

ACTIVITY REPORT

VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

OCTOBER 4 – 9, 2009 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

August is now a memory and September is sure to fly by and soon we will all be on our way to our 42nd Interline Celebration and Annual General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Being this is our first time as WACA to visit Kuala Lumpur, we are full of anticipation and excitement to come together again in such a wonderful part of the world. With WACA undertaking the organizing of this enormous event, a lot has had to be done from a distance. This is no small undertaking and a big THANK YOU must go to all who have been involved in preparing for our visit. It is hoped that all will go well and everyone will come away with fond memories of our time together.

Once again, interesting and well planned tours have been organized for our pre and post tours. The Borneo trip, especially, has created such interest that two extra tours were arranged to accommodate more participants. I hope all who attend have a wonderful time.

Further to my Activity Report of February to the Executive Committee, I will report on my different areas of responsibility. As stated in this report, I strongly feel that having a Parade of Flags for our Opening Ceremonies should be an important part of the evening's proceedings. Therefore, we have asked to have each country in attendance to bring their national flag as well as appointing an individual to carry their flag. It is interesting and impressive to each participant, as well as our guests, to experience the pride each one of us experience as our national flag is presented. Being an international organization, WACA should promote this aspect of our reason for existing at every opportunity.

CHARITIES

Individually, our clubs around the world continue their support of their charitable causes and many deserving organizations have benefited from their efforts, some with financial assistance and others with donations of time.

WACA continues to donate funds to the Fikelela Aids Foundation. Earlier this year, Maga was able to attend a meeting in Johannesburg to present them with a cheque.

This year, as chosen for us by the Malaysian Tourist Office, the charity will be the Rumah Kanak-Kanak Tengku Budriah Orphanage for abandoned children. We will be

bringing gifts of needed school supplies for the children. A meeting has been requested for October 08th to present our gifts on behalf of WACA to the children.

FUND RAISING

Last year we tried a new format to our fund raiser in the form of a “WACA TOMBOLA”. Since we had such success with this idea, we will once again plan to offer it on day 3. This will be October 03rd. Tickets will be sold prior to the dinner that evening and we are hoping for a good response from our interliners. Tickets will be sold in USD: 1 for \$2.00, 3 for \$5.00, and 7 for \$10.00. The success of the TOMBOLA depends on the donations and participation of all in attendance.

We will also be holding our 50/50 draw the night of our GALA DINNER.

This year we will have a number of items for sale with the WACA logo on them. We have 200 Golf shirts and 200 beach towels, some in white with blue and some blue with white. There is also a small supply of WACA lanyards for sale that would be useful for club functions. These will be for sale in the registration area during and throughout the AGA. I am told they are of very good quality and we hope to sell lots and see a small profit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Our WACA website features our Calendar of Events and, along with our WACA World News, we continue to promote Club and WACA sponsored events. Considering the down turn in the world economy, we continue to see our interliners traveling to events around the world. Some had very successful events while others were disappointed in the response.

I have been guiding clubs to complete their Event Forms and advise myself, the VP Finance, VP Public Relations and Headquarters of their number of participants and when the WACA fees were paid. This is important to help all of us with reporting for the good of the organization. Without proper reporting, it is hard to plan and budget for the future and to know whether we have been able to reach our targets. These forms are also found in the WACA website under Forms and Reports.

I investigated the idea to once again offering a WACA cruise for our members, families and friends. However, after talking to a cruise tour operator, I was discouraged from proceeding as the headaches would be tremendous. Most low cost cruises that we would want to offer our interliners don't become available until 6 weeks ahead of the departure dates and this would not be enough time to organize people from around the world and collecting the monies would be another problem. In order to organize such a group travel, we would have to book space earlier and thus pay a higher price. Most of our members can do better on their own.

WACA IDENTITY CARDS

While the WACA Identity Card has been an important part of my portfolio, I find I am at a standstill until I receive the go ahead from the rest of the Executive Committee. In the past year I have explored the possibility of getting the identity card finally up and running. I worked with two companies to try to come up with a card that would be affordable as well as serve our purposes of being able to access our future upgraded portal as well as have the opportunity to transfer funds to pay registrations to events and WACA fees, thus avoiding high bank transfer fees. While in Montreal to attend our Executive Meeting in February, I met with one of the companies that I felt could best fill our needs. It would have meant a financial commitment from WACA to proceed with getting started. Subsequently, at our meeting, it was made known to me that we should hold off proceeding with the identity card for the time being while members of the executive tried to find a sponsor who would contribute funds to enable us to start up our portal and identity cards. Therefore, everything has been put on hold until such a sponsor has been found. In the last few months I have been actively looking for a sponsor and I am awaiting a reply to my request. Until I have the okay to proceed from the rest of the EC, I will not be able to continue this project.

WACA BONANZA

Over the years, the WACA Bonanza has evolved and we continue to offer prizes to club events and cash. We are always looking for new prizes and I encourage all clubs who can offer a package to let us know what they can donate to make this program a success.

Our main prize this year of a package for one, on a twin sharing basis, to our Interline Celebration in Kuala Lumpur was won by a long time interliner, Britt Ackerman of the Sweden Airlines Club. Congratulations also to Luisa Orr of the Vancouver Interline Club, Kate McEvoy of the Sydney Interline Club; Maura Young of the Sydney Interline Club and Helene Larway of the Calgary Interline Club who were also winners. There wouldn't be any winners if there were not any prizes, so I want to thank all the clubs and the WACA Executive Committee for their generosity. I hope we will have more prizes for next year and encourage the clubs to keep selling and members to keep buying. Remember, this is your organization and it depends on each one of us to make it a success.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me during the past year and especially my assistants. No one can do this job alone and I am grateful for all your help.

Elaine Miller
Vice President International Events and Special Projects