



INTERNATIONAL 'WE SERVE' FOUNDATION, INC.

Foundation Board Meeting – Minutes

Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019

Venue: Lexington Public Library, CENTRAL Library (Downtown) 3rd Floor, Wichman Reading Room

1. **2.05 PM** - Chair Mr. V. Venugopal called the Board meeting to order. Chair, Venugopal (via Phone), Prof. Seetha Subramanian, Dr. Nirmala Desai, Mrs. Vimala Bondada, Mr. Rohit Patel, Prof. D. Sudharshan, Mr. Mani Narayanasamy (via Skype), Mrs. Usha Chandra (Via Skype) and Dr. M. S. Viji attended. Dr. Sibu Saha could not attend for personal reasons. The Chair verified there was adequate quorum to conduct the Board meeting.
2. The Chair welcomed the new Member of the Board **Mrs. Vimala Bondada** and she expressed her desire to support the Board as well as the IWSF to her best ability.
3. Minutes of the last Board Meeting (Apr. 13, 2019) draft were circulated a few days in advance; there were no changes and after proposal and seconded, the Minutes were accepted as submitted by the members present.
4. **Financial status Update:** up to Aug. 23, 2019 was presented and discussed. (i) 2019 Account Summary (ii) Funds received and in-kind donations and (iii) dispersals were reviewed. Acct balance on 08-23-2019 was \$ 14,830.16. 2019 Budget Estimate for various projects Vs Actual dispersal up to 8-23-2019 was reviewed. IWSF donors at times designate the project(s) their donation could be used for. Others allow using their donation for charitable missions & projects approved by the IWSF Board. Jan. 1, 2019 to Aug. 23, 2019: Estimated value of projects implemented by IWSF to date: **\$ 3,411,000**. Cash donations in 2019: \$ 22,712.50 ; Distributions in 2019: \$ 54,525.00. The Financial File (circulated by email) showed details of various projects; IWSF contribution, project value, etc. IWSF pledges for several RI-GG projects were listed. Dr Viji clarified questions from the members on the financial data and it was accepted by the Board as submitted.
5. **India Trip report:** Professor Seetha Subramanian shared her visit report to Madurai and Rameswaram in June 2019. She visited a Mental Rehab center in Madurai where IWSF has set up the bore well and water storage facility. She visited a new school in Rameswaram; they asked for books for their library and Solar Power. IWSF shall follow up on these based on donations in the future. The Chair thanked Prof Seetha for sharing her visit experience.
6. **Grateful:** The IWSF Board sincerely thanks Mrs. Sampurna Srinivasan, Mr. Charles Colston and Ms. Sarah Jane Doti for their volunteer service in sorting and packing the donated books currently stored at Prof Seetha's Garage. After Oct. 20th, several boxes of books donated by the Lexington Public Library need to be picked up and delivered to Prof. Seetha's Garage. Some of the Board members volunteered to help Prof. Seetha shall coordinate this.
7. **Missions & Projects:** The ppt presentation by Dr. M. S. Viji gave updates & feedback on several projects.



INTERNATIONAL 'WE SERVE' FOUNDATION, INC.

- a) **Kalam Home Libraries:** 2,400+ KHL have been donated to poor children, families, public schools, etc. from July 2017 to Aug. 2019. 100 disabled children received basic school supplies and one set of KHL each in Apr. 2019. More KHL donations to rural schools and poor children are planned in many parts of India.
- b) **120,000 Free Public Libraries:** 17th 40' FCL was delivered to Rotary Bangalore Orchards in July 2019. The books will be sorted and delivered to 125 rural schools in Karnataka. 463,450 + books have been sent to India to date. 1,800+ Free Public Libraries now benefit > 1.25 million children, youth & adults in many parts of India.
- c) **AK-EDUSAT Project update:** IWSF donated \$ 14,500 to AK-EDUSAT Project. 120 + Rotary Clubs and Lions Clubs have joined as Co-Sponsors. They shall seek CSR funds to prepare the Payload, Engineering Module and finally launch module. IWSF hopes AK-EDUSAT shall be operational before Dec 2020. Efforts are on to seek Rotary International Global Grant (US \$ 195,000).
- d) **Youth Empowerment Seminars:** In collaboration with local non-profits and volunteer teachers, several Youth Empowerment Seminars have been conducted in schools and colleges. IWSF provides support with educational materials, books, awards, etc. for this very popular project.
- e) **Summer Education Camp:** 80 poor children (40 girls + 40 boys) received teaching in Math, English, Science, Sports, etc. and a healthy lunch for the entire month of May 2019 at the Educational Camp. This was very well received by the students and the volunteering teachers. The organizers hope to conduct more such camps in the coming years for deserving poor children, with the help of IWSF.
- f) **Poetry and Speech Competitions:** In honor of the death anniversary of His Excellency Dr Abdul Kalam, statewide poetry and speech competitions were held – based on the books written by Dr Kalam. Several thousand participated enthusiastically and the winners received free books as prizes from IWSF.
- g) **Promoting Science & Technology:** [Oct. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2019] 7,753 rural students in Grades 8 to 12 in 48 public schools in Thirukoilur Taluk shall participate in developing & displaying their scientific inventions. They shall write an Essay and take part in Speech competition on Science and Technology. The Winners at the school level, regional level and the Taluk level shall receive cash awards and free books as prizes, from IWSF.
- h) **Rural Women Center:** The Jothibai Rural Women & Youth Empowerment Center in Vengadampatti Village provides training in sewing, embroidery, knitting, etc. to rural women and youth. This has been very useful to many local women and youth coming from > 20 surrounding villages.
- i) **Disaster Relief:** Several hundred poor families lost their huts to GAJA Cyclone. 48 huts were rebuilt by the local Rotary Clubs with donations raised from donors in the US and India. IWSF donated 48 portable solar lights – one for each family. The beneficiaries & organizers were quite thankful to IWSF for this donation.



