

METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

11, Blackmore Drive Singapore 599986. Tel: 6469-4800 Fax: 6469-8717

Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Methodist Girls' School Alumnae Association held virtually on Zoom (a 3rd party meeting software), at 10am on Saturday, 24th April 2021.

Present:

Barbara Chee	Sharmila Nair	Angelina Wong
Fock Yin Ling	Tjio Bee Ann	Muriel Chee
Belinda Teo	Corinne Sim	Sim Suh-Ting
Melissa Fam	Fang Lum	Lynn Lee
Sng Jen Hwei	Joy-marie Toh	Tiffany Chew
Jean Lee	Ong Lee Wha	Foo Kiam Wah
Deborah Wong	Esther Mak	Patricia Ng Pek Sim
Lo Su Li	Ruth Yam	Gwee Su Li

The Methodist Girls' School (MGS) Alumnae Association (Alumnae) President for the 2020/2021 term of office, Sharmila Nair, called the meeting to order at 10am with a quorum of 24 members. Sharmila invited Bee Ann to open the meeting with a prayer followed by Sharmila's welcome and address.

1. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS & WELCOME

"Good morning everyone, welcome to the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Methodist Girls' School Alumnae Association.

With all of us settling into a new norm of working from home and attending meetings virtually, we remain grateful that here, in Singapore, life is steadily getting back to some sense of normalcy. Whilst the restrictions prevent us from gathering in larger groups, we are nonetheless still able to interact with small groups of friends.

The Alumnae Committee has had to grapple with these changes including cancelling several events like our Founder's Day Dinner and Alumnae Day celebrations. On the up side it has forced us to be more creative with our activities in order to engage our members. Events such as Love MG and our Founder's Day celebrations, which usually garnered large support from old girls, had to be held virtually. But this has in fact been a blessing as it has allowed us to have more members attend from all over the world!

Speaking of Founder's Day celebrations last year; this gave us the opportunity to organise several virtual events leading up to our Founder's Day Service such as LoveMG, "Our Favourite Recipes" – a Mother-Daughter baking weekend where participants chose recipes from Ellice Handy's cookbook, and an online baking session with Chef Mong from the Class of 1988. It was indeed heart-warming to see MGS girls from near and far, old and young, join in. These events nurtured our camaraderie and

re-kindled our bonds as old girls and this culminated with our Founder's Day Service which featured an almost 200 strong virtual choir! We were also blessed to have Mrs. Tay Poh Imm be our guest speaker.

As we remain in Phase 3 of our safe distancing protocols, we will continue to engage our members virtually. Unfortunately, our beloved Founder's Day Dinner will not take place this year but we plan to again have some online events to celebrate the occasion. We remain hopeful that we can meet with everyone in 2022 for our 135th Founders' Day!

Last year, we had set up the Welfare Fund which enabled us to help several people in the MGS Community. We will top this back up to \$50,000.00 and utilise the funds for a wider purpose to enable us to help more people with this.

Looking forward, we plan to focus on a mentorship programme for our members where Old Girls who are more established in their careers can help our younger alumna start out in theirs. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any interest in lending your support to this programme.

In the last year, with the Covid-19 pandemic and the government measures affecting businesses, we set up the MGS Business Directory to help alumna promote their businesses to our members. We hope to continue to grow the business directory and encourage the business owners to incentivise our members.

Special projects like phase 2 of the heritage project will be back on track as we hope to showcase more of the artefacts that we have so lovingly preserved. Our Heritage Centre remains our pride and joy and we look forward to the easing of safe distancing measures to allow more visitors to enjoy the space and learn about our rich heritage.

These events I have mentioned do not happen on their own and I am indebted to my Committee for their steadfast commitment to the Alumnae Association and their ever-ready willingness to help. It is not easy for some with work commitments, young children and being 1000s of miles away, but I am fortunate to be able to count on these very special ladies. For this I am very grateful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fang and Lynn as they step down from their roles as Treasurer and Publicity Officer respectively. Fortunately both have agreed to remain in the Committee.

Both these roles are hard to fill but I am happy to say that Belinda and Melissa have agreed to take over. Melissa's role as Publicity Officer will be widened to encompass Website and Communications, which will include social media and publicity. As we are moving onto more online events, we will need more online presence and as such, we will form a Communications Sub-Committee to deal with these matters.

I am also very grateful to the School, Ms. Grace Ng and Mrs. Corinne Sim who have always been very supportive of the Alumnae, our events and sometimes, our demands!

