

Dear Members,

## **President's Year End Message**

### ***The Year 2020***

This year our Association has been knocked out by the COVID-19 pandemic writes WACA President, *Maga Ramasamy*. It's a fact that COVID-19 will not leave us overnight and we will have to bear with it for quite some time even with the introduction of vaccines. On the other hand the travel and tourism industry will have to take off to support millions of workers worldwide to ensure connectivity of nations mainly by air traffic for economic and social reasons.

### ***Responsible Traveller***

We are not sad that 2020 is reaching its end as we look forward to welcome 2021 full of hope. Governments are beginning to use testing as a means of limiting the risks of travellers importing COVID-19 when reopening their borders without quarantine measures. IATA is supporting governments by introducing the IATA Travel Pass to manage secure testing and vaccine information among governments, airlines, laboratories and travellers. If the authorities apply the concept of the IATA Travel Pass this may boost the industry but individual *responsibility* will be the key word. WACA is prepared to support an awareness campaign of "Be a Responsible Traveller" as it goes in line with our motto "Travel with an Opportunity to Make a Difference".

### ***International Events 2021***

The WACA Council is following the pandemic situation very closely knowing that we are all eager to travel very soon. Prior to the planned AGA in Bali in October, we are inviting Member Clubs to liaise with the WACA Chief Marketing Officer, *Julian Chau*, to propose a potential international event during the course of 2021 taking into consideration all aspects of safe travelling.

### ***Charitable Causes***

Thanks to our financial resilience and good management, the WACA Council was pleased to make a decision to exempt membership dues for 2020 whilst still supporting our philanthropic project in Vietnam. We look forward to your continuous support of all our Association's charitable causes in the coming years.

### ***Season's Greetings***

Allow me to seize this occasion on behalf of the WACA Council and its supporting team (Regional Coordinators, Associates, Ambassadors and Auditors) to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Very Happy New Year 2021.

## **Office Restrictions Update**

The city of Montreal remains in a "red zone" as COVID-19 continues to ravage the city, province and many parts of Canada. Restaurants, cinemas, stadiums, gymnasias, etc. that were to open earlier this month remain closed to be now joined with the closing of offices and non-essential stores. It will be yet another lockdown situation until at least mid-January. I am therefore, once again restricted to work from home until the situation changes. In addition, the Quebec Premier has cancelled plans to allow indoor gatherings with another household over the holiday period following a recent rise in cases, hospitalisations and deaths. There has been some good news, however, as two separate vaccines have now been approved and inoculations begun for the most at risk demographic to be followed by vaccinating the general population commencing in the first quarter of 2021.

## **WACA Contact**

A December 2020 issue of the WACA Contact is attached to this e-mail which replaces all previous issues. Please review for accuracy any specific entry that applies to you and/or your Club. Should you require an amendment to an entry in the Contact please forward your request by e-mail to my attention: [millerk@iata.org](mailto:millerk@iata.org).

## **Obituaries**

The Vancouver Interline Club's president, *Freddie Whiting*, sends the sad news that this year is ending as an even more terrible year than he could have ever imagined. We have lost two wonderful ladies from our Club this month he writes: *Annie Dolny* (aka Annie Banannie) our Club's clown passed away on 7 of December due to cancer to be followed on 14 December by the death of long time member *Irene Smith* who was known to many WACA members. Although 2020 has not been a good year, we look forward to happier times when we can all be together at a WACA event again.

## **Membership Messages**

### ***Communicate***

"Membership Messages" are sent out on a regular basis to WACA Member Clubs, Members-at-Large and other individuals closely connected to WACA. Recipients in Member Clubs are requested to forward these messages to all members of their respective Club or direct their members to the News and Press Releases section of WACA's website where the messages are posted: [www.waca.org/news/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.waca.org/news/Pages/index.aspx).

### ***Contribute***

If any WACA member has anything they would like to contribute to the next "Membership Message" please send the information to the attention of the WACA Administration Manager at WACA Headquarters.

**KEEP WELL. STAY SAFE.**

Yours in interlining,

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