

**« NATO Wives/Charity Bazaar » ASBL**  
127, Avenue Paul Hymans - 1200 Bruxelles  
No : 874.358.592  
General Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010

The General Assembly started at 12:45 hrs.

In Attendance: 28 Full Members were present or represented.

Absent and excused: Luxembourg, Iceland, Georgia, France, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Bulgaria.

**1. Introduction – Kati Schmidt | [president@natocharitybazaar.org](mailto:president@natocharitybazaar.org)**

**1.1 Welcome**

The President welcomed all attendees, the returning and the new ones. She introduced the following new members: Mrs Yvonne Winnen, National Representative [NR] (Belgium), Mrs Fatima Henriques, Assistant National Representative [ANR Restaurant.](Portugal), Mrs Paula Codinha, Volunteer [VOL] (Portugal), Mrs Maarit Marinen, ANR (Finland), Mrs Maria Larrosa, ANR (Spain), Mr Liviu Piticari, ANR (Romania), Mrs Anja Gzbik, VOL (Germany), Mrs Alenka Gersak, ANR (Slovenia), Lieutenant Colonel Yurii Vasiliev, NR (Ukraine), Mrs Marija Jandris Sacer, VOL (Croatia), Mrs Mirjam Nomme, ANR (Estonia).

The new members were unanimously voted on by the General Assembly.

**1.2. Approval of Minutes**

The President proposed that the acceptance of the minutes of 23 March 2010 should be postponed until the next General Meeting.

**2. Administration – Hilary Thorn | [vice-president@natocharitybazaar.org](mailto:vice-president@natocharitybazaar.org)**

**2.1. Update on name change**

Hilary, reported that the registration process was progressing well but a few more details were needed to complete this.

**2.2. Membership changes**

All the members of the General Assembly were asked to notify the name changes in the delegations several months in advance in order to keep up the membership list updated efficiently.

**3. Treasurer Report – Claudia Mariani | [treasurer@natocharitybazaar.org](mailto:treasurer@natocharitybazaar.org)**

**3.1. Update on Bank change**

Claudia explained that our banking costs seemed particularly high, so she wanted to try to reduce them. She explained again that this was why it was important not to specify the name of the bank in our statutes thus making it possible to change Banks whenever the members wished to do so (should they feel that this was the best way forward for the organization). This avoided the need to wait for an Annual general meeting in order to do this and made it possible to do at any general meeting.

The new Treasurer informed the members about the advantages and disadvantages of both relevant banks.

Kati reemphasized that the choice of Bank was totally up to the members, and could only be changed by a 2/3rds majority vote of the members.

The members were in unanimous agreement with the proposal that the statutes should be changed to state “Bank”, rather than specifying the name of the Bank which held our accounts. The new treasurer informed the members on the advantages and disadvantages of both relevant banks. ING and Monte dei Paschi .

It was explained to the members that changing the bank from ING to Monte dei Paschi, we could probably reduce costs by around 79%, particularly regarding administrative costs during the transfers or returns of money.

Monte Paschi Bank had written that their offer would be frozen till 31.12.2011. The new offer from ING had not as yet been received but hopefully it will be known before the next GM Meeting.

If ING came up with the same offer as Monte Paschi bank, Claudia recommended that our accounts should be kept the same bank (ING).

#### **4. Bazaar – Robin Warner | [coordinator@natocharitybazaar.org](mailto:coordinator@natocharitybazaar.org)**

##### **4.1. Website update**

The members were introduced to the new domain and the email addresses of the board members. The new web page is: [www.natocharitybazaar.org](http://www.natocharitybazaar.org) and it would be fully functional starting 1st of May 2010, to include an explanation until the new name officially published. In order to ensure that people using the previous name would be automatically forwarded to the new site, it is necessary to keep the old domain for a few years.

Members Only area – in the website was also re-explained to the members.

The members were reminded that all of the application forms, minutes from the meetings, powerpoint presentations, charity applications etc can be found there.

She explained that the present logo would be kept for this year, but next year, if the members wished to change, it could be done (through a competition for example).

