



IWCV ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The 2023 IWCV Board of Directors

President: Jane Buck

Vice President – Membership: Susan Kaplan

Vice President – Activities: Phyllis So

Treasurer: Dora Sanchez

Recording Secretary: Lauren Baker (appointed)

Chairperson – Charities & Fundraising: Pauline Fitzgerald

Member-at-Large: Karen Magee-Koski

Webmistress: Cindy Roberts (appointed)

In October 2023, members had the opportunity to vote for the 2024 IWCV Board of Directors. A significant 60 percent of IWCV members cast ballots, with all the Board candidates receiving between 93-96 percent of the votes. The incoming Board includes current Board members President Jane Buck; Treasurer Dora Sanchez; Vice-President - Charities Pauline Fitzgerald, and Member-at-Large Susan Kaplan. Serving for their first terms are Vice-President - Activities Susan Burke March and Recording Secretary Norma Acland. VP – Activities Phyllis So was also elected to the 2024 Board of Directors, but for personal reasons resigned at the beginning of her term, and the IWCV Board appointed first-time Board member Janine Forbes to the VP – Membership position. Secretary Lauren Baker and Member-at-Large Karen Magee-Koski retired from their positions at the end of 2023.

The biggest change for the IWCV during 2023 was financial and in two parts: first, our membership voted overwhelmingly – by a factor of approximately 90% - to implement a €20 annual membership fee; and second, with the help of our Webmistress Cindy Roberts, we were able to implement our website's facility to collect payments up front for both our membership fee and for activities, including social activities, lunches, fundraising and other events. Because of this we no longer have to collect cash payments from our members for activities and we now have enough cash in the bank to pay for expenses our organization incurs, such as website & domain name fees. The IWCV does not make any money at all from activities and fundraising efforts but relies entirely on the membership fees collected to support all of our endeavours.

Prior to implementing our membership fee in the summer of 2023, we had 393 members of record. Following fee implementation, that dropped to 158 members. Since then the numbers have gone up again and at the end of 2023 we had 201 members. While this is not as high as it once was, we have found that these members are more active and involved than in the past. Most of our new members learned about the IWCV from our current members. And we can proudly point to the true international nature of our membership, with members representing no less than 35 countries.

Our three main membership events/activities (First Tuesday Coffee Morning, Monthly Luncheon, and Monthly "OWL" Happy Hour) remain robust, with these activities filling to capacity most months. During 2023, members' partners/spouses were invited to attend alternate monthly lunches, and OWL is open to all members, their partners/spouses and guests. The First Tuesday Coffee Morning continues to be a haven for women only, although it is open to all women of Valencia, both our members and those who have not officially joined us yet.

IWCV activities, both on-going and special events, thrived in 2023. Our two largest on-going activities (Monday Mahjong games and Friday Women Who Walk) remained popular throughout the year. Our "Stitches & Yarns" group (formerly "Knit & Knatter") and two new on-going activities – Spanish & Coffee and Board Games & More – have proved to be quite popular among members. In 2023 we offered an unprecedented 30 special events for members that were well received.

We should all be very proud of how generously IWCV members supported our three main charities: Casa Ronald McDonald, Proyecto Vivir, and Casa Caridad. In addition, members provided special end-of-the-year holiday help for the Amigos de la Calle charity. IWCV members donated a total of €1,140 to our charities in 2023, nearly twice the amount donated in 2022. In addition, over the December holidays our members donated more than 500 gift bags for the homeless in Valencia and 101 gifts for disadvantaged children.

In 2023, with the help of volunteer Carey Hepler and in an effort to assist the men in our members' lives to fit into their lives in Valencia, the IWCV formed the "Fellows of the IWCV" – a group of men who, while not members of the IWCV, are affiliated with us and are now able to participate in many of the events and on-going activities scheduled for IWCV members. Similarly, IWCV members are able to participate in many of the Fellows' activities. The Fellows group is now open to all men of Valencia, including the partners/spouses of IWCV members, both current and former.

