GWI 2019-2022 Board Meeting Minutes
2 October 2019, 7pm, ZOOM

Attendees: Terry Oudraad (TO, President), Eileen Focke-Bakker (EFB, VP Membership), Louise McLeod (LM, VP Advocacy and Education), Basak Ovacik (BO, VP Fundraising), Katharina Strub (KS, Treasurer) and Stacy Dry Lara (SDL, Executive Director)
Apologies: None

Welcome
TO welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, CEST.

Agenda was adopted without changes.

Minutes from the 29 July 2019 Board meeting were accepted without comments/revisions.

No Conflicts of Interest were registered. The Conflict of Interest is registered at the GWI office and will remain until notice.

Treasurer Report

KS reported that GWI is operating within budget; no questions about August financials were posed. August dues revenue calculates to CHF 258'470; KS reminded that while finances are stable for now GWI must keep income up with a focus on member recruitment.

August advocacy expense of 45K is relevant to the in-kind CFUW contribution. A document from CFUW 2018-2019 to justify the expense for 2018 and 2019 is still needed; as an outcome of a recent Zoom call with TO, Geeta Desai, (GD) GWI former president, and SDL, TO and GD will jointly produce these terms. Further discussion on the topic was addressed under the MOU agenda item.

KS to ask Catherine Herbez (CH), GWI accountant, to enlarge the financials for printing and review.

<u>Conference profit & loss statement</u>

KS reported that a few invoices must be receive and paid towards the conference, however, the preliminary financial report indicates a benefit; invoices must be cleared before the conference financials can be closed out. KS also reported that GWI will reclaim VAT/tax paid for conference services; first installment will be made in September then again at end of year, i.e., VAT paid to caterer and registration fees as examples. The VAT payments also determine when the conference accounting can be closed.

SDL will explain to CH that the Bring a Delegate fund total was CHF 2050 not CHF 1800; a participant could not attend due to health reasons and chose to donate her registration fee to the Bring a Delegate rather than receive a refund. In total, CHF 2000 was donated to seven delegates according to the Bring a Delegate procedure coordinated by the Memcom and VP Membership. CHF 50 was allocated to bank transfer costs.

There was a discussion about what to do with the possible profit from the conference. KS suggested that one-year reserves needs to be set aside for the organisation; that some organisations require two years of reserves; it was agreed that a portion of the conference profit should contribute the building the GWI reserves; TO said that at least 2/3 of the conference profit will be placed in reserves and the use of the remainder will be decided at next board meeting.

Member Dues

Communication with Haiti continues. KS noted that they made a payment of $150 USD towards their 2019 dues (total 2019 dues are $220) but the funds were allocated to the wrong GWI account and Credit Suisse returned the payment to the Haiti bank; now their bank will not return the payment to them; Haiti says they cannot afford to make another payment. KS will explain to Haiti that GWI is working on the issue; LM is to revert to WG-USA who helped Haiti with the payment in the first place. Other NFAs that have not paid will be approached by KS and EFB.

EFB to follow up with all NFAs in arrears.

EFB mentioned the importance of keeping NFA contact details; SDL informed that the office requests, from NFAs twice per year in Spring and Fall, updated contact details and that the list is only as accurate as the information the office receives.

There was a discussion about Finland who has one independent member who then distributes GWI materials and information to the Finland members; this is not acceptable to the Board. TO is to visit Finland attending the Baltic Sea Conference, which held every two years in one of the Baltic Sea NFAs, in the coming weeks and will investigate.

TO inquired about the Friendship bracelets; SDL informed that all 500 bracelets from the initial and only order sold quickly, if GWI is to sell more, than additional bracelets will need to be ordered; the Board agreed not to reorder at this time.

Frequency of financial reporting in 2020 was then discussed; it was noted that the outcome of the 2019 Triennial General Meeting determined that we have to report quarterly to the NFAs and a functional budget as of 2020 has to be put in place.

