



Richard-Wagner-Verband International e.V.
International Association of Wagner Societies
Association Internationale des Cercles Richard Wagner

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Delegates
6 May 2016, Strasbourg**

The meeting began at 14:00.

Those present:

1. Josef Lienhart (Honorary President RWVI)
2. Horst Eggert (President RWVI)
3. Nicolaus Richter (1st Vice-President RWVI)
4. Prof. Alessandra Althoff-Pugliese (2nd Vice-President RWVI)
5. Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael Schneider (3rd Vice-President RWVI)
6. Jacques Bouffier (4th Vice-President RWVI)
7. Günter Cisek (Secretary RWVI)
8. Georg Riesner (Treasurer RWVI)
9. Andrea Buchanan (Member of the Board RWVI)
10. Rainer Fineske (Member of the Board RWVI)
11. Selma Gudmundsdóttir (Member of the Board RWVI)
12. Gisbert Lehmhaus (Member of the Board RWVI)
13. Karl Russwurm (Member of the Board)
14. Dipl.-Ing. Heinz Weyringer (Member of the Board RWVI)
15. Christian Ducor (Member of the Board RWVI)

Matthias Lachenmann sent his apologies for work reasons.

Guests:

Eva Wagner-Pasquier, representative of the Wagner societies

Dr. Stefan Specht, Managing Director of the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation

Tobias Langmeyer, CEO of DC-Solutions and team leader for the RWVI website

(Brigitte Merk-Erbe, Mayor of Bayreuth had to cancel her attendance at the meeting due to a bereavement in her immediate family)

Delegates:

There were 46 voting delegates present.

Minutes:

Günter Cisek RWVI Secretary

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and confirmation of the agenda

President Horst Eggers opened the delegates' meeting and welcomed all those present, including as guests Dr. Stefan Specht, Managing Director of the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation and Christophe Didier (Deputy Manager of the Bibliothèque Nationale Universitaire) who, in his capacity as host to the meeting extended a brief welcome greeting to the delegates, in which he referred to the close relationship between Richard Wagner and the city of Strasbourg.

The President began by thanking M. Didier for provision of the meeting room. He continued by noting both that the invitation to the Delegates' meeting had been issued within the stipulated time-frame and that the meeting was quorate. He then welcomed Tobias Langmeyer, who had created the new RWVI website, and who would give a presentation to the delegates later in the meeting.

The President noted that by 15 April 2016 four motions (three of which had been submitted by the WS Frankfurt to be dealt with under agenda items 10 - 12 and one submitted by the WS Weimar, which would be dealt with under agenda item 18) had been received by him within the stipulated time-frame and that on 18 April 2016 these had been sent in three languages to all member societies.

The President pointed out that 46 delegates were physically present, however, by means of 11 valid proxy votes that were made possible according to the new, already adopted Statute, a total of 57 voting rights were present and thus the two-thirds majority required would be comprised of 43 votes (see Annexe 1: List of Delegates).

Agenda Item 2: Greetings from the Mayor of Bayreuth, Brigitte Merk-Erbe

Representing Mayor Merk-Erbe, who had to cancel her attendance at the meeting due to a bereavement in her family, Dr. Specht in his capacity as the CSU Chairman in Bayreuth read out her speech. He conveyed the greetings of Mayor Merk-Erbe and thanked the delegates for the significant support of the Bayreuth Festival by the RWVI and by Wagner Societies around the world. His invitation on the Mayor's behalf to this year's Festival included the news that an exciting new staging of Parsifal was anticipated from Uwe Laufenberg and that the successful Landesgartenschau (garden show) being held in Bayreuth during the time of the Festival would be well worth a visit.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of new Chairpersons of member societies

The President first welcomed Eva Wagner-Pasquier, who was in attendance at the Delegates' meeting.

He then presented the following new Chairs of member societies:

Arabella Hellmann, WS Ammersee
Frank Brockmann, WS Rhein-Sieg
Gisbert Lehmhaus, WS Dusseldorf

Agenda Item 4: Presentation of the "Golden W" for 10 years of Chairmanship of a Wagner Society

For her 10-year Chairmanship of a Wagner Society, the President noted the following who would be presented in absentia with the golden pin:

Lesya Kuotyuk (WS Lviv)
Dr. Gabriele Priest (WS Heidelberg)
D. Schaffer (WS Coburg), to whom the President conveyed his best wishes for convalescence
Paolo Jucker (WS Milan)

Hans-Michael Schneider (WS Karlsruhe), Selma Gudmundsdóttir (WS Reykjavik, Iceland), Kerstin Jonasson (WS Stockholm, Sweden) and Heikki Virri (WS Turku, Finland) were presented with the golden pin personally by the President for their 10-year chairmanship of a Wagner Society. Ms. Jonasson thanked the President for the awards on behalf of all honorees.

Agenda Item 5: President's report

The President submitted his annual report for the past year. This report accompanies the minutes as Annexe 2.

