

« NATO Wives/Charity Bazaar» ASBL
127, Avenue Paul Hymans – 1200 Bruxelles
No: 874.358.592
General Meeting
18 May 2010

The General Meeting started at 10:00 hrs.

In Attendance: 26 Full Members were present or represented

Absent with apologies: Georgia, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Sweden, Turkey, UK, Ukraine and Artists' Corner

Absent with proxy: Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Greece, Spain, Belgium.

1. Welcome – Kati Schmidt (President)

1.1. Welcome to new members

Kati Schmidt, President, welcomed all attendees, new and returning. She introduced the following new representatives: Foteini Lagou as ANR Greece, Leon Percic as Volunteer Slovenia, Susan Jolin as ANR Canada, and Heike Muehlmann as ANR Germany, Pauline Kersbergen-Boumpa as VOL Greece.

At the same time she thanked Sgt Vasilis Antoniou for temporarily standing in as ANR, until Greece could elect their new ANR, Foteini Lagou.

A motion to approve all these new assistants to the respective Members (National Representatives) was made by the Honorary President, Elena Ienco (Italy) and seconded by Mirjana Hranj (Croatia). A vote resulted in the unanimous approval by the General Assembly.

1.2. Approval of minutes

The motion to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Assembly on 23 March, 2010, was made by Pilar Rodriguez-Garat, and seconded by Yvonne Winnen, Belgium. A vote resulted in the unanimous approval by the General Assembly.

2. Administration – Hilary Thorn (Vice-President)

2.1. Membership

Hilary Thorn, Vice-President, asked that each nation send her all necessary information concerning both *new* General Assembly members and changes in regard to General Assembly members, **particularly, notification of their departure**, as soon as possible. She also asked that all information should be sent from now on to her new e-mail address: vice-president@natocharitybazaar.org.

2.2. Contacting the Board

She kindly asked all members who wished to contact ANY of the board members, for any reason pertaining to the bazaar to use ONLY the new NATO Charity Bazaar e-mail addresses, which are:

president@natocharitybazaar.org
vice-president@natocharitybazaar.org
tombola@natocharitybazaar.org
charity@natocharitybazaar.org
coordinator@natocharitybazaar.org
secretary@natocharitybazaar.org

3. Cookbook Update – Linda Skou (Assistant Bazaar Coordinator)

Linda Skou explained that we would again be offering our Recipe Book for sale at the Bazaar. She explained that any nation that wishes, could submit up to two (2) recipes or that wishes to replace their existing recipes should do so electronically in a Word file, remembering to include the name of the dish, serving size, a list of ingredients and preparation instructions. All of the above plus any pictures (in jpg-format, please) should be sent to secretary@natocharitybazaar.org *no later than* June 18, 2010.

4. Bazaar – Robbin Zeff Warner (Bazaar Coordinator)

Robbin explained that anyone searching for NATO Wives' Bazaar would automatically access our new website, which is located at www.natocharitybazaar.org. She explained that the old website would exist for one (1) year, at which time it would be discontinued. Any potential sponsors - as well as all of our national members - were encouraged to visit this website.

She then explained that *everything* pertaining to the NATO Charity Bazaar (such as agendas, Power Point presentations, minutes to meetings, information concerning eligible charities, as well as application forms, and all forms pertinent to the bazaar at any time) could be found on our "Members Only" site. The user name (logon) and password: *member*. Robbin will add *membre* (French) as soon as a French page is available. She also pointed out the "News"-section, which currently contains pictures and information concerning the new NATO wall hanging and tote bag.

Once again, she emphasized the importance of everyone using the board's new e-mail addresses (see 2.2 above).

Finally Robbin explained that each nation participating in this year's Bazaar, either in the tombola, the restaurant or with a national stand must fill out and return the **2010 Participation Questionnaire** *no later than 16 June, 2010* (at the General Meeting or via e-mail). (If it is not possible for your nation to decide by then, please submit the form anyway and write, "Not before September"). The form can already be found in the "Members Only" section of the new web-site. She reminded everyone that participation in the tombola is mandatory for every nation participating in the Bazaar - either in the restaurant, with a national stand or both. However, it is possible for a nation to participate in the tombola alone.

5. Tombola Update – Patti Brower (Tombola Coordinator)

Patti told the General Assembly the reasoning behind the Board's wish to decrease the number of tombola gifts from three (3) per nation - at a minimum value of €70 each, to two (2) gifts per nation - at a minimum value of €100 each. By decreasing the number of gifts and increasing the quality of each gift, it was hoped that we would increase the demand for tombola tickets - which in turn will increase the profits. It might also be easier for nations to achieve.