KS informed that, yes, a quarterly report is now required since the General Assembly; quarterly reporting versus monthly reporting was already suggested by CH beginning 2020; in a conference year, however, it's not practical and GWI needs monthly reports. KS noted that the year-end audited report that shows all financials is published to membership; that all financial reports are sent to FinCom; and that the Board needs to consider how to proceed with the vote of the General Assembly for the type of quarterly report provided to membership; KS to discuss with CH how to achieve this; in any case this will begin in March or April 2020 because the annual report for 2019 will have just been released. KS to meet with CH and SDL in November for discussion at the December Board meeting.

Functional budget
It was noted that a few NFAs (CFUW and WG-USA) drove this conversation at the General Assembly; TO will meet with KS and SDL regarding this issue and how to comply logically with the resolution; TO noted that she produced a functional budget when she was the IFUW Treasurer

<u>Reserve fund</u>

Discussed early in the meeting; after conference profit is known the Board will further discuss allocation. As per previous discussion, GWI needs to build reserves and the Board agreed that one year of reserves would be a good start.

<u>Re-evaluation dues formula, Fin Com, and/or working group timeline.</u>
KS is in contact with FinCom to organize a meeting in November; time differences make meeting with New Zealand, India, Western USA, and Switzerland very difficult. FinCom must be involved in the dues formula decision; FinCom will also need to be involved in finance plan for NFAs dues and this concerns KS because the FinCom members are too slow to reply and not as engaged as she needs for them to be; EFB reminded that the final decision about the dues formula is up to the Board because the Board bears the fiduciary responsibility; TO confirmed that the GA has the power to make adoptions at the GA but their decision cannot go against the GWI constitution; the FinCom must advise with logic; TO says for KS to make NFA finance plan and then FinCom can accept after logical discussion.

LM informed that Kathy Horvat has changed her email address which could be why she has not been replying; LM is to send the new email address for Kathy.

Nomination for Board vacancies:

Legal & Governance (names: as of July 2020, Patricia Wesley Cole (BFWG), or Shaila Rao Mistry, (WG-USA); Veena Bathe (India)

Vice President, Marketing (names Glenda Hecksher (GH) (Mexico) or Rachel Malek (Independent member, formerly CFUW)

TO reported that she had not contacted Patrice Wesley Cole because she is still President of BFWG until July 2020 and has already said that she cannot become a VP until then, she did offer her services to GWI in another capacity if needed; Shaila is running for WG-USA office and cannot serve both roles; Veena Bathe (VB) has also expressed interest in the VP Legal and Governance position; the Board sees no conflict of interest for VB as she is not currently holding another NFA office; she seems very reliable; EFB did a workshop with her; she seemed focused and organized and she will try to meet VB on a trip she is making to the Netherlands this week; BO also received high remarks about VB; Rae Duff, previous VP Legal and Governance has made a handover set of rules so the job already has support; all agreed to ask Veena to become.

MOTION: TO made motion to appoint VB from India as the VP Legal and Governance
2nd by LM. Motion passed unanimously

MOTION: TO made the motion that the Board appoint GH as Vice President Marketing. Motion carried unanimously.

Nomination for GWI committees:

Resolutions Convenor: Catriona Sutherland, (CS) (Scotland)
Discussion that CS had expressed great interest in the position and the Board agreed she would be diligent, communicative and do a good job.

MOTION: TO motion to appoint CS as Convenor of the Resolutions Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

EFB to contact CS after TO sends her acceptance letter; thereafter EFB will offer RM a position on the ResCom.

Hegg Hoffet Convenor: It was noted that Lilia Muggler from the Swiss Association had withdrawn her candidacy; however, Jazmeira Cabrera (JC), (Panama Association of University Women) is still interested. SDL reminded that JC had at the initial stages of the nominations inquired about a position and that she seems eager to have join; LM offered that JC could perhaps put a pulse on the Central America migration issue; concern was raised that the Hegg Hoffet Convenor is a very difficult position and one must know about migration issues as well about GWI; TO as previous convenor can help guide her.

MOTION: TO made a motion to appoint JC as Convenor of Hegg Hoffet Committee. Motions carried unanimously.

The Board noted that the Education Committee needs more members; the Board discussed offering RM a position on the EduCom; it was agreed that EFB would reach to RM about joining the EduCom as a convenor.

