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Minutes of Meeting

Annual General Meeting 2016

Sikh Association of Western Australia

Held: Saturday, 10th September 2016
Langar hall

Note: Please refer AGM Agenda for Attachments 1 to 6

At 9:05AM the Secretary Mahesh Inder Singh made an announcement that the quorum was present. However, the meeting would be delayed due to the election process. The meeting commenced at 10:05 AM, after the Ardaas performed by S Balbir Singh.

1 Meeting Called to Order (Official opening, attendance and apologies)

Before inviting the President to open the meeting, the Secretary informed the membership that he would be preparing the summary minutes only. Accordingly he would record the decisions and any important information that directly relates to the outcome of a motion. If any member wished to record his/her statement, they must advise the secretary, accordingly.

The Secretary also reminded members that the voting for EXCO election would close at 10:45AM and the votes will be counted shortly after that.

The President welcomed the Sangat and read out the attendance at the meeting.

Attendance as at 10:05 was as follows:

Life Members	200
Ordinary Members	90

2 President's Report

In his speech/report to the members, the President:

- Thanked the members for large attendance
- Expressed that it was very humbling to serve as President
- Felt proud that the community has risen to the true believe and Sikh values
- Highlighted SAWA's drive to raise funds for various causes
- Thanked SPDC for its efforts
- Improvements – extension of patio and air-conditioning
- Highlighted the need to attend to outdoor slippery tiles and kitchen.
- Also highlighted a number of other EXCO initiatives.

A copy of his speech appears at ***Attachment A***

3 Confirmation of the minutes of the last preceding AGM and any other GMs held since then.

3.1 AGM held on 19 September 2015 (***Attachment 1***)

Amendments:

- i) That the Statement appearing at Agenda Item 6.2 of the 2015 AGM, "Mr Mahesh Inder Singh made a presentation of the plan prepared by SPDC" be replaced with "Mr Sarawan Singh Vagel made a presentation of the plan prepared by SPDC."

Moved: Mahesh I Singh

Seconded: Daljit Singh Dhillon

Carried Unanimously

ii) That spellings for Mrs Kuldeep Kaur and Mr Sarawan Singh Vagel be corrected

Moved: Abtar Singh Kaler
Seconded: Daljit Singh Dhillon

Carried Unanimously

Resolution:

That subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 September 2016 presented at **Attachment 1** be adopted as true record of the proceedings.

Moved: Hardip Singh Bhoday
Seconded: Daljit Singh Dhillon

Carried unanimously

Harbhajan Singh Dhaliwal wished to move a motion to thank the EXCO, which was allowed by the chair.

Resolution:

That the President and the 2015-16 EXCO be thanked for their excellent work during the year.

Moved: Harbhajan Singh Dhaliwal
Seconded: Major Balwant Singh

Carried Unanimously

4 Presentation and acceptance of the Association's financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2016 (**Attachment 2**)

The Treasurer Paramjit Singh Nagra presented SAWA's 2015/16 financial statements and answered member's queries.

Queries were raised by Abtar Singh Kaler, Baldev Singh Bagga, Daljit Singh Dhillon, Swaran Singh, Jasleen Singh and Zora Singh about expenditure on Sign board, depreciation, offerings income, cleaning charges, donations and *siropas* to visiting *ragis* and payments to *Granthi ji*.

Mr Nagra and Mr Rajinder Singh Sunner answered those queries and pointed to the statements where the expenditures were accounted for.

Resolution:

That the Association's financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2016, presented at **Attachment 2** be accepted.

Moved: Satvinder Singh
Seconded: Kulwant Singh

Carried unanimously

5 Presentation and acceptance of the auditors' report (Attachment 2)

Resolution:

That the Auditors report presented at **Attachment 2** be accepted.

Moved: Satvinder Singh

Seconded: Kulwant Singh

Carried unanimously

Harbhajan Singh Dhaliwal commented on offerings and concern expressed by auditors on internal controls.

