

**VIRGINIA GILDERSLEEVE INTERNATIONAL FUND, INC.**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**12 APRIL 2008**

**PRESIDING, BARBARA CAREY, PRESIDENT**

The Annual Meeting of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Inc. was held at the VGIF offices at Marble Collegiate Church Office Building, 3 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York, 10001 on Saturday, April 12, 2008 with **President Barbara Carey** presiding. The President called the meeting to order at 3:35 am and welcomed all those in attendance.

The proposed agenda was amended to note that item 4.2.1 should read 2008. The agenda was adopted as amended by general consent.

**Officers Present:** President Barbara **Carey**; Second Vice President Eileen **Menton**; Fourth Vice President Karen **McKee**; Secretary Judith **Whitelock**; Treasurer Margery **Sullivan**.

**Officers Absent:** First Vice President, Virginia **Palmer**, and Third Vice-President, Hope S. **Miller**.

**Board Members Present:** Lois **Abromitis**, Evelyn **Cumming**, Susannah **Dhamdhere**, Sandra **Featherman**, Maggie **Ford**, Marion **Kilson**, Kathleen **Magill**, Dagmar **McGill**, Marian **Nauta**, Rita **Skillman**, Claire **Stein**, Florine **Swanson**, Gomathy **Venkateswar**, Dana **Wright**, Leslie **Wright**, Jack **Young** and Jackie **Shahzadi**, Ex-Officio.

**Board Members Absent:** Joan **Chatfield**, Sumana **Fernando**, Marta **Groisman**, and Camille **MacDonald Polski**.

**Staff Present:** Executive Director, Fay **Kittelson**; Zoe **Kelly-Nacht**.

**Members and Visitors Present:** Parliamentarian, Claire **Stein**; Myrna **Brown**, Wes Schwemmer **Cady**, Katherine **Eaton**, Sema **Faigen**, Rebecca **Fairchild**, Leesa **Haire**, Sonya **Hostman**, Shireen **Lee**, Virginia **Maynard**, Louise **McLeod**, Terry **Oudraad**, Bea **Ramsay**, Shirley **Randell**, Jeri **Rhodes**, Linda **Hebert Sekiguchi**, Johanna **Sterbin**, Nancy **Vang**, Europe **Wilson-Agwu**, Marilyn **Zook**, Elizabeth **Miller**, Marcia **Goffin**, Claire **Fulcher**, Jewell **Hanna**, and Elsa **Ross-Greifinger**.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting were read and corrected by the Reading Committee. The minutes were adopted.

The Reading Committee for the April 2008 Board of Directors meeting will be Louise **McLeod** and Jack **Young**.

Proxies were received from 172 members. Hope **Miller** assigned her proxies to Eileen **Menton**. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Fay **Kittelson** reported that she had met some of the project directors at the CSW meeting and gathered information. She had emailed the project directors in Kenya when the violence broke out there and has heard from most of them.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**President**

President Barbara **Carey** thanked all members of the Board, the committees, and all members for all the work they have accomplished during the past six years. She announced the Consent Calendar as adopted by the Board.

**Project Grants**

Convener Eileen **Menton** noted that the amount of grants is almost \$150,000 this year due to increased giving. There were 638 applications received; the committee considered 134 from the recommendations of the previewers and 30 were funded plus an additional one in reserve. The committee is looking for ways to increase on-site monitoring of projects. The approved grants were announced.

**Treasurer**

Treasurer Margery **Sullivan** presented the financial statements for 2007.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Please note that printed reports for Standing Committees, Additional Committees and Special Positions were distributed at the meeting. These reports were not presented orally during the meeting.*

**Membership**

Claire **Stein** reported on current membership figures, committee activity and gave donor breakdown information. There are 946 individual members and 102 group members.

**Constitution & Bylaws**

Rita **Skillman** presented the report of the committee. The proposed amendments had been circulated to the membership as required.

**Motion #1**

*The Constitution & Bylaws Committee moves to delete “Global Network” from Article VIII, Section 1.*

**Motion adopted**

**Motion #2**

*The Constitution & Bylaws Committee moves to delete the entire contents of Article VIII, Section 2D, Global Network Committee so as to remove this committee from the list of Standing Committees of VGIF.*

**Motion adopted**

**Motion #3**

*The Constitution & Bylaws Committee moves to amend Article VIII, Section 2. E. (1) by striking “eleven (11)” and inserting “fifteen (15).”*

**Motion adopted**

**Nominating**

Jackie **Shahdazi** presented the report of the Nominating Committee, which has been circulated, to all members in the annual meeting notice materials.

