

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGA) HELD ON 6 June 2019
at Island Headquarters, Floriana

The Assembly started at 18:30hrs after a quorum was reached with the presence of at least one member from 20 Groups.

Chief Scout George Cassar (CS) started off the meeting by welcoming everybody. He said that the Hon. Sec was held up at work and would like to appoint someone else from the floor to take the minutes. He asked for volunteers from the floor. Mark O'Neill volunteered for the job and was approved unanimously by the members of the Assembly present.

The CS informed the assembly that the AGM is being recorded and asked if there were any objections from the floor. There were none. The CS informed the Assembly that the Gozo Groups were following the AGA via Skype, and asked if there were objections. No objections were raised.

The CS also informed the assembly that he is proposing that the FAR committee report (which was received after the printing of the Annual reports is included as an integral part to the annual reports and Audited financial statements. There were no objections to this proposal and it was approved unanimously.

CS asked for the approval of the Agenda. This was approved without objection.

CS asked for the approval of the Minutes of the previous AGA, that were published on Scoutkeeper. These were approved with no votes against, one abstention, and the rest in favour.

CS informed all present that as per latest amendment of the statement all IHQ staff are not to vote for the approvals of the financial report, budget and administrative reports.

Chief Scout Report

The CS went on to mention a number of highlights from his introduction. As a point of disappointment the CS noted that following the call of the committee for co-ed nobody has applied to form part of the committee. After the Association has approached those who had signed the proposal at the last AGM only one has accepted to be part of this committee

The CS thanked all those persons who give up a helping hand at IHQ and who in most cases do it without fanfare.

The CS then invited the Chief Commissioner Anton Pisani (CC) to present the Association report.

The CC said that this has been a challenging year. The Association is trying to streamline the processes. It was known that Josmar has left his post as an employee after five years. The person who will be replacing Josmar will be starting as from next month.

The CS has highlighted some typo errors on page 20 of the report.

The report was approved unanimously.

Audited Accounts

The Commissioner of Finance Darren Mercieca (CF) began to explain the audited accounts and these are some of the points that were mentioned;

- Accounts were now subdivided according to department
- Census income will not agree by multiplying number of members by seven Euros in view of some discrepancies with the number of members in some groups as well as some members (such as the Council members) do not pay a membership fee.
- CF pointed out that Groups cannot recuperate any VAT that they have paid.

Edward Cassola (SAC) asked what are the aggregated assets property mentioned in page 16.

CF mentioned that the €462,000 are the property of groups but this is not the market value. CF also noted that in page 12 note 15 is to be changed to note 18

Anthony Rizzo has asked why the funding was marked in the negative.

CF answered that in the case of funding the ideal situation is if that the final balance is either zero or in the negative. If the case that the final balance is zero, it shows that all the funding has been used up (and if in the negative) more money has been used than those granted

The Financial Accounts were approved unanimously

Budget 2019

CF stated that since we are already half way through 2019 it was decided to have a very preliminary budget for 2020 too. These could be found on pages 45 and 46 respectively.

CF mentioned that for 2019 the Association has been awarded €10,000 from the 'Irrestawra Darek' scheme. The total cost will however be of €18,000 to restore the façade and the gate.

Budget was approved unanimously.

Approval of Association Auditor

Peter Degiorgio was nominated as the Association's Auditor. He was approved unanimously.

NYSC Presentation

Elsa Cassar gave a short presentation of the activities and projects organised by the NSYC

TSAM LTD

Anthony Rizzo gave the following highlights

- As from 1st July 2018, TSAM Ltd became responsible of the campsite.
- The income that the campsite is making has made a big difference to the income of TSAM Ltd. During the last AGM of TSAM Ltd, it was decided that no dividends were to be paid.
- In the carpark at IHQ, there has been an increase in corporate users rather than individual users. This means that payments are usually upfront (1 year in advance).
- Activity wear – Agreement with Indesign.
- Return on investment on certain works. Works to go ahead.
- €140,000 in funding were received on projects. A new employee will be recruited to replace Josmar.
- Last year the company had two full time employees and one part time employee. There is now a new campsite manager (Simone) and an employee (Luke) who will be living on site instead of Ahil. There are currently 3 EVS and these should increase to 4 hopefully.