6 Deliberation on Motions

6.1 Special Resolutions

Nil

6.2 Ordinary Motions proposed by SPDC

- 6.2.1 Notes in support of the recommendation prepared by SPDC appear at Attachment 3. For convenience the three options are summarised below:

	<u>OPTION 1</u> <u>Complete buildings and fittings</u>	<u>OPTION 2</u> <u>Staged construction</u>	<u>OPTION 3</u> <u>Build without fit-out</u>
Required Funds	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 2,550,000	\$ 2,100,000
Available Funds	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,100,000
Loan Required	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,450,000	\$ 1,000,000

Motion:

The SPDC is mandated to proceed with Option 3 to build and furnish the new Multi-purpose Complex and the Executive Committee is authorised to take the following actions to facilitate the project.

- i Use all funds in excess of \$300,000 (Reserve) to meet the costs of the complex.
- ii Acquire a loan facility from a bank or lending institution to finance the remaining cost of the project and ensure required funds are available for repayments to be made.
- iii Assist the SPDC in applying for grants, seeking donations and fund raising activities.
- iv Draw up By-laws and/or Guidelines to manage the complex after its completion.

Moved: Sarawan Singh Vagel

Seconded: Gurdarshan Singh Kailley

For 62

Against 115

Lost

President stated that he would apply the following time restrictions for the debate on motions:

- Proposer – 10 mins.
- Seconder – 5 mins.
- Three for and three against for 3 mins each

The proposer, Sarawan Singh Vagel addressed the members and highlighted the following in favour of the motion:

- Provided background on the SAWA Planning and Development Committee (SPDC) and reasons why it was created.
- Apprised the members of approach taken by the SPDC to undertake the project starting with detailed needs study to seeking expert advice and to developing three final options.
- At the 2015 AGM, the preferred design was selected and \$100,000 was allocated to proceed with the design and approval process. Only one third funds were used to date.
- The project had been delayed due to the ODP contribution requirements associated with the zoning of the land. In 2011, the Council required an ODP contribution to be paid for the whole of the site. After consistent efforts, the SPDC successfully got 5/6th of the site rezoned as place of worship and exempted from ODP contributions, which resulted in saving of half a million dollars. Only the grassed area at the southern-end is now zoned residential and is subject to ODP contributions, if developed.
- While pursuing the ODP issue, SPDC received Development Approval for the new complex.
- Decisions by successive EXCOs also slowed the project. In April 2016 EXCO stopped funds to complete the design as it considered that there were other priorities. Later it agreed to allocate \$15,000 to complete the design and engage a quantity surveyor to provide cost estimates.
- At a meeting organised by the Trustees, the EXCO advise the SPDC that the Kitchen and Wash area situation was its priority as there was a need for more space, stoves and better safety was required. The SPDC is fully supportive of this as injury and safety is a big risk in the kitchen and should there be a major injury, we run the risk of our kitchen being closed. The SPDC agreed to look into the matter if asked to by the EXCO but stated that it will need time do a proper study and look at all the issues and options available before recommending a long-term solution.
- Membership has to be serious about the mandates it gives and the EXCOs have to ensure it provides the required support.
- Lotterywest has been approached for funding assistance and have provided an encouraging response. However, this and further work on the complex have been put on hold because of the uncertainty that has been created
- Listed various features and benefits of the proposed development, with particular emphasis to Punjabi education and multitude of uses for the proposed hall by various SAWA associated groups.
- SAWA had been in existence for 41 years now. It's objectives in addition to the provision of religious facilities include culture, welfare, sports, assimilation and Punjabi Education. SAWA should be leading the way in achieving these objectives.
- Although the required loan could be easily serviced based on the current revenue, we expect it to be settled much earlier as Sikhs would donate as it was our culture.

Mr Vagel finally urged the members to consider long term needs of SAWA and support the motion.

The Seconder, Gurdarshan Singh Kailley spoke next. He concurred with comments made by Sarawan Singh Vagel and stated that the development was twice approved at past AGMs. He also said that the development could be staged, if required.

