

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



IWEN



Intercultural Women's
Education Network

Empowerment • Education • Freedom

Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
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| Jill Conroy | Vice President |
| Paul Whitewood | Treasurer/Secretary |
| Deana Hills | Director of Volunteers |
| Sherri Chapman | Director at Large |
| Katie Phelps | Director at Large |
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| Karen Hughes | Finance and Admin Officer |

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President's Report

On behalf of the 2013 – 2014 IWEN Canada Board, I want to first offer a Sincere and heartfelt “THANK YOU” to anyone and everyone who has taken an interest in this Great little Charity called IWEN. Your efforts, big or small, do not go unnoticed and I assure you that these efforts are making huge differences in the lives of so many. A special thank you to the members of the board and the key supporting people who have together, increased the effectiveness and the reach of our efforts. It's a big commitment and without “people on the ground” willing to get their hands dirty, things just don't happen.

I also want to thank the amazing “Creating Possibilities” employees in Nepal; **Dinesh Raj Sapkota**, our leader in Nepal as well as his trusted and amazing colleague **Nura Basnet**, both working from our Kathmandu office continue to impress us with their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work. In addition, a big thank you to **Sarita, Deepa and Junu**...new to the team in Godhawa, Each of these young ladies are really making a difference on the front line of our efforts. Each time I travel to Nepal I witness, first-hand what our collective efforts are accomplishing and it makes it all so worthwhile.

We continue to develop a strong relationship with the **CP board** in Nepal as they are the conduit to our work in this country. The return of **Govinda Adhikari** as CP Director has been a great thing and Thanks for all the boards' efforts as they are truly a trusted partner.

Personally my motivation to work with this charity has continued to evolve and grow over recent years. When I joined the board it was my goal and intention to continue to grow the identity of the charity, its reach and effectiveness in our programming and increase our corporate profile. I think that we have been very successful in many ways despite the challenges of competitive philanthropic options. The Economy, the Distance, the busy world that many of us find ourselves living in, all provide their share of challenges but there is something about Nepal..... until you feel it and touch it, until you meet the people and feel the graciousness that they demonstrate, it's not always easy. And therefore, to those **Volunteers** that have helped along the way without feeling some of the sensations first hand... A huge THANK YOU. Many of our UNAKO Rising committee members have never travelled to Nepal but yet committed countless volunteer hours and made this event very successful. Its volunteers like this and cash contributors who make IWEN what it is today.

In November of 2013 **Classrooms for a Cause** had a fantastic and successful trip with 28 amazing volunteers who completely exceeded and surpassed our expectations with generosity, hard work and a huge smile as we installed the final bricks on the walls of the 3rd and 4th classrooms as well as poured the roof for the school. It was an amazing trip and very successful financially for the charity. 360 Bricks were placed on the walls this trip which is not only paid for the balance of this construction but has left significant reserves for future volunteer projects that have become such a big part of what we do.



“**Unako House**” was born this year! The board approved and successfully purchased a piece of land near Godhawa and in Oct of 2013 we got started with a design concept here in Kelowna. A special thanks to Lee Mullins from Mullins Design and Drafting for his time with the drawings. We are now nearing completion of this 2 storey, 4000 sq.ft. building. Brick Sales from our November volunteer build was a great financial start



towards this lofty goal. We continue to raise funds with the hope to pay the building off completely within the next fiscal year. Brick Sales will provide a significant component of the funds required but events like Unako Rising, IWEN iron ½ marathon and the soon to happen “9 Wine and Pie” golf tournament will help us along the way.

November’s trip marked the start of “UNAKO House”. One could say that this has become a pet project and I am so humbled by the progress we have made to fulfill our founders (Michelle Bonneau’s) dream of a woman’s vocations center in the Dang District of western Nepal.

The November volunteer group worked their butts off on the foundation of Unako House and truly made a huge step forward in creating something that I personally believe is the flagship of IWEN’s future. The building is nearing completion at this stage and a recent trip July 2014 saw me and 19 young and energetic volunteers from **Developing World Connections** putting many of the finishing touches on the building.

