**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Women’s Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland (WAMUN)**

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

Junior Common room, R. Gushue Hall

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s NL

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by the President, Kathy Simonsen. who welcomed the members. Thirty-three members were present.

1. **Approval of the Agenda** – moved by Kay Matthews, seconded by Susan Goold; **carried**.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on April 25, 2016** – moved by Hatty Shinkle,

seconded by Marjorie Evans**; carried** (one abstention)

3. There was no business arising from the 2015 minutes.

4. **Reports:**

**A. President’s Report**

The President called attention to the celebration of the 50-year anniversary of WAMUN.

In addition to the serving of an anniversary cake today, there will be celebrations at

the Fall Reception in September. She followed with a review of the year’s activities and

a statement that membership is strong and being maintained.

The President expressed thanks to the Social Committee, Brenda Burness, Ingrid Pardoe,

and Karen Lippold for their work in organizing the meetings held during the year and

asked members to applaud their work.

Linda Hensman, the Scholarship Committee chair, is moving to British Columbia in

July, 2017. She is willing to mentor a new chairperson next year. The present committee I

is less active than in the past because there is no fund raising project.

The President thanked the outgoing and the continuing members of the executive for

their work during the year. Her report concluded with a call for a minute of silent

reflection in memory of two members who passed away since AGM 2015, Kjellrun

Hestekin and Ellen Rusted. Both were memorialized in the September newsletter.

The President’s complete report is attached to the minutes.

**B. Membership Secretary’s Report**

Susan Goold reported that WAMUN has ninety members; most have joined through the

interest groups. Membership fees will be maintained at $15.00 for 2016-17.

Susan asked members to begin to consider nominees for the executive to be elected at

the 2107 AGM and reminded membetrs to return their name tags following the meeting.

**C. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Susan Murdey presented an interim financial report. There will be

a more detailed report at the Fall Reception after the books have been reviewed.

Sue **moved acceptance of the report**, seconded by Genevieve Gale. **Carried.**

The interim report for the period from Sept. 1, 2015 – April 22, 2016 is attached.

**D. Newsletter Committee Report**

Dorothy Milne reported that two newsletters were distributed during the year. Next year

Newsletters will be shorter and more frequent.

The committee lost one member early in the year with the passing of K. Hestekin.

Dorothy thanked Deborah Rehner for her help with the technology of producing the

newsletter.

**E. Scholarship Committee Report**

Chair Linda Hensman submitted a written report which is attached to these minutes.

In her place, the President briefly reviewed the report. Donations to the fund for the

year via WAMUN were $1765.00. Additional donations in memory of deceased

members provided $2964.00 to the restricted fund and $329.00 to the unrestricted fund.

Monies donated via the WAMUN Scholarship Chair go entirely into the unrestricted fund

whereas donations sent directly to the university go into the restricted fund (90%) and

unrestricted fund (10%). Unrestricted funds can be used to ‘top up’ scholarships when

necessary while restricted funds provide ongoing earnings for maintaining the

scholarships. In addition, four percent of the value generated by the market fund can be

used for the top-up.

To fund the current scholarships, WAMUN needs $8000.00 generated from investments.

To reach this amount under the current conditions, we need an additional $75,000 in the

investment fund.

Other notes:

In 2014-15, the investments allowed payment of $5202; a **top-up of $2000** was needed

**to reach the total commitment of $7200** for undergrad scholarships ($1200 x 4 =$4800)

plus graduate scholarships ($600 x 4 = $2400). A MUN grant of $600 is provided for each

of the latter. There is $6492 in the fund for next year’s scholarships.

**F. Interest Group Reports**

The President thanked the convenors of the various interest groups for their work. Their

reports are attached, as copied from the April 2016 newsletter.

**Convenors for 2015-16 period** were as follows:

Art Happenings – Tonya Bassler, Olga Broomfield-Richards

Book Discussion Groups – Non-Fiction – Deborah Rehner

Mostly Fiction – Tonya Bassler, Karen Lippold

Coffee Mornings – Ruth Noel

Electronic Toys (ET) – Susan Goold, Karen Herzberg, Dorothy Milne

Music Interest Group – Deborah Rehner

Scrabble – Susan Goold

Walking Groups – Monday - Marjorie Evans, Ingrid Pardoe

- Saturday – Deborah Rehner

**5. Presentation by Joan Scott, first president of WAMUN, in celebration of WAMUN’s 50th**

**Anniversary**

Joan Scott opened her remarks with thanks for the invitation and a request to members to raise their glasses in a toast to WAMUN on its 50th anniversary.

Joan then described her early years in St. John’s following her arrival from the UK in 1962 with her husband and children. As a UK elementary school teacher, she made early visits to two of the Denominational Committee Offices in the Confederation Building and then decided to study Biology, look after her children, and pursue her interest in helping newcomers instead.

Memorial University was expanding and many women from far away needed to be met, helped in finding places to stay, and in arranging for the care needs of their families while the spouses worked. Many “St. John’s wives” (such as Marjorie Cooper and Genna Brackman) already living in St. John’s hosted coffee mornings for the new arrivals.

One day, while studying for exams, Joan decided the wives needed an organization. She wrote to President Moses Morgan who gave his blessing to the concept. A small committee was formed to plan monthly talks including conversation and coffee with home-baked goodies. The group was called the MUN Wives’ Association. As more women were hired, the name was changed to be more inclusive, hence the Women’s Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Those were the earliest days of the association. Now, fifty years later, WAMUN has evolved and changed in response to the interests and needs of a varied membership.

Following the talk, the President presented Joan Scott with a President’s pin honouring her contribution and service to WAMUN.

**6. Election of Officers:**

Mary Chalker was invited to present names of nominees and to oversee the election process.

Nominees for all positions were elected by acclamation.

WAMUN Executive for the 2016-2017 year

President – Kathy Simonsen

Vice President – Marilyn Porter

Treasurer – Susan Murdey

Secretary – Lis Laverty

Membership Secretary – Susan Goold

Social Convenors – Brenda Burness, Karen Lippold, Ingrid Pardoe

Newsletter – Dorothy Milne

**7. Distinguished Service Pin**

The distinguished service pin was awarded to Julita Muzychka, a president of WAMUN in its early years. Julita trained as a physician and worked at the fever hospital in St. John’s and then at the Janeway Children’s Hospital.

**8. Other Business**

The new executive was asked to gather for a photo before leaving the AGM.

Joyce Cho won the door prize, a gift certificate from Chapters.

Louise Dawe thanked Kathy Simonsen for her work as president and led the members in their applause of appreciation.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:15. (moved by D. Rehner)

Respectfully Submitted by

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Beverley Gardner, Secretary 2015 – 16

Items Attached: 2016 AGM agenda

President’s Report

Treasurer’s Interim Report

Annual Scholarship Committee Report

Convenors’ Reports (copied from the April newsletter)

Women’s Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland

Annual General Meeting 2016

April 23rd, 2016

Junior Common Room, R. Gushue Hall

Memorial University of Newfoundland

St. John’s, NL

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM, April 25th, 2015
3. Business Arising
4. Reports
5. President’s Report
6. Membership Secretary’s Report
7. Treasurer’s Report
8. Newsletter Committee Report
9. Scholarship Committee Report
10. Interest Group Reports (Discussion only; see newsletter for reports)
11. Election of Officers for 2016-2017 (Someone)
12. Distinguished Service Pin
13. Any Other Business / Discussion
14. Adjournment