*Federation Consultative Councillor*

***Report 11th February 2023.***

**Meeting of the Board of SIGBI Ltd – 14th January 2023**

The Federation Board President Cathy Cottridge chaired the meeting

1. **Rota of Visits**

* The rota of visits by Directors to Regions, Countries, NAs has been agreed and Directors will shortly be in touch to set dates.

1. **Directors’ Committees**

* All Directors are working with their new Committees to agree priorities and ways of working.

1. **Programme**

* FPAC team is now inclusive of all Federation geographical areas
* They are reviewing the Best Practice Awards format, and also Report Forms
* A SIGBI project has been submitted to the International Day of Education event
* A small team will be attending CSW this year
* Director Lindsay’s ‘virtual’ door is open – she wants to hear from members what they think. [programmedirector@sigbi.org](mailto:programmedirector@sigbi.org)

1. **Membership**

* The approach to membership is changing – there is a recognition that we need to respond to women’s changing lives. (Eg are evening meetings the best for most women?) Director Dishi is regularly writing a blog on the website and Membership Officers are advised to keep in touch with the latest thinking by reading it.
* More clarity about the different categories of membership is beginning to emerge.
* Dishi is preparing a report for the Standing Committee about the reasons for leaving that people give in response to the survey sent from HQ, and this should be available shortly. Cathy has some very useful statistics that she has taken from these surveys and this will also be shared with us.

1. **Finance**

* Microfinancing: This is a really positive way of using club funds that may be sitting doing nothing in bank accounts. A relatively small sum can be re-invested several times, so makes a bigger impact than its size.
* The Director of Finance had to stand down for personal reasons after Conference; President Elect Ruth is holding the fort but the process of recruiting and balloting for a new Director is in train.
* The Hub: hoping to launch in next week to 10 days if all goes well. In meantime, the Members Section of the website will shortly be unavailable until the Hub is in use.
* The fortnightly News Briefing mailing to all members will then cease, though the mailing to Club Executives will still be sent to the Secretary. A monthly email will be sent to all members from the Hub.

1. **PR and Marketing**

* Main objective is to increase SIGBI’s profile, and brand awareness.
* The work being produced by Quarterpillar on social media to raise SIGBI’s profile is very good, and Director Anne is having frequent meetings with the producers. They are getting good analytics information, which is enabling them to do further work on the 2 posts that have been the most successful to see if they can be boosted.
* Topics for the Facebook Live briefings have been agreed: Saturday 21st January, the first is on graphics.
* International Women’s Day – toolkit is on Trello, and a webinar planned for 4 March.
* Taking into account comments from members, there will be more information available in graphical formats for the next 16 Days campaign.
* SIGBI is now registered on Womensgrid, and all clubs can do the same. [www.womensgrid.org.uk](http://www.womensgrid.org.uk) A useful way of letting the external world know what you are doing.
* Social media survey – FCCs are asked to undertake this with Region and Club Communications Officers, and a zoom meeting with Anne is planned. The April deadline may be flexible.
* London Conference: the concerns expressed by members about the Belfast Conference have been taken on board. The closing ceremony is a case in point: they tried something different, it didn’t work, so lessons have been learned. It was decided to go ahead with the London Conference despite the SI Convention in Dublin, because very few people choose to go to both.
* More bloggers are needed.

1. **Governance**

* A new work plan for the Governance Committee is being developed.
* The policies for equality and diversity are under review, and a working party for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion will shortly be set up. Members with experience / expertise in this area are invited to put themselves forward.
* The current national debates around gender have already led to a couple of emails from clubs to HQ, so Director Giselle is very aware of the urgency of need to update the current diversity statement and provide better guidance.

1. **President**

* A detailed operational work plan for the Strategic Plan up to 2025 will shortly go on the Hub for all members to see.
* There was a discussion about the Strapline. ‘We stand up for women in our communities’ was not universally liked. Instead, a consensus emerged around ‘Standing Up for Women and Girls’, which will be used from now on.

The next SIGBI Board Meeting will be held on 22nd April 2023.

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In Friendship,

Darína Dolan.