Our working relationship with **Developing World Connections** continues to grow and many thanks to **Wayne McRann** who has recently resigned as director. We do look forward to grow the relationship with the new director, **Joshua Molsberry** who has recently assumed Wayne’s position. **Bill Adams**, a friend of DWC, has been the driver and the leader of the AMAZING Solar Panel project currently underway on the roof top of UNAKO house. Through Bills commitment and hard work, along many corporate colleagues and donations, a **\$135,000 10KW solar panel system** was installed this summer. It’s difficult to put into words how amazing this addition to the project has and will be moving forward.... **THANK YOU BILL ADAMS!** Another DWC trip will happen this Sept where the commissioning of the Solar Project will occur. **THANK YOU DWC!!**



In closing, the growth and success of the charity truly relies on common people doing uncommon things. Each person that takes the first step towards “**doing something GREAT**” has the ability to make such an impact. There are many past volunteers who have done remarkable things for this cause. I can name many but a few stand out. **Leah Podollan** who joined us on our Nov 2013 build raised a ton of money for this charity. Thank you Leah! More recently **Bonnie Edgecombe** has put forward a grant application to her sorority “Delta Kappa Gamma International” and I am thrilled to announce that they have chosen IWEN as the charity they will support for at least the next two years. Thank You Bonnie!

Great things are happening with IWEN and I am very proud to be a part of it.

Kevin Edgecombe
President, IWEN Canada



ARE YOU READY TO DO SOMETHING GREAT?

Vice - President's Report

This has been an exciting year to be a part of IWEN'S transformation... Big money is coming in through various avenues, and big advancements and changes are happening as a result! As acting Vice President on the board, I've had the pleasure of getting to know more people in the IWEN community, including some new members on the board. IWEN has a great team here in Kelowna as well as across Canada and beyond - I'm proud to be a part of it!

My role on the board has changed slightly this year, and has mainly been one of support. I've worked alongside the other board members and support people for various events, most of which you'll hear about in the other reports. To avoid too much repetition, I'll focus here on some major points that motivate me personally, in the hopes that you can feel the excitement growing within our not-so-little-anymore charity!

IWEN's 'face' has changed - new logos, brochure design, one-pagers about various volunteer opportunities, and soon our website too! We have been working with excellent graphic designers, website builders, media contacts and news sources to get our name and vision out into the community. One of our goals, especially in Kelowna, is to have our 'branding' easily recognizable. We want people to be familiar with our work, and to be excited to connect with us to **Do Something Great!**

Our partnership with Kelowna Now has proven very valuable. Kelowna Now is an online resource for all things news: local news, weather, events, and of course 'Good Stuff' like IWEN's happenings. They have graciously donated staff time and media space on their site to help spread the word!

Please take the time to connect with us on Facebook (search IWEN Canada) for the latest in press releases, events, and information. Share a story on your wall... Your friends will be excited to see that you're involved in something so powerful!

Michelle Bonneau's trip across the country (almost) is sure to drum up some excitement! Michelle arrives this month back from Nepal, and is going to be spreading the word starting in Montreal and ending in Kelowna for our AGM! As we all know, Michelle is a powerful woman with excellent stories - I can't wait to hear what adventures she gets up to! I'm sure she'll fill us in in September :) For now, you can make sure you're signed up for our newsletters (email info@IWENCanada.com).

UNAKO House has definitely been a main focus this year. If you're feeling 'out of the loop' at all with all of this UNAKO talk, please schedule our AGM into your plans for September 16th at 7:00pm. This year's meeting will take place at the Delta Grand Hotel, and we're hoping for a huge turnout! Invite anyone you think will be interested. Michelle Bonneau will be there, as well as Dinesh Sapkota (our representative from Creating Possibilities in Nepal). You'll meet people that went to Nepal last year, hear their stories, and get inspired all over again. We're looking forward to it!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this, and for your continued support of IWEN Canada's initiatives. We are an organization that relies on volunteers, networking and community-minded people like you to help us reach our goals both here and in Nepal. You are amazing!