Harbhajan Singh Dhaliwal, Lakhbir Singh Sidhu and Amarjit Singh (Amar) spoke against the motion and highlighted the following points:

- Thanked the SPDC for its work.
- Goalposts could be changed if economic situation changed.
- Our funds were limited and weekly income has reduced from \$10k to \$5.5k.
- WA economy was facing a recession.
- No borrowing is required for the alternative proposal
- Less chance of getting donations as it was not a temple building.
- Current building could be extended to cater the community needs
- EXCO looked into Sangat's view
- SAWA is short of money.

Harbhajan Singh Bejawn, Daljit Singh Dhillon and Dr Kanwaljit Singh spoke for the motion and highlighted the following points:

- All capital projects were objected to in the past which included: the first temple for \$43,000,\$380,000 for this block and \$1.4 million to build current building.
- Without these projects the community would have gone nowhere.
- There is a time to do the things as the need arises.
- Government funding could be obtained to fund the project
- Donations could be collected first and then proceed with the project, if that was a concern.
- The project is already approved and we should not drop it now.
- The community has grown consistently over the last 25 years by at least 3.5% every year.

Sarawan Singh Vagel in his right of reply stated that the Bennett Springs Gurdawara has a much higher borrowing and two banks have agreed to fund 50% of the total cost. He also suggested that vote on this motion be taken after the two other motions related to this project are debated.

Harjit Singh Sandhu suggested that the related motions should be discussed together. Baldev Singh Bagga stated that this was a very important matter and to make a correct decision, he suggested that members should be allowed to listen to second building proposal and then let them make a decision.

The President stated that he would not be changing the sequence and that he has received a request for a vote by secret ballot and put the question to the house if it wished to have the motion decided by secret ballot. The house decided to conduct the vote by secret ballot with 136 votes for and 20 votes against.

The meeting was adjourned to conduct voting by ballot with assistance from the RO, Balbir Singh, after which the result was declared.

6.3 Ordinary Motions proposed by EXCO

6.3.1 Kitchen and dishwashing area upgrade

Resolution:

EXCOs Maintenance Sub Committee requests that a sum of \$500,000 be approved for the extension and renovation of Gurudwara Sahibs Kitchen and Washing area. Work on this project to start immediately on approval as a priority. This approval if granted will become mandatory on any incoming EXCO or subcommittee and shall not be allowed to lapse. This motion is being tabled at the request of Sangat as a priority item.

Scope of work in this budget includes:

1. Extend the present kitchen to incorporate the washing area within the new area.
2. Install commercial dish washing machine suitable for our needs and also have manual backup washing area.
3. Install under tile or other suitable floor heating for kitchen and washing area.
4. Replace all cooking stoves with new and larger burner with sufficient work space.
5. Provide sufficient sized gas piping for future needs.
6. Provide a separate cooking area for Deg preparation.
7. Provide a cool room for food storage.
8. Replace all floor tiling to present kitchen area with non-slip tiles.

Moved: Prem Singh Judge

Seconded: Minder Singh Dhillon

For 109

Against 25

Carried

Mover, Prem Singh Judge addressed the members and highlighted the following in favour of the motion:

- Langar was very important
- Sangat requested to fix the kitchen
- Three years ago EXCO's maintenance sub-committee thought of taking kitchen area to the rear
- There should be separate area for Deg preparation
- All stoves need to be replaced
- Additional hot plates needed for efficient cooking
- Joginder Singh (Joe) has supplied the sketches free of charge
- We did not spend any money prior to approval
- I do not have a building company
- So many activities take place within the kitchen
- This was not a new idea
- Estimated cost of the work would be \$500,000

Seconded, Minder Singh Dhillon stated that Prem Singh had explained all

Harbhajan Singh Bejawn, Sarawan Singh Vagel and Devraj Singh spoke against the motion and highlighted the following points:

- Proper assessment and due diligence should be undertaken for the project.
- Kitchen problems could be solved in a more economical and less disruptive way without constructing a new building extension.
- Mr Bejawn tried to show an alternative design but the President stopped him from doing so on the grounds that the proposal was not received as a member's motion and asked him to speak on the motion only.
- It should not be a short term solution and do a proper study before proceeding.
- Proper study has not been done before designing. The committee should consult the Sangat to find out the needs and make proper plans.

