AGM MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2020, 5 pm
Meeting proceeded via Zoom


REGRETS: Lisa Jeffrey

REPORTS PREVIOUSLY SENT TO MEMBERS FOR AGM: President’s Report by Judy Deutsch; Vice-President’s Report by Richard Sandbrook; Treasurer’s Report by Rob Acheson

CHAIR: Richard Sandbrook

MOTION: To accept the Agenda, moved by Rob and seconded by Jorge
Motion passes

TRIBUTE TO MARGRIT EICHLER: Richard offers a moving tribute to Margrit, Science for Peace’s Centre of gravity, since she is stepping down from the Executive and her Secretary position, a post she has held since 2009. He read a statement prepared by Judy Deutsch on behalf of the executive, which concluded with these words; ‘And best of all, we have had the privilege of knowing Margrit as a lovely person.”

VICE PRESIDENT’S AND PRESIDENT’S REPORTS: Richard Sandbrook

Some of the key points in his oral presentation:
- Online presence takes a strong administrative effort
- In general, much time is spent in organizational upkeep – for example, treasurer Rob finds admin takes time from his nuclear disarmament efforts
- Working Groups have had a mixed experience and don’t function well except for Nuclear Disarmament WG and the Non-Violent and Civil Society WG which has organized two forums
- Perhaps Working Groups should function as interim bodies for particular issues and don’t need to meet more than a few times – for example, a WG on structural racism, might issue a position paper, come up with a campaign, or blog on its issue
- The executive is open to any member initiative and looks forward to members starting WGs on issues close to their heart
- Blog posts are highly needed – like Andrew Pakula’s Covid Updates
- We want to produce Webinars and to be able to generate attention in the press on particular issues
- The Executive is enormously welcoming of members’ ideas

Discussion followed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Rob Acheson

*Key points in his oral presentation:*

- Members are lagging in paying membership fees
- We have $243,000 in the bank
- The world faces climate change, nuclear weapons and the pandemic, only demonstrating the importance of safety for humanity
- The Don’t Bank on the Bomb campaign continues, and there’s an effort to get the NDP to push on the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- Proposal to hire two young people to work on bringing nuclear weapons campaign to social media
- The idea is to hire one person for 20 hours a week, and one for 20 hours a month in a supervisory role – proposal is to spend approximately $12,000
- “We don’t want to get to the end of the world and still have a big bank account.”

Discussion:
Margrit E. notes that the Board needs to approve taking capital from the Blumenthal Fund instead of merely the interest – using the capital overturns a previous Board decision

**MOTION:** To adopt Rob’s proposal on the hiring of two persons to generate a social media campaign on the nuclear weapons issue
Moved by: Arnd J. and seconded by: Vladimar Z.

Motion passes

Details of this initiative to be worked out in collaboration with Pugwash

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS REPORT:** Rob Acheson

- So much damage has been done in undermining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- Feels embittered by the response of the Canadian government, which refuses to adopt it, Trudeau deeming it useless. Our steps thus far are being dismantled
- We need a robust civil society campaign
- 122 nations have already adopted it – there are 11 to go. Most signatories are small Caribbean and South Sea Island nations, giving a voice to peoples who don’t usually have one
REPORT ON PROPOSALS TO MAKE SCIENCE FOR PEACE MORE EFFECTIVE: by Adnan Zuberi

Key points made:

- Central challenge of the organization is to attract scientists, students and the public; to be capable of issuing articles from top experts; to emerge as a leading and respected voice
- Many successes in this were achieved in the past: establishment of Peace Studies course at U of T, books authored, UN affiliation
- But we have had challenges and rocky moments as a consequence of leadership changes, and volunteer turnover
- Generally there’s a lack of awareness about SfP on campus; professors unaware of our existence
- When we do attract young people, there is often no place to funnel them – no working groups or actions. For example, 30 students came to the reception for Polyan’s lecture but there was nowhere to refer them
- Essential to learn how to ‘onboard’ members – to stream newcomers into productive roles by welcoming and integrating them
- Our website has to be stronger and more dynamic, with regular newsletters, and a standard format and style in all our online publications
- We are losing teaching opportunities at U of T and need more academic engagement like Adnan and Holly’s participation in a class discussion at the Royal Military College
- Welcomes a continuing conversation about deepening Science for Peace’s effectiveness via email

- ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD


- Nomination of 9 Board members (2020-2022) by Nomination Committee (to complete the 20 member requirement):

Judith Deutsch, Margrit Eichler, Sorpong Peou, Michel Duguay, Holly Easton, Danny Harvey, Ali Hashemi, Arnd Juergensen, Jorge Filmus

Please see the AGM Documents sent via email for the outstanding resumes of these nominees

MOTION: to adopt the above slate – moved by Rob A, seconded by Jorge F.
Motion passes

NOMINATIONS FOR ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE:
On-going executive serving two-year terms: Judy D., Richard S., Rob A., Jorge F., Ellie K.

**Nomination of Secretary:** Ellie K. moved by Richard S., seconded by Margaret E.

**Addition of two new members-at-large to Executive:**
Nomination of Bill B. by Judy, seconded by Rob A.
Nomination of Arnt J. by Richard R., seconded by Judy D.

**Motions passed**

**AGM Moves into Public portion of the meeting**
Does Peace-Building Work?
The Case of Mali, Somalia, and Sudan
Featuring Dr. LeaAnn McKenna, Dr. Vladimir Zhagora, Dr. Khalid Ahmed