



## Swiss Society of the Kansai

March 9, 2019

### Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

held at Restaurant "RValentino", Kobe on Saturday, March 9, 2019, 7.10pm – 7:45pm

Philip Spaelti, President of the Swiss Society of the Kansai (SSOK), opened the meeting at 7.10pm and welcomed the attendees to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. He extended a special welcome to Mr. Markus Reubi, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy to Japan in Tokyo.

Mr. Spaelti informed that the SSOK website went live in 2018 and encouraged the attendees to visit it ([www.swisskansai.org](http://www.swisskansai.org)). A special thank was extended to our fellow member William Jolley for his great support to make this happen.

While the AGM is normally the first event in each given year, the SSOK already served Raclette at the Swiss Fair in Oyamazaki on February 23. Oyamazaki is one of the host towns for Swiss athletes at the 2020 Olympics. 100 people visited our stall to enjoy a portion of Raclette served on bread.

Mr. Spaelti mentioned that 2019 will be a special year as the SSOK will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The inaugural meeting of SSOK was held on June 8, 1979 at the Kobe Club. A commemorative event is scheduled on Saturday, September 14 at the Kobe Club with the participation of Swiss folk music and yodeling.

Last but not least he thanked the committee members as well as other members for all the work they always put into preparing and running the various events in 2018.

With 21 members attending, the quorum (20% of all the current 35 family members / 53 individual members) was reached and Mr. Spaelti proceeded with the ordinary business of the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM.

#### 1. Approval of the Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> (last year's) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Mr. Spaelti thanked Herbert Bucher, Secretary of the SSOK for preparing the minutes. There were no comments from the participants.

→ The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved by acclamation.

#### 2. Approval of the 2018 Annual Report

The President read the activities report for 2018. It was another big success for the Swiss Society with numerous, very well attended events. He thanked everyone for their support and looked forward to welcoming the members again in the coming year.

The following events took place in 2018:

- March 3 Annual General Meeting, RValentino
- May 19 Spring BBQ, Okuike
- August 1 Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club
- October 20 Autumn BBQ, Okuike
- December 9 Raclette and Santa Claus Party, KR&AC



Further to the distributed annual report, the President reported the following members' movements during 2018, resulting in 35 active family or 53 individual members respectively.

New Members

- Bieker Hans & Yumi
- Dupertois Noémi
- Okuma Jacqueline
- Ishiharada Akemi

Outgoing Members

- Schaufelbuehl Christian (left Japan)
- Keller Thomas (left Japan)
- Rüesch Kyoko (her husband Heinz passed away)

→ The Annual Report for 2018 was approved by acclamation.

**3. Approval of the 2018 Treasurer and Auditor's report**

The activities of 2018 ended in a loss of Yen 30,218, decreasing the assets of the Swiss Society by the same amount to Yen 1,410,941. Nelson Izquierdo (Treasurer) explained, that the deficit was caused by some unbudgeted expenses related the new website as well as other smaller expenses. The income and expenses of the events was more or less in line with the budget and almost all membership fees could be collected.

Mr. Andy Mueller (Auditor) confirmed in person that he checked all the records and that he found everything in perfect order. He thanked Mr. Izquierdo for taking such good care of the finances of the SSOK

→ The Financials for 2018 were approved by acclamation.

**4. Election of an Election Chairman**

Markus Reubi was proposed as Election Chairman.

→ Mr. Reubi was elected as Election Chairman by acclamation.

**5. Discharge of the outgoing Executive Committee**

Mr. Reubi thanked the outgoing Executive Committee and the Auditor for their dedication and time spent for the Society throughout the last year and proposed to discharge them.

→ The Executive Committee and the Auditor were discharged by acclamation.

**6. Election of the new Committee**

The following members were proposed as Committee Members / Auditor for 2019:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| • President                  | Philip Spälti          |
| • Vice President & Secretary | Herbert Bucher         |
| • Treasurer                  | Nelson Izquierdo       |
| • Ordinary Member            | Urs Pfenninger         |
| • Ordinary Member            | Thomas Rügger          |
| • Ordinary Member            | Oscar Egli             |
| • Ordinary Member            | Eduard Herbst          |
| • Ordinary Member            | Philip Schneider (new) |
| • Auditor                    | Andy Mueller           |



→ All proposed Committee members and the Auditor were individually elected by acclamation.

