

**Abbreviated Minutes of the 102nd Federation Annual Meeting
held at the Theatre Royal, Norwich on Monday, 21st March 2022, at 10.45am**

- 1.0 Present: WI delegates and visitors, The Federation Board of Trustees, guests, former Federation Officers and Secretaries, Associates and Office Staff.
- 2.0 One minute's silence was observed in memory of WI members who had died during the year and remembering those affected by the War in Ukraine.
- 3.0 Mrs Margaret Collingwood, Federation Chairman, announced the singing of Jerusalem, accompanied by a Mrs Brenda Pawsey.
- 4.0 Mrs Collingwood extended a warm everyone to all present and advised that the Lord Mayor and his Primary Consort were unable to be present due to ill health.
- 5.0 The Adoption of the Standing Orders was seconded by Weybourne WI and approved.
- 6.0 The Adoption of the Minutes of the Federation Annual Meeting of 18th May 2020 were adopted, seconded by The Pickenhams WI. There were no matters arising.
- 7.0 The Adoption of Two Tellers for the Meeting was seconded by Spixworth WI and approved.
- 8.0 Mrs Collingwood reflected on the changes which had occurred over the previous 12 months. At the beginning of 2021 Evelyn Suffield House remained closed, with staff continuing to work from home, however, with the successful roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccines, it allowed for a return to some semblance of normality for the Nation as a whole. As a result, with the easing of restrictions, the House re-opened fully in June, with the staff returning. Prior to this the Board of Trustees, Sub-Committees and Staff spent two weeks exhaustively clearing the House of all the extraneous materials which had accumulated over the years. In addition, WIs and Federations were able to once more hold physical events and meetings.

The National Federation launched a pilot scheme for Federations to form virtual WIs and Norfolk was excited to be selected as part of this project. In April the Federation was delighted that Virtually Norfolk WI was formed and are hopeful that a virtual WI will meet the needs of those unable to attend in person at a WI meeting.

Charities were given a dispensation in 2020 to postpone the legal requirement to hold an annual meeting. Due to the restrictions in force at that time, it was not possible to hold a physical meeting and the Federation's 101st Annual Meeting was held by Zoom on 18th May. Mrs Collingwood commented that whilst it is appreciated that technology is not appealing to all members it was the only option open to The Federation. Over 140 members attended the meeting.

Throughout the lockdown and roadmap periods Zoom talks for members were offered, and Sub-Committees continued meeting via Zoom, planning various activities for members to share online. They worked extremely hard on behalf of the Federation and were thanked for their dedication. In October, Mrs Mary Dorrell retired as a Trustee. Mrs Dorrell was instrumental in developing the Federation's social media platforms and digital offering and was thanked for her considerable contribution to the Federation.

The Trustees formally acknowledged and thanked the Staff for their hard work over the last two years in such trying conditions. As a result of work pressures and the staffs' commitment over the previous two years, their full legal holiday entitlement had accrued. Therefore, in order to fulfil the Federation's legal obligations, the Office was closed for the month of December.

The Board of Trustees were delighted to welcome members to the Open House on 1st August, with the second successful Walking Treasure Hunt of Norwich taking place on the same day. From that date, as far as possible, "normal service" was resumed.

During the pandemic some WIs had unfortunately not been able to continue. The Federation was pleased to note that many members had joined other WIs but it was acknowledged that the Federation's membership had decreased during this time.

Mrs Collingwood remarked that The Board of Trustees, six Sub-Committees, three members of staff and 73 Federation volunteers who constitute the Norfolk Federation would continue to work on behalf of all our members. She extended her personal gratitude for all their hard work to ensure a successful Federation and particularly thanked the staff for their work in supporting the Trustees, Sub-Committees, WIs and members.

In conclusion, Mrs Collingwood observed that she was looking forward to the calendar of events planned for the coming year, and a return to a familiar way of WI life.

