Minutes of the GWI Board 2022-25 Meeting held on 12th May 2025, 7pm Central European Time (CEST), zoom

Board Meeting

Attendees: President Patrice Wellesley Cole (PWC); VP Advocacy Shaila Rao Mistry (SRM); VP Membership, Meera Bondre (MB); Treasurer, Karoline Dorsch (KD); GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara (SDL); VP Education, Shirley Gillett (SG).

Apologies: VP Legal and Governance Ujwala Shinde (US) VP Fund Raising Maria Fernanda (MF); VP Project Mildred Asmah (MA).

Meeting called to an order at 7**pm CEST**.

1. Welcome: PWC welcomed all to the Board Meeting.

2. Conflict of Interest: NONE

3. Adoption of Agenda: Agenda was adopted.

4. April minutes are to be adopted after everybody going through it.

5. WG-USA President Susan's email - all VPs
   SRM gave her input that facts are to be checked as to see which parts of that actually apply, which do not, and then craft a response from that a high-level response from that. GWI, requires substantial fundraising, and that should be a top priority. That marketing is a top priority. Membership is also the priority. KD mentioned that Everything has been very transparent and open.

KD said that everything has been very transparent and open. We all have more members than the US.

PWC asked that in the letter sent by WG-USA, they listed five things, the first was a copy of this year's, that is 2025 operating budget, approved by the General Assembly and board approved changes to the 2025 budget. KD said that the 2025 budget was approved by Fincom and the Board. PWC further told about the information of approved budget for the Zambia Triennium as well as the short-fall in revenue is asked through the letter of WG-USA. KD informed that there is no deficit. In the restricted funds, right now we have 142,000. And in the unrestricted fund, or general reserve fund 21,000. SRM mentioned that some suggestions on some measures should be mentioned, acknowledging, because an organization does have issues and problems. SG mentioned that graduate woman New Zealanders, positive about Graduate Woman International. MB mentioned that we should highlight the good points that we have done after a big setback of COVID.

6. 35th Triennial Conference planning arrangements, Zambian LAC, Workshops and sub- themes- Shirley, Karoline and Stacy

SRM asked 'What is the maximum or minimum number of members we need on the nominating committee?' PWC mentioned that we have got a regional balance. We'll have to have an uneven number. And ideally, it's about seven. Because of the constitutional requirements, we're trying to bring that date forward to May. And we need to have a chair. And we have to have an orientation session. SDL informed that 9 members accepted to be on NomCom.

7. Membership and Legal and Governance updates-Meera and Ujwala : MB mentioned that they had a meeting on 10th of this month. Sahar, who's the convener of independent members network, attended it. And later on, she has come up with three questions, which the independent members have asked. They're asking about the reason for not receiving any response to the applications, from the Fellowships Committee. SDL mentioned that she helped Basak write the... acceptance letters and the reject letters last week. And the target date has always been, and it was listed in the application that the announcement would be made on May 15th. She'll send out those letters by the 15th. MB further mentioned that regarding presenting the paper at Triennium, she has directed to send it to VP Education, SG. MB mentioned that independent members, if they're not a part of the YMN right now, but they're independent members and they're 40 or younger, whether they will get the benefit while making registration for the conference? SDL informed that ,anybody who is a member, and they must be a verified member of an NFA or an independent member, if they're 49 years or younger, they can register with the concessional rate for the young member part.

MB further asked about the procedure to make and pass internal resolution. SDL mentioned that , the the internal resolutions is to be presented in Board and have a discussion period. After discussion during a board meeting, you'll actually have an official discussion period about the resolution. And then that discussion will close. And then you'll have to have a vote.

8. Advocacy and Education updates- Shaila and Shirley: SRM updated about Resolution Committee work. She informed that they have received resolutions from WG-USA, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, and Australia. She further added about the CSW revitalization strategy. A lot of work went into the CSW this last year. Over years, starting with the Beijing Plus 30 review, which we did in Geneva with the UN, CSW Geneva, followed by the CSW in New York. She mentioned about the Advocacy without Borders, that they made a very good start, made very good relationships with high level possible sponsorships, high level role players in this field, the World Bank, IMF, the UN ambassador this time, a UN ambassador from Peacekeeping who supported GWI this time, and UN women also. SRM reminded taking action on the Proclamation she put forth. SRM further mentioned that she wants advocacy town hall meeting to address some of the ways advocacy has changed, what they're doing in their NFAs, what we need to know. She proposed to do it in July. SDL mentioned that to hold advocacy town hall meeting in the month of July will not be possible for GWI as there are many meetings are to be held concerning General Assembly.
   She added that there will be multiple opportunities for NFA engagement about the triennium coming forward. There will be policy resolution discussion webinar. constitutional amendment webinar that's going to be coming up. Canada is also producing a women in leadership webinar that will be held on May 29th. And in addition, the Hegg Hoffet committee is producing a webinar for a world refugee day that will highlight Hegg Hoffet accomplishments on June 20th. Five NFA engagements already coming up that is set and scheduled. And each one of those is an opportunity to get people interested in the triennium.
   Education: SG updated that at CSW , Educom presentation was done. And Educom are working on a Child Bride workshop for the conference. They will be meeting in Lusaka. She still hopes to try for an education related project with UNICEF.

   Projects and Fundraising- Mildred and Fernanda: PWC updated that MF VP Fund Raising and MA VP Projects have sent their written reports.
9. Treasurer’s update - Karoline : KD updated that Some NFAs haven't paid yet, but it's not that much left out, except for Turkey, who has not paid for this year yet.. They have paid up every year, but it takes a lot of time. And that's still a big chunk of money from them,. Turkish, they're still 500 members. So they still get some chunk of money.
10. Office matters- Stacy.:

SG shared a screen showing website donation brick wall. SDL informed that there is a bring a delegate program for the Triennial and this is something that is managed by the board. There is an application, that they fill out and then the board must accept those applications and then any funds that are contributed to the bring a delegate fund are divided equally amongst those who are selected for that fund.

Wrap Up: PWC thanked to all the Board members

Next Board Meeting is fixed on Thursday 5th June 2025 @ 7 pm CEST

Meeting adjourned: 09:16:22pm CEST

Minutes drafted by US