



WIFTV 2008 AGM Minutes
Location: YWCA, 4th floor, 535 Hornby St, Vancouver

Date: **Monday, May 12, 2008**
AGM Meeting Time: **6:30 – 10pm**

BOARD ATTENDEES: Danika Dinsmore (President), Ami Catriona (Vice President), Nina Tryggvason (Treasurer), Sabrina Prada (Secretary), Clare Hodge, Eileen Hoeter, Tracey Mack, Tovah Paglaro, Tracey Schaeffer, Linda Watters, Robyn Wiener

REGRETS: Natalie Kardum

STAFF: Yvette Dudley-Neuman, Jacqui Ellis

7:05 CALL TO ORDER & ADOPT AGENDA / 2007 MINUTES

Ami Catriona motioned to adopt the agenda and the 2007 AGM minutes; Linda Watters seconded. Passed unanimously.

7:10 Welcome by WIFTI Rep and WIFTV Board member– Eileen Hoeter

WIFTI was created 10 years ago to foster international cooperation between all Women In Film chapters worldwide, especially to help create new chapters in countries such as Uganda, Iceland; and Argentina, Hungary, Nigeria and Pakistan. WIFTI sponsors the Martini Madness party in Banff as well as the WIF Party in Cannes. Chapter members receive reciprocal benefits when they visit other chapters. The WIFTI board is made up of volunteers from different chapters all over the world.

WIFTI is funded by the \$2 per member fee as well as by patrons and other fundraising events.

Locally, WIFTI affiliates have been very involved in the Please Adjust Your Set Campaign.

Really important that we look at what we can do for women all over the world. Margaret Lawson, at the Center for the Study of Women in Film in San Diego, has been working on advocacy.

Eileen introduced **Rina Fraticelli**, who has headed up some interesting and exciting work with regards to Women in Film in BC, prompted by Eileen and BCIFP, a two-phase study looking at women's labor issues and equity issues for women in the independent sector. Please familiarize yourself with those two studies by visiting: www.Pleaseadjustyourset.com

30 years after the second wave of feminism, why should we be concerned with the numbers that indicate women are still significantly underrepresented in positions of creative control in the entertainment industry? No doubt that things are better than the early 70's when Rina and her peers were first starting out, however, we are not yet where we ought to be. Having the world of media reflect the world at large. Started out strong began to flag in the 90's and has been showing signs of decline since then.

What are the trigger professions? If women are executive producing and producing (calling the shots and paying the cheques) means that there is more likelihood of women writer's directors and strong roles for women. How can we promote the trigger positions that will get the most result?

Most gains have been made in jobs where there is less money, less power and less creative control. It's not the simple sexism of the 60's, yet it masks the same reality.

We are going to track the critical highpower situations over a three-year period in order to make a more compelling case to public funders, independent producers and production companies in improve policies with regards to hiring.

The results of that study will be available in 2010 and we are planning a presentation of the study results. We are not alone in documenting these facts in print. Both the Financial Times and Harvard Business Review published articles addressing concern over the absence of women at the top of the

entertainment fields. Interestingly, some women achieve the pinnacle of their career and then choose to leave!

The evidence suggests that women have the stamina and the drive to accomplish what is needed. But our workplaces are inhuman. Not supportive of human life, plant life, the bottom line and any life! Why do we design our workplace to be so completely irreconcilable with it's workers and leaders having a personal life?

Additional evidence suggests that if women are a minority in an organization, they almost may as well not be there at all. If women are going to be "equal," they have to be present in more than 30% in order to balance an unnaturally skewed situation.

When half of the population is called a "minority" and half the population is being left out of decision making then the entire vision will be skewed.

We have to address what kinds of images are representing us on the small and large screens of the world. Lobbying government and every organization that has the power to influence hiring.

Why is there a regional tax credit and not a tax credit for fostering more women hires?

Please familiarize yourself with the facts, spread the word and PLEASE ADJUST YOUR SET!

