

MINUTES OF THE GPU GENERAL MEETING CLUJ NAPOCA, ROMANIA 15TH JULY 2019.

In total, 50 members were present. From the Governing Board the following were present:

President Manolis Metzakis
Secretary General Marija Milovanović Maksimović
Vice president Claudio Calosi
Vice president John Law
Vice president Saeed Al Shamsi
Treasurer Freddy Laheye
Member Guo Jing
&
GPU support Eleftheria Konsolaki

1. President Manolis Metzakis opened the meeting and greeted all present members. He talked about GPU's most significant events and activities in the previous period, like Donation Exhibition, GPU's book and magazine, several of GPU members' exhibitions organised and displayed in several countries and the successful beginning of the ongoing GPU Festival itself, with the great response from members, counting more than 120 participants from 23 countries. He invited all governing board members to introduce themselves and to present their obligations and tasks in GPU.
2. All governing board members briefly presented their work, which is related to the current and future GPU activities and events, as follows:
General secretary Marija Milovanović Maksimović mentioned all task related to her position – communication with the members, running the GPU database, posting news on the website and sending newsletters and other various organisational tasks. The most important would be the organisation of Donation exhibition, GPU Photo Book and Magazine.

Member Guo Jing talked about the Chinese chapter of GPU, various events and exhibitions organised in China for GPU, new relationships between GPU and Chinese photographers and associations.

Treasure Freddy Laheye presented a financial report for the year 2019. and he explained the major transactions, incomes and expenses.

Vice President Claudio Calosi presented his work as Distinctions officer, explained how the system works and how members can apply.

Vice President John Law announced his new role as national representatives coordinator and then explained the importance of representatives in GPU family.

Vice president Saeed Al Shamsi, as a titles officer gave the presentation about GPU titles, how the system works.

He also presented the new GPU Youth Competition, under his supervision, free contest for photographers under 25 years of age as a part of the GPU Youth Initiative, where GPU is supporting young photographers. He announced the launch of the competition as well called the members to share the news.

Eleftheria Konsolaki from GPU support explained how she organizes the processing, production and shipment of all the members' documents (ids, certificates, pins, etc.), also describing her task of publishing the announcements of upcoming competitions with GPU licenses, as well as the job in organising committee for the festival.

3. President Metzakis called Mrs Joanne Stolte – PSA International Partnership Emissary and President of Photographic Alliance of America. Mrs Stolte talked about the major photo associations and importance of cooperation between them, solving common issues and improved communication. Mrs Stolte and president Metzakis exchanged gifts, as a sign of appreciation.
4. Governing board member Guo Jing presented certificates and gold medals from the exhibition in Naiman, China to various members, present members received their awards. Lajos Nagy from Romania was called up to receive his gold medal.
5. Flavian Savescu, as a member of organising a committee for the Festival, talked about the preparation of the Festival which lasted more than six months, cooperation with president Metzakis during preparations and the whole programme, which places the group will visit and experience during the festival.
6. Vickum Senannayake greeted all the present members and thanked GB members for their work. He also expressed his satisfaction with GPU and what it has to offer and provide. He suggested for the next festival, his country Sri Lanka as the next destination, promising to provide an exciting programme.
7. Closure – President thanked all the members for their presence on the general meeting and wished them enjoyable stay at the Festival and closed the session.

Cluj Napoca, Grand Napoca Hotel, 15th July 2019.

President

Secretary General

Manolis Metzakis

Marija Milovanović Maksimović