

**WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION**

**1st WACA COUNCIL MEETING 2019**

**Heather and Keith Miller’s Residence**

**Fleet, Hampshire, England, 7 April**

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**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES**

Three Council members attended the meeting namely Maga Ramasamy, Sharon Slessor and Keith Miller as well as Associate Lucie Forget who acted as the recording clerk. Julian Chau was unavoidably absent due to a last minute professional commitment but made himself available on WhatsApp.

The minutes of the previous Council Meetings held in Madeira were approved and matters arising were attended to accordingly.

The Montreal Interline Club is winding up and they have advised their members to join the Vancouver Interline Club (VIC) or become Members-at-Large. It was agreed that they could join the VIC this year if they wished and then they would join WACA as Members-at-Large in 2020 to conform to the WACA’s Constitution. The Interline Club of Greece has also ceased to be a member Club but the Fiji Interline Club will probably be revived.

A letter has been sent to the IATA Director General to make IATA aware about WACA’s initiatives regarding the protection of children in the travel and tourism industry as well as the collaboration between the University of Kassel and WACA regarding waste management on board aircraft.

Sharon reported that the annual membership dues requests had been sent out and we are expecting Member Clubs, Corporate Clubs and Associate Members to settle their payment prior to the 52nd AGA in South Africa.

The budget for year 2020 is being prepared. Specific line items were discussed to make it more dynamic taking into consideration real figures incurred in administering the affairs of the association.

Monies received and disbursed in relations to the WACA Relief Fund (WRF) should be posted promptly in the WRF account for proper follow up by the membership as well as by the auditors. The Council noted with satisfaction the contribution from the Portugal Interline Club to the WACA Relief Fund following the WACA AGA held in Madeira last year, coupled with all its challenges.

The Council will issue a new edition of the WACA World News with all relevant information. Note was also taken regarding the WACA Facebook Page which is very active and the Council would like the membership to respond positively to articles, i.e. to “Like” issues pertaining to responsible and sustainable actions related to the mission and goals of WACA.

The Council is looking forward to organising a two week tour in China in 2020 as one of the WACA International Events. It will also check with the Sri Lanka Club to potentially organise an international event.

Following a discussion held at the 51st AGA in Madeira, the Council is working on a criteria to be followed for Home Hosting.

The WACA Change Can Help slogan is now being officially used on the charity box installed in Madeira airport. The logo was launched at the AGA in Vietnam and it will be now used with all relevant WACA projects.

An official meeting will be held with the management of the Blue Dragon Children’s Foundation in Vietnam and the three children WACA is supporting for an appraisal of what has been achieved in their education since the first donation was made four years ago. Possibilities will be sought to have at least one of them go to university especially to follow courses in an airline related field.

The charity collection box with the support of the Association Airline Ambassadors (AAA) has now been installed in Madeira airport with the aim to continue with the ongoing project of protection of children of the world from all sorts of exploitation in travel and tourism. WACA’s Ambassador for Vulnerable Children, Anneline Hetland, will assist by following the project together with AAA and she also will liaise with Elda from the I.C. Portugal who is based in Madeira. It is noted that it will be a WACA and AAA project working with NGO’s in Madeira.

WACA’s Ambassador for Blind Children, Suheil Baqaeen, will link some of his projects to the airline industry explaining how WACA is supporting these children.

Membership in the Members-at-Large programme remains stable and the Grand Venture Bonanza is proving to be more successful this year with an increase in the number of tickets sold. Prizes donated in 2019 are a package for one based on double occupancy donated by the Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Region, two USD 100.00 cash prizes donated by the Sydney and Vancouver Interline Clubs as well as five USD 100.00 prizes donated by WACA.

The Council has been notified that the platform where the WACA website is located will be relocated to a new platform sometime this year. Specific details and related costs are not known at this time. The WACA portal as presented at the last AGM is still under progress and more information will be communicated shortly.

WACA is proceeding with its motto “Travel with an Opportunity to Make a Difference.” The Association is keeping in touch with Professor Ralph Wagner and Katharina Raab from the University of Kassel, Germany, regarding the Survey for Zero Flight Waste project. IATA Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) team has been advised what WACA’s involvement is with the project.

The World Centre of Excellence for Destinations based in Montreal, headed by François Bedard, Dean of the University of Quebec, has contacted the WACA President with a view to collaborate in developing destinations or cities where WACA is present as a Centre of Excellence.

WACA will adopt, with some amendments, the Code of Conduct developed by the now defunct North American Interline Clubs Conference as per the WACA Manual, Part II, 5.11.16, and it will henceforth become the WACA Creed.

It was also reported that 52nd AGA: The WACA Africana Festival 2019 is progressing positively and the organising Clubs of the AIM region are expecting between 150–160 participants. A good number have already registered for the pre-AGA tour and the post-AGA tours. Places remain open for the AGA and all tours.

Both the Regional Coordinator (AIM) and WACA President made a successful site visit to the location of the 52nd AGA. They reported that the rooms are in groups of five chalet style. Shopping is available at the rear of the hotel in a secure environment. They have consciously chosen a tour operator that is a black people empowerment enterprise. The All Regions evening will be in the open air with an African theme: participants will be advised to bring suitable items. The charity has still not been decided but the organising committee is looking into a charity that will support the people in Maputo after the hurricane and the devastating flooding.

The meeting ended and WACA is most grateful for the hospitality of Heather and Keith.