7:30 Report from the Board: presented by Danika Dinsmore

This past year WIFTV had Arts Pod funding, which permitted some organizational development and a few realizations along the way:

1. Formed a Task Force, an advisory board, made up of previous presidents of WIF (Danika introduced them by name) To act as a sounding board to keep the lines of communication open and improve continuity from year to year.
2. We discovered that we needed to develop programming to serve our senior professional members (those who have been working in the industry for 10-15-20 years)
3. We discovered that we need to bring back committees – Community, support the opportunity to work together. Volunteer members of the organization become committee members to get more involved with WIF at a deeper level.
4. Discovered that our Board burnout could be attributed to too many events and not enough people power. Need to grow more in Advocacy, Fundraising, Membership and Marketing.

7:35 Changes to the by-laws recommended by the 2008 Board of Directors; chaired by Danika Dinsmore, President

Special resolutions came about from discussions by the Board, under advisement from the Task Force, on how to serve our membership better. The top item the Board wants to address is how to serve (and attract) membership by women who have worked in the industry for ten years or more. Other resolutions address aspects of the by-laws that need to be updated in light of industry changes and advancements.

Special Resolution #1: Membership levels

a) Executive members of the society are women who work or reside in British Columbia and have ten (10) or more years of professional experience in the film and video industry. Executive members are voting members of the society.

Currently full membership requires 2 years of professional experience. The proposed amendment (Schedule A) adds an Executive Members category, a fifth level of membership.

The floor was opened to questions and comments from full members.

The Board still has more work to do on clarifying other membership levels and which categories are voting and non-voting. That is an agenda item for the next "Special Meeting" of the membership

that the Board will call (Date TBD) There is consensus that this discussion should be tabled for a future meeting.

**Suggestion to add "in screen-based media" to the description of Resolution #1.
Accepted by the Chair**

*a) Executive members of the society are women who work or reside in British Columbia and have ten (10) or more years of professional experience in **the screen-based media** industry. Executive members are voting members of the society.*

Ami Catriona motioned to accept Resolution #1 as amended; Linda Watters seconded.

Motion passed: 29 in favor; 1 opposed

Special Resolution #2: Membership fees

(b) THAT the By-Laws of the Society be amended to eliminate the membership fee structure by removing in its entirety Article 2.13.

Nina Tryggvason motioned; Carol Whiteman seconded.

Motion passed: 29 in favor; no opposition

Special Resolution #3: Board composition

(c) THAT sections 5.3 and 5.5 of the By-Laws of the Society be amended as follows:

- a. That the president must have been a director for at least one year prior to her election, unless there is no willing candidate with a year's service on the Board. Then, any willing director may run for the position of president;*
- b. That each director shall have been a voting member of the society in good standing for at least one year prior to her election. An exception is made for members of the Executive level, who may run for and be elected to the Board at any time. The composition of the Board must include at least 35% Executive Members.*

Nina expressed opposition to the amendment. Past history has yielded high turnover, with membership constantly ebbs and flows, members joining the society for only a period of time in their career. Cannot guarantee that 35% of the Board will be Executive Level. This might be too limiting. This is not a practical amendment at this time.

The Chair responded to the concerns raised by Nina. The reasoning behind this was to guarantee a certain level of expertise on the Board. If Executive level is not recruited from the floor, they would be approached/recruited. This is something that needs to be fostered – continuity to the board – not a hindrance but pro-active procedure. We are trying to raise the bar of where WIF is both here and internationally. Commitment and good people and experience. Gives us a higher profile locally and internationally.

The floor was opened to questions and comments from full members.

Why does it have to be spelled out? Things get dropped and forgotten. Ten years is not a lot of years in order to be "Executive" so we will not be lacking in qualified candidates

Yvette added that WIFTV is a mid-size chapter compared to other chapters. We could move up to the level of DC, Toronto, LA and NY. They require board members to have been on committees prior to running for the Board. They bring emotional equity to their work on behalf of the organization.

Discussion on the composition of the board indicated that at least 35% of the Board members have 10+ years of professional experience.

