

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: 01/20/13

Venue: 3145 Humboldt St., West Lafayette, IN 47906

Time: 2:00 pm

Present: Rashmi Chaturvedi, Deepa Divakaran, Lakshmi Garimella, Punam Mittal, Renu Bajaj, Sangita Handa, Meena Narsimhan, Veena Sagi, Hema Suresh.

### ***1. Welcome Party on Feb 20 - Decide on agenda for Feb 20th***

Venue: BTCCGL. Time: 12 pm – 3 pm

Details of Welcome Party

Lunch: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ASHA presentation- 1 to 1.30 General Body meeting:

Voting on amendment Entertainment: 1:30 to 2:00 pm

Wrap up- 2:15 to 2:30

Food – Potluck. Each member to bring food items for 8 people. Sign-up sheet shall be posted soon. It was decided to allow people to bring paper products, soft drinks, or beverages in case they are unable to bring food.

Upload of sign-up sheet by Punam.

Entertainment – Antakshri to be coordinated by Hema Suresh. Gifts for participants to be purchased by Punam. We will request help from other members to coordinate games and fun activities.

Food collection – Participants will be requested to bring at least one item of non-perishable food item for donation to Food Finders. Punam will bring a collection box.

### ***2. Membership Drive*** – Current (and potential) members will be given opportunity to renew (or begin) membership until

January 31, 2013. A list of events for the current year will be forwarded through e-mail to remind people of the benefits of membership. Board members shall be leveraging the membership drive through different social circles among South Asian women, including Face book.

***3. IWA sponsored yoga classes at BTCCGL*** – IWA had agreed to organize yoga sessions at BTCCGL as a show of goodwill and mutual cooperation. Our board member Veena Sagi has volunteered to teach Yoga at BTCCGL on behalf of IWA. She is going to check with three other local Yoga practitioners if they would like to volunteer their services too. It was decided to teach Yoga at BTCCGL for three months at first and then determine the feasibility of continuing this service. A proposal will be drafted and submitted to BTCCGL.

***4. Sankriti-*** . The target dates for the four SANSKRITHI issues this year are finalized.

1. Feb 17, 2013. This will be a printed copy in honor of this 20th anniversary year and distributed on February 17th.
2. May 25, 2013.
3. September 15, 2013.
4. December 22, 2013.

**5. *Membership Directory and Advertising*** – Work on directory update shall begin after January 31st, the deadline for obtaining or renewing membership. Current plans are to distribute it to members at the Welcome party. Board members have been actively making enquiries with past and potential advertisers to sponsor advertisements in the new directory. Charu will follow up with them. Printing requirements are specified in the email.

**6. *IWA banking and Taxes***- Hema will replace Monal as the co-signer for checks, credit card, and online access to IWA bank statements. Hema will also take over the responsibility for filing taxes.

**7. *20th year celebration*** - This event may be combined with the COI event. Since it requires creativity and imagination, several IWA members and non-members shall be tapped. The video that will be produced for the PIDC-ASHA event is likely to be useful for this event also. For the purposes of video, information on all total amount of charitable donation made by IWA in the past 19 years will be obtained using past treasurer reports and other relevant IWA resources.

**8. *Fund raising for ASHA*** – PIDC (Purdue Indian Dance) and ASHA have requested IWA to assist with the annual show TAMASHA which they are co-presenting on March 23rd, 2013. They have specifically requested for performance by children, an activity sponsored by IWA in this show for last couple of years. PIDC requires that each participating team is to give a performance which would last no more than 10-12 minutes, with an intro video of 1-2 minutes. The current IWA board has forwarded PIDC's request to past IWA choreographers, some of whom have already begun preparations for dance presentations by children under their guidance. TAMASHA is one of the main fundraisers for ASHA and IWA is pleased to assist in this goal. The PIDC has also requested for a video about IWA. There was a discussion among IWA members about the content and format of such a video but it was recognized that this discussion needs to be tabled for now. Meanwhile, volunteers are needed for writing a script for this video and for actually producing it.

**9. *Presentation by ASHA*** – ASHA is a global non-profit organization dedicated to catalyzing socio-economic change in India through education of underprivileged children. It has several chapters across universities in USA and Europe. Donations made to ASHA are tax-exempt.