Submitted by: Jill Conroy, Vice President

Financial Report

IWEN Canada Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|
| Assets | | |
| Current | | |
| Cash | 144,601 | 121,250 |
| Accounts receivable | | - |
| Inventory | 17,436 | 12,560 |
| Prepaid expenses | 1,399 | 2,798 |
| | 163,436 | 136,608 |
| Equipment | 856 | 1,070 |
| | 164,292 | 137,678 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current | | |
| Accounts payable | 3,216 | 1,500 |
| Members' Surplus | | |
| Reserves | 161,076 | 136,178 |
| Members' Surplus | - | - |
| | 164,292 | 137,678 |

IWEN Canada Statement of Reserves For the year ended March 31, 2014

| | Opening Balance | Change | Closing Balance |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Reserves | | | |
| General | 72,173 | 20,562 | 92,735 |
| Empowerment through Education | 31,457 | 226 | 31,683 |
| Classrooms | 25,176 | 9,188 | 34,364 |
| IWC | 4,693 | - 2,578 | 2,115 |
| Literacy | 2,500 | - 2,500 | - |
| Teachers | 180 | - | 180 |
| | 136,178 | 24,898 | 161,076 |

IWEN Canada
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Members' Surplus
For the year ended March 31, 2014

| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Receipts | | |
| Donations | 120,202 | 54,765 |
| Fundraising | 7,480 | 725 |
| Sale of goods | 72,828 | 49,204 |
| Other revenue | 1,678 | 2,236 |
| | <u>202,189</u> | <u>106,930</u> |
| Disbursements | | |
| Bank charges and interest | 4,290 | 616 |
| Charitable programs | 125,925 | 25,473 |
| Fundraising | 7,056 | 1,399 |
| Insurance | 550 | 500 |
| Office | 2,617 | 1,354 |
| Professional fees | 20,056 | 14,160 |
| Purchase of goods for resale | 16,552 | 38,604 |
| Website maintenance | 30 | 801 |
| | <u>177,077</u> | <u>82,907</u> |
| Excess of Receipts over Disbursements before Amortization | 25,112 | 24,023 |
| Amortization | 217 | 268 |
| Excess of receipts over disbursements | 24,895 | 23,755 |
| Transfer to reserves | - 24,895 | - 23,755 |
| Members' Surplus, beginning of year | - | - |
| Members' Surplus, end of year | - | - |

Members

Total 46

IGP students

With sponsors 178

No sponsor 35

Total 213

Sungava students

All students currently have sponsors 13

Submitted by: Paul Whitewood, Treasurer/Secretary

Director at Large Report

Unako scarves in Montreal have done amazing. In a large part this was due to excellent press coverage in Montreal from La Presse, who featured Michelle Bonneau as person of the week in January of 2014. This accelerated the momentum of the Eastern scarf sales. It provided a huge impact in our visibility and led to numerous follow up events. Unako was invited to be included in the National Women's Show in Toronto in April, which also proved successful in exposure of IWEN and Unako.



They are a small group of women doing a lot of work out of a one bedroom apartment in Montreal. As most of us can appreciate, having limited personal space and choosing to allow it to be a "warehouse" for scarf inventory in order to support IWEN and Unako gives an indication as to the passion and commitment shown by these truly amazing women. Major thanks and recognition go to Catherine Castonguay, Michelle's niece for running UNAKO in Montreal and allowing her apartment to become a secondary warehouse.

In Temiscaming (Michelle's old stomping ground - where Unako started), they have raised \$14,900 since 2012. Without this group of dedicated volunteers, Unako would never have evolved. Their enthusiasm and support are examples of what feeds the IWEN spirit.

Our emphasis going forward for Unako scarf sales will be in furthering our quality control, fabric choices and design to ensure we meet and exceed current trends and standards, which would minimize the dependency on outsourced manufactured scarves.

Our local volunteers that have been organized and coordinated through the efforts of Lorri Simpson have provided huge support. This is a working non-paid board, and although incredibly committed, cannot be everywhere at once. That is why, when someone like Lorri steps up and handles the coordination of volunteers for an event it is greatly appreciated. To all of those volunteers who took turns and shifts at scarf tables over the past year..... Thank you!