INTERNATIONAL 'WE SERVE' FOUNDATION, INC.

j) **Water Supply & Sanitation:** (i) IWSF set up the borewell and water storage facility at the Vriksha Mental Rehab Center for women in Madurai. Prof. Seetha visited this Center in June 2019. The residents were grateful to Prof. Seetha and IWSF for this much needed help.

(ii) IWSF set up the borewell and water storage facility in Vengadampatti village to help 75 + orphaned children being cared for by the TRUST. The children are grateful to IWSF for this precious gift.

(iii) IWSF has donated two Hot & Cold Water dispensers to the Govt Public Hospital in Bodinayakanur, TN. Daily > 2,700 patients & their families seek healthcare. The 2 water dispensers shall help > 1,000,000 annually.

k) **SOLAR POWER:** IWSF has donated funds to set up 2 KW solar power supply at the **Joys Old Age Home**. The elderly recipients are quite thankful to IWSF for this generous donation.

IWSF support for Rotary GG Projects: IWSF collaborates with Rotary Clubs in USA, Canada, India and other countries to promote worthy charitable projects that fit within our Vision and Mission. When the Grant is approved by the Rotary Foundation, IWSF sends in the pledged amount. Seven consecutive RI-GG that IWSF has supported to date have been approved. Five more RI-GG listed below await approval by The Rotary Foundation.

- l) **Addiction Prevention:** IWSF has pledged \$ 1,000 (Budget \$ 75,000) and is collaborating with Rotary Clubs and Districts in New England, USA some Clubs in Canada and in India to benefit 3,000 + adults and 5,000 children in six states (MA, VT, NH, ME, RI & CT) in the USA in this RI Global Grant project.
- m) **Cervical Cancer Vaccination & Prevention:** IWSF has pledged \$ 1,000 (Budget \$ 54,850) and is collaborating with Rotary Clubs in MA, USA and Pune, India to provide screening, education & Gardasil vaccination to prevent Cervical Cancer in 1.080 rural girls between the ages of 9 to 14 in Pune district.
- n) **Congenital Heart defect Surgery:** IWSF has pledged \$ 500 (Budget \$ 61,900) to support surgery for 57 girls with congenital heart defects in Pune district, along with Rotary Clubs in the US and India. 4 Tertiary Care hospitals in Pune and many local medical professionals are donating their expertise free for this project.
- o) **Rural School Improvement:** IWSF has pledged \$ 500 (Budget \$ 34,928) to provide basic school supplies, desks, benches, cycle stands, water facilities, toilets, etc. for the 97 year-old school with 700+ rural students. This project is organized by the Rotary Club of Courtallam and RC Fargo Moorhead in USA.
- p) **Physiotherapy for the Disabled:** IWSF has pledged \$ 2,000 and is co-sponsoring the Rotary Global Grant Project (\$ 36,662) to purchase Physiotherapy equipment for the **Amar Seva Sangam**. Every day, 1,450+ differently-abled children and adults coming from all over India, receive free care (Physiotherapy, Psychotherapy and Vocational Rehab) in this incredible facility, operational since 1980.



q) **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Presidential (Digital) Library:** IWSF is collaborating with several non-profits in India to launch the 'Presidential Library' on Oct. 15, 2019. Our Trustee Mani Narayanasamy has been of immense help. Several youth have volunteered to help set up the digital library, accessible free by any person anywhere in the world. This Library will be hosted in a dedicated 2 TB server, that Mani has set up.

r) **World Knowledge Platforms (WKP):** The 2 TB dedicated server shall also host the **WORLD KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS** in many disciplines. IWSF has listed > 2,200 Free Educational Courses from reputed educational institutions in many countries at 'knowledge.weservefoundation.org'. More free courses will be added in the future.

[i] **World Medical Knowledge Platform is operational.**

[ii] **World Agricultural Knowledge Platform** shall provide useful contents for farmers and amateur gardeners developed by the faculty at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru & other established institutes in the field of Agriculture & Food Technology.

8. **EMPOWERING BILLIONS:** IWSF motto aims to benefit 3 + billion less fortunate in the world and empower them with education, health, sanitation, technology, tools, training, skills and knowledge to eradicate poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, inequality, etc. and become peaceful, prosperous and happy citizens. IWSF Board discussed continuing the various diverse, deserving projects. Each project IWSF takes up must obviously conform to the Vision and Missions of IWSF. IWSF does not implement any project in isolation and always collaborates with local, regional, national and international entities – whenever and wherever possible. It takes enormous time, several months of communication, site visits by our team of volunteers (who conduct detailed verification) & concerted effort to identify willing, dedicated, reliable, trustworthy, registered charitable entities in many parts of the world. Important the local entity (i) understands and complies with all regulatory norms in their home country (ii) practices at all times, full ACCOUNTABILITY and TRANSPARENCY & (iii) provide timely, proper, periodic feedback to meet the exacting norms of IRC-501-C-3, the IRS and other regulatory bodies. IWSF tries its best to provide meaningful feedback to our donors, well-wishers and collaborating partners.

9. **2019 Next Board meeting:** Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019 – 2.00 PM EDT (date & venue to be confirmed later)

10. **Adjournment:** The Chair **Mr. Vinodh Venugopal** thanked all the Project Participants, Donors, Volunteers, Co-Sponsors, & the IWSF Board. With no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3.20 PM.

Submitted for review and approval.

☒ Approved as submitted

☐ ~~Approved with changes~~

V. Venugopal

Chair - IWSF Board of Trustees

Nov. 23, 2019

MSV
11/23/19