



## Greetings from Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas, President of KOWIN DC



Dear KOWIN DC Members,

Hope you are having a cool summer.

KOWIN DC official activities for this year started out with a winter weekend retreat at a lovely Lake Anna property in Virginia. We held the first quarterly regular meeting

of the year during which we began planning for future KOWIN activities and networked amongst each other.

The year 2017 is full of conventions and conferences: (1) KOWINNER International Convention in Sakhalin, Russia (May 11-13), (2) KOWIN US Eastern Regional Conference in Chicago (June 9-11), (3) KOWIN Convention in Gunsan, Korea (August 29 – September 1). This newsletter includes coverage of events through the end of June, including the second regular meeting that was held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, my last as President of KOWIN DC.

These past two years have sped by and this issue is also the last one I will publish. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board: Advisors, VPs, Treasurer's Team, Auditor, and Secretary General; and the members belonging to the following functional committees: Seminar, Fundraising, Banquets/Special Events, Publications, Bylaws, IT/Social Media, and Rapporteurs, for their invaluable work and dedication. As a result of active fundraising and your generous contributions, I am pleased to leave the KOWIN DC fund with more funds than when I took over 2 years ago – even despite incurring many expenses as a result of the elimination of registration fees for our regular meetings.

One of my favorite quotes from Winston Churchill is, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". I am proud to have served the KOWIN DC community as your President. Heartfelt gratitude goes to

every member and Fellow who provided unyielding love and support during my term. I sincerely thank you all.

My last request is that you kindly provide the same love and support to Sami Lauri, our new KOWIN DC president. God bless to all my KOWIN sisters!

With warmest regards,

Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas  
 President, KOWIN DC Chapter

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## 2017 First Regular Meeting

February 25, 2017

*Report by Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas*



The first regular meeting of 2017 was held during the KOWIN DC Winter Retreat (February 24 – 26, 2017) at Lake Anna (199 Emma Jane Lane, Bumpass, VA 23024) on Saturday, February 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. with 12 attendants.

The meeting was held right after breakfast in a sunny, comfortable family / dining area overlooking Lake Anna. We were lucky with the weather as it turned out to be a lovely day.

The official meeting began with President Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas welcoming and thanking everyone for their participation despite various competing weekend activities. Jieun Kang, a new KOWIN DC member and Soonhoon Ahn who had served as a keynote speaker during our recent leadership seminar were introduced to existing members.

In addressing communication issues, president mentioned that email communication is the primary medium, and in order to conduct KOWIN business matters more effectively, she asked all members to be more sensitive to email protocols and read and respond in a timely manner; provide all requisite RSVPs; and honor deadlines.

From the Treasurer's committee, Anne Jelly provided the financial reports, including the detailed donation list. The seminar, quarterly meetings (we stopped collecting a

registration fee to cover meal expenses at the meetings from the 3rd quarterly meeting in 2015), salary for the KOWIN fellow (\$3,000 per year), and donations to support other organizations accounted for most of the expenses. Our main source of revenue is from membership fees; therefore, it should be evident how vital it is for members to pay their annual membership dues on time.

Future KOWIN/KOWINNER activities were discussed: The KOWINNER convention was to be held in Sakhalin, Russia from May 11 - 13, after which some members have arranged a private tour to take place in Russia until May 19. Several KOWIN DC members decided to take part in the convention and tour.

The Chicago Chapter is hosting U.S. Eastern Regional Conference in Chicago from June 9 -11. President Vittas had announced and forwarded the email invitation to this conference and encouraged everyone who can participate to attend this conference. KOWIN DC decided to send \$500 to Chicago chapter to show our support as they did the same when we hosted the 2015 Eastern Regional conference. Our neighboring state, Canada is holding its first national KOWIN conference and has asked us for financial assistance. Since they provided financial support during our hosting of the 2015 Regional Conference, we will provide \$300. Anne Jelly volunteered to attend the Canadian KOWIN national conference.

We agreed to hold the second quarterly regular meeting on Sunday, June 25 at 4:00 p.m. President Vittas emphasized that attendance at this meeting is important, as there will be an election to vote for the new president of KOWIN DC. According to KOWIN DC bylaws, the senior VP is the first candidate to be the next president. If one or more candidates are nominated from the floor at this meeting, the president then is elected by a majority vote of the General Assembly attendees.