Rani Dalbeir Kaur, Amarjit Singh Pabla and Jaginder Singh (Joe) spoke for the motion and highlighted the following points:

- There were lots of hazards in the kitchen
- Facilities were hardly able to cater the programmes
- Washing area was a hazard
- City of Gosnells was not expected to raise any objection
- No change in features, structure and beauty will remain the same
- Development approval would be required but no ODP contribution

The President allowed additional speaker a youth member to express his view. Harpreet Singh Kaler expressed the following:

- It was a good concept but was only fixing a short term problem
- Did expenditure of \$500,000 provided value for money
- The project should be properly planned

Prem Singh Judge in his right of reply stated that the proposed plan was only a concept plan. The detailed drawings will be prepared and would be referred to members for their feedback.

6.3.2 Out-door non-slip tiling

Motion

That non slip tiles be installed on the periphery of Langar Hall, stairs, toilets and Kitchen in place of existing ceramic tiles at an estimated cost of \$60,000 which excludes the cost of tiles already purchased.

Moved: Prem Singh Judge

Seconded: Minder Singh

Carried unanimously

Gurdial Singh stated that the new tiles can be installed on the existing tiles and he should be consulted before installation.

Amarjit Singh Amar stated that SAWA EXCO purchased the tiles at a heavily discounted price.

Surjit Singh commented that whole area should be done.

Satinder Singh Samra commented that the total cost of the project would be \$76,000 and the committees should not incur any expenditure if the project cost is more than their expenditure limit adopted at AGMs.

6.3.3 Lift

Motion

That the existing lift be upgraded at an estimated cost of up to \$50,000.

Moved: Prem Judge

Seconded: Minder Singh

For 77

Against 2

Carried

Prem Singh Judge spoke first as mover of the motion and stated that the proposed motion is based on the request from the seniors and that this lift can be upgraded to Automatic/ Semi-automatic.

Sarawan Sigh Vagel and Abtar Singh Kaler spoke against the motion and expressed concern that not enough research had been done and that the past issues were due to lack of following correct procedures.

Prem Singh and Mohinder Kaur spoke in favour of the motion and stated that the current lift was donated by the government and all options should be considered to find a right solution and spending \$50,000.

6.3.4 Vehicle for Transporting *Sri Guru Granth Sahib*

Motion:

That a Vehicle be purchased for transportation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib to other places where religious programmes are conducted at an estimated cost of \$35,000 including modifications to the vehicle to maintain sanctity and housing Palki Sahib.

Moved: Bahadur Singh Mann

Seconded: Pushpinder Singh

For 70

Against 20

Carried

Bahadur Singh Mann and Pushpinder Pal Singh both spoke on the motions and stated that Sikh Temples all over the places used special vehicles to carry Guru Granth Sahib. They expressed the view it was essential to maintain sanctity of Guru Sahib.

Jaswant Singh Brar spoke against the motion and stated that the cost of the vehicle is too high and it will be better for SAWA to purchase and distribute Guru Granth Sahibs.

6.3.5 Past AGM Resolutions

Resolution

That the report appearing at **Attachment 5** showing the action/progress on the AGM resolutions during the past three years, be noted.

Moved Mahesh Inder Singh

Seconded Parvendar Singh

Carried unanimously

Mahesh Inder Singh explained the reasons for listing this motion.

6.3.6 Membership fee

Resolution:

i That the membership fee for Life Members be set at - \$350

ii That the annual membership fee for Ordinary and Associate Members be set \$35

Moved: Abtar Singh Kaler

Seconded: Didar Singh Cheema

Carried unanimously

6.4 Ordinary Motions with financial implications Submitted by Members6.4.1 Proposal for 2nd Storey on proposed kitchen extensions (Refer **Attachment 6** for plans)

Resolution:

That approval be given for the construction of a second storey above the kitchen extensions. This is subject to the approval of the extension of the kitchen.

