

METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Methodist Girls' School Alumnae Association held at 3pm on Saturday, 23rd April 2022.

Present:

Sharmila Nair
Angelina Wong
Melissa Fam
Sng Jen Hwei
Valarie Koh Wilson
Sim Suh-Ting
Ruth Yam

Tjio Bee Ann
Corinne Sim
Fang Lum
Jean Lee
Rene Lim
Vivien Goh

Barbara Chee
Belinda Teo
Lynn Lee
Esther Mak
Foo Kiam Wah
Gwee Su Li

The Methodist Girls' School (MGS) Alumnae Association (AA) President for the 2021/2022 term of office, Sharmila Nair, called the meeting to order at 3.30pm with 19 members present. Sharmila invited Barbara Chee to open the meeting with a prayer followed by Sharmila's welcome and address.

1. **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS & WELCOME**

"Good afternoon everyone, welcome to the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Methodist Girls' School Alumnae Association.

It is truly wonderful to see everyone of you in person after 2 years of absence. Even though we have been blessed with technology like Zoom that had allowed so many of us to keep in touch as the pandemic raged on, there are some things that you will never be able to "zoom"- a warm embrace, a comforting touch from loved ones or just a simple handshake and we are grateful that things continue to improve.

2021 saw many of us having had to continue juggling between working from home and also managing our homes. The initial optimism of my committee at the start of 2021 that we would have been able to curate a full programme for our members turned to an understandable disappointment as it became clear that the Covid-19 virus would continue to affect our daily lives. Still we carried on as our committee was determined to work even harder to engage with our members even as we couldn't meet face to face. I would like to share with you some of the highlights of the events that was organised for our members:

LoveMG is a much beloved event and pre pandemic was always looked forward with anticipation and excitement. For 2021, LoveMG was again conducted online to great success and we thank the Class of 2018 for organising the event and Pastor Trisha Tan making the event a fruitful one.

The Alumnae 134th Founder's Day Service was also held online for the second time and it was a resounding success with over 400 old girls tuning in from all over the world. We hope to make this a tradition to allow our members from far or those that are unable to attend our Founder's Day Dinner, to join in the celebration.

Much fun and laughter was had during an online cooking demonstration by our Old Girl and celebrity chef, Sarah Benjamin. For those of us who joined Sarah for this live session, I am sure that you can still remember the smells that permeated through our kitchens as fried potato balls filled with curry filling (a recipe from Mrs. Ellice Handy) was cooking amidst her bubbly guidance.

The mentorship programme was launched at the end of 2021 where we saw 18 pairs of mentors & mentees paired. Feedback has been positive as many Old Girls stepped forward to guide and mentor the next generation and we hope to continue with this programme to unite old girls young and older.

Aside from these highlights, my committee and I are also happy to report that we were again able to utilise the Welfare Fund to help some members of the MGS Community who have been hard hit during the pandemic.

At the end of 2021, we also bade farewell to Ms. Grace Ng, who was Principal of MGS for 8 years. We extend our deepest gratitude to Ms. Ng for guiding our teachers and students with great dedication and always putting God in the centre of everything she did for the School.

Even as MGS said goodbye to Ms Ng, we are proud to welcome Mrs. Valarie Wilson from the Class of 1987 as our new Principal. As an Old Girl and former teacher, Valarie brings back to MGS a wealth of experience. We look forward to supporting Valarie as she takes the helm of leading MGS.

With the recent announcement by the Government to ease the Safe Management Measures, we hope to be able to resume with our usual Alumnae Activities and do hope that you will all join us. First on our list will be the 135th Founder's Day Dinner which will be held on 25 July 2022 at Shangri-la. We hope that many of you will join in to celebrate this milestone with us.

We welcome all our members to participate in our other activities planned for the year and also stock up on our latest merchandise. Look out for them on our social media pages!

On behalf of my committee, I would like to thank Mrs. Sim Suh-Ting, Chairman of the Board and the School Management Team, particularly, Mrs. Corinne Sim, for their constant support of the Alumnae.

