



# ST ANNE'S OLD GIRLS' GUILD

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016

- Mrs Kari Greene thanked Rev van Niekerk, Mrs Anthea Hibbert, Mr Oosthuizen and the choir for the beautiful chapel service. As a quorum was present, Mrs Greene declared the meeting open.
- She welcomed members to the 109<sup>th</sup> AGM, including David Arguile, Sharon Wells, Sharon Mackenzie, and the recipient of the St Anne's award, Mrs Annabel Rosholt, and her family.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Pippa Richards

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

- The minutes of the 2015 AGM were taken as read and approved, as proposed by Mrs le Sueur, and seconded by Mrs Dillon.
- The matric class of 2015, whose names were printed on the programme, were accepted as new members of the Guild, as proposed by Mrs Drummond and seconded by Mrs Douglas.
- A minute's silence was observed for the following deceased Old Girls: Lynda Smythe (nee Adams), Ruth Mapham (nee Thornton), Bernice Davies (nee Kerr) and Catherine West.

## ADDRESS BY HEAD GIRL – JEMMA BLACKLAW

- Miss Blacklaw welcomed all Old Girls to the meeting, and assured them that the school spirit, as well as the important core values and ethos of the College remains unchanged after 139 years. She reported on the improvements to the College, including the new indoor sports centre and the modernised IT Centre.
- The College had aimed to improve social awareness, with a week dedicated to promoting discussion on global and local issues with relevant speakers invited to address the pupils. Of note was an address by Ms Cele on sexism in society and the work place, and encouraging girls not to sacrifice their femininity to be successful in the work place.
- Miss Blacklaw expressed gratitude for the Old Girls' legacy, and the contributions made by the Guild. She thanked the Committee for the well run uniform shop. She said that a part of St Anne's never leaves the girls, and when they return to reunite with their friends, it feels like coming back home. Mrs Greene thanked the Head Girl for her report, and sacrificing her limited time to attend our meeting.

## HEADMASTER'S REPORT

- Mr Arguile welcomed all members, and reported that the College had been very successful in the drama, arts, and sports departments, had impressive academic results, and continued to have Christianity as an important cornerstone.
- He read an excerpt of a letter received from a 2015 Matric girl, expressing her gratitude to the Head and staff of St Anne's, for the wonderful support, education and life skills that she had received at the school.
- Mr Arguile reported that there had been an unprecedented demand for places at the College in 2017, leading to disappointment for certain families. He explained that no single criteria could guarantee a place at the school; nine members on an enrolment committee are guided by a strategic plan. 96 girls will be admitted in 2017; 50 of whom have family connections, 25 have sisters at the College, and 9 are daughters of Old Girls. Mr Arguile read an oral written by a pupil about her disappointment at not being granted a place at the College, and said that dealing with disappointment is an important life skill to learn.

- Mr Arguile thanked the Old Girls for their attendance, and wished them a happy day at the College.

Mrs Greene thanked Mr Arguile for his report and for his support and guidance through the year. She thanked him and his staff for their enormous contributions to the success of the school, and for the work put into making Old Girls' day so special. Mrs Greene explained that the Guild Committee could not get involved in the school's admission process, which is a stringent and fair one. The Committee will however, discuss the College's current approach to accepting daughters of Old Girls, at their next Committee meeting.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Mrs Greene welcomed all Old Girls, particularly those attending special reunions, from the 75<sup>th</sup> reunion to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Special mention of Pamela Gie (nee Addison) who has attended a record number of OG days, and Linda Leaf, who was the first American exchange student, and has flown out from the US to celebrate with her friends having their 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion!
- The Chairman thanked the Committee members for their hard work, and introduced them to the meeting; Mrs Theresa Rattray: Vice-Chairman, Mrs Debbie le Sueur: Treasurer, Mrs Anne Chadwick: Secretary, Mrs Vicki Dillon: Board representative, Mrs Jane Douglas: OG Functions, Mrs Pippa Richards: OG Liaison, Mrs Angela Wolff: archives, Mrs Rosie Drummond: St Anne's award, and Mrs Jo James: memorabilia. Mrs le Sueur and Mrs Richards have resigned from the Committee, and Mrs Greene thanked them for their time and commitment. Mrs Greene welcomed new members: Lauren Liddell, Sue Whyte, Claire Hoatson and Debbie Erskine. The 2016 office bearers were accepted as proposed by Mrs Dottridge and seconded by Mrs Mckenzie.
- Mrs Ascough is the Old Girls' Liaison officer at the College, and Archives officer. She is a member of the Magazine Committee, and oversees the inclusion of Old Girls' news into the magazine. Mrs Ascough is the contact person at the school for all Old Girls' affairs, and manages the Face-book page, Twitter and Linked-in accounts. Mrs Ascough has recently established an 'Old Girls' Business directory page' on the website, aimed at advertising any businesses owned or partnered by Old Girls.
- Mrs Jenna Mackenzie is the school marketing officer, and together with Mrs Ascough, has been responsible for organizing Old Girls' day; the programmes, dining room, photographer and the expanded memorabilia range. Mrs Greene thanked Mrs Ascough and Mrs Mackenzie for their hard work and continued support.
- Mrs Greene thanked Mrs Lindi Fairweather, the School uniform shop manager, for her hard work, efficiency, and willingness to go beyond the call of duty.
- Mrs Greene paid tribute to Mrs Sharon Mackenzie, who has been a very dedicated Old Girl; helped Mrs Dottridge in the school shop for 17 years, served on the OG Committee for 10 years (3 of those as Chairman), and was a member of the Board for 15 years, serving on various committees. Mrs Greene presented Mrs Mackenzie with a gift as a token of the Guild's appreciation for her hard work.
- According to the Constitution, the Guild aims to promote friendly relations amongst Old Girls. This has been achieved by arranging Old Girls' social functions in Johannesburg and Durban, with one planned for Cape Town in future. The Business directory aims to assist Old Girls with business advertising and networking, and the website, Facebook, Linked-in and Twitter platforms assist in keeping Old Girls up to date with functions and achievements. Mrs Greene encourage Old Girls to send in their news, to keep their contact details updated, and to look at the display of old school photos in the school foyer.
- The Guild aims to raise funds to provide bursaries to daughters of Old Girls that qualify, in terms of meeting the school's criteria for financial assistance. The Old Girls' bursary for 2017 will be awarded to Jade Harty, daughter of Paula Harty, nee Davis.
- Mrs Greene outlined the Committee's achievements over the past year; updated the Constitution which is on the website, secured 20% of the school magazine for Old Girls' news, assisted in the physical and digital archiving of old photos, developed and expanded the Alumnae section of the website, increased the following on Face book, Twitter and Linked-in to over 1000 followers. The range of memorabilia has been expanded, a sophisticated management and accounting system has been implemented in the shop resulting

