

# IWA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/14/2014

Venue: 3371 Putnam St, West Lafayette, IN 47906

Time: 4-7 pm,

Present: Renu Bajaj, Debjaya Mishra, Rashmi Chaturvedi, Lakshmi Garimella, Anju Dev, Rwitri Roy, Meena Narsimhan, Shipra Gupta, Charu Balachander.

Invited Guest: Mangala Subramaniam

## ***1. IWA Research Award:***

a. Rashmi introduced Prof. Subramaniam and the board members to one another.  
b. Prof. Subramaniam updated the board on the current status of the institution of the award, the application process and the application screening process. The paperwork is going through the bureaucratic process in Purdue. All the required paperwork is projected to be completed in a week. Then they will solicit applications by sending out the form along with the announcement. Students will be given 3 weeks to apply. The competition will be announced in all Departments in the College of Liberal Arts using their list serve. Applications will be screened by a 4 member committee consisting of the IWA board presidents, Prof Subramaniam and the Head of the interdepartmental American Studies Program at Purdue. There is a standard rating sheet with instructions for reviewers that is used at Purdue for such awards. It takes into account both the quality of the proposed work, its feasibility and the student's qualifications for rating the proposals. The reviewers rank a proposal on a 1 to 5 scale for each question on the rating sheet. The scores of all reviewers are combined and the top ranking proposal is awarded the funds. The committee discusses the proposals only if there is a tie or some other need.

In the event that the response to the call out is not good, Prof. Subramaniam suggests that we advertise through the Sociologists for Women in Society next year. This will give us access to a nationwide pool of students (and nationwide exposure!).

## ***2. Revamped IWA Website:***

Charu and Rashmi announced that the new website is ready. Most board members had seen the website, commented on it and made suggestions. The instituted changes were approved. The new website has no login. Members agreed that it should be open to anyone in order to attract members. There was concern voiced that making Sanskriti accessible to the public might compromise privacy since some old issues had members' names and contact information. So it was decided that Sanskriti would be removed from public view on the website but made accessible to members only through password protection. Charu agreed to transfer all issues of Sanskriti from old website to the new one. It was resolved that missing issues will be scanned from Sujatha's archives and uploaded gradually to the website.

## ***3. Kashmir Emergency Relief:***

Resolved that IWA will set up a Paypal link on the website and then donate the money to the organization identified by Humaira Gowher.

#### **4. Garba 2014:**

It was resolved that IWA will not sponsor Garba this year since very few IWA members attended Garba on the IWA-sponsored Garba night in 2013. However, to support the effort of BTCCGL and in the spirit of unifying the Indian community, IWA will donate \$51 to BTCCGL for GARBA 2014. In return, IWA should request for 5 min of microphone time on a peak day to make announcements.

#### **5. Sponsorship for COI/DIWALI from religious organizations:**

It was resolved that in order to maintain its secular nature, IWA should not accept donations from any religious organization for any event.

#### **2. COI /DIWALI 2014**

##### **a. Dropbox:**

Excel file for COI sponsorship, poster distribution, volunteer signup sheet etc is in Dropbox.

##### **b. Marketing strategy:**

Rwitti will form a marketing committee to strategize and take responsibility for marketing. Poster will be distributed to Department stores, on campus (Anju and Charu?) and on social media etc. Prof. Subramaniam offered to post the poster on the Purdue Event Calendar if it was sent to her by email. Only one poster design this year.

##### **c. Jitin (Event Manager):**

Rashmi left him a message asking whether he would like to help. IWA cannot afford to pay him.

##### **d. Tickets:**

Charu will print at copy shop on perforated ticket paper in the same format as last year. Goal is to sell 1000 tickets. But we will print 500 first and then as the need arises. Paper let over from last year will be used up first before buying new paper.

##### **e. Variety show:**

- PDIC has agreed
- Purdue Bhangra group (maybe)
- Think tank Purdue contacted Rwitti and expressed interest in having a skit highlighting a social issue such as rape. Board agreed this would be a good addition. If they actually perform, we will have the IWA Presidents speaking immediately following their skit instead of at the beginning.
- Stages of life community performance
- Rajdeep Chatterjee- 40 min and 20 min (or whatever depending on audience response) at end of show. He has agreed to sing some old songs.
- Samarpita Kuchupudi- 40 min and 20 min.
- Fashion show-Maybe. IWA should request use of a balanced mix of Indian and non-Indian models.
- Emcees—Seema Mattoo, Ranjani Rao, Anu Subramaniam, Male (?).
- To improve sales for vendors and promote socializing among attendees, there will be 10 min breaks in the program at approximately 30 min intervals.
- ICRW person may attend.

##### **f. Merchandise vendors- Mehndi only.**

##### **g. Food vendors**

- Vendors will donate 20% of sale price to IWA.
- Resolved that if non-professionals wish to sell food, then they are responsible for meeting safety requirements, selling at the booth, supplying paper products, keeping food at appropriate temperature etc. IWA cannot provide this service.
- IWA will sell tea and coffee
- Since vendors get unhappy if there is too much competition, the vendors that will be contacted by IWA are (in order)  
Indy Dhaba  
Shaukin  
Curries and Chutneys  
Pakistani Restaurant  
India Garden, Chicago (to check with Aparna)  
Amber India (Indy)
- Food vendors in charge-Charu, Punam, Anju, Saina Hussein..
- At least 3 stations for selling coupons.
- Vendors get 2 complimentary tickets to COI/Diwali.

**h. Sponsors-** Resolved that they will get 2 tickets to COI/Diwali each.

**i. YWCA-** Rashmi is going to ask YWCA to sell 100 tickets.

**j. Invitees-** We will invite Mayors of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Sheila Klinker, Todd Wetzel (Director of Purdue Convos), Provost of Purdue. Indian Consul maybe in town on Oct 31. If so, we will invite him/her to COI/Diwali.

**k. AV-** to ask Deepa if she can handle it.

Meeting concluded at 7:00 pm. Minutes recorded by Meena Narsimhan.