We fully expect to keep up the good work in 2024, and to continue to provide social, charitable and educational opportunities for our members and associates during the year.

Jane Buck,
President

MEMBERSHIP

VP - Membership: Susan Kaplan

Total Membership as of 31 December 2023 was 201 women. Effective July 1, 2023 the membership approved the assessment of annual dues of 20 Euros. On August 31, 2023 our membership was 393. September 1, those who had not paid the dues were removed for the membership list leaving the IWCV with 158 members. Since September 1, 43 women have joined the IWCV bringing our membership as of 31 December 2023 to 201 members.

Full Membership

2021

313

2022

284

2023

201

In 2023 the largest number of our new members learned about the IWCV through other members.

Our members learned of the IWCV as follows:

Source of New Members

Facebook	28
Member	113
Other	28
Recent event	1
Web Search	29
Did not indicate	2
	201

Our members come from 35 countries.

America	France
Argentina	Germany
Australian	Indonesia
Brazil	Ireland
Great Britian	Venezuela
Bulgaria	Venezuela
Canada	Italy
China	Japan
Colombia	Kazakhstan
Denmark	New Zeland
Netherlands	Norway
Egypt	Panama
England	Peru
Finland	Poland
	Serbia

Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Venezuela

Turkey
United Kingdom

Our members self-identify as follows:

American	105	Argentinian - British	1
British	11	Australian / Swedish	1
Spanish	7	Brazilian	1
Irish	5	British/Spanish	1
Canadian	4	Canadian/ Polish	1
French	4	Colombian/American	1
Polish	4	Danish	1
Australian	3	Egyptian	1
Spanish/American	3	French/Spanish	1
United Kingdom	3	German/American	1
UK/American	3	Italian	1
Un identified	3	Italian/American	1
American/Spanish	2	Japanese	1
Colombian	2	Kazakhstan	1
Dutch	2	New Zealand	1
English	2	New Zealand/American	1
Finnish	2	Norwegian (Indonesian origin)	1
German	2	Norwegian/American	1
Swedish	2	Peruvian/Spanish	1
American / Bulgarian	1	Serbian/Canadian	1
American/,Swiss	1	Spanish/Colombian	1
American/Australian	1	Spanish/Swiss	1
American/Irish	1	Swiss/British	1
American/Panamanian	1	Turkish	1
		UK/American/IR	1
		Venezuela /American	1

On-Going Membership Events/Activities and Coordinators

Neighborhood Ambassador Program - Joanne Simpson
 Monthly IWCV Luncheon -, Jane Buck, Lili Machado
 Monthly First Tuesday Coffee Morning - Susan Kaplan
 Monthly "OWL" (Out With the Ladies) IWCV Happy Hour - Jane Buck
 New Member Coffee - Susan Kaplan
 Facebook Page- Missy Anobile

TREASURY

Treasurer: Dora Sanchez

1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

SUMMARY

Balance 1 Jan 2023	671.35
Cash on Hand 1 Jan 2023	0
Received	7364
Paid	4349.67
Balance	3685.68

DETAIL 2023

		Balance
BANK BALANCE AT 1 JAN 2023	671.35	671.35
December Luncheon	144	815.35
Dec Lunch Paid to Restaurant	144.00	671.35
Detox to Better Health	7	678.35
Detox Fees Paid to Provider	7.00	671.35
Tour of River Turia & Bridges	195	866.35
Tour of R. Turia Paid to Provider	195.00	671.35
Power of Spices & Herbs	50	721.35
Spices & Herbs Paid to Provider	50.00	671.35
Tour of Historic Cabanyal	330	1001.35
Tour Hist. Cab. Paid to Provider	330.00	671.35
Are We Doomed to Diabetes	45	716.35
Diabetes Paid to Provider	45.00	671.35
November Luncheon	552	1223.35
Nov Lunch Paid to Restaurant	552.00	671.35
Turkish Cooking Class	150	821.35
Turk Cook Class Paid to Provider	150.00	671.35
Guided Tour Botanic Gardens	240	911.35
G. Tour. Bot. Gdns Paid to Provider	240.00	671.35
Expat Dilemma	40	711.35
Expat Dilemma Paid to Provider	40.00	671.35
October Luncheon	620	1291.35
Oct Lunch Paid to Restaurant	620.00	671.35
Party for a Purpose Fundraiser	525	1196.35
Party for a Purpose Donation	525.00	671.35
Pilates Primer	380	1051.35