BO is to ask Cynthia Burek if she needs members given that Bettie Higgs, Fay and Margaret already members

TO will send letters of acceptance to the VPs and Convenors of the Committees; SDL will send "thank you for your interest" to the other candidates.

Projects Committee: TO questioned whether the GWI website lists two convenors; SDL thinks not but will look into the question.

Young Members: update way forward, EFB has already met with the young member team; they are working on plan on how to be embedded in GWI; EFB informs that young members are from all continents; they held a Committee meeting last Sunday and seven young members attended; Amy Dowdle (New Zealand) is the chair; the Committee has set out marching orders; they are to develop a young member mandate then present to Board; the mandate includes intergeneration activities, reaching out to all age groups with is great; the group is to design the proposal based on categories; they are designing name for their network and a logo for proposal. They have new enthusiasm and making activity plan; want to be involved in GWI advocacy; they understand there is no budget for CSW participation; want to develop projects – EFB cautioned on this but they are energetic to move forward. twinning between them is the first idea rather than big project They are working on communication plan that integrates them, no magazine of their own but how to integrate into GWI communications, they are young feminists. LM congratulated EFB on the next generation efforts; EFB asked about young members in CSW; LM reminded that young members are already plugged into CSW Young Leaders program via Maryella Hannum, GWI UN representative, good resources; SDL to send EFB Maryella email; next young member committee meeting will be in December; the Board awaits the young member plan.

EFB gave an update on GWI regions.
She explained that there are two kinds of meetings – regions and every region has a regional leader/coordinator. The regional committee consists of the five (or six) regional leaders and

sometimes there are secretaries. The regional committee needs to decide whether they want to function with five or more regions; EFB informed that the meeting with regional leaders at the conference was far too short; they discussed in principle many things; regions becoming clearer. Moreover, they wanted to identify the 4-5 issues that affect all regions with the main objective to identify what issues that affect the GWI policy issues; the regions want to be very active because members see the necessity of it; they are exchanging more information between each other. LM offered that quality of education has already been expressed as a concern. EFB raised concern over language between Mexico, CFUW and WG-USA, Spanish is fine between WG-USA and FEMU; CFUW can address French speaking NFAs. TO suggested that the Committee of Regional Leaders address the CFUW MOU mandate.

Issues /ideas from Conference

Evaluation Conference: SDL reported that the office had distributed the conference evaluation to all participants and that as of the Board meeting 74 responses had been received; mostly very positive SDL update.

Participant List was posted to the Member Corner of the GWI website. There is an option to opt out if any conference participant would like to be removed from the list. The posting was on 3 September and this far no positive or negative feedback; next conference registration will include opt in for participants list and dropdown list to select country.

GWI Update sign up campaign
SDL reported that the Update promotion is always ongoing.

Advocacy

Beijing+25 UN ECE Review will take place on 29-30 October 2019 at the UN in Geneva; the civil society forum will take place on 28 October 2010. Registration is closed; TO and SDL will attend. SDL has applied for CSO Forum booth jointly with GWI, CFUW and WG-USA. She has not yet been informed of acceptance.

Beijing 25+ CSW64: GWI delegation
SDL reported the Call for Applications was distributed to Presidents and CIRs on 27 September; deadline to apply is 31 October; EFB has distributed to young members information about B+25; LM had the opportunity attend one of the side events held in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly; the event was on human trafficking; the UN plaza was decorated for the Sustainable Development Goals; she had to retrieve her special badge from UN Women headquarters; on the day there were security checkpoints around the UN was several streets deep; she was admitted without issues with her special-issue badge; the event on the SDGs was well attended and informative.

Update GWI-Website: progress

SDL reported that the GWI website is an ongoing project; the pages are continuously updated with material and when a page is located with outdated materials its revised. She asked the Board to send her a link to an outdated page if they come across it.

Dates of events/meetings to come

- UN ECE regional review 28-30 Geneva
- Mexico (FEMU) International Seminar, 28-30 November 2019

- CSW64 9-20 March 2020
- Paris Beijing+25 International session 7-10 July 2020 Paris 2020
- AFFDU 18-20- September 2020, 100 years/UWE 40 years

Other business: None

Meeting adjourned. 21.58