In an effort to encourage the younger generation to become members of KOWIN DC, we held a discussion about whether KOWIN DC should offer the option to waive the one-time initiation fee of \$300 for students and persons under age 35.

President announced that the KOWIN Convention in Korea by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) will be held in Kunsan, Jollabukdo in August.



## 2017 Winter Retreat

February 24-26, 2017

*Report by Sami Lauri*



It was an unseasonably warm Friday in February when members started to showing up one by one to the beautiful lakefront house in Lake Anna. This year is the second time KOWIN held a retreat in this big and comfortable house. Sue, our president, brought Gimbab for dinner and Sue Lund brought sub sandwiches. After members settled in, the night went on with nice relaxing conversation and we all got to know each other a little better.

The second day started with fresh bagels & pastries Ann Jelly brought with her. After breakfast, the first quarterly meeting was held and, as usual, members introduced themselves to each other. Also, there were 2 new members who joined our retreat. The morning was spent with many discussion on KOWIN issues. One of the many benefits KOWIN members enjoy is worldwide networking opportunities by visiting the many overseas KOWIN chapters.

The Eastern Regional Conference in Chicago and KOWINNER Convention in Russia this year can be great opportunities for us to learn, network, and be motivated. Before lunch Jung Hee (JH) Lee showed us a few types of simple yet effective ways to keep the body looking younger.

The simple exercise made us hungry to enjoy curry rice lunch, which was prepared by Christine Choi and Sami

Lauri. Thanks to Kim Sohn, who gave helping hand to cut all the vegetables!

We also enjoyed bean porridge as a late dessert, which was made by Christine Choi.

The highlight of the retreat program was the second day's afternoon session, presented by our own members who have expertise. The program began with a "Tea Ceremony" presented by Myung Ja Lee. She brought beautiful and some exotic tea cups, saucers, and kettles. We got to taste different kinds of tea and discuss about various kinds and taste.

The following presentation was about women's health and prevention by Lucy Nam. It was very informative and showed us how to prepare for common problems in facing menopause.

The 3rd program was about etiquette in communication via email and responsiveness. As a member of work or organization and such, we are dealing with email overload. However, prompt response is expected. We should always remind us that answering email in 24-48 hours is normal practice.

The last program was about real estate matters and was presented by Sami Lauri. She focused on investment in real estate and how to leverage debt to build wealth. We learned that leveraging debt to yield a higher return is possible by changing our perspective on debt.

Since the presentations were running late, "Cooking demonstration" by Helen Won was cut short. However, Helen & Jung Hee (JH) prepared delicious seafood soup instead and satisfied our taste buds as our final meal of the day. We had a fundraising consignment sale after dinner and everyone participated to help contribute. A fashion show, cosmetic counseling, and giggles filled the night.

The last day of a retreat is always busy with packing and cleaning the house but we indulged a late breakfast and savored each other's company.

Since KOWIN only has 3-4 meetings in any given year, the winter retreat is a great opportunity to get to know each member on a personal level and to build camaraderie. I wish that more members will join and enjoy to build our sisterhood next year and more to come!



## 2017 Sakhalin KOWINNER International Convention

May 11-13, 2017

*Report by Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas*



Approximately 100 Korean female leaders representing 12 different countries gathered in Sakhalin, Russia from May 11 - 13, 2017 to participate in the 6th KOWINNER Sakhalin International Convention. Sakhalin is the largest Russian island and is located at the far eastern end of Russia, in the North Pacific Ocean. The theme of the convention was "Fusion and Challenge towards the Bigger and Beautiful World". The program started out in the ballroom of the Gagarin Hotel, twchich is owned by a KOWIN Russian member, where all the participants stayed comfortably during the convention. We had a flag bearing ceremony, with flags representing the countries of participants in attendance (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, India, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, and the United States) and singing of the KOWIN theme song, followed by a buffet dinner with entertainment that included a variety of musical performances by Russian and Korean Russian artists. It was an enchanting evening of music and culture, a glimpse of what Sakhalin Island represents, despite its sad and painful history of Koreans who were taken there to build railways and factories for Japan between 1905 and 1945. The Korean workers were stranded there when Japan's imperial army withdrew at the end of World War II.