President **Carey** called for a vote on the slate of nominees as submitted by the committee. The nominees were elected by voice vote. Those elected are as follows:

Board of Directors

1<sup>st</sup> term

Anita Miller, Sacramento, CA  
Carolyn Cowgill, Doylestown, PA  
Linda Sekiguchi, Minden, NV  
Shireen Lee, San Francisco, CA  
Myrna Brown, Reston, VA  
Rebecca Fairchild, Brattleboro, VT  
Jacqueline Shahzadi, Norwalk, CA

2<sup>nd</sup> term

Susannah Dhamdhere, Seattle, WA  
Margery Sullivan, Bethesda, MD  
Marta Groisman, Mar del Plata, Argentina  
Marion Kilson, Lexington, MA  
Lois Abromitis, Middletown, RI

Officers:

President – Eileen Menton, Laurel, MD  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Dagmar McGill, Philadelphia, PA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Project Grants) – Marion Kilson, Lexington, MA  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Dana Wright, Amherst, NY  
Treasurer – Margery Sullivan, Bethesda, MD (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Secretary – Judith Whitelock, Fort Wayne, IN (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

2008-2009 Nominating Committee

Virginia Maynard, New York, NY (Convener)  
Nancy Vang, Brooklyn, NY  
Claire Stein, Oro Valley, AZ  
Sandra Featherman, Kennebunkport, ME  
Hope S. Miller, New York, NY (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Lois Abromitis, Middletown, RI (alternate)

**Finance Committee**

Sandra **Featherman** reviewed the proposals of the Finance Committee that had been approved by the Board of Directors.

**Development Committee**

Maggie **Ford** reported that the Development Committee revised its policies to include the statement that donations from current grant applicants will not be accepted. This policy is to deter possible conflict of interest issues.

**Presentation of Certificates**

Sema **Faigen**, past president, presented certificates of appreciation to the following members completing their terms:

- Barbara **Carey** – President and Board Member
- Maggie **Ford** – Board Member, Development Committee Convener, and 2007-08 Nominating Committee
- Kathleen **Magill** – Board Member, Constitution & Bylaws Convener and 2007-08 Nominating Committee
- Hope S. **Miller** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Board Member, and 2007-08 Nominating Committee
- Virginia **Palmer** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Board Member
- Aileen **Worrell** – Board Member, On-Site Committee, and Project Grants Previewer

- Anita **Miller** – Development Committee
- Bea **Ramsay** – Membership Committee
- Evelyn **Cumming** – On-Site Committee Convener
- Virginia **Maynard** – United Nations Committee and 2007-08 Nominating Committee
- Jacqueline **Shahzadi** – 2007-08 Nominating Committee
- Louise **McLeod** – 2007-08 Nominating Committee
- Astrid **Paniagua** – United Nations Committee
- Jacqueline **Woods** – United Nations Committee
- Kay **Fusano** – International Collector of Member Contributions

- Jeannette **van Nuffel** – Project Grants Committee
- Myrna **Brown** – Project Grants Previewer
- Haoua **Diatta** – Project Grants Previewer
- Anne **Touwen** – Project Grants Previewer

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Joan **Milburn** – Project Grants Previewer  
Rebecca **Linton** – On-Site Visitor in China  
Zoe **Kelly-Nacht** – On-Site Visitor in Nepal  
Shiva **Bajpai** – On-Site Visitor in Nepal

Marta **Groisman** – Membership Committee  
Eileen **Menton** – Project Grants Committee Convener  
Florine **Swanson** – Board of Directors and Development Committee  
Joan **Chatfield** – Global Network Committee Convener  
Lucy **Moe** – Barnard Research Intern  
Everlyn **Suleh** – Project Grant Evaluator in Kenya

President Barbara **Carey** was commended for her superb leadership and tireless devotion to the work of VGIF for the past six years.

The Annual meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

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Submitted by Judith Whitelock, Secretary

Approved by Reading Committee

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Louise McLeod

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Jack Young