We should demand more of the board. This board, without this mandate has managed to achieve this. As members we deserve a board that is as qualified as possible. Raise the level of expectation

of the board. We want to step up to the level of Toronto, which has been more successful at securing federal funding. This is the right time as we build up to 2010. Who is on your board?

Suggestion to vote on three separate sections (see below) was accepted by the Chair.

- a. *That the president must have been a director for at least one year prior to her election, unless there is no willing candidate with a year's service on the Board. Then, any willing director may run for the position of president;*
- b. *That each director shall have been a voting member of the society in good standing for at least one year prior to her election. An exception is made for members of the Executive level, who may run for and be elected to the Board at any time.*
- c. **The composition of the Board must include at least 35% Executive Members.**

Resolution #3a)

Ami Catriona motioned; Linda Watters seconded.

Motion passed: 30 in favor; 2 opposed

Resolution #3b)

Ami Catriona motioned; Joyce Thierry seconded.

Motion passed: 28 in favor; 3 opposed.

Resolution #3c)

Ami Catriona motioned; Carol Whiteman seconded.

Motion passed: 28 in favor; 2 opposed; 2 abstained

Special Resolution #4: Technology

(d) THAT the By-Laws of the Society be amended to reflect alternate means of technology for sending notices by amending Section 6.1 to remove reference to "telegram, telex or cable" and replace with reference to "facsimile or email".

Nina Tryggvason motioned; Tracey Schaeffer seconded.

Motion passed: 30 in favor; no oppositions, no abstentions

Special Resolution #5 Voting by proxy

Discussion from the floor expressed concern about undermining attendance at the AGM as well as the administration of the voting process.

Does proxy influence quorum? Yes, therefore it would be great to have a more representative voice of the women who cannot attend the AGM because they are "on set."

Could an absentee ballot be an acceptable alternative? This needs to be explored.

Concern was expressed about the logistics of the administration of the proxy. It was affirmed that this is a vote on proxy in principle; logistics will have to be determined by the Executive, on the basis of this vote.

An amendment to the resolution, to reduce confusion over the procedure of establishing proxy, was approved by the chair, as follows:

(a) THAT the By-Laws of the Society be amended to allow for voting by proxy by amending the following articles of the Society:

- a. *Article 4.13 – by removing Article 4.13 in its entirety and replacing it with a new Article 4.13 to read as follows:*

Article 4.13 A member in good standing under these By-Laws is entitled to one vote at every general meeting which may be cast by her proxyholder.

- b. *Article 4.15 – by removing Article 4.15 in its entirety and replacing it with a new Article 4.15 to read as follows:*

Article 4.15 Any voting member may appoint any other voting member as her proxy, in accordance with the provisions of the Society Act and these By-Laws, to attend on her behalf at a general meeting and any adjournment of that meeting and to vote on her behalf. A proxy shall be in writing, shall be presented at the general meeting at which the person named in the proxy proposes to vote and shall be in a form acceptable to the Chair of the general meeting. Only voting members of the Society may act as a proxyholder but each proxy holder may present no more than three proxy forms at any one general meeting.

Ami Catriona motioned to accept the Resolution as amended; Robyn Wiener seconded.

Motion passed: 25 in favor; 4 opposed; 1 abstained

Special resolution #6: Quorum

(b) THAT Section 4.4 of the By-Laws of the Society be amended to provide that twenty-five (25) voting members of the Society shall be required for a quorum at a general meeting."

Nina Tryggvason motioned; Clare Hodge seconded.

Motion passed: 28 in favor; no opposed; 1 abstained

Tracey Schaeffer motioned to amend the agenda and table the discussion about membership levels for at a Special meeting that is advertised to the membership; Nina Tryggvason seconded.

Motion passed unanimously

9pm Financial Report – presented by Nina Tryggvason, Treasurer for the past two years.

The proposed budget reflects several financial realities that hit the industry this past year. In particular, the Writer's Strike resulted in less sponsorship and in membership renewals. Also took a hit in attendance at workshops. Also, the Producer's Workbook Committee working on the "PW4" did not pull together in the way we had expected.

