COVID-19 situation, we were unable to give our members an AGM, Membership lunch and physical club events.
- IWA members participated in FB live Musical show with Radio Mirchi. IWA has also started a new relationship with Radio Chutney – Community Connect.

- Anuradha spoke about the integration events in 2020 that IWA had with People's Association, National Integration Council and Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth. She also spoke about the relationship we share with Siglap South CC IAEC and SINDA.
- IWA had three special events: Family Law in Singapore, Mental Health related fireside chat and an online Theatre Workshop for the members.
- She conveyed gratitude to the members and listed all the outreach projects that the IWA members had been involved in during COVID: Gurudwara grocery collection, Fruit collection for Migrant Workers, Tamil & Bengali translation work done by volunteer members, Frontline workers pack distribution, NDP fun pack distribution, BYOB hand sanitizer distribution.
- Anuradha shared the participation of IWA in Digital Chingay 2021 and Meals on Wheels with the initiative by Light of Hope Chingay 2021
- She also apprised the members about IWA partnering with Siglap South CC in a virtual Deepavali where we showcased the Indian rituals and traditional weaves in sarees.
- The Executive Committee did their small bit for the environment by planting trees.
- The Exco also met & welcome the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore & his wife.
- Anuradha was invited by the People's Association to 'Sharing Culture through Cuisine' where she demonstrated two simple recipes from India.
- The IWA Team took part in the International Day of Yoga with a video of the team in different yoga poses.
- Four members of the Writing Enthusiasts' Club shared their poems at the Singapore Poetry Festival.
- Unfortunately, IWA could not hold the two IWA Bazaars and the IWApreneur in 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation.
- RangManch - IWA Gala. IWA's first online gala which was aptly named 'Jhoom on Zoom'. Anuradha thanked the core Gala team and all the participating members for making it so successful. She added that it was as engaging as the physical one.
- She reiterated that even in the most challenging year, IWA team stepped up and had the following notable achievements: Buddy system was very well received, the Announcement WhatsApp group was created, the fresh look of the IWA Website accomplished, PayNow and its QR code introduced, processes introduced for the better functioning of IWA now and for future, amendments updated to the IWA Constitution for the common good of IWA.
- She thanked the Exco, Committee, Team 2020, and volunteering members, for their hard work, commitment, and support in the challenging times.

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 invited to present the treasury report.

The impact of 2020 on IWA: The income earning events IWA Bazaars, IWApremier and IWA Gala could not be held. All IWA club events were held virtually thus could not be monetized.

The sources of revenue (including membership, ad sales, privilege partners, interest on our bank deposits) were presented.

Disbursement/donation of revenue made to various community projects supported by IWA and the operational expense were also shown. Operational expenditure was kept low wherever possible.

IWA was able to meet all committed donations. IWA donated to the Invictus Fund which supports social service agencies in Singapore to cope with the COVID-19 related efforts. We used the Integration Fund which was on our balance sheet reserve to donate towards this.

The broad trends of income with donations over the last five years were presented. Even though the financial trends do not apply to 2020, the percentage of income donated was the highest at over 60% of income in 2020. IWA was able to meet its committed donations.

Rakhi informed that IWA could meet its commitment with the support of the members.

Rakhi also apprised the members of the operational highlights of 2020. As mentioned, online banking transactions were operationalised in 2019 which was a boon for the year of COVID. We went cashless in 2020 and were able to carry out our transactions smoothly and in a timely manner.

We have taken our digital efforts a step forward and introduced PayNow, this will facilitate payments as members can now pay securely through their mobile phones. Furthermore, the PayNow transactions incur negligible transaction costs.

Rakhi added that even though this was a financially challenging year, we were able to meet all our commitments without dipping into our reserves.

Rakhi thanked Mdm. Sashi and Sashi Kala Devi Associates for their support to IWA.

Appointment of Auditors for next fiscal year:

It was proposed that Sashikala Devi and Associates be appointed as the auditors for 2021 as well. This was proposed by Rakhi Shankar and seconded by Monica Dovedy and carried forward unanimously.

Secretary's/IWA Report

Monica Dovedy presented the Secretary's/IWA report for the year 2020. She reminded all how the world had come to a screeching halt, where all as well as the association, had been through an incredibly challenging year. She stressed that during the report, one could not help but notice & definitely commend how the IWA team & members had re-grouped, re-created & re-invented their skills & taken IWA Online! She mentioned that as IWA is all about Care Connect Celebrate, this year also the team did their best to follow the ethos.

The report 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
- IWA Outreach during COVID-19: Grocery and fruit collection drive for migrant workers, language translations, PA initiatives-Frontline workers pack, NDP fun pack, and BYOB hand sanitizer drives
- IWA members volunteers with Meals on Wheels
- IWA members at Digital Chingay 2021
- IWA Team celebrating International Yoga Day
- Tree plantation by Executive Committee 2020
- IWA participations: Virtual Diwali in 'Traditional Weaves of India' with Siglap South CC, Facebook live musical show with Radio Mirchi, Poem recitation with Singapore Poetry festival
- Special Events: Family Law in Singapore. Session on Mental Health, Theatre Workshop
- IWA partnership with Radio Chutney
- Rangmanch – IWA Gala 2020; Jhoom on Zoom
- IWA Bazaar
- 12 interest clubs/groups
- Membership Team
- Logistics
- Editors
- Media Team

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.

