

## **Closing Speech and closing of the Business Session**

### **WA-Alliance Interim Chair, Helen Monument**

I'd like to start by saying an enormous thank you to all the delegates for your endorsement of the new World Administrators Alliance, the Interim Council and for your confidence in me as interim chair. I'd also like to thank Veronica Cochrane, Eth Lloyd and the Advisory Council Future Task Force for all the work they have done to bring the wishes of the delegates at the 10<sup>th</sup> Summit in Frankfurt to fruition.

It was no easy task and the consultation document they produced was comprehensive and well researched. We are extremely grateful for the grant of \$5000 from the IAAP Foundation which enabled the task force to complete its mandate.

Now, to continue with the agenda:

#### **Update on Face to Face 11<sup>th</sup> WA-Summit 2021 – New Zealand**

With the state of the world at the moment, it's impossible to confirm any details at this stage, but as it's only six months away, the Council will take a decision very soon on how to proceed. It's looking less likely that we'll be able to have a face-to-face Summit in New Zealand, but of course we'll keep you informed.

#### **Update on 12<sup>th</sup> WA-Summit in 2022**

Then, looking forward, the 12<sup>th</sup> World Administrators Summit will be hosted by the IAAP and held in Nashville Tennessee in July 2022. It seems a long way off, but let's hope that by then we won't just be back to a normal world, but back to a better world.

#### **Summary – Wrap up.**

Finally, I'd like to thank our facilitators, Karen Nanninga, Lucy Brazier and Juanita Mort for running our breakout sessions with their usual professionalism and pragmatism. The sessions have been a success, full of great ideas, interaction, suggestions, thoughts, and ideas from you all, thank you,

We have recorded them, so that we can collate the outcomes accurately and make sure that everyone's voice has been heard. This input will go straight to the Council, and be shared with you all, so thank you for letting us hear your voices.

Our communications team, Julia Schmidt, Diana Brandl and Elizabeth White-Peters (who is a new member of the team) have been observing today and will spread the word of this meeting across our social media channels. So thank you to them. Please make sure you follow our company page on LinkedIn, share the content and spread the word wherever you can – also on FB and Twitter.

There has been a phenomenal amount of work going on behind the scenes to bring this business meeting together. A huge thank you goes to Eth Lloyd, Sherie Pointon and especially to Rhonda Scharf for allowing us to use her Zoom platform and, for making the technology work for us. Thanks also to Juanita Mort who was also our co-host today.

Of course, the biggest round of applause goes to YOU - the delegates attending today, and those who will catch up on the recording. For some it's very early in the day, for some it's very late, so we really appreciate your patience and commitment.

When I attended my first Summit in London seventeen years ago, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would one day be taking on this tremendous role. I was very honoured to have been invited by Eth, and I didn't have to think very long before accepting. I have enormous shoes to fill but I know I can count on your support as we take this momentous step to launch the Alliance and its new structure and to give the community of administrative professionals everywhere the chance to come together and speak with one voice. This is a huge milestone in the long history of the Summit, and I feel that the creation of the World Administrators Alliance is the natural next step in its evolution.

The team and I are dedicated to providing long-term leadership, continuity, resilience and advocacy for the benefit of the Alliance and its members. I can't wait to start work with the Council on putting everything in place that we need to move the Alliance forward, this includes decisions on membership fees, membership categories, setting up procedures and guidelines for how the business of the Alliance will be managed and the 2021 Summit, as well as setting out our strategy for the future.

We will be looking forward, using the latest technology to set out new communication and collaboration channels to enable all the Summit Task Forces to continue their amazing work in a transparent, effective and accountable way and also to make it easy and efficient for you to find all the Alliance and Summit information that you need online.

The Summit has been lucky to have valuable partners and experts who have been staunch supporters and have worked tirelessly over the past years – we will be inviting them to come with us on our journey and continue to be an integral part of the Alliance.

I am very relieved to know that Eth Lloyd will be there in the background to support us with her mountain of knowledge about the Summit and all it has achieved. We're not saying an official farewell to her just yet, I hope she's told her husband, Charles! Eth has also graciously agreed to open the 2021 Summit in May – whatever form that may take.

Meeting online is always a technical challenge, especially for a group of this size and over the past months, we're all having to find new ways to discuss and collaborate. However, I am very proud of what we've done together today. We have some amazing takeaways on our two topics, we have created the World Administrators Alliance and we can now start to create a real community, working together globally. Working to give you and your associations a united voice, to support you, to tackle together the issues that affect us all, not just the challenges in our own countries, but to help Admins across the globe. So, dare to ask for what you need, because only then can we take action.

The aim of the Alliance is to guide, influence, positively develop and elevate the profession.

We will let the world know that we are out there, and that this profession is going from strength to strength.

Thank you to everyone for making this business meeting a success. Please feel free to get in touch through our website, we'd love to hear from you. Until we meet again, thank you, stay safe and goodbye to you all.