

Minutes of the General Body Meeting – January 2012

Total Attendees - 19

Agenda:

- President's report
- General Secretary's report
- Project coordinator reports
- Treasurer's report
- Election for 2012 committee members
- Final voting on annual report
- Open discussions

President's report:

- We sponsored total of 933 children in year 2011
- Updates of 2011 activities
- Looking at 2012 - Should improve on guidelines, prepare our process documentation for selecting projects, funding, voting etc.
- Everyone should be on board for decisions in meeting or just the committee decides - moving forward how we do this.
- We are behind in terms of corporate sponsorship. Something to work on this year.
- Need larger scale events (gala, concerts etc.) to reach out to more people.

General Secretary's report:

- New project this year - Lok Biradari.
- Explained how we work with our project partners.
- Events
 - 5 weltmarkt food stalls, 50 volunteers
 - Disco event, Bollywood vibes
- How new members can volunteer with Asha.

Questions:

- Do we participate in WAH?

In Zurich there is logistic issue of sending WAH money to common Asha-wide pool located in US. So we don't

participate.

- CAYH - How does it work?

All the money from CAYH goes into common Asha Zurich pool, unless donor specifically wants to send to a project.

- Can donors track exactly where their money is going?

Showcasing a project is good. But it's hard to separate funding from donor per project and track money sent from a specific donor. A possibility is give choice in donation form about which project. Sponsor A Child (SAC) is good compromise to start with.

Akshardeep by Shreya:

- Talked about classes and support classes.
- General overview of the project.

Comments:

- Doorsteps project is related project in Pune area.
- Support classes in this project are good to keep children in school.

SACSAS by Sujit:

- Talked about how SACSAS project was started
- Classes and students benefited.
- Charitable hospital to provide emergency funds.
- 9 students graduated to mainstream school after class VI.

Questions:

- What are the difficulties faced last year in coordination? How can we improve this year?

1. Language - main coordinator is in US, on-ground coordinator does not understand much Hindi/English. For direct communication, we need a volunteer who can speak local language.

2. Communication with Asha - deadlines were not met last year. Answers take very long time.

3. MOU - money asked for was different category from what was it spent on.

Palas by Kirti:

- Talked about how and why Palas was started, what is taught.
- Supported by Asha Zurich since 2005.
- Children graduating from Palas are more confident when they go to ZP school, and parents have also become aware.
- Site visit happened in 2011, places are hard to get. Very satisfactory report.

Lok Biradri by Ankita:

- Talked about background on how project was started by Baba Amte.
- Details of residential school focus on holistic development of children.
- Asha Zurich supports 100 students of project.

Comments:

- Good candidate for Support a child project.
- Govt recognized school, teachers earn good salary, pension.
- Assistant teachers are selected from students of school.
- The school has made doctors / lawyers.

Treasurer's report:

- Presented the balance sheet.
- Projects supported since 2002 - Akshardeep biggest.
- In 2012, we can restart Rappen Keller to raise money at information events.

Elections:

- Annual report - 100% yes
- Editor - Tulika - second by Shyam - 100% yes
- Publicity coordinator - KirtiMalini - second by Divya - 100% yes
- General Secretary - Divya - second by Indranil - 100% yes
- Treasurer - Rahul second by Indranil - 100% yes
- President - Indranil second by Shyam - 100% yes

Project coordinators:

- Palas - Varsha Gandhi - second by Kirti - 100% yes
- Akshardeep - Shreya second by Ankita - 100% yes
- Lok Biradari Prakalp - Ankita - second by Rahul - 100% yes
- Sacsas - Sujit second by Indranil - 100% yes

Words from New President:

- We should do more brainstorming for ideas.
- Where can we put the account balance at higher interest, e.g. Fixed Deposit.
- See what other organizations are doing, how to raise funds, how they work with projects.
- Other Asha chapters in US do marathons, climbs etc to raise funds.

Other highlights:

- Nitesh as marathon coordinator. Sola, Zurich marathon, Wave etc.
 - Doris - runner.
 - In last 5 years - lot of energy in group, meetings have become fun.
 - Finding corporate sponsorships will be good.
 - Also find new projects
 - Gala evening - meeting at Kirti's place Monday Jan 16th.
 - Set limits for withdrawals/ATM per transaction.
- CHF 182 from Priyanka's Office Donations