

## Minutes of WISTA Annual General Meeting (“AGM”)

Date/Time: Wednesday, 24 October 2018, at 1300 – 1800 hrs (CET)

Location: Tromsø, Norway

The meeting was chaired by Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou, President, WISTA International. The following Executive Committee (“ExCo”) members were present:

Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou	President	WISTA Cyprus
Diane Edwards	Secretary	WISTA New Zealand
Rachel Lawton	Treasurer	WISTA UK
Jeanne Grasso	Member	WISTA USA
Katerina Stathopoulou	Member	WISTA Greece (by Video Link)
Sanjam Gupta	Member	WISTA India
Naa Densua Aryeetey	Member	WISTA Ghana

### 1. Identification of voting members (NWAs) and proxies.

	NWA	NAMES / PROXY HOLDER
1	ARGENTINA	María Belén Espiñeira Dafne Anghelidis
2	AUSTRALIA	PROXY TO UK
3	BAHAMAS	NOT PRESENT
4	BELGIUM	Catrien Scheers
5	BERMUDA	Angelique Burgess
6	BRAZIL	Fabiana Simões Martins Flavia Maia
7	CANADA	Vanessa Rochester
8	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Sherice Arman
9	CHILE	PROXY TO PERU
10	CYPRUS	Anna Vourgos, Helen Joannou, Gina Panayiotou
11	DENMARK	PROXY TO NORWAY
12	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PROXY TO USA
13	FINLAND	NOT PRESENT
14	FRANCE	Marie-Noëlle Tiné Pascale Mesnil Christine Valentin
15	GEORGIA	PROXY TO INDIA
16	GERMANY	Claudia Ohlmeier Cindy Paarman

	NWA	NAMES / PROXY HOLDER
		Monique Giese
17	GHANA	Jemilat Mahamah Stella Cobbah Gifty Adzanku
18	GREECE	Angie Hartmann Ioanna Topaloglou Elpi Petraki
19	HONG KONG	PROXY TO SINGAPORE
20	INDIA	Sumeet Sahi
21	ITALY	Daniela Aresu Barbara Gallo Michelle Fucile
22	KOREA	Christie Lee
23	MONACO	PROXY TO FRANCE
24	MOROCCO	NOT PRESENT
25	NETHERLANDS	Sylvia Boer Marije Ruysch-Koster Connie Roozen
26	NEW ZEALAND	NOT PRESENT
27	NIGERIA	Mary Madu Hamman Eunice Ezeoke Aisha Cole
28	NORWAY	Björg Ekornrud Tone Kristiansen Siv Remøy-Vangen
29	PANAMA	NOT PRESENT
30	PERU	Miriam Sara Repetto
31	PHILIPPINES	PROXY TO GREECE
32	POLAND	Wanda Dobrowolska-Parfieńczyk Dorota Dwulit Barbara Janczaruk
33	PORTUGAL	PROXY TO CYPRUS
34	RUSSIA	Aleksandra Aleksenko
35	SINGAPORE	Magdalene Chew Riya Kaur
36	SPAIN	Consuelo Rivero Laura Ferrario Olivia Delagrance
37	SRI LANKA	PROXY TO SPAIN
38	SWEDEN	Karolina Kjellgren Carina Olofsson

	NWA	NAMES / PROXY HOLDER
		Jeanette Wetterstrøm
39	SWITZERLAND	Yasmina Rauber Stephanie Grech Meruyert Jumadillayeva
40	TURKEY	Nazli Selek Seden Öztorun Çarklar Sevilay Kuru
41	U.A.E	NOT PRESENT, NOT IN GOOD STANDING
42	UK	Sue Terpilowski Teresa Peacock Bridget Hogan
42	URUGUAY	PROXY TO USA
43	USA	Parker Harrison Alexandra Anagnostis-Irons Laura Sherman
44	VENEZUELA	Débora Valera

## 2. Matters arising under the minutes of AGM held in Rotterdam on 14 October 2017 and approval of the minutes

No matters were brought forward by the NWAs. The minutes were approved.

