

Moved:

That CFUW Per Capita Dues be set at \$55; **and**

That GWI Per Capita Dues be collected at the amount established by GWI based on the Bank of Canada Annual Exchange rate for the prior year; and

That CFUW will collect GWI Per Capita Dues from Clubs on behalf of their individual members who choose to support GWI.

Moved by Linda Asper, UWC Winnipeg;

We welcome this opportunity to present our motion to try to resolve our differences regarding the payment of GWI fees. Last year the majority (61%) of CFUW AGM delegates voted for this motion. We urge you to support our attempt to address this matter in order to address other challenges. It is time to heal the divide that has caused internal strife within Clubs, caused friendships to falter, and forced member Clubs to consider leaving CFUW. This divide will continue to weaken CFUW by taking up time better spent on furthering CFUW goals. It is time to support a compromise based on respect for all opinions that will allow each individual Club member to decide whether or not to remit dues to GWI.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

There are no legal impediments to this motion. CFUW requested an opinion from its lawyer, Ms. Karen Cooper. In her opinion, dated December 3, 2017, she states:

...membership in GWI is contingent upon CFUW having at least 20 individuals who are graduate women, while the membership in CFUW is comprised of member clubs. In my view, the best approach would be to create a separate category of individual members to either “opt in” or “opt out” of membership in GWI.

This could be done without a change to the bylaws. Currently the bylaws provide that dues are paid by the member clubs on a per capita basis. The per capita rate is set by special motion at an AGM and is applied in the fiscal year following the AGM. In my view, there is nothing in the bylaws to prevent the CFUW from giving notice of and getting approval from the members for two due rates: one rate for members that wish to remain a member of GWI and one rate for those who do not wish to remain a member. Clubs would remain “members” of CFUW, but their members would pay in accordance with whether the individual members of the Club pay dues to GWI or not.”

IMPLICATIONS FOR CFUW

If the motion is adopted, CFUW retains Article 4 which states: “CFUW shall be a member of the GWI.” until it is struck from the Articles using the required procedure. There is no other mention of the particulars of membership in GWI in the bylaws except as relates to duties of the Board as defined in Schedule 2.

CFUW Board position on the Winnipeg Motion distributed 15 June 2018:

"Further to the communication that has gone out on the Winnipeg motion the Board would like to stress the relevance of the motion as a compromise to satisfy the needs of all clubs in our organization. With the loss of four clubs this year we hope that we can stabilize the loss of clubs and members and move forward in a productive manner in the best interest of all our members. "

All members of CFUW will continue to have the same rights and responsibilities in CFUW, therefore there will continue to be a single class of members.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

UWC Winnipeg is a proud founding member of CFUW. We have put forth this motion so that we may all remain proud members of CFUW. We respect that some Club members may wish to continue to support GWI while others have lost confidence in that organization. The financial situation that UWC is facing is one that other Clubs share. Membership is declining. CFUW has lost over 500 members this past year. Clubs have no room to increase the Club portion of dues because of the per capita GWI fee that each member must pay.

There is a presumption that dues increases may be easily absorbed by members. There are comments about it being just a glass of wine or, in the case of GWI fees, just a lunch. These comments are unduly presumptuous of Club members' personal situations. This is even more prevalent in rural areas and in situations where our members are ageing and must now live on a single or fixed income. Furthermore, because average income in rural areas is often much less than in large urban centres, small rural clubs have greater difficulty paying their dues. They also have fewer votes when sending delegations or proxies to vote on increases. Often too, these clubs are isolated by distance and do not often travel to gatherings and council meetings because of the difficulty of travel. Their feelings of isolation from decision making are real as the international relations committee reported in the Challenges to Rural Women survey.

Although the financial results for GWI for the year ended Dec. 31, 2017 were slightly better than for 2016 and the Board has reduced costs substantially, there is still a concern about the financial stability of GWI and their ability to perform good governance and related cost control. The year-end financial statements for Dec. 31, 2018 have not been released as of this time to CFUW, so again we are still in the dark as to their current finances. In 2012, GWI had total equity of 828,351 CHF (total assets, less liabilities) of which unrestricted funds were 707,639 CHF. At the 2013 GWI Triennial the General Assembly voted to use reserve funds to launch a campaign to strengthen GWI. In 2017 (the last results we have) the total equity was 51,722 of which unrestricted funds (actually deficit) was 64,019. In Canadian dollars, this is a decrease in equity (total assets, less liabilities) of over \$1,000,000 in 5 years. This, in combination with the lack of current financial information from GWI, is an indication that GWI is facing

considerable financial risk and may not have the means to monitor and manage threats to their on-going operations.

POSSIBLE ACTION

If this motion to set two per capita rates is adopted, it should be noted that:

1. CFUW remains a member of GWI.
2. The liaison (CIR) would remain in place as required by the GWI constitution.
3. The matter of membership in GWI can be put to rest.
4. Internal strife over this issue can end in a spirit of compromise and collegiality which will serve to ultimately strengthen our federation.
5. Clubs that have left may be asked to rejoin if the impediment to joining has been removed.

If this motion falls, the issue will be debated again and again in various forms. The majority (61%) voted for this motion in 2018. Let us support this compromise and move ahead!

It is time for CFUW individual members to respect the differing opinions about GWI and the needs of all Clubs and their members. Let's heal the divide!