We would be remiss if we did not mention the efforts of Linda Edgcombe who continues to drag a suitcase of scarves with her wherever she has a speaking engagement and promotes and introduces her audiences to IWEN.



Additionally, thanks go out to other independent supporters like Leah Podollan, who through her L Spa in Grande Prairie has not only raised awareness of IWEN amongst her client base, but who has hosted a number of fundraisers be-it for brick sales campaigns, bicycle purchases, sponsorship of a student, all the while providing retail space for scarves. She continues to promote UNAKO and IWEN through her business through her strong social media network. She too was strongly impacted by working in Nepal and meeting the people that her efforts have affected.

There are so many individuals who are making these contributions. Allowing scarves to be sold in their business environment, or hosting a scarf party, or helping at an event, that IWEN scarf sales have had the strongest year ever, due to the support of all of the individuals that have contributed their time, passion and vision to this cause.



When I was in Nepal last November, I was fortunate enough to meet the women of UNAKO. The women who sew these scarves. They have pride in the fact that they have jobs to go to. It not only provides income and support for their families, but it shows their children that when mom works, they have more opportunities. Having met some of the children of these lovely ladies, I can vouch for the fact that UNAKO is making a difference. It is having an impact. It is providing opportunities, not just economically but for a brighter future.

THANK YOU ALL!

Submitted by: Sherri Chapman, Director

UNAKO East

Several major events and turning points have occurred this year that allowed UNAKO scarves to evolve rapidly, especially the coverage in La Presse + and the financial support of Desjardins (\$4000), two recognized and respected institutions. The brand and IWEN's cause has gain both awareness and credibility.

We, volunteers, are proud to see that the progress we are making here with UNAKO has a direct impact on the life of women in Dang. We know that every action counts and makes a difference. The building of the UNAKO House is one example of an achievement that required the involvement and support of many people. It is a success story and a symbol of hope for the future of the Tharu community.

**Online Store**

I believe that our results show the relevance of having established a platform for online sales. During the period of 1 April 2013 to March 31 2014, the online store has achieved average monthly sales of \$1230.83. The highest level of sales was reached in January and February (respectively \$4850 and \$7025). This was due to the broadcast of the story on IWEN in La Presse + on January 19. About 40% of visitors returned more than once to the website. We are also reaching hundreds of people on Facebook with 509 followers.

Not only did we observe increases in sales, but this event also brought new and motivated volunteers to the team.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of Unako Scarves, and helped to make it a success.



Submitted by: Catherine Castonguay

Nepal Country Director Report

Empowerment through Education [ETE]

Our Annual Action Plan for our Empowerment through Education program (previously Indentured Girls Program – IGP) provides educational support to 213 ex-bonded girls and their siblings within a relatively safe home environment. We achieved this through these interventions; providing tutoring in weak subjects, bicycle allocation to those who pass grade 7, discussion and counseling of students' issues, providing health care when necessary and motivating their mothers through the education of life skills in monthly meetings. Education helps girls and women know their rights and gain the confidence to claim them. However, although girls' literacy rate in Nepal is growing, it is still far from being satisfactory.

One of the many successful cases that IWEN could cite is the example of Alina, a girl who is now in grade 10 and is very happy about her accomplishments.

Both of her parents and Alina herself were illegally bonded to a landlord. Luckily, six years ago IWEN rescued her and began to support her education. Her mother also enrolled herself into IWEN's mother's group. Alina says "There was no chance to go school as my parents had nothing besides a small hut. There was no food so who could think about education. I am very lucky that I got not only educational support but also got a bicycle and important counseling." She adds that her friends who could not get this support are already married with one or two children.



After careful monitoring of IWEN grade 10 students' results over the past 3 years it was clear that despite extra tutoring help the government school educational system was not giving them the opportunity to succeed in their graduating exams. Meetings were held with the five school head teachers and teachers about this issue yet there was no change despite CP's efforts. IWEN students' school attendance was generally good throughout their school year as well as their tutoring attendance.