Two representatives from the Purdue chapter of ASHA, Gaurav Nanda, current president and Vinod Kumar Venkateshwaran, past-president, gave a presentation at the board meeting. The goal of this organization is to raise funds for different on-going projects in

India that are providing education and self-reliance to under-privileged children in India. The funding is disseminated through a central ASHA treasury. Any donations made to ASHA are funneled to this treasury which then provides funding on the basis of need and solid performance of projects currently undertaken by several non-profit organizations in India that fulfill the goals of ASHA. The financial support is usually given to new and old projects through a well-assessed procedure which requires careful screening and scrutiny. ASHA volunteers from the Purdue chapter as well as other chapters make site visits to projects that request funding and monitor the activities there. Based on their observations, they can recommend that the NGO conducting the project submit a proposal to the ASHA chapter that is evaluating the project. Along with the current work being done, the proposal is studied by the particular chapter before recommending it for funding. The funds are appropriated through the FCR account with the government of India, which conducts its own background checks on the NGO before approving the funding. ASHA only funds projects that possess FCR accounts with the government. A review of the project is done by ASHA representatives within six months of funding; an on-site visit is made to assess if the awarded funding has been actually used towards the projected expenses. In addition, receipts of different expenses are required to be furnished to ASHA before the funding is continued. In summary, money is given in gradual steps preceded by careful scrutiny of the project at every step. Currently, ASHA is supporting a project – MANASA- in Hyderabad. This is a school for that provides primary, secondary and vocational skills to special needs children, thus enabling them to opportunity to be self-reliant in society. In addition, ASHA volunteers continually interface with the staff and children to assess the project and to provided them with supplies such as computers, sometimes obtained from places that have no longer any need for them. Currently there are 60-80 children obtaining education through MANASA and their requirement is roughly \$6000. Even this small an amount is a struggle for ASHA chapters to raise. The money is primarily raised through sale of tickets to events like TAMASHA (to be hosted again on March 23rd , 2014), TARANG (dance-drama event) and a 5 K Run event. Another project conducted by the Purdue chapter is DIKSHA – located near Patna in India. This provides similar educational and vocational education to underprivileged youth in India. A basic Teacher Training Program is offered to volunteers to learn basic methods in imparting educational and vocational skills to underprivileged youth in India.

How can IWA help ASHA towards their goals?

Board members did some brain storming on this question. Following suggestions were offered:

- \* Advertise ASHA events to IWA membership, and to other organizations such as Wabash Valley Runners Club (Hema) to ensure sufficient revenue from sale of tickets and food.
- \* Provide funding to ASHA through the charitable components of IWA's commitment to service.

\* Sponsor a project being currently conducted by ASHA in different ways including funding, offering training etc.

\* Project stewardship – assist in monitoring progress of ASHA projects by IWA members during personal visits to India. ASHA projects are always in need of monitoring, personal connections with children and educational training. IWA members could fill in that need partly by offering their time and talents during their personal visits to India. Some of this interaction could also be arranged through video conferences, video tutoring with children without having to make a trip to India.

\* Encouraging local youth to volunteer at ASHA project sites during their vacations. Their living accommodations at the project sites will be taken care of by ASHA.

\* Place link for ASHA website, and to the Youtube link describing the humanitarian activities of ASHA, on the IWA website. This would allow members, and other visitors to the website, to learn about ASHA and be motivated to make donations to them.

The meeting with ASHA representatives was concluded with the assurance that IWA plans to assist ASHA in their endeavors. Hopefully, IWA can at least make contribution towards their fundraising activities on an annual basis. The co-presidents will work on formalizing a partnership between IWA and ASHA. The ASHA representatives were also invited to speak to IWA membership at the Welcome event slated for February 17, 2013.

**9. Amendment to by-laws** – Amendment to the by-laws about duration of time of service of trustees is required. Voting on this will be carried out during the Welcome party. The co-presidents will write the wording on this and send it via e-mail. This email will go out by Jan 25th to provide sufficient time for feedback before the Welcome event

**10. IWA inventory-** .The board will request Hema and Renuji to prepare an inventory of all IWA items for record keeping.

**11. IWA's Donation to BTCCGL Community Center** - It has come to the attention of board that IWA is not recognized as a major sponsor of BTCCGL' s community center. In 2012, IWA raised and donated \$8287.67 to BTCCGL's community center. The efforts of our members in raising the funds were enormous and the amount donated was noteworthy by any standards. On behalf of IWA, the board will request BTCCGL executive committee to add IWA as one of the major donors of community center. The board will also request BTCCGL to update their website and assign appropriate level of sponsorship to IWA.

**12 Items tabled for next IWA board meeting:**

Indiana Commission for Women- Update from Rashmi  
Production of IWA video.

Holi Program- Start discussion on holi program

Venue Catering Entertainment-

Meeting concluded at 4:15 pm. Minutes recorded by Sangita Handa.  
Next meeting at February 10, BTCCGL at 2 PM