



**General Assembly Meeting
31 March 2022
(Zoom meeting)
09:15-11:15**

President, Hanne Jørgensen

- **Opening words**

Welcome everyone.

Congratulations for such a great NCB success in 2021.

- **Roll-call and approval of minutes of General Assembly on 26 October 2021**

Roll call done.

Minutes approved.

- **Membership**

Please send any updates to our Membership Coordinator.

Please see if you can organise a handover/takeover to ensure that each year to year transition runs smoothly.

Nations are recommended to set up a generic national email account to centralise information and facilitate handover/takeovers.

- **Welcome and Farewell to members**

Welcome and farewells; thank you to those leaving and welcome to those joining.

Bazaar Coordinator, Diana Defta & President, Hanne Jørgensen

- **The bazaar in 2022**

Let's start talking and planning for the NCB 2022. Brainstorming, participation questionnaire, your suggestions are very much welcome.

The questionnaire will be sent out by Diana to Members in June.

We are hoping for a bazaar weekend, but we may still have to be creative, especially if nations are struggling to secure sponsorships.

We will adapt to change and cannot assume that we will be able to return to a bazaar in the 2019 style.

- **Members turn to speak about the up-and-coming year**

Renata Alanová, Czech Republic

Excited and looking forward to getting started for the upcoming year.

Amanda Hall, Australia

Australia joined the NCB last year. They are looking forward hopefully to a bazaar weekend.

Logistical challenge → receiving goods from Australia in the middle of a pandemic. Planning to start earlier this year to receive their products.

A second challenge is receiving sponsorship → in terms of making the NCB relevant to Australian sponsors. They are looking for an Australian charity to join this year, as well as focusing on how fundraising can help alleviate the humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

Kate Bathurst, UK

Appreciation of the great work and effort of the NCB Board.

Some of the Milrep spouses and national representatives have some issues to raise as follows (Kate will email these to Hanne):

- The 'fun' seems to have been lost a bit; it would be great to meet up in person more - e.g., GAM meetings in person; VIP tea; a bazaar weekend rather than bazaar days.
- Concern that the funds might not be spread evenly; eight charities last year did not receive any funding.
- Nomination and voting system to be changed.
- Invasion of Ukraine; raising money quickly for the situation there.
- Access to the NATO HQ building desired → for bake sales, carboot sale etc
- Email distribution list changes

President, Hanne Jørgensen:

- Thank you to Kate for her comments.
- Access to HQ: this is dependent on the NATO HQ facilities team. We have requested a physical bazaar weekend in November 2022 and a hybrid format for the June GAM.
- We do not spread the funds evenly and we ask for charity minimum amounts for each project, so that at the minimum the charity would be able to at least start a project. We must meet the minimum required amount - if this was below what they needed then they would not be able to begin their projects in the first place.
- The funds from the cookbook sales can be directly sent to humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

Elisabeth Markart, France

We have a Members Whatsapp group, so please get in touch if you wish to join it. The group is for the MILREP wives.

The charity selection process perhaps could be more transparent and we could have more time to read and vote on them.

Perhaps the provision of more information to Members could aid the nations' understanding of how the NCB works, processes etc.

Charity Coordinator, Monica Fornari

She is happy to outline the charity application and selection process and if there are questions about the nomination process, please do get in touch. The charity team are open to innovation.

The charity selection process is completely transparent and available to all members in documents sent out prior to the GAM in September, where selection takes place, as well as being outlined at the GAM in September each year.

The NCB Board sends out a lot of information to the Members prior to – and between – GAMs. If the Members took time to read the information, the understanding of the processes would perhaps improve.

Vice-President, Tanya Borchert

- **Farewell to leaving Board members**

Frank, Karine, Yurii, and Olivia. A big thank you to our leaving Board members for their hard work and effort over the past few years.

- **Introduction of Board member candidates**

Eirini, Krisztina, Mette, and Catharina.

Information sharing and transparency: the quickest way to increase transparency is to share the information which the NCB sends to each NR, so feel free to forward this information to your national team and delegation. This may also help alleviate some of the concerns raised earlier today.

- **Proposal for NCB Board 2022**

We will vote on this later today.

Treasurer, Serge Devynck

- **Financial report 2021**

EUR 165.858,75 donated in 2021. Fantastic work by all involved.

Where did the money come from? National stand and National contributions are roughly a 50/50 split. Please see GAM slides for a more detailed breakdown.

- **Proposal for Budget 2022**

Total (including administrative costs and anticipated charity donations): EUR 201.500.

Every year is different, but let's be positive and anticipate that we can reach a higher funding goal. Last year we did a great job, so let's build on that success. Proposed goal is EUR 200.000. (Based on funds raised on average over the past 5 years).

NCB Primary and Savings Accounts Total: EUR 2,950,24.

* Including donation for Ukraine of EUR 2000. We used the refunded donation from RANA for this.

EUR 1450,24 left after administrative costs for emergency situations, a charitable purpose.

President, Hanne Jørgensen

- **Voting**

Voting by Zoom Poll on statutes, internal regulations, proposed Board candidates, financial report 2021, and proposed Budget 2022:

- Updated statutes – approved
- Updated internal regulations – approved
- Proposed Board candidates for 2022 – approved
- Financial report of 2021 – approved

- Proposed budget for 2022 – approved

Charity Coordinator, Monica Fornari

- **Application Form and Guidelines for charities 2022**

Application process opens soon.

Information on the selection process is available. The Application Form and Guidelines for 2022 are available for download.

Deadline for completed charity applications: **1 May 2022 at 12:00 (CET)**.

Outline of charity process timeline. Examples of how past bazaar funding has been spent and how the charities have been able to fulfil their projects.

Please get in touch with Monica if you have any questions about charities.

Vice-President, Tanya Borchert

- **Activities throughout the year 2022**

Cookbooks: EUR 15 per book. We are still selling these.

Please direct any questions about the Cookbook to Diana on cookbook@natocharitybazaar.org.

- **Introduction of new Tombola Coordinator**

Krisztina is the new Tombola Coordinator.

Tombola is one of the largest events for the bazaar each year.

Krisztina is looking forward to organising the Tombola for 2022 and helping run this fantastic event.

- **NCB Social Media (Facebook and Instagram)**

National members and their teams are encouraged to join any or all of the three platforms that the NCB uses: private Facebook group, public Facebook page, and Instagram.

Please contact Tanya if you have any questions about social media.

President, Hanne Jørgensen

- **Lessons Learnt so far (2021)**

Wonderful to interact socially with one another again.

PR stand and the Wishing Tree Project were very successful – we hope to repeat these.

Manpower challenges as it was not the usual weekend setup – e.g., people had to take time off work.

Difficult to estimate food servings for the Restaurant stands – as it turns out a lot of people turned up! Commendation for those who managed to prepare food.

Please send us your lessons learnt and ideas for the upcoming year. Bear in mind the bazaar set up in 2021 was a one-of-a-kind situation, and not something we will be able to repeat.

- **AOB & Closing**

The slides from today's GAM are in your inbox.

NCB Newsletters are on hold at the moment – upon request from NATO HQ.

Membership 2022 stamp can be found on the website (how to log onto the website can be found in the GAM slides from today).

Next GAM is on **7 June 2022**: we have requested a hybrid format.

President closed the meeting at 11:20

Minutes taken by Eleanor Braithwaite, Secretary.