From the KOWIN DC Chapter, we had a good turnout of eleven members in attendance: Anne Jelly, Sami Lauri, Jung Hee Lee, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, Myungja Shim, Mokjah Kim Sohn, Young Jae Un, Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas, Helen Won, Stella Yi, and Yang Ro Yoon. We had various speakers depicting Sakhalin's painful history and the current life of descendants who, despite the hardship, stood strong and made themselves proud citizens of Russia. They managed to keep their Korean identity and remain as valuable contributing Russian citizens at the same time. At the break-out session by subject matter, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam was to serve as a moderator on issues related to social and medical areas and Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas to serve as a moderator on issues dealing with the education and Korean women. However, due to earlier sessions running overtime, we ran out of time and had to forgo this part of the program as it was already time for the dinner reception.



KOWIN DC Chapter members enjoyed camaraderie with other KOWINNERS from around the world. We had a good time watching the talent show by various attendants and participating in a city tour of Sakhalin. A variety of items donated by the convention attendants was on display for purchase to raise funds to aid underprivileged Korean women around the world. Thanks to the KOWINNER organization and hardworking KOWIN members from Russia, the convention was a huge success in providing a good forum for building networks and fostering friendships among Korean women leaders.

This convention held significance as it is the last one by the KOWINNER Chairwoman, Kyung Hee Lee, who will turn over her Australian based KOWINNER administration to Jin Hwa Suh, who is replacing her. A new administration based in the U.S. under Jin Hwa Suh (Chairwoman) and



Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas (Secretary General) will commence officially from July 1, 2017. It was proposed and decided that the 7th KOWINNER convention is held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2019.

## Russia Tour after 2017 Sakhalin KOWINNER International Convention

May 13-19, 2017

*Report by Myong Ho ( Lucy ) Nam*

After the KOWINNER convention in Sakhalin, 25 of us, including 11 from KOWIN DC, took the plane to St. Petersburg via Moscow. It took almost a whole day, and it felt real that it is a truly big country, more a continent.

It is impossible to describe the 6-day tour of all the places we visited in detail, especially with my limited literary ability. Seeing is Believing! So, I will include some representative photos for a taste of Russia! During the 2 night/3 day stay in St. Petersburg and 2 night/3 day stay in Moscow, we walked and visited many places, viewed Russian culture, art, and history, enjoyed the nice ambiance of Russian restaurants, and shopped.

In St. Petersburg, we visited the beautiful Summer Palace (P1), and viewed garden fountains (P2); the State of Hermitage Museum at Winter Palace, one of the three largest museums in the world (P3); St. Petersburg Palace Square; Mariinsky Theater, a beautiful old building with over 300 years of history, and a new building with wonderful acoustics while enjoying the ballet, "The Bronze Horseman"; the Spit of Basil's island's night view (P4); Rostral column; Bronze Horseman; the Fortress of Saints Peter & Paul; Church of the Savior on the Spilled Blood (P5); Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers; Kazan Cathedral, and finally took the Sapsan Train headed to the Moscow at night.

P1: Summer Palace



P2: Garden of Summer Palace





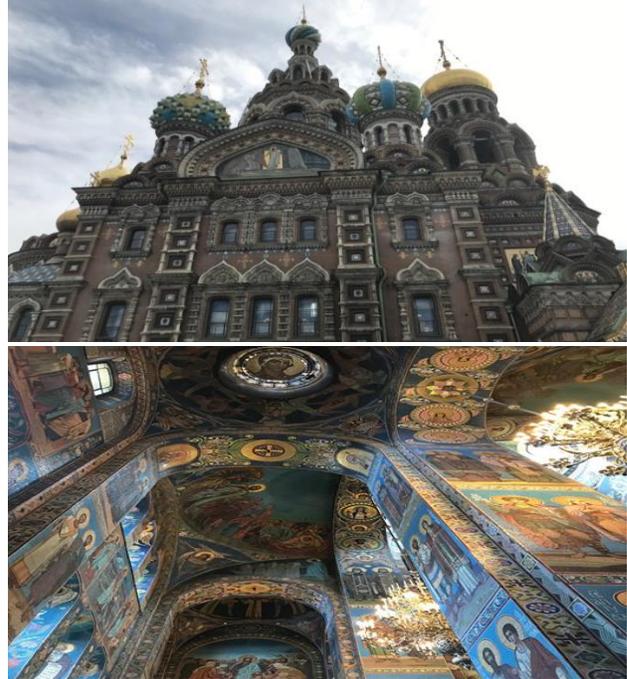
P3: Hermitage Museum (Winter Palace)



P4: St. Petersburg night view at the spit of Basil's island



P5: Church of the Savior on the Spilled Blood



In Moscow, we stayed at the 5-star Hilton, which is a renovated palace! We suddenly felt like we were royalty.

