

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
OF THE LATVIAN ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON**

**January 22, 2023, AT THE SEATTLE LATVIAN CENTER**

Chair of the Board Sarma Davidson opens the general membership meeting at 12:00PM and asks for a moment of silence to honor the members who passed away in 2022.

**Confirmation of the moderator of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

President of the Board Sarma Davidson is confirmed as the moderator of the meeting. Secretary Aina Uskurs is confirmed as secretary of the meeting. Association members Ingrida Gray, Ivars Graudins and Rita Rubenis are confirmed as vote counters.

44 voting members participate in the meeting.

The agenda is adopted with changes: the proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws will be discussed after the membership review and there will be no review of the 2022 American Latvian Association Annual Congress. The previous minutes are read and unanimously accepted as presented.

**Latvian Association board report**

Board President Sarma Davidson reports on the composition of the board for 2022:

Sarma Davidson - President  
Inta Wiest - Vice President  
Katrina Kramens - webmaster  
Secretary - Aina Uskurs  
Lauris Apsitis - accountant/treasurer  
Membership - Ingrid Doherty  
Board member – Pauls Kalnins  
Board member – Aleksandra Overby  
Board member – Inese Graudins

Sarma Davidson reports on the board meetings of the Latvian Association, which are held monthly at the Latvian Center or on the Zoom platform.

An outdoor clean-up day for the Latvian Hall was held in the spring.

Sarma D. tells about the celebration of Latvian Independence in the Latvian Center, which was conducted perfectly. The celebration was well attended. Event organizers: Aleksa Overby, Imants Holmquist, and their assistants.

During the celebration of Latvia's Independence, the new Honorary Consul of the State of Washington, Imants Holmquist, was introduced.

Sarma Davidson tells about the Christmas market, which was very well attended after the Covid-19 epidemic.

Sarma D. mentions that the choir has resumed its activities, and its members are preparing for the Latvian Song and Dance Festival this summer.

### **Membership coordinator report**

Ingrid Doherty reports on the membership of the LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA, numbering 267 as of the end of 2022.

- 10 passed away
- 3 new members joined
- 5 members restored their active status
- 12 members deleted from membership or discontinued membership for varying reasons
- 225 members have paid their dues for 2023
- 45 members paid their past due membership payments
- 27 members have not yet paid for 2022

Ingrid Doherty reports that it is now possible to pay membership fees with credit cards. Ingrid D. calls for payment of membership fees for 2024 by the end of 2023, to be able to participate in the 2024 annual LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA general membership meeting elections.

### **Changes to the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws**

Inese Graudins explains recommended changes in the Articles and By-Laws that no longer correspond to current operation and, Previous changes in the statutes were made in 1974.

Inese Graudins sent the changes to the LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA statutes by e-mail within the required timeframe so that all members had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the changes and reflect on them in advance. The texts of the changes are attached to these minutes. The recommended changes have currently been done only in the English language version; they will be made in the Latvian language version after voting on the recommended changes, after this general membership meeting. The original text is in black print, the deleted text in red print, the new or corrected text in blue print.

After a short discussion, an additional change is recommended and adopted by a majority of votes: Articles of Incorporation, V. Membership, point 4 – replace "...members at the annual meeting of the corporation" with "board of directors".

Discussion follows regarding the words "corporation" and "association" used in the documents. LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA is registered with the state of Washington as a corporation. Our name and activity is better reflected in the word "association". It is recommended and accepted by majority vote that the word "corporation" should be

replaced by "association" in the places where the activity of LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA is described in these documents.

Member John Sulcs congratulates the Board of the Association for the great work in updating the Articles and By-Laws and proposes a vote to accept in entirety the recommended changes. Several members second the motion. Voting results: 38 votes for, 2 against, 0 abstentions. Recommended changes in the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws are therefore accepted by majority vote of the membership.

### **Treasurer's report**

Inese Graudins reads Treasurer Lauris Apsitis report on the current financial status.  
(See attachments)

Inta Wiest proposes accepting the financial reports for 2022. The proposal is seconded and accepted by a majority vote.

The budget for 2023 is presented and accepted by a majority vote.

Sarma Davidson announces that Ann-Marie Petersons will organize the rummage sale in April 2023, and hopefully this avoid a budgetary deficit this year.

Ingrid Gray proposes adoption of the budget for 2023. The proposal is seconded and adopted unanimously.

Sarma D. introduces the new LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA website "SeattleLatvianCenter.com" and the Facebook page "Latvian Association of Washington State". Board member Katrina Kramens creates and maintains these sources of information and communication.

### **Facilities manager report**

Erik Rauda reports on the maintenance of the Latvian Center and all ongoing repair work, and on the financial status in the Center's treasury. (See attachment)

No Sound Transit committee report, as no committee members are present.

### **Board member elections**

Sarma Davidson reports on members whose terms expire:  
Lauris Apsitis – has agreed to run for another three-year term  
Aina Uskurs – will not be running for another term  
Sarma Davidson – retiring from the board  
Pauls Kalniņš - retiring from the board

Newly nominated board candidates introduce themselves:  
Andra Atvars, Ann-Marie Petersons, and Monika Smiltins.

A secret election is held with the following results: Lauris 40 votes for; Andra 41 votes for; Ann-Marie 41 votes for; Monica 42 votes for. Congratulations to the new board members!

The board will vote on the three required positions (president, secretary, treasurer) at the next board meeting in a couple of weeks.

### **Reports of group representatives operating under umbrella of LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA**

**Archivist John Rogainis** reports on the state of our archives, how things are proceeding with 73 boxes of documents, sorting them all and analyzing what needs to be saved and what is no longer needed.

**Inta Wiest, head of the group of pensioners**, reports on the activities of the group. (See attachment)

Inta Wiest reads **Konrad Leitis' report on SLGA** - Seattle Latvian Golf Association. (See attachment)

**Trejdeksnītis leader Erika Currier** gives an overview of the dance group's activities and reports that Trejdeksnītis will participate in the Latvian Song and Dance Festival in Riga this summer.

**Vaira Christopher reports on the state of the library**. This year, 15 boxes of books were sent to Latvia with LASL, to various organizations. (See attachment)

Inese Graudins reads the report submitted by the **Seattle Latvian Choir**. The choir is also preparing to go to the Song Festival in Riga this summer. (See attachment)

Sarma Lunde reports on the activities of the **Art Group** from 2007 to 2010. Since then, the group has been inactive, but plans to resume its activities soon.

**The American Latvian Association annual convention** will be held in October, the location has not been confirmed - it could be Indianapolis or Los Angeles. The choice of congress delegates is left to the discretion of the board.

### **Other business**

Inta Wiest talks about the liquidation of the LATVIAN ASSOC. OF WA library, and what to do with the library books?

Monika Smiltins that the cooking class should be restored, as a number of people have expressed an interest.

Ingrid Doherty suggests having a Casino Night as a fundraising event.

Inta Wiest talks about the concerts that took place before the Covid-19 epidemic. "Tilts" offers a concert in the spring. Would the Seattle public be interested?

Inta Wiest congratulates Sarma Davidson for her 22 years of dedicated work for the Latvian Association of Washington.

Annual general membership meeting adjourned: 2:40PM