



INTERNATIONAL 'WE SERVE' FOUNDATION, INC.

Foundation Board Meeting – Minutes Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017

1. **2.04 PM** - Chair Mr. V. Venugopal called the Board meeting to order. Chair, Venugopal, Dr. Nima Desai, Prof. Seetha Subramanian, Prof. D. Sudharshan, Mrs. Usha Chandra (via Skype), Mr. Mani Narayanasamy (via Skype) and M. S. Viji attended. Dr. Sibhu Saha was excused (due to prior engagement). There was adequate quorum to conduct the Board meeting. Prof. Karan Kaul, Mrs. Kirthi Kaul, Dr. Usha Polisetty and Dr. Rayudu Polisetty, our honored guests attended the Board meeting and participated in the discussions. The Board Chair expressed sincere appreciation for their strong support and participation in IWSF missions & projects.
2. **Minutes of the last Board Meeting** held on Oct. 22, 2016 were submitted for review and approval. There were no changes and the Minutes were proposed, seconded and approved unanimously as submitted.
3. **Financial status Update** – Dec. 31, 2016 – presented in detail along with the traditional financial statements that were circulated in advance (i) active projects implemented in 2016 and those planned for 2017 (ii) donations, distributions and Project-wise budget estimates (iii) the effect of matching funds magnifying the value of every project, etc. TTEE Usha Chandra recommended reaching out to the staff of reputed organizations providing matching funds; currently one donor from St Louis (Wells Fargo) and another from Phoenix (Intel) have set up matching funds. IWSF shall take more efforts to expand such matching funds programs.
4. **Missions & Projects Update** – presented in detail by M S Viji, MD

[a] **Nov. 9, 2016 – Nov. 19, 2016 India Trip:** Purposeful, productive and effective trip details with the follow up was presented. In that 11-day span, M S Viji, President visited 11 different cities, addressed and interacted with the Leaders representing 1,571 Rotary Clubs, 15 RI Districts, 4 educational institutions and dedicated scientists conducting very important research projects. The presentation below incorporates these.

[b] **Network:** Many new organizations have joined hands with IWSF in 2016, supporting the missions and projects with free service / volunteering / funding / long term maintenance, etc. IWSF believes in inclusiveness, collaboration, coordination and collective efforts to address many pressing needs of the less fortunate. IWSF signed MOU with many in 2016 – these were reviewed by the Board and accepted.

[c] **SMART CLASSROOMS (ESC):** Hundreds of non-profits, schools, etc. now contact IWSF every week for support to their projects to benefit the students, community, etc. Summary of 27 new ESC and hundreds of ESC in many parts of India in the planning stages were presented to the Board.

[d] **FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES (FPL):** Update on the 10th and 11th FCL dispatch were shared with the Board. Plans for the dispatch of the 12th FCL; planned renovation plans at the warehouse of International Book Project (IBP); possible gap in dispatching donated books during those months, etc. were discussed. 285,000 books with a conservative value exceeding \$ 1.3 mill are now reaching 550,000 + deserving children and adults via 550 + FPL set up in collaboration with over 750 Rotary Clubs and other non-profits in India.



[e] SOLAR POWER Projects: Details of the (i) Phase 1 and Phase 2 Solar Power Supply to 26 public schools in the island of Rameswaram, 48 ESC in Phase 2; (ii) Solar Lights donation to poor students and need to donate to 765 poor families in AP, (iii) Solar Street lights implemented with donations from IWSF in several villages, and the request from many for more solar projects – were discussed as well.

[f] VISITING SCHOLARS SEMINARS: This is in high demand; more were conducted in 2016 with the participation of many qualified volunteers of IWSF – to be continued in 2017 as well.

[g] Voluntary Tele-Med Free Consultations: MORI Village Rural Clinic in AP and collaboration with IM-1B were shared with the Board. Dr. Rayudu Polisetty plans to introduce many of his medical friends to participate.

[h] Basic Amenities: Several projects seek funds and support for (i) safe, clean water – with Bore-wells, (ii) Reverse Osmosis systems, (iii) Rain Water Harvesting (iv) desks, benches, (v) Bio-toilet facilities, (vi) sports facilities, (vii) Tricycles & Prosthesis, (viii) Women empowerment programs, (ix) solar lighting, (x) disaster recovery and long term relief measures, etc. directly benefiting thousands of the general public, rural women, school children, orphanages, children rescued from child-labor, etc. in many locations in India.

[i] RESEARCH Projects: During the 10-day trip, met scientists and professionals doing major research projects in Education, Healthcare, etc. Many are worthy of support and collaboration by IWSF to empower the people in many ways; details were presented including collaboration and funding. Dr. Viji has recently met with the leaders at the Univ. of KY and contacted Prof. Ravindran Pillai of Columbia Univ. to network with many of the research programs in India.

[j] IWSF RECEPTION: June 15 and 16, 2017 - IWSF has invited many Rotarians from India to visit Lexington, KY right after the Atlanta RIF Centennial Celebrations (June 10-14). RC Lexington shall co-host the Reception on June 15th evening. They conduct the Rodeo on June 16th evening. Many Board members are ready to host some of the visiting guests and participate in these programs in June.

[k] Changing CHARITY landscape: The Board discussed possible expectations of US based non-profits to focus on charitable projects within the US before taking up any projects outside the US. IWSF will keep monitoring these regulatory mandates and conform to and comply with these as and when these are enforced.

5. **Adjournment:** The Chair, Mr. Vinodh Venugopal appreciated the ongoing collaboration with hundreds of individuals and organizations; the impressive expansion of benefits to the deserving – now in the hundreds of thousands; thanked the volunteering, dedication and participation of individuals and thanked those attending the Board meeting. As there was no other topic for discussion, adjourned the meeting at 3.25 PM.

6. **Next Board Meeting:** Saturday, 2.00 PM Sat. Apr. 22, 2017 at 895 Edgewater Drive, Lexington, KY

Minutes were approved: As presented [] With modifications []

Signature: V. Venugopal
IWSF Chair Vinodh Venugopal

Date: May, 6, 2017

MSM
5/6/17