This project (second storey) if approved shall run concurrently with the kitchen extensions to save costs.

The second storey above the kitchen extension shall comprise the following:

- A Main Office
- A Library
- 3 General purpose rooms/Classrooms

The approximated cost of the second floor project is expected to be \$300,000.

Moved: Amarjit Singh Hansra

Seconded: Harbhajan Singh Dhaliwal

For 85

Against 23

Carried

The mover, Amarjit Singh Hansra spoke first and stated that SAWA is experiencing decreased contributions and has limited funds. The proposal serves majority of our current needs.

Secunder – did not speak

Hardip Singh Bhoday, Satinder Singh Samra, and Baldev Singh Bagga spoke against the motion and stated that there should be a separate school on the ground floor and the space could be used for extension of *Darabar Sahib*. Hardip Singh Bhoday expressed disappointment on abandoning the work done by SPDC.

Prem Singh Kumar, and Jaskiran Kaur Cheema spoke in favour of the motion. Sarawan Singh Vagel stated that he supported it as members had already rejected the SPDC's proposal.

Mr Hansra in his right of reply further clarified the proposal.

6.5 Ordinary Motions Submitted by Members

6.5.1 Motion submitted by Amarjit Singh Pabla and Tarunpreet Singh

Background

The History Teachers Association of WA (HTAWA) proposal for curriculum based educational resources to be developed on Sikh History in Western Australia and Australia for teachers of Years 5, 6 and 9. This will form part of Australian Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) syllabus.

The Western Australian (and Australian) Curriculum provides clear opportunities to incorporate lessons on the contribution of the Sikh community to Western Australian and Australian History.

Structure of the Sikh Educational resources

The development of the Learning sequences to support teachers will follow the structure used for the Dirk Hartog resources launched by HTAWA in March 2016. The online material will be accessed free of cost by Australian and international teachers. 2016

Year 5: The Australian colonies in 1800s

- The development of the Swan River colony 1829 to 1901, motivations and actions of Sikh cameleers, hawkers and farmers, including details on Sikh beliefs.
- The Sikh community in the development of the Australian nation to 1901 (in the context of a land of many cultures).
- Daily lives of the cameleers and hawkers in the Swan River colony
- The impact of the Sikhs in WA and the nation as a whole during the colonial era.

Year 6: Making of a nation

- Geography: countries in Asia - including the Punjab region - cultural and religious diversity
- The character of the Sikh community in Australia at Federation
- Changing experiences of citizenship for the Sikh community from 1901 to the 1970s
- Stories of Sikh migrants to Australia from the 1970s to the present, reasons for migration and contributions to Australian society

- A research investigation into experiences and impact of two migrant groups to Australia.

Year 9: Depth Study 2, World War One

- Sikh soldiers in the AIF - Stories of individual soldiers, reasons for enlistment and places they fought.
- The nature of the warfare on the Gallipoli peninsula and Western Front
- Contestability of the stereotype of the ANZAC and the nature of the commemorations.

Completion Date: Mid January 2017
Funding Requirement: \$\$\$\$
Research Assistant: Tarun Preet Singh & others.

Resolution:

EXCO is authorized to provide required resources to the History Teachers Association of WA to develop curriculum based educational resources to depict the contribution of the Sikh community to Western Australian and Australian History.

Moved: Amarjit Singh Pabla

Seconded: Tarun Preet Singh

Carried unanimously

The mover, Amarjit Singh Pabla spoke on the motion and provided his reasons for the motion and answered members queries. He also indicated that there is likelihood of a contribution requirement of approximately \$10,000.

7 Endorsement of the Auditor;

Reslution:

That Sukhwinder Kaur Jessy and Rajinder Singh Sunner be appointed as Auditor for the 2016/17 financial year.