- Moved: Nigeria / Seconded: United Kingdom – Approved.

## 3. Resume of the Annual Report by Despina Theodosiou, President of WISTA International, and Approval of Report

The President presented her Annual Report. DT acknowledged the work that the NWAs had contributed to the new Vision and Mission and announced they were now finalised, reflecting both an honouring of the past and a recognition of the direction for the future. She also highlighted that WISTA International is growing, with now 46 NWAs. Most growth over the past year has been in South America. This means that the percentage of membership in Europe has dropped below 50% of total membership for the first time in its history, but happily this is not reflecting a drop in members in Europe but growth in the rest of the world.

DT also highlighted a number of different projects and initiatives that WISTA has been involved with during the year, most notably:

- the achievement of consultative status with the IMO,
- the invitation to become founding partners of, and subsequent involvement with, the European Commission's Platform for Change covering the European transport sector
- Establishment of an MOU with the Organisation of American States/Committee on Ports
- Formation of the Diversity Committee

- Formation of the Technology and Futures Committee
- Protection of the WISTA Trademark
- Publication of the Diversity booklet
- Scholarship programme in partnership with Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers
- Compliance with GDPR requirements

DT explained that more detailed updates on the projects and committees would be covered by later presentations at the AGM. She thanked ExCo for their support during the year and also acknowledged to work of Lena Göthberg as Communications and Support Officer and Jillian Tobias as Press Officer.

The Annual Report was approved.

#### **4. ExCo Committee Reports**

##### **a. IMO Consultative Status Update**

DT and JG outlined in more detail the process taken to achieve consultative status with IMO, which has launched WISTA to a new level of recognition and respect. The application was centred around building capacity and empowerment of women through the technical programmes and training. They acknowledged and thanked the many people who had assisted with the application and the help of the NWAs in lobbying their respective countries' IMO delegates to gain support. DT explained that final approval will be given at the IMO Assembly in late 2019 but WISTA is already allowed to attend meetings. She also said that the whole process had been a lesson in political awareness and that is great to see WISTA maturing into an organisation that can influence at the macro level.

##### **b. IMO Delegation Address**

Helen Buni and Karine Langlois addressed the AGM, beginning with congratulations to WISTA International for achieving consultative status. She said it was important for IMO to have a female voice and the timing is particularly relevant given that in 2019 IMO have a theme of Empowering Women in the Maritime Community, though the importance will continue in following years as there is so much more needed to improve outcomes for women in the industry.

They outlined the role of the United Nations and IMO's place within it. They reinforced the commitment to UN global agenda articulated within the Sustainability Development Goals, and how at IMO they are seeking to support those in the industry seeking to make progress on the goals.

They discussed the environmental agenda and goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Shipping sector with a target to reduce emission for 50% by 2050. The key initiative to achieve this is the sulphur cap, lowering the worldwide permitted levels from 3.5% to 0.5%, which is predicted to save half a million lives.

They also discussed the new technologies and digitisation of shipping, the developments in connection with autonomous ships and other potential changes coming to the industry, and emphasised the importance of balancing progress with a keen awareness of cyber considerations.

Finally they discussed their work with Women in Maritime Associations (WIMA) in developing nations and urged closer cooperation between WIMA and WISTA. It was recognised that the different roles of the organisations was not well understood and that more communication would be beneficial to show members of WIMA that they are complementary not rival organisations. WISTA delegates also shared some experiences of interactions between the two organisations and in conclusion it was agreed that IMO would facilitate contacts between WISTA and WIMA in an effort to strengthen the relationship and seek ways to cooperate.

### **c. Legal Update**

JG explained why WISTA had decided to seek trademark protection. She said that the trademark can be used by all WISTAs in good standing, then summarised the progress to date.