Address by Vice-President1 Selmé Singh

VP1 Selmé Singh shared that she had thoroughly enjoyed her two years. She thanked all for the love and support that she had received during her tenure. She added that she looked forward to serving IWA. She thanked the Team, Executive Committee and all the members.

Address by Vice-President2 Nirupa Vasudev

VP2 Nirupa Vasudev shared that her IWA journey started in 2012 with her serving as Chair for Adda, Fitness Club and two terms as Vice-President. She applauded the talent and camaraderie of IWA. She also acknowledged that IWA has taught her to be a team-player and hone her own capabilities. It is here that she learnt to put the needs of the organization first.

Nirupa praised Anuradha Shroff for her commitment and clear vision towards IWA. She complimented Selmé, Monica and Rakhi for fulfilling their roles ably and being a well synchronized team. She added that she enjoyed working with the Exco. She also commended the tireless efforts of the club Chairs for making digital IWA a reality.

Nirupa stated that due to personal commitments and professional ambitions, she was unable to continue in the IWA Committee but will always remain an ardent supporter, volunteer, and member of IWA. She wished Selmé Singh and her team the absolute best for their term.

Vote of Thanks by Outgoing President Anuradha Shroff

- Anuradha thanked the IWA partners for supporting the association during the challenging year.
- Anuradha also thanked the IWA Team 2020 and all the members for their support.
- She requested a 'spotlight' on the 29 Team members as she thanked each with a personal 'thank you'.
- She thanked the five Team members who had left the Team during the year.
- Anuradha conveyed her best wishes to the incoming President Selmé Singh.

Nominations and Election

Monica Dovedy then advanced 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 11th December 2020. The results were compiled by the Secretary. 16 nominations were received for 13 positions. 13 forms were accepted, and 3 forms declared invalid due to the rules of the process. As on the date of AGM, there were 13 positions, which comprise of 9 citizens and 4 permanent residents in compliance with ROS. All positions were unopposed and uncontested. 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.

She proceeded with the nominations for the Executive Committee.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Selmé Singh** was nominated for **President, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Anuradha Shroff

Seconded by Subina Khaneja

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Madhu Suri** was nominated for **Vice President1, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Jyoti Verma

Seconded by Savitha Bhaskar Guntury

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Seema Gupta** was nominated for **Vice President2, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Vidya Dasgupta

Seconded by Subina Khaneja

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Jagariti Mathur** was nominated for **Secretary, 2021-2023**

Proposed by Sukanya Pushkarna

Seconded by Preety Agarwal

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Preety Agarwal** was nominated for **Treasurer, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Monica Dovedy

Seconded by Viji Ramki

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

The Committee members in alphabetical order.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Jyoti Verma** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Ayana Chatterjee

Seconded by Sukanya Pushkarna

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Nandini Selvakumar** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Anindita Ghosh

Seconded by Arpana Sarkar

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Padmaja Balaji** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Preety Agarwal

Seconded by Gowri Aiyar

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Saraswathi Balakrishnan** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Jyoti Verma

Seconded by Abhinika Mittra

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Sarita Prasad** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Selmé Singh

Seconded by Savitha Bhaskar Guntury

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Sharada Sahoo** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Anuradha Shroff

Seconded by Nirupa Vasudev

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Shobha Singla** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Viji Ramki

Seconded by Saraswathi Balakrishnan

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Vidhya Nair** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2021-2023**.

Proposed by Anuradha Shroff

Seconded by Laxmi Padmanabhan

Voted in by a majority show of hands.

Monica thanked all the members for formally completing the elections process. She congratulated the new Committee for 2021-2023 and invited the incoming President for 2021-2023, Selmé Singh for her acceptance speech.

President 2021-2023 Selmé Singh's Acceptance Speech

- Selmé Singh wished the members, partners, and past Presidents of IWA. She hoped that this AGM had been held in person.
- Selmé began her speech with a quote of Michelle Obama, "There is no limit to what we as women can accomplish". She added that this quote is even more relevant in these challenging times. She stated that we as women need to use the organization for a greater good.

