

WIA-E General Assembly – Short Summary

Date held: 12th October 2019

Board present : Luisella Giulicchi, Annamaria Nassisi, Elizabeth Seward, Marc Heppener, Diana Pueyo. 17 members present

The Board had the opportunity to present the official data and figures for the year 2018.

Individual and Corporate Membership report

WIA-E Secretary Elizabeth Seward presented a report on 2018 membership figures. The individual membership total for 2018 included:

- 671 members & alumni in the database
- 35 new individual members joined the organisation
- 234 members in were in good financial standing at the close of the year

There were some difficulties for members to pay due to a paypal page error on the site over the summer. A campaign to encourage non-paying members was carried out in 2019.

In 2018, WIA-E has closed the year with **23 Corporate Members**. SITAEL (silver), NEREUS (non-profit) and ASAS (non-profit) have newly joined the organisation.

Financial report

A financial report, compiled by Marc Heppener (Treasurer), has been presented to the audit committee prior to the GA. Accounts have been reviewed with useful critical questions. The report is available to all members.

The financial situation and the level of the Reserve of the Association remain healthy, with only small operational loss in 2018, among others due to a growing portfolio of activities and related increase in costs for office support.

The Board is monitoring the situation closely and implementing effective corrective measures, which are expected to show results in 2020.

Among questions raised was whether in kind contributions were recorded. While it has not been done so far, the board agreed to look at the event report and see if there is a way to record in kind contributions that does not significantly impact on the local groups, as much of the in kind contributions are hard to measure.

Grants & Awards Programmes

Prof. Chris Welch completed his term as the Chair of the Committee in 2018, and the WIA-E Board would like to thank Chris for his outstanding contribution. **We welcomed Juan de Dalmau as the new Chair of the Committee**, and look forward to working with him in the coming years.

Communications report

A **new website design** is under development with a planned launch beginning 2020. In this transition phase the website is daily checked and updated with all the events and news.

A complete updated communication package to highlight the identity of the organisation is planned for the next year.

Events Report

WIA-Europe continues to be present at major international events. In 2018, WIA-E was offering a series of activities during the International Astronautical Congress in Bremen, including a WIA-E promotional booth, IAF IDEA Mentoring Session as well as the WIA-E Award Ceremony.

The 9 WIA-E Local Groups in major European cities have organised over 50 local events.

Local groups

WIA-Europe's presence across Europe is carried by the Local Groups in European cities and regions where there is a strong presence of Space Activities. **In 2018 there were 12 local groups.**

Our local groups are strong, ever-growing and diverse units that meet regularly for networking events, trainings and lectures. All local groups are free to organise a programme that matches the expectations of the local WIA-E community.

Webinars have been discussed as a very good way for the organisation to use members' networks and expertise.

For 2019, there is a new group founded in Barcelona. There are discussions for new local groups ongoing with Luxembourg, Madrid, & Greece.

Board composition & elections – Luisella

The board composition was presented. The bylaws will be updated to reflect the new structure of the board and presented for approval at the next general assembly.

The mandate for returning board members is approved.

Luisella Giulicchi confirmed as President; Elizabeth Seward voted in as Board Secretary; Annamaria will assume the role of the Chair, leaving the position of the Director of Communication open. (Update: Since the GA in October, Dr Anna Hogg has taken on the position as ad interim)

Other members remain as ad interim pending the next general assembly. Lisa Callahan & Nicholas Peters remain as ad interim. The membership would like visibility of the proposed members and what is their motivation to be on the board.

The individual membership director position is open and the **LG leaders are invited to propose candidates** to the board.

The statutes are being reviewed and the timescales for notification will be changed to 4 weeks before a general assembly for all documentation and board member nomination.

Short overview 2019

- There have been 5 new corporate members in 2019, the organisation continues to grow successfully.
- Barcelona – a very active group who wanted to find an organisation to support them, and in discussions with WIA-E they have joined as a local group.
- WIA-E Outstanding Achievement Award went to Grazia Vittadini, CTO at Airbus.
- The Unconscious Bias workshop for LG leaders and the subsequent webinar for all members has been successful. This and similar initiatives to continue in future.
- Welcome to Xenia Pattberg to support communications and the board.
- 10 year anniversary event to be held in Paris on the 23rd March. Plans and details will follow.