- Step 1 – UK registration achieved in 2017, a pre-requisite to Step 2.
- Step 2 – Registered intent to file internationally.
- Step 3 – Filed registration in the USA in 2018. Result of this is still pending.
- Step 4 – Filed under the Madrid Convention for EU countries.
- Step 5 – Will file in 2019 under the Madrid Convention which will give protection for the 14 other countries not in the EU.
- Step 6 – Research what is required to register in remaining WISTA countries

JG asked the NWA Presidents of countries where Step 6 is required to see if they have lawyers who would be prepared to offer pro bono work to prepare the registrations, with WISTA paying the filing fees.

JG explained that the GDPR policy for WISTA had been through a number of iterations and was now approved by ExCo and formally adopted. NWAs may use WISTA International's policy or develop their own GDPR policy.

JG explained that it is time to review the WISTA Articles, and asked if any NWA had UK lawyers who were willing to assist, to contact ExCo as a project team will be established.

#### **d. Communications and Website Update**

Jillian Tobias outlined the reasons for developing a new website and introduced it through a demonstration of its functionality. Various questions were asked to clarify how the site would look and function with reaction very positive. NWAs were asked for input to their individual sub-sites as this was all that is left to be done. NWAs agreed that an early launch of the site is preferable to waiting for every NWA to be ready, so it was agreed to target 9th November as the launch date.

Jillian also explained that there would be changes to email addresses for those people who have existing WISTA email addresses as the domain has changed. The new website will also have a new URL, though a redirection will exist from the old website address for the next six months.

Finally, Jillian explained it had been a busy year with 12 press releases, reflecting the many exciting projects underway. She and the Communication Committee were thanked for their work throughout the year.

#### **e. HR Committee**

##### **o ICS Scholarship**

Astrid Drent provided an update on the ICS scholars in 2018. Results had been disappointing with only one of the scholars passing both exams. Where one exam was passed, it was generally in the specialist subject, which suggests that scholars were not placing enough focus on the Introduction to Shipping Module. Congratulations were offered to the one successful candidate, Rekia Gberbie, from Ghana.

There was discussion about what needed to be done to ensure that this does not happen again as it is not a good reflection of WISTA. NWA Presidents were keen to be more involved in the process, which was welcomed by the HR Committee and several ideas were discussed about how this could be achieved. Thanks were expressed to the HR Committee for supporting the scholars.

There was also discussion about the importance of allocating scholarships across all regions. Astrid explained that this is already a criterion provided there is a candidate from each region meeting the other entry criteria.

##### **o Membership Survey**

DE presented a high level overview of the international membership survey. It was particularly pleasing that the number of respondents had almost doubled from 2017. It was useful that comparative data was now available as there are now responses from two years. She explained that the full results would be made available on the website and also sent to the NWA Presidents. The HR Committee was asked if they could give more explanation of why the survey was being done next time to highlight the importance, and annotate the graphs so it is clear what the statistics are indicating. It was explained that the survey will be conducted annually in August to be completed by September, so that the results can be summarised at the AGM.

#### **f. Diversity Committee**

DT introduced the Diversity Committee and summarised the work that had been done so far. The various projects are still in progress with the initial outputs expected by the end of the year.

#### **g. Technology and Futures Committee**

DE presented on the establishment of the Technology and Futures Committee, which is still in formation. 24 women have been placed into 6 working groups with the intention of producing white papers to provide thought leadership on the technology and trends that are shaping our industry.

#### **h. Diversity booklet**

SG presented the Diversity booklet that had been developed in conjunction with industry organisations. She explained it is to be given to ships when they visit ports so they have guidelines on how to support female crew. She asked NWAs to support this by spreading the word to the ports in their countries.

### **5. Finances,**

RL presented the accounts.

- The Annual Accounts and Company Auditor's report for 2017, which had been signed off by ExCO in April 2018, were presented and discharged.
- The Budget for 2018 was presented and approved.