Thus during the 2012-2013 school year CP's Field Staff responsible for IWEN students visited private English medium schools in the **same** area as the government schools and discovered that their grade 10 graduating results had a higher succeed rate with over 75%-80% of their students passing in comparison to less than 1% of government students passing. Financial costs were compared and even though the scholarship costs is a little higher in private English schools IWEN still would have better value for the students' annual scholarship in the private English schools rather than in the government schools. There are many reasons for the low succeed rate of grade 10 graduation results. Throughout Nepal the 2013-2014 school year results were 23% of government school students passed grade 10 in comparison to 94% of private English medium school students passed. Government schools are definitely problematic.

Parents were happy to have their daughter switched. In accordance with IWEN's policy of not creating dependence the parents accepted to cover the daughter's fees for shoes and school bag, which facilitates

a partnership between CP/IWEN and the parents. Five private schools were chosen after several visits from CP staff and director. Only students in lower grades could be admitted because the gap in learning is too huge between private and government. The permission of both parent and student was required before the student was enrolled in one of the private schools closest to their home. The five private schools gave IWEN students bridging classes in hopes of increasing their grade level. In the long term CP believes that the increase in cost will in the end save IWEN sponsorship fees because failed grade 10 students were encouraged to repeat their grade 10. IWEN/CP's private school students will graduate with the ability to speak English whereas that was not the case in government schools. In the end it is unjust for rural students to not have an opportunity for a successful education because parents cannot afford a private school fee.

Empowerment through the Micro-Finance

Since 2009 when mothers groups began the micro finance project with the facilitation of the field staff to present day, it has grown to a formal registered cooperative called, UNAKO Cooperative. At the end of March, there were a total of 451 mothers involved. UNAKO Cooperative is a direct result of the success of IWEN's 13 mothers' groups who have been operating their group's micro-credit activities.

All CP staff and mothers members rejoiced when the final papers were signed. Surely the UNAKO Cooperative will change lives and facilitate self-reliance rather than being trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty. With CP's experience over the last 5 years, UNAKO Cooperative will be a crucial tool for the financial empowerment of poor families; especially to the women and mothers of the area.

IWEN's mothers groups are instrumental in the establishment of the UNAKO Cooperative for the following reasons; mothers learned how to borrow and pay back small amounts of money, thus becoming extremely responsible to their group, no mother defaulted on their loan thus far after 5 years, mothers learned how to save money, breaking their old habit of earning and spending immediately, mothers attended literacy classes, and some mothers even started successful small businesses such as animal husbandry, vegetable farming, grocery shop, canteen and brick making. All of these resulted in successful examples, which encouraged other mothers to do the same.

IWEN's vision is to help families holistically so that the daughter's education remains sustainable. Alina and her mother Jiuni are prime examples of this vision in action. By giving Alina a scholarship, her mother, Jiuni Chaudhary, was able to enlist into the mother's monthly group. The rest is history as the story below proves:

Jiuni recounts her story as follows. "I am from the Lokharpur mother's group. I received a female piglet six years ago as a motivational incentive to send my daughter Alina to school. That female piglet has given birth three times until now. The pig first gave birth to 11 piglets, the second time it gave birth to 8 piglets and the third time it gave birth to 12 piglets. By selling all these piglets, I have earned a total of \$1,263 (rs, 120,000). I kept one female pig to continue the process. From these earnings, I have spent rs20,000 for my medical treatment and rs100,000 to purchase two plots of land for my family, as we were previously landless. IWEN's support of my daughter Alina went further than just her classroom education."

Empowerment through Sharing and Caring

Classroom for a cause & UNAKO Community Building

With the presence of IWEN's November 2013 volunteer group, Creating Possibilities finished the 4th Chainpur School classroom. Developing World Connections was also instrumental in the completion of this project with their contribution of volunteer groups in both May and September of 2013. Six students and their teacher came with a highly motivated November adult group to work on both the classrooms and UNAKO House.