Moved: Paramjit Singh Nagra

Seconded: Parvendar Singh

Carried Unanimously

8 Endorsement of the composition of Project Teams;

8.1 SAWA Planning and Development Committee (SPDC) Report and Motions

Motion:

That current SPDC comprising Sarawan Singh Vagel (Chair), Mr John Singh Bejawn, Mr Devraj Singh, Dr Kanwaljit Singh, Mr Mahesh Inder Singh, Mr Gurdarshan Singh and SAWA President be endorsed as per the existing terms of reference.

Moved: Sarawan Singh Vagel

Seconded: Gurdarshan Singh

In light of the earlier decision, Sarawan Singh Vagel and Gurdarshan Singh withdrew the motion, following which Mahesh Inder Singh moved an alternative motion.

Resolution:

That SPDC is no longer required and hence it be dissolved

Moved: Mahesh I Singh

Seconded: Sarawan Singh Vagel

Carried unanimously

8.2 SAWA Gurdwara North Sub-Committee

No activity has occurred during the last two years and no report has been received during the term of current EXCO. All past resolutions in respect to Northern suburbs gurdawara have been inactive for over two years. Accordingly, the sub-committee has become redundant.

Resolution:

That SAWA Gurdwara North Sub-Committee be dissolved.

Moved Lakhbir Singh Sidhu

Seconded Amarjit Singh Hansra

Carried unanimously

9 Authorization of incoming EXCO expenditure limit for all elements linked to a single event.

Resolution:

That the expenditure limit for the 2016/17 EXCO for all elements linked to a single event be set at \$25,000.

Moved: Parvendar Singh

Seconded: Abtar Singh Kaler

Carried unanimously

10 Such other matters specified in the Notice convening the AGM

Nil

11 Declaration of election results and appointment of office bearers of the EXCO and the Trustees by Returning Officer

President invited the Returning Officer Mr Balbir Singh to announce the election results

The RO, Balbir Singh briefly addressed the members. He thanked and introduced his team of volunteers who supported him in carrying out election. He assured the members that he had taken all measures to ensure that the election and counting were fair.

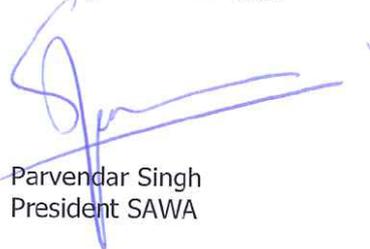
Total Votes 297
Valid Votes 291
In-valid 6

Position	Name
President	Mr Gurdarshan Singh Kailay
Vice President	Mr Prem Singh Judge
Secretary	Mr Mahesh Inder Singh
Assistant Secretary	Mr Bahadur Singh Mann
Assistant Secretary	Mrs Juginder Kaur
Treasurer	Mr Paramjit Singh Nagra
Assistant Treasurer	Mr Pushpinder Pal Singh
Assistant Treasurer	Dr Jagjit Singh Pannu
Committee Members (8 Positions)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Amrit pal Singh 2. Mrs Hardial K Dhilon 3. Mr Jagdish S Gill 4. Mr Ranjit Singh 5. Mr Manveer Singh 6. Mr Harbhajan Singh 7. Mrs Paramjit SinghTur 8. Mrs Rani Dalbeir Kaur

12 Elected President's address

The incoming President, Gurdarshan Singh Kailey thanked Waheguru and Sangat for giving him opportunity to serve the Sikh community and requested their continued support. He also invited members to bring their suggestions to him so that he could serve them better.

13 Meeting Closed at time



Parvendar Singh
President SAWA



Mahesh Inder Singh
Secretary SAWA
Minute Taker

ATTACHMENT A

WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA , WAHGURU JI KI FATEH

Wishing everyone present a very good morning.

Thank you for taking your precious time to attend this meeting and its very encouraging to notice that our members have a keen interest in SAWA's affairs.

It has been very humbling to have served SAWA in this capacity and I am again thankful to all our members for giving me this opportunity to serve the sangat.