The motion to decrease the number of tombola prizes from three (3) gifts at a minimum value of €70 each, to two (2) gifts at a minimum value of €100 each was made by Ros Gallagher, US, and seconded by Pilar Rodriguez-Garat, Spain. A vote resulted in the unanimous approval by the General Assembly.

Patti then reminded all nations that the **deadline for submitting the two prizes is September 20, 2010.**

6. Charity Update – Katia Abinader & Maryse Van Bussel (Charity-coordinators), Hanni Kangasmaki (Assistant)

Maryse told the General Assembly that so far we had received 17 Belgian applications and 27 International applications. The charity committee was very busy reviewing the applications for eligibility (ASBL status, time since last support etc). She told the assembly that the board had decided to extend the deadline for project applications to June 1 because the warning regarding the earlier deadline for applications had not been that long and not that many applications had been received prior to this meeting.

The nations were encouraged to make an appointment with their respective Belgian charities to arrange a date for a visit. Once the visit date had been found, the nations were to notify the board using the new e-mail address (see 2.2 above). A board member would then try to accompany each group on their visit.

After the visit each group should fill out the "2010 Belgian Charity Visit Form", which can be accessed on the web-site under the heading *Charity*. Maryse recommended that each group print this form out before the visit, so that they can fill it out during the visit.

She then reminded all nations that the **deadline for submitting the 2010 Belgian Charity Visit Form is June 25, 2010.**

7. Treasurer's Report – Claudia Mariani (Treasurer)

Claudia explained that she had managed to reduce the annual banking costs and to obtain a verbal offer from ING which should remain until the end of 2010. However they were not able to put that in writing. She continued by going through the costs of working with each of the banks. The cost of continuing to bank with ING would be €98,79 and the cost of banking with Monte dei Paschi di Siena would be €57,50, which would be a saving for the Bazaar of 41.8%. Monte dei Paschi di Siena's offer was frozen for the next 1½ years, whereas ING was only able to offer a verbal commitment to the removal of specific banking costs until the end of 2010, and saw no reason for this to change. However ING did not feel that they could not put this commitment into writing (beyond their having refunded specific banking costs for 2010). Finally, Monte dei Paschi di Siena agreed to sponsor the Bazaar even if we did not change banks.

The motion to change from ING to Monte dei Pachi di Siena was made by Ros Gallagher,USA, and seconded by Margot Van Osch, Netherlands. A vote resulted in the unanimous approval by the General Assembly.

8. Fundraising Update – Kati Schmidt (President)

8.1. Taste of NATO Bake Sale

Kati told the General Assembly about plans for two (2) bake sales. The first one is to be held on Friday, 28 May, and the other is tentatively planned for Thursday, 17 June. The sales will take place in the area outside of the post office / ING at NATO HQ during the hours 10 – 14.30. The nations were encouraged to donate baked goods and to help with the sales.

Due to the tardiness of these minutes, the board would like to inform the members that the bake sale was held Friday, May 28, and it was a HUGE success. We made a total of €1,450.00!!! Thanks to all who donate baked goods and/or their time to help make our first fund-raising event in 2010 such a phenomenal success!

8.2. NCB Spring Brocante

Kati told the General Assembly about the Spring Brocante, which is to be held at the Staff Center on **Sunday, 13 June**, in conjunction with a soccer tournament, which should help attract more people, thus increasing sales. The brocante is a perfect opportunity to sell second hand items from your spring cleaning, or the perfect venue for a moving sale. As something new this year we are inviting retailers to join in the brocante.

Set up: 7.30h – 8h
Sales: 8h – 14h
Types of tables: Personal or national
Table Fee: Second-hand items – 1 x Table 20 euros / 2 x tables 35 euros
Businesses – Table fee + 10%

To register please send fee to ING NATO: 310-0518605-32. Please include your name and “Spring Brocante”. The deadline to register is Tuesday, June 8 at close of business.

9. Closing – Kati Schmidt (President)

9.1. Any other business

Kati appealed to the General Assembly to please submit their ideas for a Name Change event.

9.2. Goodbye to departing members

Kati thanked the following departing members for their support and great work:

Gail Currie (NR Canada), Ele Schiff (ANR Estonia), Dace Liberte (ANR Latvia), Senada Ivanoska (ANR the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Gabriela Bajan, (ANR Romania) and Julie Christodoulaki (VOL Greece).

Each of these members was also presented with a certificate of appreciation.

9.3. Next meeting – June 16th (Chalet)

The next General Assembly meeting is scheduled at 10h at the Big Chalet on 16 June 2010, which may be changed due to the fact that the MIL.REP’s will be in Turkey on that date.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 hrs.

This document is the original and authentic text.

In the event of litigation, the English version of these minutes shall prevail.

Brussels, 01 June 2010

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Full Members