Unako House is a multipurpose building that will act mainly as a bridge for local women helping them towards their financial and educational progress as well as their personal empowerment. The CP staff will have ownership of developing the programs within UNAKO House in collaboration with CP. The CP staff is responsible for the gradual formation of a committee of mothers to run UNAKO House. This building's



construction is the result of local participation. As the volunteers from Canada participated with energy and appreciation of the locals the spirit of the volunteers was unbelievable. Each volunteer gave his or her best. They shared with the locals not only in their culture but also in their stories. It seems that this experience was truly unforgettable and it was a once in a lifetime event for all involved.

Another important development arose with the Chainpur School. The IWEN President and the CP Director discussed at length the quality of the education that students received. CP had already given the school direction and an ultimatum. In CP's March visit, Chainpur shared that for the first time they had not automatically passed all their grade eight students. This decision provides those kept back another year of practice before writing their grade 10 final exams. At least this is a start towards improving the students' chances at successfully passing their grade 10 exams.

IWEN Signature Scarves - UNAKO

An idea in 2012, that IWEN's Signature Scarves could provide IWEN's Tharu mothers with an actual salary, which would improve their quality of life, was seen as a risk at the time. Generally speaking, due to the dire poverty of most of the Tharu people in the area, a certain inherent dependency has developed over the years. This is partly due to NGOs time-bound project work.

After much discussion with the Dang field staff, and a huge financial donation from Temiscaming, a small UNAKO work area was started. The UNAKO scarves are sold both in Western and Eastern Canada. To give impetus to this idea, Eastern Canada took the responsibility of selling enough UNAKO scarves to pay for the eight Mother's salary and the materials to produce them. Thus a small group of young women headed by Catherine Castonguay and under the direction of Michelle Bonneau began to work diligently and

collaboratively with CP and IWEN's Board. Both Western and Eastern Canada are marketing rigorously to make UNAKO scarves a success.

Five years of consistently believing that IWEN's mothers could achieve a measure of reliance has paid off. IWEN mothers are risking, sharing their problems and successes, and some are even beginning to dream more ambitiously. The UNAKO volunteers, CP staff and IWEN board work hard at "weaving links together" between Canada and Nepal. This connection grows daily through the sale of a single scarf made proudly by IWEN's UNAKO mothers.

Sungava

IWEN's continual funding to Sungava has been an instrumental support for the group. Thirteen mentally challenged girls/women are provided lunch and bus fare through this funding. In addition to this, the charity provides different life skills to them.

Submitted by: Dinesh Raj Sapkota, Creating Possibilities Country Director

Immigrant Women's Committee Report

It was another busy year for the Immigrant Women's committee. We were proud to represent IWEN Canada at many functions over the past year.

We held two food safe courses this past year with a total of 48 women. This course is very popular with in the local immigrant community. This course provides new immigrants the ability to gain entry level work within the food industry. We plan to hold another two courses later in 2014.



With the help of our two new volunteers, Kusum and Amanda, we have started Basic English Conversation Courses. There is a need within the local community for weekend courses. During the week the women either work or have no daycare. The first classes had eight new immigrants take the course. They have gained confidence and independence.

Once again, the IWC held their International Women's Day Potluck. It was again a successful social event. The different contributions were a beautiful colour array of food. This event gives the women a chance to meet other women new to the community and to Canada. They make new friends, network, share stories and gain independence.

This next year, the IWC looks forward to holding more food safe courses, social events as well as building on their new English conversation courses.

Submitted by: Victoria Oppertshauser, Immigrant Women's Committee

Annual General Meeting 2013 Minutes

Annual General Meeting Agenda
September 23, 2013
“The House”
240 Lougheed Rd, Kelowna, BC

Welcome

Dinesh and Michelle welcomed everyone via video from Nepal

Opening

The Annual General Meeting of the Inter-cultural Women’s Educational Network was Called to order at 7:22pm by Kevin Edgecombe.

23 people in attendance, 19 members in attendance; quorum met.

Welcome to all by Kevin Edgecombe and introduction of the present Board of Directors.

Copies of the 2013 Annual Report and 2012 AGM Minutes were made available to everyone in attendance.