Following the activity report, a discussion ensued on "working with youth". Hans-Michael Schneider reported on the establishment of a music prize by the WS Karlsruhe for graduates of high schools in that town, which will be awarded this year for the first time. The prize includes theatre tickets and a six-year free membership of the WS Karlsruhe.

Nicolaus Richter then described the "education" programme of the WS Bayreuth, which included talks for schools given by directors of the Festival, visits to orchestral and stage rehearsals and master classes during the Festival.

Andreas Berger proposed that a means be developed for the exchange of information on successful initiatives in the area of youth work by member societies.

Agenda Item 6: Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer's report is attached with the minutes in Annexes 4 and 5

Agenda Item 7: Auditors' Report

The auditors' report was submitted by Elisabeth Bauriedel (WS Bayreuth). She confirmed that after a thorough examination, the accuracy and completeness of the accounts could be verified.

Agenda Item 8: Discharge of the Committee

Mr. Lösch (WS Bonn) proposed the discharge of the Committee. The resolution was adopted unanimously with one abstention.

Agenda Item 9: Report of the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation

Dr. Specht reported that the number of bursaries for German scholars has been declining in relation to that for non-German scholars. This year, Korea tops the league table of non-German scholars with 14 awardees, followed by China with 13. For further demographic information, the scholarship list refers (see Annexe 6).

Dr Specht made reference to the annual scholars' concert and requested the meeting's understanding that not all applications for inclusion could be granted for this event.

This year, the fee for the scholarship had been increased to €580 - primarily because of higher prices for tickets to the Festival. Despite this, only five societies have applied to the support fund for assistance.

He went on to explain that the number of Festival tickets allocated for the scholarships was not sufficient and that we could consider merging the two ticket allocations of the Scholarship Foundation and the RWVI to favour those societies that send scholars. Due to certain irregularities last year, closer monitoring of the Festival tickets held by scholars would be put in place.

In conclusion, Mr. Specht thanked Ms. Wagner-Pasquier for her support of the Scholarship Foundation. He pointed out that she was no longer part of the Festival management, which was now the sole responsibility of Katharina Wagner. He also thanked the RWVI for its support.

In connection with the scholarship programme, Leo Cornelissen (WS Netherlands) requested that any societies nominating a scholar not from their own country, should inform the WS of that country as a courtesy.

Agenda Item 10: proposals for amending the Constitution

1. Amendments to § 9

Mr. Lehmhaus explained the change proposed by the Committee, taking into account the proposal from the WS Frankfurt to use the term "texform".

The following amendments were agreed unanimously with no abstentions, thereby being decided by the required majority of three-quarters of the available votes:

- § 9 section 1 sentence 2 to read as follows:

"To this end, the President issues an invitation at least 30 days in advance in writing or in text form by fax or by e-mail."

- § 9 paragraph 2, sentence 2 to read as follows:

"Notice shall be given within a period of 30 days, accompanied by the agenda in writing or in text form by fax or by e-mail."

- § 9 paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

"The following shall participate in the AGM:

- a) Members of the Committee
- b) Representatives of member societies

- § 9, paragraph 4 :

c) Sentence 1 to be deleted

d) Introduction of new sentences 3 and 4 (counting from the deletion of sentence 1):

"Representatives of member societies are entitled to vote at the Assembly of Delegates. Committee members are only entitled to vote if they are also representing a member society. "

All the above amendments were approved unanimously with no abstentions, i.e. were approved by the required majority of three-quarters of the available votes.

2. Changes to § 10

- To § 10 paragraph 5 - the following amendment was proposed by WS Frankfurt:

"Resolutions may be passed in writing outside a delegates' meeting. For this, the draft resolution will be submitted to all voting members in textform within a period of 30 days of the vote. Any votes not received by the Committee by the end of the designated period shall be considered as abstentions. "

This motion was rejected with one vote for and one abstention.

- § 10 paragraph 6

The Committee's proposal for the amendment of § 10 paragraph 6 was carried unanimously with no abstentions, i.e. was accepted by the required majority of three-quarters of the available votes. The new Articles of Association now reads as follows:

"Applications for the Assembly of Delegates must be submitted to the President in writing or in text form by fax or by e-mail at least 20 days prior to the Assembly of Delegates."

3. Amendment of § paragraph 13, 1 sentence 1

The Committee proposed that § 13 paragraph 1, sentence 1 should read as follows: "Every year an international Richard Wagner Congress shall take place at the decision of the Committee."

The delegates' meeting discussed in detail the pros and cons of the Committee's proposal to transfer responsibility for the decision of the location of the Congress to the Committee. Following this discussion, the Assembly of Delegates voted on the motion put by the Committee:

With three votes against and the rest in favour, i.e. with the requisite majority of three-quarters of the available votes, the Assembly of Delegates agreed the motion.

Agenda Item 11: Website and Newsletter

Tobias Langmeyer, developer of the new RWVI website gave a presentation to the meeting, stating that, within the time and budget framework, all the objectives for the new website (a modern design with full media functionality for tablet and smartphone, in three languages with automatic language recognition and a timely presentation of news and events) had been met.