Pilates Primer Paid to Provider		380.00	671.35
Eating for Energy	30		701.35
Eat for Energy Paid to Provider		30.00	671.35
Vall d'Uixo Tour	176		847.35
Vall d'Uixo Fees Refunded		176.00	671.35
Membership Fees	3880		4551.35
WIX Upgrade			
Email		112.00	4439.35
WIX Annual Fee		528.00	3911.35
Domain Name		27.46	3883.89
CaixaBank Fees		198.21	3685.68
BANK BALANCE AT			
31 DEC 2023	8035.35	4349.67	3685.68

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

VP – Activities, Phyllis So

2023 – EVENTS

	Name	Date	Coordinator
1.	Pharoah King of Egypt	23-Jan	Jules Massie
2.	Bustin' Nutrition Myths	31-Jan	Susan March
3.	Benillure House Tour	23-Feb	Brenda Stein
4.	Fallas Ninots Tour	28-Feb	Missy Anobile
5.	Casal del Pilar Tour	14-Mar	Phyllis So
6.	Beyond Stick Figures	Mar 3, 24, 31	Cynthia Marin
7.	Lladro Factory Tour	24-Mar	Danielle Beeson
8.	Tour of Casa Caridad	30-Mar	Karen Koski
9.	Monfort Gardens	23-Apr	Brenda Stein
10.	Manises, Glass Workshop	12-Apr	Missy Anobile
11.	Essentials for Understanding EVOO & How Olive Oil Can Help	6-April	Susan Hoover
12.	Montfort Gardens Tour	27-April	Brenda Stein
13.	Prostate Cancer – A Survivor's Story	9- May	Jane Buck
14.	Non-Lucrative Visas & Their Renewals	8-June	Jane Buck
15.	Understanding Extra Virgin Olive Oil	13-June	Susan Hoover
16.	Turkish Cooking	5-Jul	Pinar Ozhal
17.	Orchids	13-Jul	Debbie Roth
18.	Writing Workshop	7-Jul	May Leong
19.	Basics of Chinese Medicine	12-Sep	Heather Lounsberry
20.	Have Your Cake and Eat It Too!	5 Sept (4 sessions)	Susan March
21.	Creative Journaling	7 Sept (4 sessions)	Marti Lay
22.	Basics of Chinese Medicine	9 Dec	Heather Lounsberry
23.	Real Estate in Valencia	26 Sept (3 sessions)	Rebecca Cabo
24.	All the Best Parties – the Author's Take on the Novel & Its Making	6 Oct	Dennis Roth
25.	Pilates Primer with Leyna Noel	10 Oct	Jane Buck
26.	Tour of Botanic Gardens	26 Oct	Brenda Stein
27.	Turkish Cooking	17 Nov	Pinar Ozhal
28.	Guided Tour of Cabanyal	30 Nov	Brenda Stein

29.	The Power of Herbs & Spices	7 Dec	Susan March
30.	Special Holiday Gifts Sale: by Olimpia of Olimpia Spain	12-Dec	Jane Buck
31.	Tour of the Turia & Its Bridges	14 Dec	Brenda Stein

2023 On-Going Activities and Coordinators

1. Mahjong - Weekly Game – Jane Buck
2. Mahjong – Classes – Jane Buck, Karen Magee-Koski, Myra Deuel
3. Women Who Walk – Liz Humphries & Ida Mauritzen
4. Spanish & Coffee - Mary Reeves
5. Board Games & More - Ann Linton
6. Stitches and Yarns - Cathy Cleaver
7. Chicas de Libros – Ruth Ann Hepler

2023 Social Media and Coordinators - WhatsApp Group Chats

All IWCV members have the opportunity to join our on-going activity private WhatsApp group chats as an easy and efficient means to find out when each group is meeting and to RSVP for periodic attendance. All members can join these groups simply by contacting the current group administrator.