A year has gone by and SAWA has contributed extensively towards our community and the wider Australian community. SAWA and our Sikh community has risen to the true believe and values of Sikhism through care and compassion during times of dire need.

SAWA had raised \$8000 towards the Yarloop Fire Disaster Relief Fund in support of our fellow Australians and another \$10,000 towards the successful kidney transplant for one of our Sikh youth who had come here as a student.

Here, I thank our sangat for their overwhelming support and generosity.

At the last AGM, SAWA Exco was tasked to submit the plans for Additional Facilities for our Gurdwara Sahib. The plans were submitted to the City of Gosnells and approval was received early this year. Subsequently our appeal to exempt SAWA from ODP payment for this new project site and the existing built -up area, was also granted.

Now, that the detail plans are ready, SPDC chairman will be presenting the project for consideration at this AGM.

I thank our SPDC for the tireless effort towards this positive outcome.

SAWA Exco has carried out some essential improvements to our guru-ghar. The patio was extended and some rollers shutters were installed to whether proof the relevant areas. Two new reverse-cycle units were installed at the darbar and another 3 air-conditioners that were donated by sangat to SAWA and were also installed at our darbar sahib. I thank the donors.

Our ground floor requires resurfacing from the existing tiles to non -slip tiles and we had an opportunity to purchase non-slip tiles at a heavily discounted price and it is essential that this risk-hazard mitigation project be carried out as soon as possible. It poses a serious liability to our organisation should any member sustain a serious injury. There have been many cases of our senior members falling and injuring themselves.

Our members and the wider sangat, have repeatedly requested that our Gurdwara Kitchen and the area for washing large cooking pots and dining plates etc be looked into owing to wet and slippery floor and the congestion during and after prayers, and that the workplace be made safe and to meet the required standards of Safety laws. Exco has prepared a preliminary proposal for consideration at this AGM.

Currently, our community is facing new challenges. We are all aware that Sikhs have fallen victims of mistaken identity by misinformed individuals from the wider Australian community. Our gurughar has been vandalised many times over the years and our community elders living in close proximity to our gurughar who walk to our gurughar have also been repeatedly verbally abused especially on roads surrounding our gurdwara. A special awareness programme need to be initiated to promote and publicise our beliefs and values to the wider Australian community.

Within our sangat we also have conflicting views on how our religious programmes are to be conducted owing to our different backgrounds. Our religious programmes and procedures need to be streamlined and should not be to be influenced by any foreign individual or any external or foreign events.

It is also very apparent that our youth are staying away from our gurughar, religious ceremonies and community service activities. Early this year, SAWA introduced a Naujawan Satsang programme, a pilot project to engage our youth. The response from our youth had not been forthcoming and after a few months the programme had to be temporarily suspended. We need to address the issue holistically.

It also very apparent that participation at Kaar Sewa at our Gurughar has not been encouraging. It is very essential that we promote this activity to develop a sense of belonging to our gurughar, especially within our youth.

There are a few amendment required to make SAWA Constitution compliant to the New Associations Act, and I request that the in-coming Exco looks into this matter.

It is generally acknowledged that as individual families we Sikhs are noticeably very successful in our personal endeavours but as a community we are lagging far behind compared to other new migrant communities. We need to transcend our sense of individualism and territorial backgrounds and start working to create a new Local Sikh Community to prepare our community of the challenges of the future. It's long overdue that we embark on this line of thought.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our sewadar and sewadarnian for their tireless effort in preparation of guru- ka- langgar and overall care and smooth functioning of our gurughar. I also thank our Panjabi school manager and teachers for their service to SAWA.

I like to acknowledge and thank Giani Jasvinder Singh Ji and Giani Balbir Singh Ji for their services to our sangat. Here I also congratulate our members that Giani Jasvinder Singh Ji's visa has been extended til the end of 2017.

Last, but not least, I thank my Exco committee for all the support they have given me throughout our term in office.

Thank you.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh.