



Swiss Society of the Kansai

March 6, 2020

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting

held at Restaurant "RValentino", Kobe on Friday, March 6, 2020, 7.15pm – 7:45pm

Philip Spaelti, President of the Swiss Society of the Kansai (SSOK), opened the meeting at 7.15pm and welcomed the attendees to the 41st Annual General Meeting. He informed, that Mr. Juerg Bono, Counsellor, Head of Operations and Consular Services Section at the Embassy of Switzerland in Japan had to cancel his participation due to travel restrictions by the Swiss Embassy because of the ongoing coronavirus crisis. He conveyed the greetings from the Ambassador and himself to the attendees.

Mr. Spaelti mentioned that 2019 was a special year with the 40th Anniversary of the SSOK. A commemorative party was held at the Kobe Club, the same place where 40 years ago the SSOK was inaugurated, on June 8, 1979. The event was attended by our Swiss Ambassador to Japan, other members from the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo as well as local dignitaries. Swiss folk musicians from the Appenzell entertained us together with Keiko Ito.

The attendance at our events was consistently strong throughout the year.

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 events.

With 14 members attending, the quorum (20% of all the current 40 family members / 59 individual members) was reached and Mr. Spaelti proceeded with the ordinary business of the 41st AGM.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 40th (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 2019 AGM were approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the 2019 Annual Report

The President read the activities report for 2019. 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 2019:

- March 9 Annual General Meeting, RValentino (33 participants)
- May 18 Spring BBQ, Okuike (57 participants)
- August 1 Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club (88 participants)
- September 14 SSOK 40th Anniversary, Kobe Club (90 participants)
- October 19 Autumn BBQ, Okuike (45 participants)
- December 8 Raclette and Santa Claus Party, KR&AC (116 participants)

Further to the distributed annual report, the President reported the following members' movements during 2019, resulting in 40 active family or 59 individual members respectively.

New Members

- El-Safty Yasmine
- Iseli Stefan & Kazuyo

Outgoing Members

- Hunziker Patrik & Ritsuko



- Morimoto Junya
- Schneider Philip & Aya

→ The Annual Report for 2019 was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the 2019 Treasurer and Auditor's report

Nelson Izquierdo (treasurer) informed that 2019 was an eventful year with the 40th anniversary party. While we budgeted extraordinary expenses of Yen 300,000 for the event, we eventually spent Yen 759,360, of which Yen 340,000 were for commemorative Swiss pocketknives (presents to all participants) and Yen 419,360 for the musicians. The Swiss Embassy in Tokyo contributed Yen 218,064 to these expenses.

The year 2019 ended in a loss of Yen 541,020, decreasing the assets of the Swiss Society by the same amount to Yen 959,187. Apart from the 40th anniversary party, the income and expenses of the other events were in line with the budget and almost all membership fees could be collected.

Mr. Andy Mueller (Auditor) confirmed in writing 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 2019 were approved by acclamation.

4. Election of an Election Chairman

Mr. Daniel Aviolat was proposed as Election Chairman.

→ Mr. Daniel Aviolat was elected as Election Chairman unanimously.

5. Discharge of the outgoing Executive Committee

Mr. Aviolat thanked the outgoing Executive Committee and the Auditor for their dedication and time spent for the Society throughout the last year, mentioning in particular the 40th anniversary party, and proposed to discharge them.

→ The Executive Committee and the Auditor were discharged unanimously.

6. Election of the new Committee

The following members were proposed as Committee Members / Auditor for 2020:

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • President | Philip Spälti |
| • Vice President & Secretary | Herbert Bucher |
| • Treasurer | Nelson Izquierdo |
| • Committee Member | Urs Pfenninger |
| • Committee Member | Thomas Rüeegger |
| • Committee Member | Oscar Egli |
| • Committee Member | Eduard Herbst |
| • Committee Member | Carlos-Felipe Correa (new) |
| • Auditor | Andy Mueller |

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



Mr. Aviolat congratulated the new Committee and the Auditor, in particular the newly elected member Carlos-Felipe Correa. 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. Mr. Spaelti added that also many members always lend a helping hand to make our events successful.

7. Budget and Annual Membership Dues for 2020

Mr. Izquierdo explained that the 2020 budget was again a 'normal' year with a normal line up of events. He 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. The proposed budget foresees equal income and expenses.

→ The membership fees and the budget for 2020 were approved unanimously.

8. Approval of the General Directives for 2020 for the activities of the Swiss Society

Mr. Spaelti presented the line-up of events for 2020, which is again a traditional year. The proposed events calendar for 2020 is as follows:

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|-------------------------|---|
| • March 6 (Friday) | AGM, RValentino/Kobe |
| • May 16 (Saturday) | Spring BBQ, Okuike |
| • August 1 (Saturday) | Swiss National Day Party, Kobe Club |
| • October 17 (Saturday) | Autumn BBQ, Okuike (place & date tentative) |
| • December 6 (Sunday) | Raclette & Santa Claus Party, KR&AC Kobe |

→ The events calendar for 2020 was approved unanimously.

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

Kobe, March 6, 2020

Herbert Bucher
Secretary of the SSOK

Information:

1. Festival de la Francophonie (March 21). Mr. Aviolat informed that this event was cancelled because of the coronavirus.
2. Mr. Aviolat informed that Swiss will re-instate direct flight from Kansai Airport to Zurich Airport from beginning of March 2020. The planned inaugural event on March 3 was cancelled because of the coronavirus.
3. Mr. Aviolat informed that there will be a piano concert, followed by a table served dinner, at the Kobe Club (telephone 078-241 2588) on Saturday evening May 23rd. The pianist, Momone Shiraishi, is a 12 years old girl who was a laureate at the Osaka International Music Competition and who also won, among numerous other awards, a gold medal at the All Asia Chopin International Piano Competition.
4. Mr. Aviolat will give a conference in French about "Les relations entre la Suisse et le Japon" (historical, political, social, economic, cultural) for the Club "Decouverte" in Shukugawa on Saturday April 18th at 2.30 pm (doors open 2 pm). Yen 2'500. Persons interested to attend can contact Mr. Aviolat (telephone 078-2712406 or by e-mail: sorakuen@cyber.ocn.ne.jp).