The next morning, we headed to Vladimir, located 168 km away from Moscow, and visited Luna Charsky Drama Theater, Cathedral of Saint Demetrius, Golden Gates, etc. Then, we went to Suzdal, a city almost entirely dedicated to tourists, and enjoyed a relaxing Russian steam sauna and walked around a pretty hotel complex (P6). The next day, we visited the Suzdal Kremlin. Kremlin means a structure showing closed walls built to protect the city inside, like a fortress. We also visited Rozhdestvensky Cathedral, the Archbishop's Chambers, the Holy Gate, Rizopolozhensky Convent, wooden architecture, etc. Then, we transferred to Sergiev-Posad and visited the Architectural Ensemble of the Trinity Sergius Lavra, Saint Trinity Monastery, Smolensk Cathedral, Assumption Cathedral and hurried back to Moscow for sunset dinner cruise to enjoy the famous historical buildings along the Moscow River and beautiful waterfront sunset view. (P7). During the last day, we visited the famous Red Square, and viewed outside of St. Basil's Cathedral (P8), Lenin's Mausoleum; enjoyed Grand Kremlin Palace, including Assumption Cathedral, Cathedral of the Archangel, and cathedral of Saint



Demetrius, Kremlin Patriarchal Palace, Ivan the Great Bell Tower; and tour of the Moscow State University.

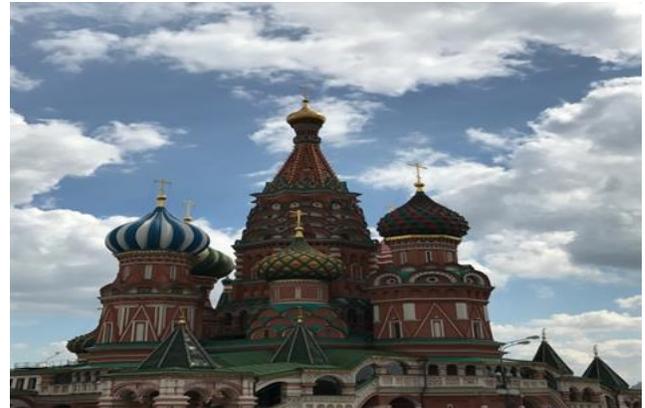
P6: Suzdar



P7: Moscow River Dinner Cruise



P8: St. Basil's Cathedral Grand Kremlin Palace



Wait a minute! We cannot forget about the wonderful experience of Russian Cuisine, not for our taste buds, but for our eyes! Every meal was offered at unique restaurants with special ambiance for each one. Among all of them, the lunch at the Nicholai Palace was the most memorable one – It is really an old palace converted to a restaurant, and we had live pianist playing, including Korean songs, and a glass of wine made us feel like royalty (P9).

P9: St. Petersburg – Lunch at the Nicholai Palace





## The U.S. Eastern Regional Leadership Conference in Chicago

June 9-11, 2017

*Report by Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas*

Another very important tour experience, the SHOPPING! Out of our extremely busy tour schedule we managed to shop for mink hats, shawls, Matryoshka dolls, music orgel music boxes, amber jewelry, Chaga mushroom powder, etc., etc. (P10)

### P10: Shopping! Shopping!



It was a wonderful experience for 25 Korean women from 5 countries and 10 cities, and we developed a long-lasting friendship, networking opportunity, and opened our eyes to enjoy Russian culture, history, and art. Many thanks to Stella Yi, KOWIN DC member and the owner of Stella's Travel Land, Inc, for her excellent travel arrangement.