Mr. Reubi congratulated the new Committee and the Auditor, in particular the newly elected member Philip Schneider. He mentioned that the work the SSOK is doing for the Swiss community in the Kansai was highly appreciated by the Embassy and the community.

#### 7. Budget and Annual Membership Dues for 2019

Mr. Izquierdo explained that the 2019 budget included special provisions for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Yen 200,000 was included for the anniversary party and Yen 100,000 for promotional gifts (pocket knives or similar). The treasurer proposed the membership dues to remain unchanged at Yen 5,000 for family membership, Yen 3,000 for individual membership and Yen 1,000 for student membership. Except the special provisions mentioned above, the proposed budget foresees equal income and expenses.

→ The membership fees and the budget for 2019 were approved by acclamation.

#### 8. Approval of the General Directives for 2019 for the activities of the Swiss Society

Mr. Spaelti presented the line-up of events for 2019, which is similar as every year except for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in September. The proposed events calendar for 2019 is as follows:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • February 23 (Saturday)  | Swiss Fair, Oyamazaki                        |
| • March 9 (Saturday)      | AGM, RValentino/Kobe                         |
| • May 18 (Saturday)       | Spring BBQ, Okuike                           |
| • August 1 (Thursday)     | Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club          |
| • September 14 (Saturday) | SSOK 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Kobe Club |
| • October 19 (Saturday)   | Autumn BBQ, Okuike (place & date tentative)  |
| • December 8 (Sunday)     | Raclette & Santa Claus Party, KR&AC Kobe     |

Mr. Reubi informed that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party is an important event and H.E. Mr. Jean-François Paroz, Swiss Ambassador to Japan already committed to join the event. He further mentioned that the Embassy is committed to support this special SSOK event.

Daniel Aviolat, former Consulate General to Japan, informed that Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture has also been approached and unless his schedule changes, he plans to join the event. He further mentioned that he and Shingo Nishiguchi will also invite Mr. Kizo Hisamoto, Mayor of Kobe City.

→ The events calendar for 2019 was approved by acclamation.

#### 9. Other Matters

Mr. Spaelti informed that he would like to bring 2 proposals for Honorary Membership to the attention of the General Assembly.

1<sup>st</sup> Proposal: Mr. Franz Ermel



Mr. Spaelti explained that Franz Ermel was one of the founding members, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for 6 years and the 3<sup>rd</sup> President of the SSOK. Subsequently he served for 24 consecutive years as Auditor. Mr. Ermel came to Japan for Von Roll and lives now in Zurich together with his wife Toshi.

→ Mr. Ermel was approved as Honorary Member by acclamation and will be given a Honorary Certificate when the next occasion arises.

2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal: Mr. Urs Pfenninger

Mr. Pfenninger has been a member of the SSOK from the very beginning. He is well remembered by the older members for 'doing' the Santa Claus for nearly 30 years. For the last 20 consecutive years he has been a faithful committee member, having been attending almost all the events. After the late Hans Singer he is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest service committee member of the SSOK.

→ Mr. Pfenninger was approved as Honorary Member by a standing ovation and was given a Honorary Membership Certificate and a commemorative present.

As there was no other business brought forward, the President closed the meeting at 7:45pm.

Kobe, March 9, 2019

Herbert Bucher  
Secretary of the SSOK

Information:

1. Festival de la Francophonie  
Mr. Aviolat and Mr. Nishiguchi encouraged the participants to sign-up for the Francophonie event on March 21, especially for the presentation of H.E. Mr. Jean-François Paroz, Swiss Ambassador to Japan.
2. Mr. Aviolat informed that a Swiss musician will perform at the Kobe Club on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Details will follow in due time.
3. Mr. Reubi informed that the Swiss Embassy just recently launched a pre-campaign towards the 2020 Olympics with the motto "Doors to Switzerland". The main campaign will be run as "Grand Tour of Switzerland". As part of it, there will be a Switzerland Fair at Mt. Rokko held from March 16 until June 2. It is to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the animation Heidi and the sister relationship between Schynige Platte and Rokko Alpine Garden. A Jodel and Alphorn concert will be held on April 14. For further details see the attached flyer.