- 9.0 Mrs Vicki Reynolds presented the Treasurer's Reports for 2021. She proposed the adoption of the Financial Statement for the year to 31st October 2021, which was seconded by Bunwell & Carleton Rode WI and approved.
- 10.0 Mrs Reynolds recommended the appointment of Argents as the Federation's Independent Examiners for the coming year. This was seconded by Northwold WI and approved.
- 11.0 A video of Centenary events, first presented at the virtual Annual Meeting in 2021 was shown, to allow those members who had been unable to attend.
- 12.0 The Trustees presented their personal reflections on their journey and membership of the WI. It was hoped that by illustrating their work it would encourage members to consider volunteering to work at Federation level.

A video message, recorded by Mrs Maggie Gallop, a former Vice-Chairman was then shown. She talked of the role of Federation volunteers and their importance to ensure Norfolk's continued success, highlighting the benefits she had enjoyed in her time as a Trustee and encouraging members to consider volunteering.

- 13.0 Mrs Louise Casson announced the formal proposal for the Federation to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation: To dissolve the Federation as it is currently incepted and that the Norfolk Federation of WIs then becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The vote was then taken. The result was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees Mrs Casson thanked members for voting to secure the future of the Federation. The result would be advised to National, for ratification at the 2022 National Annual Meeting.

- 14.0 Due to the pandemic it had not been possible for winners to accept their awards in person for 2019, 2020 and 2021. These were therefore also presented with those for 2022.

Bridge Cup

2019 – Sue Birrell, then of Bowthorpe WI

2021 – the winner was Eileen Chapman, Hethersett WI

Judges Calendar Cup

2020 – Anne Tinker, Attleborough WI

2021 – Vanessa Scott, Loddon and District

- 15.0 *Rosebowl*

2020 – “A Night to Remember”

1st Doreen Reeve, Old Catton WI

2nd Chris Rudling, Drayton Evening WI

2021 – “Lockdown Lowdown” Newsletter

1st Hockwold cum Wilton WI

2nd Caston WI

2022 – ‘A Dream Day Out’

1st South Walsham & District WI

2nd Hingham WI

- 16.0 *Writing Competition*

2020 1st Sue Lynch, Hingham WI

2nd Chris Christopher, Old Costessey WI

2021 1st Frances Pointer, Rackheath WI

2nd Caroline Lock, Walsingham & District WI

- 17.0 *Advisers' Accolades*

Presented to WIs in recognition of their monthly meetings and involvement with their local communities. As WIs were unable to meet fully in 2020 no Accolades were presented.

2019: Small – Anmer WI

Medium – North Wootton WI

Large – Weybourne WI

Special Accolade – Reepham WI

2021: City WI
 Mundesley WI
 Roughton & District WI

18.0 WIs with significant anniversaries were announced and presented with Certificates:

25th

2020 – Norwich Hobart

50th

2020 – Drayton Evening, Saham

2021 – Chedgrave & District

75th

2020 – Leziate, Ashwicken and Bawsey, Pentney, Narborough & District

2021 – New Hunstanton

2022 – Caister-on-Sea

90th

2020 – Loddon & District Evening, Fransham

2021 – Broome, Bunwell & Carlton Rode

2022 – Roughton & District

100th

2020 – Colby & Banningham, Denton, Poringland, Thurlton & District

2021 – Brooke, Diss, Great Ormsby, Hemsby, Mattishall & District,
 Rockland St Mary & District, Sprowston

2022 – Aylsham, Hoveton & District

19.0 The winners of the 500 Club were announced.

20.0 Given the ongoing effects of the pandemic the decision had been taken not to draw all the bursaries, as the rules are that funds must be spent within 12 months. These funds would be protected for future draws. The Programme Bursaries for WIs were drawn, however, to assist WIs in rebuilding their programme planning.

21.0 Mrs Louise Casson, Federation Secretary, introduced the staff and thanked them and all the volunteers who had helped to run the meeting. She then introduced the Board of Trustees.

22.0 Lucy Stevens, accompanied by pianist Liz Marcus, entertained members with her show *Whattalife*, the story of Kathleen Ferrier. She was thanked by Mrs Carol Makins.

23.0 At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs Collingwood thanked everyone involved in the organisation of the meeting and members for attending, remarking that it was gratifying to be able once again to meet in person, that she looked forward to meeting members at future events and finally wished everyone a safe journey home.

The meeting closed with one verse of the National Anthem, sung by members and played by Mrs Pawsey.