



## AFGW Inc Post Conference e-news

### Cape Town August 2016 GWI Conference & General Assembly

This was under a new format of 3 members' only days of business sessions for National delegates and observers followed by 3 days of conference. It was all held in the impressive 10 year old Cape Town International Convention Centre near the waterfront with views to Table Mountain.

#### Elected New Board and Committees

**President** –Geeta Desai – WG- USA; previous experience on Membership committee and a noted fund-raiser.

**VPs**- Turkey (Fundraising), USA (Marketing), NZ , Rae Duff (Governance), Netherlands (Membership) + one to be appointed by Board – Advocacy and Education

**Treasurer** –Tricia Blombery

Other Australians – Margaret Giles – Hegg Hoffet, Madeleine Laming – Fellowships, Shirley Randell- Projects

**Constitutional Changes**- largely prepared by Jenny Strauss who chaired the session with great efficiency.

MOST significant – **Membership** – “An NFA may invite to full membership a person who has demonstrated a commitment to promoting education for women and to the principles of GWI” - opens way for men members and for NSW full membership for our Associates.

#### Resolutions

**Dues** – much needed dues increase was achieved, against much initial resistance, by fancy footwork by the British and our own President and skilled chairing by Jenny Strauss. Initial motion was an immediate increase from 18CHF to 35 CHF. The Brits proposed staggered increases of 10/6/ 6 over 3 years, Jane countered with 10/10/10 on the grounds this would more nearly cover the whole of the proposed increase which we had been told was needed and would perhaps make the British suggestion more attractive, and one other NFA proposed a smaller increase also on staggered introduction. The amendments to the amendment were lost and the Brits carried so the final motion was: “the rate of annual dues to GWI payable in 2017, 2018 and 2019 be increased by CHF 10 per capita in 2017, CHF 6 per capita in following two years”.. This was supported by 57 of the NFAs. It could be said the Oz saved GWI.

Australia and NZ pledged to pay 2017 fees ASAP on return from conference and other countries were going to ask their councils. GWI has a significant cash flow problem at present and needs the encouragement as well as the money. As our financial year runs from July to June we have funds from 2015-2016 in hand and some of 2016-17.

Based on the new dues a budget was adopted for the Triennium. This was accompanied by an emergency motion to borrow from the Restricted Funds until dues begin to roll in at the new levels. It is hoped to avoid this by the early payment of dues from Australia and New Zealand.

#### 2014-16 Achievements

Period of achievements in growing visibility, image and impact of GWI. A new name, tax exempt status in Switzerland and New York and decisive steps in building value for members. Achieved through emphasis on Advocacy, projects, membership building, service to members. Also an

increased activity on fundraising from outside sources but given world financial climate and long lead time in building GWI profile not as much as hoped.

**Advocacy** =overall increase in submissions, oral and written statements;

- Participation in international conferences and workshops- CSW, UNESCO, Human Rights Commission, World Education
- Review of our UN reps
- Policy seminars some with UN Women
- Strategic alliances with other women's and education groups – Girls not Brides, CHARGE, Brookings, Project Five-O

**Graduate Women International** will serve as the global secretariat for the Brookings Institute for the network, with regional hubs activated in Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and West Africa from 2016 to 2017. The network will connect local girls' education champions across sectors, regions, and countries to other organisations and networks that can learn from them, support them, and amplify their voices.

**Support for NFAs and members:**

- Creation of Policy papers especially based on Resolutions;
- Manifestos on education, Webinars, Updates
- Capacity building workshops in 10 countries
- Templates for advocacy
- Monthly members' newsletters/ Website development
- Facebook, Twitter
- Photo archive
- Fundraising toolkits

## Projects

*Teachers for Rural Futures* (Uganda)

*Girls' Choices* (Ghana, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo)

*Girls Choices for Careers* mobile application (Rwanda)

## Fundraising

Swiss watch company, VGIF + EU grant in pipeline

Patrons programme – currently 8

But at a cost. Still dependent on traditional revenue – memberships, bequests, members' donations.

Drop in Membership – exit of Dutch and non-renewal of Germany, Armenia, Croatia, Pakistan,

Tonga, Indonesia, Moldova, Samoa and not compensated for by new members Netherlands,

Cambodia, Togo, Ghana, Greece, Lithuania, Tajikistan, DR Congo, Senegal, Somalia and

independent members. From c 23.500 to c18000 from 60 NFAs.

## Executive Director

*Right: Outgoing President, Catherine Bell (centre) with outgoing Executive Director, Daniele Castles (right) and incoming ED, Stacy Dry Lara (left)*

## Farewell Danielle Castles after 4 years

### Introduce Stacy Dry Lara

**Education** - University of Oklahoma -

Journalism/Advertising; Sam Houston State University

- Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Journalism/Advertising



## **Experience -**

Lead United Nations Human Rights Council Representative for the NGO, Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO). Regularly attend meetings and functions at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva on matters relating to human rights.

Founder and Managing Director, Corporate Marketing Solutions--specialising in comprehensive marketing programs for small to medium sized companies and NGOs.

Lifetime animal rights and animal welfare supporter.

## **Policy Resolutions**

All the changes we submitted to Resolutions were accepted and passed by the Meeting. New Resolutions cover:

- Bullying and Cyber Bullying;
- Full Accessibility and Barrier Free Environments for Persons with Disabilities;
- Harassment of Women and Girls as a Violation of Their Human and Civil Rights in Public Places;
- Polygamy; (This passed with a reduced title, with a smaller majority, Australia abstaining or voting against the various clauses)
- To Bring an End to Intolerance of Minority Groups and Make the World More Inclusive;
- Preventing Female Genital Mutilation;
- Human Trafficking;
- Child Marriage;
- The Use of Carbon Taxes to Reduce Climate Change; (We were the only ones voting against this)
- Young Members in GWI. (Again we were in a minority abstaining on grounds of cost and resources. However new Board very supportive)

The role of Faith in subjugation of Women. After much discussion this motion was NOT PUT.

Some were extensively amended from the floor. The final wording will be on the GWI Website in the Members' Section in the next couple of weeks.

## **The Conference**

After the Assembly there were 3 days of Conference with seminars, workshops, panels and presentation. These were arranged in 4 strands – Managing Complexity in Education, Impact of New Technologies, Human Rights and Education, and Violence and Access to Education – all based around the general theme of Education for Girls. Shirley Randell presented a very well supported panel on Women in Sport with the South African Women's cricket captain as a participant.

The General Assembly and Conference provided many informal opportunities for meeting new friends and catching up with those from other National Federations over lunches and morning and afternoon teas as well as structured events such as the South African Night with live music and dancing, the Conference opening Cocktail Party and the lavish Conference Dinner with entertainment from the Cape Town Youth Choir and the Hong Kong delegation.



*The Australian contingent at the Conference dinner.*

Amie Khosla attended the young members' Membership Workshop and had important networking time with other young members from many countries.

Jenny Jones was unable to attend at the last minute so Miranda Mortlock replaced her as an alternate delegate and I thank Amie, Miranda and Catherine Evans for all their support during the Assembly, congratulate Shirley Randell and Jaya Dantas on their workshops, and encourage anyone who enjoys travel and the companionship of kindred spirits to go to the next GWI General Assembly in 2019 to join the celebrations for the Centenary of IFUW/GWI!

*Right: Amie and Miranda at the Conference venue*

Jane Baker  
President



*The new Board*



*The other side of the Conference*