KOWIN DC supported the U.S. Eastern Regional Conference held in Chicago from June 9 - 11, 2017 by attending and contributing the same dollar amount that KOWIN Chicago donated for the US Eastern Regional Conference in 2015 hosted by KOWIN DC. Approximately 100 members attended, including three from KOWIN DC: Jung Hee (JH) Lee, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, and Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas. A welcoming reception and dinner at the Gene & Georgetti restaurant on the eve of the conference served as a great networking opportunity for the speakers/panelists and participants.

The conference was held in the iconic Metropolitan Club, Willis Tower 66th floor, overlooking the famous Chicago skyline. The theme was, "Build Your Future with Passion, Perseverance, and Hope". Tammy Duckworth, the first Asian female U.S. Senator for the state of Illinois, delivered the congratulatory message.

The conference was divided into four sessions: 1) building the future with passion, 2) building the future with perseverance, 3) building the future with hope, and 4) mentoring and small group discussions. Participants chose groups within their career field and engaged in round table discussions. The groups were arranged by the following fields:



Group 1: Business, Management, Entrepreneurship, Banking & Law

Group 2: Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Science & Technology

Group 3: Education, Social Science, Social Work & NGO, Art & Music

Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam participated in the second session as a panelist, building the future with perseverance. During the gala dinner event, participants and the special guests who had been invited for the evening enjoyed a tea ceremony demonstration and dinner with traditional music performances. The delicious dinner was followed by a diverse Hanbok fashion show celebrating Korea's beautiful heritage.

A half day architectural city tour narrated by Chicago KOWIN member Lucy Park was arranged for the next day. It was an educational tour of the famous buildings in Chicago. It included a fascinating visit to the Art Institute of Chicago to view works by famous artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, and Warhol, just to name a few. Millennium Park, which features a theatre and unique sculptures, was also very interesting. Chicago certainly is a cultural city with a lot to offer.

The conference was a big success due to the hard work and efforts of the KOWIN Chicago conference organizers and KOWIN Chicago members. Though there are fewer Chicago members when compared to KOWIN DC, the success of the conference made it evident that each Chicago member carries out her responsibilities to the fullest. It is an admirable quality that an organization must possess in order to achieve organizational success. Thumbs up for the KOWIN Chicago sisters!

## The 1st KOWIN Canada National Convention

June 2-3, 2017

*Reported by Anne Jelly*

This is a brief summary of my trip to the 1st KOWIN Canada National Convention. It was a privilege to attend the convention in Ottawa. I arrived in Ottawa around noon

on June 2nd to the Rideau Canal waterfront restaurant to meet the KOWIN Canada Ottawa board members and the Vancouver KOWIN president. It was great to get to know everyone and network.



On the first day evening, I checked-in at the University of Ottawa Residence. Then, I attended the Welcoming Reception from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Parliament Hill, which was hosted by Senator Yonah Martin, who took us on a tour of the Senate Chamber and House Chamber. Her staff was also kind enough to show us the Parliament library.

In her Opening Remarks, Senator Yonah Martin talked about her inspiring life story as a 1.5 generation resident, how her parents immigrated (including their life story), and what she learned from her parents, which touched my heart. I was so proud of her commitment to helping people connect with each other, and she shared her own experiences with us. She told us a story about how her parents had a difficult time, and how she became the first Canadian of Korean descent to serve in the Parliament of Canada and the first Korean Canadian parliamentarian in Canadian history. I was very honored and proud to meet this notable Korean Canadian politician. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to connect with her and our fellow KOWIN Canada members from Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa.

Also, I was so honored to have had the opportunity to speak to our Canadian members about KOWIN networking and its importance in personal and professional growth. Many people think networking is hard to do but networking does not have to be complicated or pre-planned. It can be simple and spontaneous. I gave an example of the



Convention Chair and my relationship with her. Then, we enjoyed delicious Korean food and had a great time together that evening.

On the second day (Saturday 3 June 1<sup>st</sup>), KOWIN Canada Convention was held at the Canada Korean Culture Center for “Women Empowerment.”

The conference was attended by over 90 participants representing Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. Welcome remarks were presented by Convention Chair, Sun Mi Lee, and Ambassador of Korea to Canada Shin Maeng-ho. Congratulatory remarks were also presented by various speakers, including Ottawa Korean Community President Mr. Kim. All speakers addressed the significance of the role of women's empowerment, the condition of women in all communities, and the increasing contribution that organizations such as KOWIN have played.