in improved efficiency, accountability and good governance. The Guild investment with Melville Douglas has grown substantially and has assisted with bursary commitments. Mrs Chance and Mrs Rattray produced a very successful cook book, donating R90 000.00 to the Guild funds.

- The School shop is running well, with extended trading hours, and the manager, Mrs Lindi Fairweather, has done an excellent job providing good marketing and customer service to the school, pupils and parents.
- An annual Old Girls' function is held in JHB, and last year one was arranged in Kloof. The Committee plans to have an Old Girls' Ball in September 2017, to coincide with the school's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guild.
- Mrs Greene promoted the STEPP programme, and encouraged Old Girls to sign up for a 'My School card', which donates money to this worthwhile outreach programme.
- Mrs Greene congratulated Mrs Wells on being the first Old Girl to become Chairman of the Board.
- Mrs le Sueur has worked tirelessly to get the Guild financials up to date; the annual financial statements are with the auditors, PWC, and should be submitted to SARS later this year. Despite tough financial times, bursaries have been provided to four Old Girls' daughters, amounting to a sum of R200 000.00 per annum. Mrs le Sueur has resigned as Treasurer after 7 years, and Mrs Lauren Liddell will take over this portfolio. Mrs Greene thanked Mrs le Sueur for her hard work and commitment, and thanked Ms Alder, Mr Acutt and Mrs Fairweather for their support and assistance.

### ST ANNE'S AWARD

Mrs Annie Steinhobel introduced the 2016 St Anne's award winner, Mrs Annabel Rosholt. She said that Mrs Rosholt is making a dramatic difference in many people's lives and is a well deserving winner of this award.

#### MRS ANNABEL ROSHOLT:

- Mrs Rosholt was first exposed to social work through her mum who was a volunteer nurse in the Thousand Hills Community.
- After settling in Stellenbosch, Mrs Rosholt became aware of the desperate inequality in the area, and realised she had the ability and education to assist in a particularly poor area called Kayamandi.
- After conducting research, and finding appalling malnourishment and poverty, with the average income of R23 per family, she started a feeding programme delivering sandwiches to the children. This was the start of the 'STELLENBOSCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME', which has been running for 10 years.
- The programme feeds approx. 2000 people per day, resulting in a 70% improvement in malnourishment, and twice a year, a survey is conducted on all families concerned, to check on their progress.
- Food parcels are given to parents, and they are encouraged and taught to establish food gardens at home, as well as being given education in recycling, computer skills, job training, exercise programmes, and finance for jobs. All of this encourages families to become self-sufficient.
- The Programme, which is also called 'LOVE TO GIVE', has been involved in strategic planning, and been able to attract donors, business coaches, and networks with other organizations. PWC conducts an audit on the programme, and reports are sent to donors.
- Mrs Rosholt reported that there have been problems to overcome, as the area is riddled with violence, as well as drug and alcohol abuse, and at times she has been afraid. A local school Headmaster had written to her expressing his gratitude for her hard work, and this helped restore her strength. She said that through this programme she had learnt many lessons that she could not have learnt elsewhere.
- Mrs Rosholt thanked her family and fund raisers for their amazing support. She said that she was extremely honoured to be given this award, and dedicated it to her late mother, Gill Elgie, and the Baber sisters' late mum, Pam Baber. Mrs Rosholt showed a short video clip of the programme's activities.

On behalf of the Guild, Mrs Drummond presented Mrs Rosholt with the framed award certificate.

Mrs Greene asked Old Girls to collect their copies of the magazine, and she closed the meeting at 11.30am with nothing raised under General.