**Minutes of UK WILPF AGM**

**April 2016**

1. **Present:**

Apologies: Katrina Gass, Pat Pleasance, Dagna, Gay, Jane Grant, Cathy Best, Diane Brace, Ros Cooke, Claire Collen, Marie Lyse Numohoza

**2.Minutes of last AGM 14th March 2015:**

These were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Helen, Seconded, Paula

**3. Annual report**

Keely and .. were thanked for support with the layout

It was agreed that the report is a good reflection of the extent of creative hard work by all Branches and the Exec over the past year. Special mention was made of the Exhibition and film, These Dangerous Women. This has ignited new interest in the organisation and several requests for speakers and Workshops.

**4. Treasurer’s report**

Debby Payne has had to step down as Treasurer and Pat Pleasance has taken on the role and will hand over to Paula Shaw.

At 31st Dec 2015 the balances were as follows: Current Account - £3315.48

Reserve Account - £11883.01

The separate independent WILKPF Trust has given a donation for the Aurtumn Seminar in 2016. The Trust will enable online gift-aid donations, possibly from large companies. It is understood that the Trust, a registered charity, can do political work within the stated Aims of the charity.

Thanks were recorded to both Pat and Paula for stepping in.

**5. Obituaries.**

The following past members of WILPF were remembered and actions taken to respond to memorials.: Margaret Cummings; an inspirational Quaker who helped to set up the Sheffield Branch

Rushenda Barber, an Aldermarston veteran, and pioneer WILPFER committed to anti-racist work, who ran the Hamstead Branch which, with her CO husband, maintained the ceremony to honour conscientious objectors.

**6. Wilpf European Group**

Lydia explained the context of a new grouping of Wilpf Women from 12 European sections and one delegate from the Lebanon, with support from the Geneva office. Ideas for discussion had been collected from Exec members on behalf of their Branches. She and Pam Flynn had met with them in Brussels on 3rd - 5th March 2016 and had been guests of Barbara Lochbihler. The Agenda was to consider:

1. Refugee politics and new forms of (sexual) violence

2. Climate Change, gender and militarism.

It was agreed to continue to support this cross- European face-to-face work where possible. UK Women MEPs would be contacted in advance of any Referendum on Britain’s place in Europe.

**6.International Bureau:**

Ros reported on behalf of the work shared with Keely. There is an agreed 3 year program up to 2018.

There are 4 strands of work:

* Human Right program based in Geneva
* Disarmament based in New York
* Women Peace and security in New York
* Crisis response program based in London

(It does not include the work of the Environmental Working Group, so this is unlikely to be funded. Lorraine would be asked to push for this as a main strand of WILPF work. )

Cross-cutting themes from the 2011 Congress were confirmed as:

* Integrated working
* Focus on gender
* The political economy – who owns the earth’s resources and how the power structures manage it
* Organising intelligently – WILPF to try to speak with ONE voice
* Better communication

One draft resolution can be submitted to IB and it has to be “New” ideas. Ros raised the problem that Resolutions at UK Section level may be too quick and not sufficiently inclusive. The IB process however seems to be very complex and communications could be improved.

**Agreed:** to send a note of our concerns to Margaretha Tingstead

**7. Resolutions**

6 resolutions were received

7.1 Communications: The proposed establishment of a Comms Team was agreed

7.2 The formation of the Norwich Branch was agreed, with membership of the section Exec

7.3 The new Finance Committee was established with the following membership: Pat Pleasance, Paula Shaw, Jenny Engledow, Sheila Triggs

7.4 The work of the new Exec.It was agreed in principle to share out the work more equitably and to have clearer roles

7.5 Membership of International by individual members. The Exec raised the potential for confusion for new members who see the International WILPF publicity and join International. This seemed to open up the possibility of Branches bypassing UK national section and going direct to International. International clearly have an interest in additional membership from fees point of view. There was concern about possible conflicting agenda and the amplification of dissent or fragmentation.

**Agreed**: Ros would raise these concerns with Margarethe Tingstead

7.6 Renaming WILPF. The Sheffield resolution to re-name and re-launch WILPF was discussed and ways of maintaining WILPF as “an active Social movement” were considered. Grass roots issues were seen as important as global United nations issues and the language of a “League” may now be archaic and not fully understood. It was agreed to continue to discuss this in Branches.

**8. New executive:**

The following women were elected to the Section Executive:

Anne Scott (co-opted) as Secretary for one more year only

Sheila Triggs as Membership Secretary for one more year

Paula Shaw as Treasurer

Keely Kouri and Ros Brunt as co-IB reps

Jennie Engledow

Lydia Meryll

Lorraine Miram ex-officio as member of International Board

Pat Pleasance

9. A vote of thanks was moved for the tireless and creative work of Anne Scott as Section Secretary. She confirmed that she has to step down from May 2017.