Therefore we enter the 2008-9 season \$17,000 short from the previous year's budget.

This past year the office move was not anticipated, but we will have substantial savings on insurance and other related costs. We have also revised the way our budget reflects sponsorship, helping us qualify for additional funding and seeking grants. Change in staffing has also challenged some of the workflow.

On the plus side:

- We have a new Fundraising Committee. Membership Drive tying into our 20th Anniversary and Membership Benefits. Goal to break the 1,000 member mark, with a focus group.
- Flash Forward is on the calendar, another great way of generating revenue, new members and new leadership for the organization.
- PW4 chapters are in revision. Advertising sales are on-going and the PW4 will be out in September.
- We have also eliminated events that haven't given enough return in the past.
- Webpage will have a donations button and we are looking at other merchandising options.

With regards to supporting travel to the WIFTI Summit in Denmark: Travel is only on "cash available" basis. Nothing has been budgeted for this year's WIFTI Summit. Denmark this year; next year, Dallas or Palm Springs.

Danika and Yvette used the travel line item to go the WIFTI Mini-Summit. Through that experience, Yvette gained mentorship from valuable colleagues at other chapters.

We now have a negative \$22,000 budget presented. If the money isn't there, and we can vote for it, but it may not happen if the money isn't there. Fundraising for a "scholarship" travel stipend may be necessary.

Motion to add \$2,142 into the travel line item.

Clare Hodge motioned; Carol Whiteman seconded.

Motion passed: 22 in favor; 2 opposed; 2 abstained

Motion that we accept the 2009 WIFTV Budget as amended.

Nina Tryggvason motioned; Seconded by Linda Watters

Motion passed: 23 in favor; 2 opposed

Accept the year-end Financial statement for April 1, 2007-March 31, 2008

Nina Tryggvason motioned; Tracey Schaeffer seconded.

Motion passed: 26 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained

9:25 ELECTION

Ami Catriona has withdrawn from the official ballot. Each candidate had 1 minute to present their platform. No nominations from the floor. Choose no more than 6. Results would be presented at the end of the meeting.

Nominees: Danika Dinsmore, Catharine Chesterman, Murielle Freoa, Kate Green, Clare Hodge, Eileen Hoeter, Ros Muir, Peggy Thompson

9:40 Volunteer of the Year – Presented by Danika Dinsmore

This year's Volunteer of the Year is Deb Sears, who proved her worth throughout the year, particularly as Danika's right hand woman throughout the Spotlight Festival. Great Marketer. Has declined the invitation to join the board three times.

Danika expressed appreciation on behalf of the entire Board for departing Directors: Nina Tryggvason, Natalie Kardum and Ami Catriona. The Board also thanks Lori Triolo and Jennifer Kraft who served partial terms this past year, and Amanda Marier for her contributions as our office assistant.

Due to time constraints, the short film Locked Out by WIFTV Director and filmmaker Tovah Paglaro could not be shown. Tovah's film garnered her the coveted Deborah Gabler Award this past Spring, along with Finding Llorona and Dog Boy.

Carol Whiteman thanked WIFTV for their scholarship support of Women in the Director's Chair and for allowing them to present the inaugural MPPIA/WIDC Feature Film Award to Jacqueline Samuda.

9:45 Door Prizes

Pottery Barn Gift Card – 0675630 – Carol Whiteman

Prince of Colour Package – 0675730 – Rina Fraticelli

Shopabout Tours Package – 0675442

Fluevog \$200 gift certificate – 0675673 – Robyn Wiener

\$530 raised. \$265 cheque will be disbursed to 0675715 – Judith Lucas

9:55 ELECTION RESULTS – CONGRATULATIONS to new and returning Directors: Danika Dinsmore, Kate Green, Clare Hodge, Eileen Hoeter, Ros Muir, and Peggy Thompson

Tracey Schaeffer motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Ami Catriona. Passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 10pm

Women in Film & Television Vancouver (WIFTV) is an internationally affiliated non-profit society committed to advancing and celebrating women in screen based media.