

Trustees Report

The World Board is pleased to present its Annual Report and audited Financial Statements for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) for the year to 31 December 2006. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005.

Reference and Administrative Details

WAGGGS is a charity registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales under number 306125.

The World Bureau serves as the secretariat of WAGGGS and its address can be found on page 15.

Details of the trustees and senior staff and external advisors who served during the year are set out on page 15.

Structure, Governance and Management

The authority of WAGGGS is exercised through delegates appointed by Member Organizations of WAGGGS, meeting at the World Conference. The World Board acts on behalf of the Conference between its meetings and its members are trustees of the Charity. WAGGGS' governing instrument is the tenth edition of the Constitution and Bye-Laws dated 1936, revised June 1990, July 1993, June 2002 and June 2005.

The World Board consists of 17 members, 12 who are elected for a term of six years, by ballot, at the World Conference and the five Chairmen of the Regional Committees, who are elected by ballot at their respective Regional Conferences and serve on the World Board for a period of three years. Regional Chairmen may serve for an additional term of three years if elected by their Region for a second term.

Member Organizations nominate candidates for election to the World Board, the Regional Committees and other Committees and working groups of the World Board. Prior to elections Member Organizations are circulated with details of experience and specific expertise required from potential candidates so as to have an effective and representative World Board. If the World Board considers there is a lack of a particular expertise, then it may co-opt external expertise to fill the gap.

All new trustees are required to undertake an intensive induction programme, which gives them a wide understanding of the various issues facing WAGGGS. Prior to each World Board meeting a programme of training keeps trustees up to date with new practices and other developments applicable to WAGGGS' work and the requirements of the charity sector within the UK. This is particularly important given the diverse background of the international World Board.

The full World Board meets in London at the World Bureau once a year for four days. The main purpose of the meeting is to review performance and monitor progress towards the achievement of objectives and targets set in WAGGGS' Strategic Plan which has been approved by the World Conference. In addition, the Board meets prior to, and at the conclusion of, the World Conference. The World Board's responsibilities are detailed in Article VII, Section V of WAGGGS' Constitution and Bye-Laws.

The World Board is committed to achieving best practice in governance and seeks to ensure that WAGGGS is efficient and effective in achieving its Object. A new structure was implemented in 2005 to support the World Board and the delivery of WAGGGS' Object and Strategic Plan. This structure consists of Coordinating Groups, Committees and Task Groups acting in an advisory capacity to the World Board and the staff. Each group has specific terms of reference and may include specialist co-opted members as well as trustees.

The day-to-day running of WAGGGS, its operational decisions, the implementation of approved strategy and the exercise of executive responsibility is delegated to the Chief Executive and her Senior Management Team.

Coordinating Groups report directly to the World Board.

The current Coordinating Groups, Committees, and Task Groups are:

Chairman's Coordinating Group – oversees and monitors the ongoing work of WAGGGS between World Board meetings. It consists of the World Board Chairman, Deputy Chairman, the three Group Coordinators and the Chief Executive who meet prior to the World Board and Committee meetings, and for at least one additional meeting during the year, in between Board meetings.

Strategy and Development of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting Group – is responsible for leadership development, strategy, recruitment and retention, quality of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting, support for Member Organizations, the ongoing monitoring of performance, exchange of good practice and the work of the World Centres.

- **World Centres Committee** – has strategic development responsibility for the World Centres, covering all operational aspects, including finance, programme, communications, risk, health and safety.
- **Regional Committees** – are responsible for the quality of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting within their Region, for providing support through agreed activities within the Region to enable Member Organizations to contribute towards the overall achievement of WAGGGS' strategic objectives.

Communications Group – is responsible for the ongoing development of WAGGGS' advocacy work, branding and website, merchandising, publications, WAGGGS' work with the United Nations and relationships with other NGOs. The Group also has a responsibility for the World Conference and Fund Development.

Finance and Business Management – encompassing, finance, governance, facilitation and the operational organization of WAGGGS.

- **Finance Committee** – formulates and reviews financial policy and financial plans, maintains financial oversight of the strategies and operations of WAGGGS. The Committee recommends the appointment of WAGGGS' investment managers and monitors the performance of WAGGGS' investment portfolio. Each year it advises the World Board on the appropriate level of free reserves and the appropriate asset allocation for WAGGGS' investment portfolio.

- **Governance and Constitutions Committee** – looks at issues relating to WAGGGS' Constitution and Bye-Laws and Policies and Procedures and advises the World Board on governance issues, including elections, induction, evaluation and training of Board members. It also monitors Member Organizations' constitutions and makes recommendations to the World Board.
- **Human Resources Committee reporting to the World Board** – comprises of trustees and other external advisors. It meets at least once a year to review the general remuneration policy and consider Human Resources policies and procedures to ensure that they keep abreast of best practice in comparable organizations in the countries in which staff are employed and comply with relevant employment practices and legislation. The World Board has delegated the authority for decisions on benefits and salaries to the Human Resources Committee which provide regular reports on these decisions to the World Board for their acceptance.
- **Audit Committee reporting to the World Board** – comprises of trustees and other external advisors. It recommends to the World Board the formal approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements and meets with the External Auditors periodically reviewing the effectiveness of current processes and practice. Responsibility for overseeing the management of risk within WAGGGS has been delegated by the World Board to the Audit Committee.

WAGGGS/WOSM Consultative Committee – liaises with The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

Task Groups – are task orientated and consist of members, who have been selected for their particular expertise in relation to the specific task. The groups report to the relevant Coordinating Group or directly to the World Board, and once their task is completed the Group ceases to exist. Examples of task groups are Leadership Development, Individual Giving, UN/Advocacy and Juliette Low Seminar.

Olave Baden-Powell Society – is an international support group dedicated to the development of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting all over the world. The President of the Society attends the Communications Coordinating Group meetings and meets annually with the World Board.