Approval of 2013 Agenda

Motion to accept the Agenda made by Paul Whitewood; seconded by Jill Conroy; All in favour, Motion Carried

Approval of 2012 Minutes

Motion to accept the 2012 IWEN AGM Minutes made by Jill Conroy; seconded by Heather Oishi; All in favour, Motion Carried

Kevin Edgecombe asked the membership if there was any new business; there was none brought forth by the members in attendance.

Election of Officers

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for President. Jill Conroy nominated Kevin Edgecombe, Kevin called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, and Kevin Edgecombe is declared president by acclamation

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Vice President, Paul Whitewood nominates Jill Conroy, Kevin called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, Jill Conroy is declared president by acclamation

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Treasurer/Secretary, Deana Hills nominates Paul Whitewood, Kevin called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, Paul Whitewood is declared president by acclamation

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Directors at Large, Jill Conroy nominates Deana Hills, Paul Whitewood nominates Sherri Chapman, Paul Whitewood nominates Heather Oishi, Kevin nominates Katie Phelps, Kevin called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, Deana Hills, Sherri Chapman, Heather Oishi, and Katie Phelps are declared directors at large by acclamation

Directors Reports

See 2012-2013 Annual Report

Overview of IWEN Projects

Kevin gave a brief presentation of the history of IWEN, the board, IWEN's founder Michelle Bonneau, and Creating Possibilities IWEN's partner in Nepal.

Jill Conroy presented all of the programs that IWEN is currently supporting and involved in. IGP, Sungava, Micro Credit, Mothers groups, Unako, and the Power of One.

Immigrant Women's Committee Report

Presentation by Victoria Oppertshauer

Victoria introduced the IWC team, Elna Von Dach and Doreen Rosvold. Victoria gave a presentation on the events and activities of the IWC this year. These include representing IWEN with local organizations. They have dedicated volunteers who are working with the immigrant women on weekends and helping with English classes. They have also had two successful food safe courses this year. IWEN thanks the IWC for all of their work that they have done in Kelowna.

Special Projects Presentation

Presentation by Kevin Edgecombe

Kevin Edgecombe presented Classrooms for a Cause and Unako House. A report was given on last year's Nepal trip and introduction to Unako House. Unako House will be able to blend all that IWEN does. It will be the headquarters of Unako scarf production, Deppa and Sarita will both have their offices in this house. There will be two lease spaces, offices for CP, Sarita will live in the building and be caretaker, and there will be a few small training rooms. Kevin Edgecombe is designing the building, 4000 sq ft. Ground breaking to happen mid-October so foundation is done by the time the team arrives November 5th. A business plan is currently being worked on, with the ultimate goal for the building to operate at break even. Construction is to be completed by July 2014 as a generous donor will be there in July to put the solar panels on Unako House. The cost of this project is currently at \$65,000.

Fundraising, Membership and Sponsorship

Presentation by Kevin Edgecombe

Kevin presented the membership with an update on current member and sponsor numbers. We have 66 members, 213 girls in the IGP program with 140 sponsored. There will be a focus in the upcoming year to ensure that each girl has a committed sponsor that will stay with each girl through graduation. Kevin introduced many of the fundraising Initiatives that IWEN is currently involved in, memberships, scarf sales, Unako scarf sales, brick sales, the power of one, Wine Country Half Marathon, 9 Wine Pie, and a yoga challenge.

Volunteering Report

Presentation by Deana Hills

Deana spoke about volunteering opportunities within IWEN. We have a new volunteer coordinator who is looking for local volunteers able to help out at our scarf sales over the fall and winter.

Financial Report

Presentation made by Paul Whitewood, Treasurer

Presentation made by Paul Whitewood, Treasurer

Presentation was made on the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2013 well as Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Member's Surplus for the year ended March 31, 2013.

One of the key changes this year is the change of year end from May 31 to March 31. This was done to tie into the Nepalese school year. It will assist in reporting and allocation of funds.

Move to accept Financial Report by Jill Conroy, seconded by Heather Oishi.
All in favour, motion passed

The 2013 Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 8:50