

Dear Members,

WACA Council Meeting

The 1st Virtual WACA Council Meeting of 2021 was held on 21 March via a Zoom video conference. Below are the main points that were discussed.

53rd Annual General Assembly (AGA)

Due to the prevailing situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world, the Council thought it wise to make a decision now to once again further postpone the 53rd AGA from October this year. It is now intended to hold the 53rd AGA as well as the pre- and post-AGA tours in May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Specific dates will be communicated following negotiations with the tour operator and hotels.

The 2021 Interline Festival

Even though the 53rd AGA is being postponed, the WACA Council with the support of the WACA Clubs in the Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Region will look in to the possibility of hosting an annual gathering in the form of a “mini AGA” this year which would become the 2021 Interline Festival. Ideally to be held from 17–23 October, the Festival will be an occasion to review the current affairs of the Association, define our future goals as well as organising tours and evening social events. So far the Seychelles, the Maldives and Mauritius have been identified to possibly host the Festival due to government restrictions on travel that have been lifted or will be very soon. Logistics, costs and contacts are now being obtained and a final proposal will be shared as soon as possible via a virtual meeting with the WACA Regional Coordinators and the Council’s supporting team and the membership will then be advised accordingly.

54th Annual General Assembly (AGA)

Due to the further postponement of the 53rd AGA, the 54th AGA will now be scheduled to held in Jordan in 2023. WACA President, *Maga Ramasamy*, will contact the Jordan Interline Club accordingly.

WACA Relief Fund — Blue Dragon Children’s Foundation

WACA President, *Maga Ramasamy*, and WACA Ambassador for Vulnerable Children, *Anneline Hetland*, received the following message from the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, Donor Relations (Sponsorship), *Nhung Hong Nguyen*:

Dear Maga and Anneline,

Thank you so much for keeping your strong support! I understand last year was a strange year ... I hope you are all well and stay safe! Vietnam just finished one more social distancing this month because of new cases in the community. Children also are back to school this month.

Kiet, Van and Tuyen are doing well. I met all of them in the Tet Awards event: Lunar New Year Eve last month. All of them felt grateful that they celebrated

and had great moments together right before the COVID-19 came back. And there were some footages and messages from them to you! I am on it to send you and your amazing team! Van still loves trees and cooking. Kiet is less shy than before, the good news is that after struggling in reading, the tutorial classes helps him improve a lot. His teacher said he is more confident in class than before. Tuyen had a significant change as he decided to go to formal school and college at the same time! But I will let Tuyen tell you he he. Have a lovely day and stay safe!

Best regards,
Nhung.

Office Restrictions Update

The city of Montreal continues to be in a “red zone” due to the COVID-19 pandemic but gradual openings of shops, cinemas, swimming pools, museums, gymnasias, etc. has taken place with strict limits on the number of people allowed in the premises at any given time. The province continues to be concerned about mutations of the virus that are now circulating so restaurants, stadiums and offices remain closed and the curfew from 20:00–05:00 also remains in effect. There is still no indication when these restrictions will be lifted so I continue to work from home until the situation changes.

International Artist

WACA’s Ambassador for Blind Children, *Suheil Baqaeen*, sends the following link describing his participation with an international art gallery in India:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vulcangallery.com%2Fpost%2Fsuhail&data=04%7C01%7Cmillerk%40iata.org%7C480e77e74a7446da4faa08d8f0591438%7Cad22178472a84263ac860ccc6b152cd8%7C0%7C0%7C637523612681044652%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=W0E5T0%2F9NujTJ%2Fi%2BSQvRHFLmov4Xqw7gL7apJkN9sE%3D&reserved=0.>

Obituary

I was advised by *Arthur “Peter” Pickford’s* family, and asked to let WACA know, that sadly Arthur passed away on 28 March from COVID-19/pneumonia after being hospitalised on 16 March, writes WACA Member of Honour *Betty Marrs*. He was an long time member of the London Interline Club and WACA Auditor, *Chris Orton*, adds that Arthur would be remembered by some members as he attended many WACA events years ago with his travelling partner Roland Guiver. Condolences can be sent to The Pickford Family, 14 Bushey Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 4AS, England.

Membership Messages

Communicate

“Membership Messages” are sent out on a regular basis to WACA Member Clubs, Members-at-Large and other individuals closely connected to WACA. Recipients in Member Clubs are requested to forward these messages to all members of their respective Club or direct their members to the News and Press Releases section of WACA's website where the messages are posted: www.waca.org/news/Pages/index.aspx.

Contribute

If any WACA member has anything they would like to contribute to the next “Membership Message” please send the information to the attention of the WACA Administration Manager at WACA Headquarters.

KEEP WELL. STAY SAFE.

Yours in interlining,

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