- Join Us for Local Events – Phyllis So & Susan Burke March
- IWCV - Social Chat – Phyllis So & Susan Burke March
- Women Who Walk –Liz Humphries & Ida Mauritzen
- Stitches and Yarns - Cathy Cleaver
- Spanish and Coffee - Mary Reeves
- Board Games and More - Ann Linton

CHARITIES & FUNDRAISING

Pauline Fitzgerald, VP – Charities

In 2023 we raised a total of €1,140 for our charities. This money was raised through fundraising events, activities and donations. We donated the following to our charities in 2023:

1. Casa Caridad : €120
2. Casa Ronald: €160
3. Proyecto Vivir: €860

CHRISTMAS PROJECTS

CASA RONALD

In December we collaborated with Casa Ronald and sold 41 Christmas Baskets. Each basket sold raised €7.50 for Casa Ronald, for a total of €307.50.

AMIGOS DE LA CALLE

We also collaborated with Amigos de la Calle for the Homeless Gift Bags and Sponsor a Child Projects in December 2023.

IWCV members donated more than 500 items including underwear, socks, gloves, hats, sweaters etc. All gifts were wrapped and labelled. All the gifts were distributed to the homeless people of Valencia by Amigos de la Calle volunteers.

IWCV members sponsored 101 Children in the Sponsor a Child project, and the gifts were distributed to the children at a party held for the families on Saturday 30 December. The party was a great success, and the children enjoyed their wonderful gifts donated by the ladies of IWCV. We look forward to again collaborating with Amigos de la Calle for the coming 2024 holiday season.

FELLOWS OF THE IWCV

Carey Hepler, Coordinator

In 2023, in an effort to assist the spouses/partners of IWCV members to better assimilate into their lives here in Valencia, the IWCV asked for a male volunteer to form a new group to be called "Fellows of the IWCV". The purpose of the group is to provide activities – social, educational, and charitable – to these men who, while not members of the IWCV, are affiliated with the IWCV.

To that end, the IWCV asked our members' spouses/partners for a volunteer to coordinate this newly formed group. Carey Hepler, spouse of IWCV member Ruth Ann Hepler, volunteered to take on this task.

Since then, 57 men have joined the Fellows group, and most are spouses (current and former) of IWCV members. The Fellows had two group lunches and one group happy hour in 2023, and we will continue this activity in 2024.

The Fellows are also organizing activities based on mutual interests.

Current Activities

Photography and Hiking are led by Sigve Mauritzen

Cards, Wine Tasting, and Current Events are led by Phil Duff

Pádel and Golf are led by Andrew Anderson

Spanish led by Ronald Zielinsky

Potential Future Activities

Bowling, Cooking, Historical site seeing.

The Fellows group is now open to all men of Valencia, including the partners/spouses of our female IWCV members, past and current.

WEBSITE

Webmistress: Cindy Roberts

The major change to the website in 2023 was enabling payment of annual dues, and purchase of tickets for events, online through the website.

The table below shows that 2023 site sessions increased by 72% over 2022.

IWCV Website Sessions by Month			
2022		2023	
December	586	December	914
November	709	November	1,095
October	810	October	1,311
September	497	September	949
August	283	August	647
July	298	July	688
June	868	June	878
May	634	May	957
April	412	April	985
March	551	March	938
February	373	February	1,263
January	453	January	498
Total for year	6,474		11,123

The top pages visited on the website are the home page, events, and volunteer resources.

Website Priorities for 2024

Incorporate new board members into roles and email addresses for the domain.

Revamp menu to reflect Board priorities

Combine site registration and dues payment forms into one form.