**2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**1.** The minutes of the 2007 AGM were distributed to the membership via bulk e-mail by Kathy prior to this year’s AGM. Changes, which were read aloud by Margaret Dohan, secretary, were as follows (changes or additions are bolded):

5. d. Interest group reports were given by ...**Annmari Tougui** (afternoon non-fiction book groups)
7. line 4 Eleanor mentioned ... **names published in newsletter or will be listed as anonymous. No amounts will be given in either case. This choice will be offered on the membership form.**

8. after last line add: **Eleanor tried to do this but no one was willing to serve as chair. Since there is no indi- cation of when the president should appoint the chair, the president can appoint the chair at any time.**

9. Eleanor Nesbitt asked ...**The slate of officers for 2007 – 2008 is as follows: Past president - Eleanor Nesbitt
President – Kathy Simonsen
Vice president – Tonya Bassler**

**Treasurer – Sue Murdey
Secretary – Margaret Dohan
Newsletter – Carolyn Hodych Membership secretary – Annmari Tougui**

after third paragraph add: **Tonya Bassler moved that no plant sale be held in 2007; Julia Mathieson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

10. Deborah Rehner thanked ...Tonya Bassler ...**for her work on the Scholarship Committee.**Linda Hensman moved that the minutes be accepted as amended; Sue Scott seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Tonya thanked Margaret for taking the minutes at the 2007 AGM.

**2. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

**3. Reports of 2007 - 2008**

a) President’s Report
Kathy thanked the outgoing executive for their work this year, with particular thanks to Eleanor for hosting the meetings over the summer and to Annmari for hosting the meetings during the year. Kathy briefly reviewed the year’s events and thanked all who had helped with events, as there were no designated social convenors this year.

Kathy mentioned that the executive had sent messages of comfort and healing to those members and their families who have had personal challenges and tragedies.

Kathy stated that this was “the year without a plant sale”, and added that a committee has already been struck for the 2008 plant sale. Kathy mentioned that a nominating committee had been struck during the past year well in advance of the AGM.

Kathy thanked members for their support throughout the year.

b) Membership secretary’s Report
Annmari Tougui stated that her report was in the recent newsletter. She added an update, that there are now 95 members.

c) Treasurer’s Report
In Sue Murdey’s absence, Kathy stated that the treasurer’s report was in the recent newsletter. She added an update, that $50 had been spent on a new coffee percolator.

d) Newsletter editor’s Report
Carolyn Hodych stated that her report was in the recent newsletter. Margaret Michalak and Kathy thanked Carolyn for doing an excellent job as editor.

e) Interest groups
Kathy thanked the interest group leaders, naming them individually: Julia Mathieson and Karen Herzberg (two Fiction Book Groups), Annmari Tougui (Non-fiction Book Group), Sue Murdey (Coffee Morning), Deborah Rehner (Discovery Invest- ment and Saturday Walking Groups), Brenda Burness and Susan Jackson (International Food Group), Joan Fuller (Scrabble Group), and Pat Collins (Tuesday Walking Group).

Joan Fuller mentioned that the Scrabble and Coffee Morning Groups are not mutually exclusive despite the fact that there are sometimes time clashes. It is possible to belong to both.

Pat Collins stated that the annual report for the Tuesday Walking Group will appear in the next newsletter. Members gave a round of applause in appreciation of the Interest Group leaders.

f) Archive
Julia Mathieson, WAMUN Aachivist, stated that her report was in the recent newsletter. Kathy thanked Julia for her work on the archives and members gave Julia a round of applause.

g) Scholarship committee
Linda Hensman, chair, distributed an update of her report in the recent newsletter to the membership. Referring to Item 1 of her report, “Undergraduate Scholarship Increase”, Linda moved that the value of each undergraduate scholarship be in- creased by $200 to $1200 for the 2008 – 2009 academic year. Karen Lippold seconded the motion. Discussion followed and a key point made was that MUN matches WAMUN’s contributions to the scholarships Passed unanimously.

Karen Herzberg asked if WAMUN scholarships are also available to students at the Marine Institute (MI). Since there was no definitive answer, she requested that the scholarship committee investigate. Kathy moved that the scholarship committee look into whether MI students are eligible to receive WAMUN scholarships. Margaret Dohan seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Kathy thanked Linda and the members of the scholarship committee for their work.

h) Plant sale committee
Marjorie Evans, chair, announced that this year’s plant sale will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 10 (not Sept. 11, as mentioned in the recent newsletter). Marjorie mentioned that the committee has several members, and she asked for more volunteers to serve on the committee.

**4. Distinguished Service Award Presentation**

Kathy announced that this year there were two nominees for the award. Because the contributions of both individuals to WAMUN have been equally exceptional, the executive decided to award the honour to two individuals, who Kathy named in alphabetical order: Julia Mathieson and Miriam Simpson. Members gave a long round of applause to the honourees to show appreciation for all their work on behalf of the WAMUN membership over the years.

**5. Election of Executive 2008 – 2009**

Kathy asked Deborah Rehner, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to announce the new Executive, listed below: President – Tonya Bassler

Vice-president – Betty Wong
Past president – Kathy Simonsen
Secretary – Karen Lippold
Treasurer – Annie Antonenko
Membership secretary – Annmari Tougui
Social convenors – Mary Chalker and Patricia Whittle Newsletter editor – Carolyn Hodych

Deborah moved that the slate be accepted as read; Linda Hensman seconded the motion. Kathy called for further nomina- tions from the floor and there were none. Passed unanimously.

Kathy thanked Deborah and the other members of the nominating committee for their work.

**6. WAMUN and Campus Safety**

Kathy stated that the executive was concerned regarding a recent event on campus, namely the sexual assault of a female stu- dent by a male student in a campus elevator. The executive had wondered whether it was appropriate to take a stand on this issue, as WAMUN is dedicated to, among other things, making women feel welcome on campus. It was decided at a special meeting of the executive that it would be appropriate to bring this topic of concern to the WAMUN membership for discus- sion.

Significant discussion ensued, with the following major points made:
other campus groups are working toward ensuring WAMUN is a safe and welcoming environment for female students:

the Sexual Harassment Office, the Counseling Centre, the Walksafe Program, and a standing committee that inspects the campus and suggests changes (e.g., better lighting), to name a few
security on campus is excellent (e.g., video cameras which can also record in the dark are present in dozens of locations, which is why we are now aware of more incidents)
the perpetrator of the assault was convicted and MUN is now considering his future status at MUN (i.e., retention of student status or expulsion) it is not in our mandate to become involved in such incidents we do not know all the facts

The majority opinion was that WAMUN should not take a stand on the issue.

Kathy thanked all members who made a contribution to the discussion and who provided helpful factual information on the topic. She stated that the executive will investigate the suggestion made by Maire O’Dea that personnel in administration be invited to give a talk on what MUN does to secure the safety of faculty, staff and students.

**8. Any Other Business**

Linda Hensman reported that a WAMUN scholarship recipient from several years ago recently shared information on her work with immigrants during a CBC broadcast.

Tonya Bassler solicited members for next year’s nominating committee. Kathy urged that the chair be appointed as soon as possible to allow maximum time to prepare next year’s slate of officers.

Kathy drew for the prizes.
Sue Scott thanked the outgoing executive for their work during the past year.

**9. Adjournment**

Kathy moved that the meeting be adjourned; Annmari Tougui seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Editor’s Note:
Thanks to Margaret Dohan for preparing the minutes of AGM 2008. Please take note of any corrections and omissions and be prepared to raise them at the next AGM, when these minutes will be presented for approval.