He invited members to use the website intensively and to assist in filling the site with relevant content, so that it would soon feature on the first page of any relevant Google search.

Andrea Buchanan thanked Tobias Langmeyer on behalf of the website team specifically for his excellent and professional co-operation and pointing out that he had obtained the rights for the new domain "richard-wagner.org" with considerable negotiating skills from the previous owner.

She also requested, particularly from the German societies, that members send regular contributions with details of their news and events.

Finally, Tobias Langmeyer noted the offer to the member societies of the services of his company dc Solutions to assist them with the creation of their own new website - based on the design of the RWVI site - the standard features would be available for a one-off payment of €990, and a monthly maintenance fee of €19.

Following the motion from the WS Frankfurt, the "creation of a closed Internet-based members' area for the Committees of the member societies" was discussed. After a thorough debate and having noted that social networks that could fulfill such a function were already in existence, the WS Frankfurt withdrew the motion.

Karl Russwurm reported briefly on the RWVI newsletter and expressed his thanks both to the NL team for their co-operation and to the members for their positive acceptance of this new medium, that should not be seen as a competitor to the website. It was rather an supplement to update members, which was underscored by the fact that there was a largely different membership team for both.

Agenda Item 12: International Richard Wagner Congresses 2017-2021

Professor Kappler of the WS Innsbruck-Bozen gave a brief promotional overview and some programme highlights for his society's hosting of the RWVI Congress in 2018.

The WS Venice would, after 25 years, once again host the RWVI Congress in 2019. Professor Althoff-Pugliese gave some preliminary information.

For 2020, The WSs of Bonn and Rhein-Sieg, in co-operation with other Wagner Societies in the region, would host the Congress on the occasion of the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven.

The WS Munich expressed the wish to host the RWVI Congress in 2021 to coincide with their anniversary.

All of the above proposals for hosting the respective congresses were adopted unanimously with no abstentions by the Assembly of Delegates.

With regard to the proposal made by WS Frankfurt to hold the Congress in 2022 in Reykjavik it was pointed out that it was customary to leave the proposing to the WS that would organise the congress. At the very least, they should be consulted in such matters.

Agenda Item 13: Invitation to the RWVI Congress 2017 in Budapest

Andras Bajai gave, by means of a multimedia presentation, an indication of the programme for next year's Congress.. He invited all delegates and fellow members of Wagner societies to participate in the congress in Budapest and promised an exciting and worthwhile event to all visitors (see link: http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=994)

Agenda Item 14 Keyword Wagner

From 14 to 16 October, the RWVI event "Keyword Wagner" will take place, hosted by the WS Munich. This year, as reported by Karl Russwurm, the theme of the event will be "Richard Wagner as a politician" (see Annexe 8). Karl Russwurm invited participation in what promises to be a challenging session.

Agenda Item 15: Giornate Wagneriane 2016

Professor Althoff-Pugliese invited delegates to the Giornate Wagneriane - the oldest RWVI event - in Venice. To mark the 50th anniversary of the great flood, the new opera "Aqua Granda" will be presented in the Teatro La Fenice. On November 12, there will be a lecture on "Wagner and the new music".

Agenda Item 16: Ring Award 2017 in Graz

The aim of the Ring Award, as explained by Heinz Weyringer, was to enable assistant stage directors to pursue their work leading to becoming a director. Many previous winners of the award have demonstrated this achievement. For example, one of the recent winners of a Ring Award has staged Rigoletto at the Nuremberg State Theatre, while another has staged Tristan at the Graz Opera. The finals will be held on 13/14 October 2017.

Agenda Item 17: 100th birthdays of Wieland and Wolfgang Wagner

Rainer Fineske, Chairman of the WS Berlin-Brandenburg noted that his society together with the RWVI, will host a symposium at the Deutsche Opera Berlin on

the occasion of the 100th birthday of Wieland Wagner. Josef Lienhart, will give a talk about Wieland Wagner's work with lighting, and Professor H.-P. Lehmann will also take part.

The President explained that the commemoration of the 100th birthday of Wolfgang Wagner would be held in 2019 in Bayreuth.

Agenda Item 18: Any other business

The President referred to the motion put by the WS Weimar, concerning whether in 2013 the Richard Wagner Gesellschaft of Leipzig had acted in conformity with the RWVI constitution.

The President made it clear that it was not within the remit of the Committee to review the work of local societies, as long as their statutes complied with those of the RWVI and they paid their statutory contributions to the RWVI. He did, however, agree to investigate when and whether the society was correctly affiliated to the RWVI, and would communicate the result to the next delegates' meeting.

Peter Häggblom (RWV Helsinki) reminded the meeting that he had previously requested a list containing the number of members, their financial contributions and the number of allocated tickets.

The Treasurer indicated that this list was available and committed to send this information to all member societies.

Rainer Fineske requested that, in future, registration and indication of proxy votes for the Delegates' Assembly be submitted to him personally in plenty of time before the meeting.

At 18:00 the President formally closed the Delegates' Assembly.

Würzburg, 18 May 2016

Horst Eggers
President RWVI

Günter Cisek
Secretary RWVI