Finally, it only leaves me to give my heartfelt thanks to my wonderful committee members who, despite their busy schedules, give their time to organising these events and always with great enthusiasm. It continues to be a pleasure working with each of you.

God Bless each of you. To Master, To Grow & To Serve! To God Be the Glory.

2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 60th AGM HELD ON 24 APRIL 2021**

The Minutes of the 60th AGM was proposed to be adopted by Koh Bee Ann and seconded by Angelina Wong.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022**

The Annual Report for 2021/2022, which contained a summary of the Alumnae activities in 2021/2022, was taken as read.

The Annual Report was proposed to be adopted by Melissa Fam and seconded by Esther Mak.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

The approval of the Audited Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2021 was proposed by Koh Been Ann 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 Sharmila Nair and seconded by everyone present 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 2022/2023**

A vote is only required for the 4 Committee Members as there were no other nominees 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, Fang Lum, Jean Lee, Joy-marie Toh, Sng Jen-Hwei, Lynn Lee, Vanessa Leung

The following members were elected to the Committee : [Barbara Chee, Esther Mak, Fang Lum and Jean Lee]

The following members were co-opted to the Committee : [Deborah Wong, Joy-marie Toh, Lynn Lee and Sng Jen Hwei]

7. **APPROVAL OF BUDGET AND EXPENSES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022**

Our Treasurer for the 2021/2022 term of office, Belinda Teo, presented the proposed Budget and Expenses for the Financial Year 2022.

Key change for the coming budget is the fall in membership of about two thirds largely influenced by the change in primary 1 entry requirements. Projected subscriptions for 2022, based on first quarter numbers, are \$29,200 for 2022 vs \$69,465 in 2021. This trend is expected to continue.

Founders Day dinner is expected to be resumed this year. For 135th celebrations, a budget of \$10,000 has been set aside for expenditure and events.

General donations were not budgeted for, due to the unpredictability of income of this nature.

The AA will continue to set aside \$30,000 for our outreach fund.

Capital expenditure on Phase II of the Heritage Centre has been set aside at \$50,000 along with website development upgrade at \$5,000.

Question raised by Sim Suh Ting: Deficit is expected for this year at \$114,000 but no fund raising will be done. Is there a similar deficit expected for next year and are there plans by the AA. Belinda Teo & Koh Bee Ann replied that the deficit is mainly due to non-cash expenditure (being depreciation). In terms of cash flow, the AA may not be in a negative position.

Another question by Sim Suh Ting: To clarify the depreciation line of \$90,000. Belinda Teo explained that this is for the Heritage Centre. Amount was capitalised and will have to be depreciated. Fang Lum and Koh Bee Ann added that the amount (around \$386,000) was spent across two years but depreciated over 5 years .

Barbara raised if we will offer a lower fee membership at \$135 in celebration of this year's Founders Day. Sharmila Nair replied that we can consider this but seeing the trend and intent of subscription, this lowered cost will not drive registration. The committee will discuss this during our first committee meeting on 28 April.

There were no objections to the budget and expenses raised for 2022. The Budget and Expenses for Financial Year 2022 was proposed to be adopted by Koh Bee Ann and seconded by Sharmila Nair.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Our principal, Ms Valarie Koh Wilson, addressed all present. Valarie shared that the past few months have been good for the school. School life has been back to normal with national school games being in season. Valarie shared that the girls have exemplified a high level of sportsmanship in the recent soft ball competitions and encouraging each other along the way. Our String ensemble also had their first public performance today.

The school is looking forward to our 135th Founders Day Service and Dinner. She is happy that students can have a richer school life. She also stressed that we need to continue to take care of our teachers in this ever changing environment.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3.55pm followed by tea and fellowship amongst members and guests present back in the alumnae room.

Recorded By

ruthyam

25 April 2022

Ms Ruth Yam
Asst. Hon Secretary

Confirmed By

Sharmila Nair

Ms Sharmila Nair
President