Board 2019-2022 Meeting Minutes

19 Aug 2021, 6pm Central European Time (CET), ZOOM

Attendees: Terry Oudraad (TO), President; Veena Bathe (VB), VP Legal and Governance; Eileen Focke-Bakker (EFB), VP Membership; Glenda Hecksher (GH), VP Marketing; 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 6.04 PM CET

Agenda : Adopted

Minutes Board Meeting 9 June 2021 : Adopted with one Board member abstaining

Conflict of Interest: None

Financial Matters:

KS presented the 2020 financial audited accounts performed by PKF. The Board had previously discussed the 2020 Q4 financial report which presented the year-end figures.

Motion moved by KS that the Board accept the 2020 financial audited accounts from PKF
Seconded by: BO
Motion approved by the Board.

Quarterly Report Q2 2021:
KS presented the Quarterly Report Q2 2021 to the Board.
Highlights of the Report :

- As per the revised budget of 2021, the income from NFAs' dues was estimated at CHF 203'000 actual collection till date is approx. CHF 197'000. The difference in dues collection is CHF 6'000.
- Outstanding NFAs are Cyprus- likely to pay, Turkey-will pay in Sept; Zimbabwe-President not keeping good health, Nigeria & Bulgaria- no news.

- **Enclosure 3 Notes to the Financial Statements:** Commitment for the premises is CHF 33'548 is until the end of the contract 30 April 2026 i.e. 5 year period. A six months' notice will end the contract, there will be no liability to pay till 30 Apr 2026.
- There is likely to be a surplus of approx. CHF 20'000, by end of 2021 financial year due to the cost cutting measures undertaken at the GWI office during the year, namely downsizing the office space and staff.

FinCom's Recommendation no. 16 to adopt the 2nd Quarterly Report of 2021 approved by the Board unanimously.

Fundraising:
Other sources of funding were discussed. SDL informed that past many months she had been applying for quite a few grants and funding with no positive response. With no other staff member to assist her at the office, she requested Board members to assist her in fundraising. She has prepared a dossier to approach potential donors. The dossier contains all the information about GWI, which will be helpful to the Board members while applying for potential source of funding.
VB suggestion that GWI could approach High-Net-Worth Individual (HNWI) for individual funding was briefly discussed, (*e.g. of HNWI-MacKenzie Scott, an American philanthropist, who has donated in billions USD to high-impact organisations*). It was decided that BO & VB, with assistance from GWI intern, will research on this source of funding, about who these HNWI are, which causes they care about most and what motivates them to make a contribution; make a list to approach them.

Proposed Virtual Raffle for fundraising:
LM's detailed process to conduct GH's proposed virtual raffle for fundraising was discussed, especially the cost of holding the raffle, sale of tickets by NFAs and legal compliances as per Swiss law, which are very strictly regulated in Switzerland. It was observed that the cost and compliance burden vis-à-vis the benefits would not justify such an effort in conducting a virtual raffle.
Organizing an auction of GH's artwork to raise funds could be another possible option that the Board will consider for fundraising. The Board expressed their appreciation to GH for the generous offer of donation of her artwork for the benefit of GWI.

2022 Call for Resolutions:
ResCom has asked Board's approval for the following matter to be included in the 2022 Call for Resolutions

1. That the following paragraph (or wording similar) be inserted in the call

'*You may wish to assess or reaffirm your own recent resolutions based on experiences with the Coronavirus pandemic'.*

This will ensure that NFA consider whether any resolutions they may be considering are new or already exist but need to be updated with the learning gained during this time, or fundamental changes to legislation or practice enforced during Covid.

2. To insert in the resolution submission form, as an example, 2019 resolution submission on STEM (Policy Resolution 4); which according to the ResCom was the most complete resolution from the outset that provides a strong frame work for future work.

The Board approved ResCom's above mentioned additions to the 2022 Call for Resolutions

Further, previous Calls for Resolutions states request for resolutions in English or French, the ResCom has asked Board's approval for stating that the resolutions be requested in English language only. The committee feels there may be financial or other implications not known to them in interpretation of the resolutions in any other language.

After discussions about the interpretation issues faced by ResCom and the GWI office at the past GAs, especially 2019 GA and English being the default language of communications for GWI, following motion was moved
'The Call for Resolutions henceforth will state request for Resolutions in English language to avoid interpretation issues.'
Moved by : LM
Seconded by : TO
Motion approved by the Board

Review of ResCom TOR:
LM reported that the ToRs have been approved by ResCom but it states at the end that the same have been approved by the GWI Board, which is incorrect. This needs to be rectified.
The request for resolutions in English language, which was just discussed and motion passed to that effect, should be included in the ToR.
As VP Advocacy is responsible for implementing the GWI Policy Resolutions, LM has also indicated in the document wherein, it should reflect the role of the Advocacy VP as the member of the Board.
VB will review the ToR and LM's comments for the Board's approval.

Membership Updates:
GWI Global North-South Dialogue: EFB reported that MemCom has organised a cycle of three GWI Global North-South Dialogue (between 2 regions) to give members an opportunity to discuss and share common issues of their regions. These dialogues are being initiated by the NFAs on the topic and format of their choice.

The UWAsia-Pacific dialogue on Conflict Management and Peace Negotiation was very successful. Next dialogue will be between UWE (Europe) and FUWA(Africa), its under discussion, MemCom at present is facilitating them.
Outcomes of these dialogues will be three inter-regional resolutions. UWAsia-Pacific is working on the inter-regional resolution on conflict management in context with education.
The ResCom has already started work on accepting resolutions from different groups within GWI and don't see any issues in accepting inter-regional resolutions

Young Members Network (YMN): MemCom's brainstorming session was a success. One of the points of discussion was the status of the YM group, whether to make it a part of Memcom or create a separate committee of members elected by GA or members appointed by the Board. EFB invited views of the Board on this issue.
Since Board has undertaken the OD process for the transformation of GWI, it will review the existing systems in GWI, check what needs to be eliminated, added, replaced or enhanced to bring about the change and YM being an integral part of the OD process, this issue will be addressed by the process.

EFB informed that MemCom will be undertaking review of the committee's ToR for the 2022 triennium. She suggested that the Board should prepare an overall activity plan till 2022 GA, aligning with the OD process.
She further informed that the next Membership flyer will be sent in Sept, it will contain a 2 min video of Geeta explaining the OD process. Geeta needs to send the video to GWI office.

NFA2NFA project: GWI letter on emergency of women & girls in Afghanistan
EFB informed that in support of women and girls in Afghanistan, who fear for their lives and access to education, GWI and the GWI NFA2NFA project of CFUW and GWI-NL on Afghan Peace Negotiation, have drafted a call to all GWI members to take action by approaching their governments and contacts at international agencies. The letter will be circulated to all NFAs shortly.

TO suggested to also writing a letter to NFA Haiti about availability of short term grants from Hegg Hoffet Fund to students affected by the earthquake disaster.

OD Communications and Invitation to regional meetings in relevant time zone
TO & EFB will be contact persons from the Board with Geeta for the OD Process.
KS will set up the region wise town hall zoom meetings for UWE-FUWA and UWAsia-Pacific
GH will co-ordinate with Geeta to set up zoom meeting for Latin America region.

Meeting Adjourned : 9.49 pm CET