

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

We are delighted to announce that Heidi Jokinen has been elected as Chair of the World Board from August 2020 to World Conference 2021 and Tashia Batstone has been elected as Vice-Chair for the same period.

The election of Heidi and Tashia as Chair and Vice-Chair follows the announcement in April 2020 that six Board members, including Ana Maria, will finish their term of office in July 2020 and step down, with the World Board then operating at a reduced number for the period of August 2020 up to World Conference in 2021. Given the smaller size of the Board during this period, the Board has decided that for the period of August 2020 up to World Conference 2021 they will have only one Vice-Chair. After the election of new Board members at World Conference 2021, taking the World Board back to a size of 17 in total, there will be a new election for the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and Treasurer for the triennium of World Conference 2021 up to World Conference in 2023.

PROCESS

The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair up to World Conference 2020 was conducted through an open, fair and transparent process in June 2020. This followed the process recommended by the Governance Committee of WAGGGS and ratified by the World Board, largely based on the process that would have been followed at World Conference as outlined in the election booklet (Circular 5) with only a small number of necessary modifications. The whole process was overseen by Fiona Lejosne, the appointed Procedural Team Coordinator for World Conference, as an independent scrutineer with support from the Head of Governance.

In June 2020 all members of the World Board were reminded of the role description and person specification for the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Continuing World Board members were then invited to express their interest in standing for one or more of the positions by completing a self-nomination form. Those who put themselves forward were asked to provide a written statement.

Once the deadline for nominations had passed the names of those who had put themselves forward for each position was circulated to all Board members, along with their written statements. Board members also then had a period of time during which they could engage with the candidates and ask questions. Voting was then conducted by secret ballot starting with the election of the Chair and then proceeding to the election of the Vice-Chair. A simple majority of votes was required to be elected to each position and both Heidi and Tashia received more than the required number of votes to be duly elected.

WAGGGS TREASURER

As you will know, during this triennium Tashia has ably served as Treasurer of the World Board and a vacancy has therefore now been created up to World Conference 2021. As highlighted in previous communications, if a suitable candidate is not available amongst the World Board for the role of Treasurer, the Board can appoint a suitably qualified person to serve as Treasurer. The appointed Treasurer is entitled to attend World Board meetings (as stated in Bye-Law 4 of the WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws) in order to fulfil their role but does not have voting rights.

The World Board propose that due to the short term nature of this Treasurer appointment and the need for continuity and stability during the current pandemic it is most expedient to search for a candidate from amongst the members of the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee rather than conduct an open call. The members of the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee have all been previously duly nominated and approved by their Member Organization to sit on this body, following an open call in 2017, and are already very familiar with and actively involved in scrutinizing and advising on WAGGGS' financial position. WAGGGS commits to seeking approval from the Member Organisation of any member of the Committee who puts themselves forward for the position of Treasurer.