
66th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

3:30 – 4:00 pm Reception & Refreshments

1. **Call to Order, Greetings and Land Acknowledgment** – *Cong-Rong Xie, President*
Cong Rong Xie acknowledged that KW Counselling Services is on the traditional territory of the Anishawbe, Haudenosaunee and Neutral Peoples and also on the Haldimand Tract which runs almost 10 kilometres deep on either side of the Grand River.

2. **Approval of Minutes of 65th Annual Meeting** – *Cong-Rong Xie*
Laura Umbrio brought the Motion: I move that the minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting held May 24, 2016 be approved.
The Motion was seconded by Michael Snyders and passed.

3. **Treasurer's Report** – *Elaine Read, Treasurer*
Elaine Read noted that 2016 had been a challenging year in which we struggled with several funding reductions. The staff managed costs well and maintained a balanced budget. We delivered strong service and still managed to meet all of our service targets. Elaine thanked the staff and Management Team for their hard work. Elaine noted that the community support was strong and we are deeply grateful for individual donations received and to those who attended our fundraising events. We have introduced two new events in the last year: Festival of Fools and Laugh Your Heart Out. We hope for continued success with them in 2017 and beyond.

Shelley White brought the Motion: I move that the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2016 be approved.
The Motion was seconded by Michael Snyders and passed.

4. **Appointment of the Auditors for 2017** – *Elaine Read*
Michael Snyders brought the Motion: I move that Clarke, Starke, and Diegel be appointed Auditors for the Year 2017.
The Motion was seconded by Laura Umbrio and passed.

5. **Confirmation of the Acts of the Board for the preceding year** – *Cong-Rong Xie*
Michael Snyders brought the Motion: I move that with regard to the Acts of the Board of Directors for the preceding year, be it resolved that all Acts, contracts, By-Laws, proceedings, appointments, and elections made, done, and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the date of the last Annual Meeting of the Members, are hereby approved and confirmed.
The Motion was seconded by Elaine Read and passed.

6. **Board of Directors Recognition** *Cong-Rong Xie*
Cong-Rong Xie and Elaine Read recognized two outgoing Board members and presented them with plaques in recognition of their service.

- a. **Mike Braga** (joined in 2009, served as on Financial Management Committee, as Vice-President, President and Past President)
- b. **Henrique Reis** (joined in 2012, resigned December 2016. Served on Public Relations and Communications Committee)

7. Nomination & Election of Directors – Cong-Rong Xie (introduced those for nomination)

*Jo-Anne Gibson brought the Motion: **I move that Kathryn Kitchen and Denise Derbez** (See Bios on back side of this page) **be elected for a three year term and; That Kyle Cleaver and Paul Rossi be re-elected for a third three-year term commencing May 23, 2017.***

The Motion was seconded by Michael Snyders and passed.

8. President's Report – Cong-Rong Xie

Cong-Rong reported on the recent funding announcements for mental health supports in Ontario and noted that we are hopeful some of those funds support our work. Cong-Rong reported that she and her family had been personally touched by recent suicides on local university campuses and noted that KW Counselling Services was an important local resource for mental health supports for students. Cong-Rong noted that our preventative *Parenting with Passion* program was an important resource for parents who might have children that are struggling with mental health challenges. Cong-Rong is excited to see where our new Parenting Now: Today, Tomorrow, Together program takes us. Cong-Rong also noted our work in The New Mentality program for young people who are struggling with mental health challenges and our Walk In Counselling Clinic which has become a critical local service. Cong-Rong thanked all of our program sponsors and funders and noted that it was their support that allowed us to help 29,513 people in 2016.

9. Executive Director's Report – Leslie Josling

Leslie spoke about the documentary, *Scared Sacred*, and noted that even though we felt 2016 was a difficult year, with set backs to human rights, there is cause for hope. Leslie noted the specific challenges of abuses based on sexual orientation, gender identity and religious intolerance. Leslie noted the increased hits to www.ok2bme.ca after the Pulse massacre and the US presidential election. Our LGBTQ+ clients have felt especially vulnerable during these times, so we are extremely grateful for the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Grow Grant this year. Leslie thanked the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their Ontario150 Community Capital grant which will help us to repair water damage to our building.

Leslie noted the immense support in our community for Syrian refugees and other newcomers and thanked those who donated to the Immigration Partnership fund which allowed us to hire an Arabic-speaking therapist. Leslie noted that the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW epitomize courage in the face of fear and hatred and outlined our history with that organization through our Together is Better program. KW Counselling Services was honoured to receive the Friend of the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW Award in March, 2017. Leslie renewed our commitment to The Coalition even though they have "graduated" from Together is Better. Leslie thanked Fauzia Mazhar of the Coalition for joining us today as our guest speaker.

10. Adjournment of meeting – Cong-Rong Xie

Neil Bailey brought the Motion: I move that the 66th Annual General Meeting be adjourned. The Motion was seconded by Laura Umbrio and passed.

11. Volunteer of the Year Award – Laura Umbrio, Fundraising, PR & Communications Committee

Laura presented our Volunteer of the Year Award to Mohan Thomas. Laura highlighted Mohan's history with the agency, first as a participant in the Tour de Waterloo event in 2013 up to the present day where he is a member of our Fundraising, Public Relations & Communications Committee. Mohan is thoughtful and dedicated and we thank him for his enthusiastic support as a volunteer.

12. Recognition of the Ontario Trillium Foundation – Leslie Josling, Executive Director

Leslie welcomed Kelly McManus, representing the Ontario Trillium Foundation and Kelly presented us with a plaque recognizing the Grow Grant of \$635,600 over the next three years for OK2BME.

13. Guest Speaker – Fauzia Mazhar, Chair of the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW

Fauzia asked us to think about the newcomer experience and gave us a brief history of her own experience as an example. She outlined the various ways that she and her family had been made to feel welcome in our community and also the challenges they faced. Fauzia outlined the history of the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW and their activities and thanked KW Counselling Services for our ongoing partnership and support.

14. Closing Remarks – Cong-Rong Xie

Cong-Rong thanked everyone for attending and invited people to join us at our upcoming events: Festival of Fools on April 23rd and Surprise Movie Night on September 28th.

New Director Bios

Kathryn Kitchen:

Kathryn Kitchen is currently an HR Partner at Manulife and has previously worked at BlackBerry and Deloitte in increasingly senior roles. Her specialty beyond that of an HR generalist is change management, restructuring, M&A, team effectiveness, and leader coaching. Kathryn grew up in the K-W area and has had a passion for giving back. She has volunteered on several boards and for many organizations including a not-for-profit day care, and for the Human Resources Professional Association's local chapter. When she's not working Kathryn loves spending time with her family and friends either outside playing, reading books, or quite simply connecting and catching up.

Denise Derbez:

Denise Derbez is a Sales Representative at Re/Max Solid Gold in Waterloo. She immigrated to Canada from Mexico in 1998 with her husband and two daughters. Denise is a graduate of *Universidad de Monterrey*, where she received a BA in Graphic Design. Her career life spans varied roles including Swimming Instructor, Children's Art Teacher, Web Designer, Real Estate Photographer and Real Estate Sales Representative, which she has been for the past 12 years. Denise is passionate about taking care of her clients and pays extra attention to their goals and needs. Enthusiasm, hard work, determination to succeed, personalized service and love of helping others are the main motivators that drive her. Denise's work is well recognized among the K-W Latin community and she has been presented with the



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RE/MAX Hall of Fame Award. Denise is a proud supporter of the Children's Miracle Network and Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.