### **6. Personality of the Year**

JG announced that Kathy Metcalf, President/CEO of the Chamber of Shipping of America, won the Personality of the Year award. Kathy was present to accept the award and addressed the members. There was also a video tribute.

### **7. Conferences**

#### **a. Update on 2019 WISTA International Conference – Cayman Islands**

Sherice Arman, President of WISTA Cayman Islands, invited all to attend the next WISTA International Conference at Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort in the Cayman Islands on 29 October – 1 November 2019. The theme of the conference will be in line with the 'Empowering Women in the Maritime Community' theme of the IMO, and will involve collaboration with WIMA and topics such as technologies, blockchain, data and automation.

### **b. Update on WISTA International Conference 2020 – Hamburg**

Claudia Ohlmeier gave a short presentation to invite people to the 2020 conference in Hamburg, Germany from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020. She explained that 2020 would be the 4th WISTA Conference in Germany, and as the first ever conference was held in Hamburg, the conference would be coming back to where it started.

### **c. Additional Conferences / Meetings**

Other dates and venues were announced for conferences.

- 2019 Mid- Term meeting – Switzerland
- 2020 Mid-Term meeting – Ghana
- 2021 – An offer was received from WISTA Brazil to host the International AGM and Conference in Rio de Janeiro and the AGM voted in favour.

## **8. Elections**

Dorothea Ioannou presented the candidates for the ExCo positions to be filled and each candidate gave a brief presentation.

- a. Nomination for ExCo Treasurer  
Connie Roozen, WISTA Netherlands (Elected).
- b. Nominations for other Executive Committee Members
  - Asmaa Benslimana, WISTA Morocco
  - Bilun Elmacioglu WISTA Turkey
  - Maria Belen Espineira, WISTA Argentina
  - Sanjam Gupta, WISTA India
  - Angie Hartman, WISTA Greece
  - Mary Madu Hamman WISTA Nigeria

The elected members, by closed ballot of all qualifying NWAs, were:

**ExCo Treasurer:**

Connie Roozen (WISTA Netherlands)

**ExCo Members:**

Sanjam Gupta (WISTA India)

Angie Hartmann (WISTA Greece)

JG read out the names of the nominees for the Nomination Committee. These were:

- Dorothea Ioannou – WISTA Greece
- Jemilat Mahamah - WISTA Ghana
- Yasmina Rauber - WISTA Switzerland
- Karin Orsel – WISTA Netherlands
- Laura Sherman – WISTA USA
- Sherice Arman (WISTA Cayman Islands) – Substitute Member

### **Nominations Committee:**

All nominations for the Nominations Committee were approved  
Moved: France, Seconded: Spain.

### **9. Presentations by new NWAs**

- a. WISTA Chile provided a video to introduce their new NWA Board.
- b. Miriam Sara Repetto. President of WISTA Peru, gave a short presentation and video to introduce her country.
- c. Débora Valera, President WISTA Venezuela, gave a short presentation and short video to introduce her NWA Board.

### **10. Presentation of Significant Anniversaries**

Certificates of Appreciation were given to four NWAs on reaching key anniversaries by the WISTA International President.

- a. WISTA Norway – 30 years
- b. Wista Greece – 25 years
- c. WISTA Singapore – 20 years
- d. WISTA Canada – 20 years

### **11. Recognition of Outgoing ExCo**

DT presented a gift to the outgoing ExCo member attending in person, Rachel Lawton, who has completed her 6-year term limit. In addition, Katerina Stathopoulou, who was attending by video link, was thanked and DT will give her the gift at a later date. Katerina has also reached her term limit. Both were sincerely thanked by all for their service.

### **12. Any other business**

Some questions were raised about how NWAs might have input into IMO meetings. It was asked who could attend meetings, whether discussion is just limited to issues around gender and whether there could be participation in any technical committees. DT explained that ExCo is still working through the process and taking advice on protocols. When things are clearer this will be communicated to the Presidents.

The meeting closed at 17.55pm.