The keynote speaker, Professor Caroline Andrew, delivered an inspiring message in line with the theme of the convention, “Women Empowerment”. She spoke to us about three different definitions of women's empowerment and how women must participate fully in economic life, social life, culture life, and family life. She stressed that this is a multi-dimensional process that helps people gain control over their own lives. She is a full professor at the School of Political Studies and the Director of the Centre on Governance in University of Ottawa. She is a nationally-recognized authority in Canada on urban and feminist studies, as well as on cultural diversity.

There was a breakout session divided into four different workshops (A, B, C and D):

- A. Cultural sensitivity and efficient communication style to connect method by attorney Min Da Yoon.
- B. Introduction of senior government program and Korean senior volunteer activities for cases by attorney Eunice Kim.
- C. How to improve communications and collaboration with free technology by Dr. Num Sook Chang & Lee Su-Jin.
- D. The theme of the movie, “Motherly Love Story,” by Prof. Hyun-Jung Yoo

I participated in Session B, “Bridging the Gap for Aging Korean Canadian Communities,; which was presented by

Eunice Kim. It led me to think more about our Korean seniors, and how I can contribute and help them.

The provided lunch was doshirak (Korean boxed lunch) specials with sushi and we enjoyed connecting with members.

The president of each KOWIN Canada chapter (Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa) presented their chapter's history and activities.

Two Afternoon Sessions:

1. Thoughts on Women and Science by a Dr. Woo Jae Kim, geneticist and professor at the University of Ottawa

His lecture was about his research “How do *drosophila melanogaster* change their behavior dependent on social context?” The theme of his presentation was understanding social behavior using simple genetic model systems and its application in reverse engineering. He found and established identified a male *drosophila melanogaster* behavior called Longer-Mating-Duration. Males invested more time on their mating duration when previously exposed to rivals.

Dr. Kim established two behavioral paradigms.

LMD (Longer-Mating-Duration): males previously exposed to rivals extend their mating duration.

SMD (Shorter-Mating-Duration): sexually satiated males invest less on mating duration.

Identifying whole circuitry for certain behavior and reconstructing that with reverse genetics will be a breakthrough in neuroscience and will help us understand our brain and mind.

2. Elusive equality: “Women's rights in Africa,” by Sun Kyung Choi, Attorney, and a Legal Counsel for the Canadian federal government. She has worked for UN agencies and donor governments in Mali and Mozambique. She shared her work experience in human rights and women's and children's rights in Africa. It was a very sad story.

For the talent Show, there were a Taekwondo demonstration by Toronto Chapter President Ms. Jacqueline An, a performance by young pianist and flutist



from Montreal, and a poem read by the Montreal Chapter president.

There was a team building exercise (10 tables “How to Fundraise”) and they selected three winner tables.

The evening banquet began with a great Korean buffet and was filled with laughing and fellowship. I tried to meet as many Canada members as I could and even after just one day we seemed like old friends, which made this experience a memorable one.

Two things I observed from the convention: First, the Ottawa chapter has more than 100 members. I was very surprised how well they are connected and how close they are with each other. Second, I noticed that more than half of the Montreal chapter participants that came are from younger generation and the youngest is 20 years old. They participated in workshops, shared great ideas, and were actively involved in the talent show.

I enjoyed Canada convention very much and met so many new KOWIN Canada sisters and made many new connections.

## 2017 Second Regular Meeting

June 25, 2017

*Report by Yerin Lee*



The second KOWIN DC regular meeting of 2017 was held at the president’s residence in Washington, D.C. (4606 Foxhall Crescents, NW, Washington, DC 20007) on Sunday, June 25 with 18 members in attendance.

The official meeting began with President Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas welcoming everyone. President Vittas presented to our graduating Fellow, Yerin Lee, a certificate of appreciation plaque and a gift for her service to KOWIN DC during the past year. President Vittas introduced the new Fellow, Ann Yang, who is replacing Yerin Lee.



Treasurer, Ann Jelly provided a summary of the financial status. There are still a few members who have not yet paid the current year’s dues. (According to the bylaw, a member who does not pay the fee for two years and has not participated in any of the activities will be dropped from the membership.) Members discussed effective ways to pay the fee such as an online payment system.