##### **4.2. Bazaar date**

The official and written authorization from Mr Dempster, ASG to hold the NATO Charity Bazaar on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2010 (tradition 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month) had been received.

##### **4.3. After sale dates**

A new feature was proposed this year – a Bazaar After-Sale of unsold items. Any delegation with left over merchandize from the Bazaar would be able to sell them after the Bazaar on 23, 24 and 25 November at the Press Hall (in front of the ING Bank). Details of how this would be organised to follow.

#### **5. Charity update – Katia Abinader | [charity@natocharitybazaar.org](mailto:charity@natocharitybazaar.org)**

##### **5.1. Belgian/International Charity**

Katia told the members that as not many proposals/projects had been received, the date by which proposals must reach the Association, May 1<sup>st</sup> would be extended till the end of May. Some of the points in the new Application Form were highlighted and the members were told that in 2010 the Board would like to implement a new procedure for Belgian charity visits such as:

- A representative from each Nation would now visit at least one Belgian charity.
- The Assignment of charities would be by lottery (which had been already done for convenience at the beginning of the meeting).

Visits could be scheduled for May – June period upon receiving the application form. A team of 2 nations would be selected by lottery for the visits – preferably one board member should accompany each “team of 2 nations” upon availability. The team would be asked to contact the charity and to agree upon a date for the visit, upon which the Board should be informed. After the visit, the team should make a report according to the report form, (to be found on the web), explaining the work of the charity and expressing possible recommendations or negative aspects. The team must explain to the charity that the visit DOES NOT mean that they have been selected for donations or that they will get a donation.

The due date for visiting all the Belgian Charities is 30 June 2010.

The International charitable organizations and their projects could be explained at the September Charity meeting, by a member familiar with the organization.

All projects had to be from a Non-profit organization.

The Board had to have all the information about the application forms by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## **5.2. Charity Selection Vote**

The vote on the pre-reselected charities would be 14 September 2010 in order to have more time to review the applications.

## **6. Fundraising – Kati Schmidt | [president@natocharitybazaar.org](mailto:president@natocharitybazaar.org)**

### **6.1. Cookbook**

Kati reported that it would be possible to get the same deal as last year, for the cookery books. Together with help from the Board, it would be possible to publish 100 booklets free of charge. It was generally agreed that another run of these was a good idea. The members were told that if any nation wanted to change the recipe, or to add a new one, this was possible, up to 18th of June by sending an email to the [secretary@natocharitybazaar.org](mailto:secretary@natocharitybazaar.org).

### **6.2. Brocante fun run**

It was suggested that a good way to spread the word about the name change of the organization to the entire NATO community would be to hold a Celebration event. A possible time for this event was still under consideration – but possibly September 2010. Any suggestions for this event would be most welcome. An update would be available at the May meeting.

The Brocante was on hold because apparently there were no sporting activities to combine the event with. It could be that this was combined with the celebration day in September possibly. An. update and discussion would be held about this at the next meeting.

### **6.3. Gala & Auction Dinner**

This event is on hold. The board had no information regarding this activity.

## **7. Any other business**

Natasha Ulsh [ulshfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ulshfamily@gmail.com). reported that some new items were available for sale from US. These had the NATO flags on them. There was a wall hanging / tapestry, the original blankets, pillows, and some different bags. These could all be ordered in advance. Details of these items could be found on the member area of the web site.

## **8. Closing – Kati Schmidt**

Kati Schmidt thanked the following departing general assembly members: Elisabeth Bubner (Austria), Isabel Freitas, (Portugal), Ana Bras De Olivera (Portugal), Alessandra Forresti (Italy), Yvonne Kaleij (Finland), Ivanka Zaprianova (Bulgaria), Kerstin Engdahl (Sweden), Christine Kontogiorgou (Greece), Sabina Rezo (Slovenia), Muge Sevinc (Turkey) for their support and great work, and presented them with a certificate of appreciation.

Next General Assembly would be held on 18 May 2010 at the Staff Centre Banquet Room at 10:00 hrs.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 15:00 hrs.

This document is the original and authentic text.

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

Brussels, 3 June 2010.

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Full Members