Lastly, none of what we do bears any true meaning without God's guiding hand for all we do is for the glory of God and our beloved MGS. To Master, To Grow, To Serve"

2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 59th AGM HELD ON 20 JUNE 2020**

The Minutes of the 59th AGM was proposed to be adopted by Barbara Chee and seconded by Corinne Sim.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

The Annual Report for 2020/2021, which contained a summary of the Alumnae activities in 2020/2021, was taken as read.

The Annual Report was proposed to be adopted by Tjio Bee Ann and seconded by Angelina Wong.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The approval of the Audited Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2020 was proposed by Fock Yin Ling and seconded by Sng Jen Hwei.

5. **RE-APPOINTMENT OF SH ONG LLP AS HONORARY AUDITOR**

The re-appointment of SH Ong LLP as Honorary Auditor was proposed by Barbara Chee and seconded by Sharmila Nair and confirmed with a note of thanks and appreciation for their services rendered.

6. **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2021/2022**

A vote is only required for the 4 Committee Members as there was only one nominee for the other positions.

The positions that have been elected unopposed are :

President - Sharmila Nair

Vice-president - Tjio Bee Ann

Honorary Secretary - Fock Yin Ling

Assistant Honorary Secretary - Ruth Yam

Honorary Treasurer - Belinda Teo

Honorary Legal Advisor - Angelina Wong

Honorary Publicity Officer - Melissa Fam

The following members were up for election as Committee Members : Barbara Chee, Deborah Wong, Esther Mak, Jean Lee, Joy-marie Toh, Sng Jen-Hwei, Lynn Lee

As the votes were being tallied, Belinda Teo, our new Treasurer, introduced herself. She was welcomed especially warmly by Lo Su Li, who said she would be in touch with Belinda on a fairly regular basis in the lead up to Love MG 2021.

Sharmila Nair then asked Melissa Fam to briefly share about the Communications Sub-Committee that she would be helming. The members are Deborah Wong and Lynn Lee. Alumnae members Tiffany Lee and Vanessa Leung are being co-opted to help with this Sub-Committee, having relevant expertise.

Voting was conducted using the Zoom online polling function and votes counted included proxy votes that were submitted in accordance with the Notice of AGM.

The following members were elected to the Committee : Barbara Chee, Joy-marie Toh, Fang Lum, Deborah Wong

The following members were co-opted to the Committee : Sng Jen Hwei, Jean Lee, Lynn Lee, Esther Mak

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET AND EXPENSES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021

Our Treasurer for the 2020/2021 term of office, Fang Lum, presented the proposed Budget and Expenses for the Financial Year 2021.

Looking back at the Audited Accounts for 2020, our receipts from Membership subscriptions was higher year-on-year compared to 2019 (about \$75,000 for 2020 versus about \$55,000 for 2019) and was higher than anticipated given the pandemic. The first quarter of this year has also seen a healthy sign-up rate of \$23,000 perhaps fuelled by mothers signing up before the one year deadline to qualify for 2022 P1 registration. As such, we are budgeting receipts of \$75,000 in Membership subscriptions similar to 2020. With our on-line registration it is now also easier for people to sign up as they do not need to physically mail in their forms and issue cheques.

As Founder's Day Dinner was cancelled last year and is being cancelled this year due to the pandemic, there is hence no budget for this event.

For special events, the break-down of projected figures is set out in Note C of the budget.

Due to depreciation, we are seeing a deficit in our year-end results, which was expected. Without the depreciation, we are actually in a surplus situation. Most of the

depreciation is due to the Heritage Centre which is depreciated over a period of 5 years commencing mid 2017. By mid 2022 we will see the tail-end of these costs.

We will out-source our book-keeping to an external bookkeeping company, which will charge us a monthly fee for their services. Outsourcing to a bookkeeping company should have more consistency and reliability for our needs.

In 2020, we set aside \$50,000 for the Welfare Fund to provide financial assistance for those in need in our MGS community. For the year 2020, we have disbursed \$23,019 from this fund, which was included in our Receipts and Disbursements Statement. We have budgeted disbursements up to \$50,000 again for the year 2021.

Further budgeted disbursements for the year 2021 are set out in the Budget.

Under "Other Items" not under our Receipts and Disbursements Statement, we have budgeted to explore Phase 2 of the Heritage Centre, purchase of new merchandise as well as website development upgrading.

The Budget and Expenses for Financial Year 2021 was approved by a unanimous vote by Members in attendance.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS


There being no other business, the meeting was brought to a close and followed by on-line fellowship amongst members present.

Recorded By



Ms Fook Yin Ling
Hon Secretary

Confirmed By



Ms Sharmila Nair
President