Fellowship

Vince Cassar mentioned the following points

- Last 2 years of the fellowship was more active than the past.
- Fellowship can contribute with volunteers.
- Helping in administration of the Scout in need fund and the travel Fund.
- Fellowship to be closer to Association, now it is time to put heads together.
- Fellowship members would like to receive updates from Scout keeper and to have the name of group (Fellowship) on their uniform.

FAR Committee

Garreth Bonello of Qawra Scouts was asked to read extracts of the FAR report since the chairperson Andrew Cutugno was not present. The key observation was that “It was noted that some of lease contracts made by scout groups were entered into with either individuals personally or individuals in their capacity as Group Leaders some contracts are in breach of SAM regulations should be looked in and possibly rectified.”

It was concluded, that, after the committee had scrutinized the Audited Accounts of the SAM, “the FAR Committee confirms that the NSC has fulfilled its oversight responsibilities for the integrity of the Scout Association of Malta’s financial statements during 2018 and the adequacy of the Association’s systems of control during the same period.”

Presentation by CC on segregated cells

The CC has prepared a short presentation on the Segregated Cells some points of which are listed below:

- Each group will have its own name but not its own VO number
- Assets of group cannot be transferred to/from other groups/Association
- Each Group will need to hold an AGM
- Each Group would need to have a Group Council
- Group accounts need to be presented and approved during the Group AGM
- Reports of activities carried out during the previous year
- The Association may opt to create different segregated cells for assets

Charles Bajada (GSL San Gwann) asked what happens if there are any costs of more than €6,000 as currently proposed. Should such payments go through IHQ? CC said that he has taken note of this comment.

Edward Cassola (SAC GSL): Can chairperson and treasurer be a scouter?

CC: No these should be non-uniformed members in line with the POR.

James Baldacchino (FGURA GSL) (JB): The way forward must be clear for all groups on what are the liabilities if we do not have council or nor treasurer or no AGM

CS said that the liability at the moment for all the parts of the Association including all the Groups lies on members of the NSC. If the segregated cells are introduced, each Group would be responsible for its own parts of the funds. It was also pointed out that this liability is not about criminal action, but liability to ensure that funds that pertain to the members of the Association are managed responsibly and transparently.

JB: But what will happen if the group treasurer resigns and all the group council resign? Will I go to prison?

CS: There is no change from the current situation in that any liability that could conceivably arise from the resignation of the Group Treasurer under the Segregated Cells concept already arises under the POR. We would need to see the specific situation however in all cases, we will need to ensure that a new council and treasurer are appointed to be in line with the POR.

Douglas Falzon (Naxxar GSL): Is every group free to decide to accept the segregated cells concept? As not all may agree.

CC: We need to decide as an association as we cannot have different situations for different groups as this might cause confusions. So it is an all or nothing and we might need to take a vote on this in future AGM's.

Closing remarks by CS

CS is not happy with the number of people that attended the AGM. He mentioned that CC had to call a number of people to come so that we would reach a quorum and be able to start the AGM. The CS remarked that it is the members that form the Association. He noted that there is more participation at the GSL fora.

A member of the Assembly noted that a Saturday morning is preferred to a Thursday evening on the day before a public holiday, and objected that it has been changed from the one that was originally planned. He also said that he expected that once the date was set all paperwork would have been ready for the said date.

CS thanked him for his honest points raised. CS said that the problem is that we want more people helping at Association level and asked groups to encourage their members to do so.

The Assembly was adjourned at 2030hrs

Minutes approved on _____

By:

George Cassar
Chief Scout

Mark O'Neil
Secretary for the Assembly