President Vittas expressed gratitude to all who diligently participated in fundraising efforts during the past two years, which, as a result, has left KOWIN DC with more funds than when she took over 2 years ago.

President Vittas reported on the 2017 KOWINNER International Convention, which was held in Sakhalin, Russia from May 11-13. The sessions during the convention were informative and participants learned a lot about Sakhalin’s painful history. This convention was the last one under the Australian KOWINNER administration, as the KOWINNER foundation was scheduled to be turned over to the U.S. based administration from July 1, 2017.

Jin Hwa Suh from KOWIN Chicago, who had been serving as a Vice President for the KOWINNER Foundation, became the new President with Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas as the Secretary General. There were 11 KOWIN DC members attending this convention and afterwards we



embarked on a week-long tour of Russia, visiting Moscow and St. Petersburg. The trip was quite memorable, thanks to Stella Yi's (KOWIN DC member who operates a travel agency) meticulous and wonderful planning of the tours.

Dr. Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam reported on the KOWIN Chicago Eastern Regional Leadership Conference, which was held in Chicago from June 9-11. Lucy Nam emphasized how well the conference was prepared. Their sessions included presentations by inspiring young speakers/panelists. KOWIN Chicago also played a gracious host and offered a city tour to the out of town member guests. Ms. Jung Hee (JH) Lee complimented their outstanding conference preparation.

Mrs. Jelly briefly reported the first KOWIN Canadian national convention in Ottawa. She said she was very surprised by the participation rate of many young professionals.

The KOWIN Convention in Korea by the Ministry of Equal Gender and Family will be held in Gunsan from August 29 - September 1, 2017. Six KOWIN DC members, including President Vittas and Fellow, Yerin Lee, have signed up. A member who has never been to the convention has priority over other members to join the convention; however, for this year, all six have been approved to attend the KOWIN Convention in Gunsan.

President Vittas provided outgoing president's remarks: she said she was grateful and proud to have served KOWIN DC for the last two years. Members praised her effort and hard working on behalf of KOWIN DC's continued development.

New KOWIN DC president Sami Lauri provided remarks as the new president. She mentioned that she was very impressed how KOWIN DC members are working diligently, and she encouraged members' continuous support and participation to make the organization better. The members moved into another room and participated in the consignment sales event. It was agreed that 30% of the sale price was to be donated to KOWIN DC

The members enjoyed the delicious dinner provided by President Vittas.

## Member News

### Judi Rhee Alloway

On December 22, 2016, the city of Philadelphia announced the newly reconstituted Mayor's Commission on Asian American Affairs, comprised of 25 professionals and community leaders who represent the diversity of Asian American communities in Philadelphia. Judi Rhee Alloway is one of them. She stated that "I am honored to represent and be a liaison for small business owners, immigrants, women's issues and the Korean-American community."

The Commission will advise the Mayor on issues and policies pertinent to Asian communities in the city, ensure diversity and inclusion of Asian communities within city policies, and also assist Asian American community organizations in developing strategies and programs to enhance the social, cultural, and economic status of the Asian American community.

### Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas

#### Lecture in Manila (May 21 - 25, 2017) and Forum in Seoul (May 31, 2017)



After a group tour in Russia with KOWINNER members who attended the Sakhalin KOWINNER International Convention together, I flew directly from Moscow to Manila, Philippines to give a lecture, as a member of the Asia Pacific Career Development Association on. "the impact of



soft skills on one's career," at the Ateneo de Manila University (known as the Harvard of the Philippines). The university has good facilities with a beautiful campus; however, the weather was very hot and humid. It especially felt so hot and uncomfortable after coming from Russia, which was still cold in May.



I went to Seoul afterwards to take care of a few business matters and to attend a Forum on May 31, 2017 (9 am – 5 pm) held in the Grand Ballroom of the 63 Building. It is an annual “Good” company conference event by Sisa Journal, which is the Korean equivalent of Time or Newsweek in the U.S. The theme of this forum was “Entrepreneurship & Good Governance,” and was attended by approximately 500 participants comprised of senior government officials and CEOs of major business enterprises. Congratulatory remarks were delivered by Chung Sye-kyun (정세균), the Speaker of the National Assembly.