- The COVID pandemic has put our lives on a pause. These tough times have made us rethink and challenge the deep-rooted notions of our purpose, what is it that we as women need to do. Selmé added that this entails us to combat and foster a renewed sense of solidarity, not just in the roles that we play in our personal lives, but also in the community.
- We need to strive for a better world. We need to double up our efforts to keep doing the good. And as they say, when the going gets tough, volunteers get going.
- She stated that this brings us to our role as IWA volunteers. IWA has kept us connected for the last 23 years. She stressed that as the organization marches towards turning 25, it is our turn to stand by it and keep it steady and strong.
- Selmé believed that nonprofit organizations like ours can do far more with a lot less than any corporate venture because we do things with a passion, marked by the human touch.
- She stated that in the last year, a few of our members have had to make the tough decisions to relocate, and others fortunate to stay are contemplating the benefits of continuing as members of this organization.
- She added that we would soon hear that IWA started with the story, a story that defines a mission, and engages a community, a community of women like us, to care, to connect, and to celebrate.
- Selmé implored that now more than ever, the organization needed the support of the members. IWA's purpose is to support the community, for which the organization needs the wholehearted participation of the members. She added that the membership went a long way in giving education to two hardworking students at the Singapore Management University, and Singapore University of Technology and Design. It also helps families at Beyond Social Services, migrant workers at TWC2, domestic workers at H.O.M.E and the elder residents of Swami Home. She stressed that these are all reasons for us to renew IWA membership as we have commitments and promises to fulfill.
- She also added that IWA has given us a family of friends. It has kept us connected and celebrated us as women. She appealed on behalf of the entire team for all members to invite one friend each to join IWA actively and support it in these challenging times.
- She shared that she joined IWA in 2013 as a part of the membership team, took charge of the privileges, started the movie club, served as the Secretary and Vice President, and now President. She was able to embark on this journey and contribute, because of the unconditional support and encouragement from some of the members who were present at the AGM. She added that the friends she has made in IWA have inspired her to take on other tasks and have added to her journey as a person.
- Selmé further added that as we moved towards IWA's 25th anniversary, we would need the help and support of the members to celebrate this milestone. She invited members to share their ideas on ways to celebrate this event.

- She urged all to come together and become virtual and digital humanitarians for now and look forward to when the restrictions are lifted.
- She said that the team did intend to start meeting in clubs in person, keeping the government restrictions in mind.
- She reminded us once again that IWA's mission is to foster the Connect amongst us and to integrate with the society we now call home.
- She spoke about the upcoming 'Choose to Challenge' videos for the International Women's Day on 8th of March, which many of the members were a part of.
- Selmé requested all to come together to move ahead and keep IWA's flag flying high. Create opportunities and contribute to this society, which has given us a platform to grow.
- To reinforce IWA's mission, she shared an address by the first president of IWA Dr. Julie Mehta, who was the president of IWA in 1997. She asked all to listen and remember that volunteerism is a currency that only appreciates.
- Dr. Julie Mehta in her video addressed the members of IWA and shared with them the story of how IWA, then known as Expatriate Indian Women's Club (EIWC) was founded. She shared some of the earlier events hosted by the organization.
- Selmé thanked Dr. Julie Mehta for sharing her thoughts and time with the members. She added that it was important for us to know the legacy of IWA.

Selmé then announced the names of the Team 2021-2023 as follows:

IWA Committee & Team 2020:

- **President** - Selmé Singh
- **Vice-President 1** – Madhu Suri
- **Vice-President 2** – Seema Gupta
- **Secretary** – Jagariti Agarwal
- **Treasurer** - Preety Agarwal
- **Assistant Treasurer** – Raji Vish Rajashree
- **Immediate Past President** – Anuradha Shroff
- **Bazaar Chair** – Sudeepta Dasgupta
- **Bazaar Chair** – Chhaya Banga
- **Bazaar Team** – Praveena Babulal Jain
- **Senior Editor** - Sukanya Pushkarna
- **Editor** - Priya G. Aditya
- **Membership Chair** – Chandan Dolly Lehal
- **Membership Chair** - Abhinika Mittra

- **Media sales** – Sharada Sahoo
- **Newsletter Chair** – Sarita Prasad
- **Website Chair** - Jyoti Verma
- **Social Media Chair** – Ayana Chatterjee
- **BSS Chair** - Nayani Sharma
- **H.O.M.E Chair** – Mini Kapur
- **TWC2 Chair** - Shradha Singh
- **SWAMI Home Chair** – Savitha Guntury
- **Acts of Kindness Club Chair** – Gauri Savadi
- **Adda Club Chair** – Vijaya Sharada Ramakrishnan
- **Book Club Chair** - Sudeepta Dasgupta
- **Creative Hands Club Chair** - Jolly Vatsa
- **Dance Club Chair** – Nandini Selvakumar
- **Games Club Chair** - Vinnie Moerman
- **Gourmet Goddess Club Chair** – Shobha Singla
- **Health & Fitness Club Chair** - Padmaja Balaji
- **Movie Club Chair** - Neeraja Rao Arun
- **Music Club Chair** – Saraswathi Balakrishnan
- **Privileges and Entrepreneurs Chair** - Vidya Dasgupta
- **Travel Club Chair** – Vidhya Nair
- **Writing Enthusiasts' Club Chair** - Shilpa Dikshit Thapliyal

Selmé added that the post for Assistant Secretary was still open, if any member was interested, they could contact the Secretary. She thanked the outgoing Team, especially the Executive Committee 2020.

Vote of Thanks

Monica Dovedy thanked the members for their support and cooperation. She also thanked them for attending the online AGM 2021.

Meeting Adjourned

The Secretary, Monica Dovedy declared the AGM 2021 adjourned at 1:04 pm.