



WORLD CHEFS GENERAL MEETING 2020 MINUTES Saturday August 15, 2020 – Online

1. President Thomas Gugler welcomed all the National Society Member Presidents, Voting Delegates and Online Participants. A Moment of Silence was held in remembrance of all recently departed Worldchefs Members and Colleagues.
2. President Thomas Gugler introduced the Board of Directors and the Continental Directors provided a brief address to the Worldchefs Members.
3. President Thomas Gugler appointed Neil Abrahams, Continental Director of Pacific Rim as Sergeant of Arms for the Meeting.
4. Managing Director Ragnar Fridriksson welcomed everyone and reviewed the online meeting and voting procedures.
5. Eligible Voting National Society Members and proxy holders were asked to confirm their attendance to determine Quorum.
 - Quorum was confirmed by Cornelia Volino, Secretary General
 - 91 Total Eligible Voting National Society Members
 - 63 Total Eligible Voting Members present for the meeting including proxies
 - (51% required for a Quorum, 69.2% in attendance)
 - Motion to Approve Quorum by Cornelia Volino, Secretary General
 - Motion was Approved by Majority.
6. Motion to Approve Minutes for the 2018 Worldchefs General Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur with *correction from Arwyn Watkins re spelling/typo in last name. Proposed by President Thomas Gugler. Motion was Approved by Majority.
7. Vice President Martin Kobald introduced all National Society Members with the Parade of Flags presentation.
8. Vice President Martin Kobald introduced the new National Society Members: Albanian Chefs & Cooks Association; Asociacion de Chefs de El Salvador; Kuwait Chef Club; Association of Professional Chefs Nigeria and Spanish Selection Association of Professional Cuisine, and called for a Ratification Vote. Motion was Approved by Majority.
9. Revision to Quorum was required to add the 5 New National Society Members as eligible voters. Eligible Voting National Society Members and proxy holders were asked to confirm their attendance again to determine the Revised Quorum
 - Revision to Quorum was confirmed by Cornelia Volino, Secretary General
 - 96 Total Eligible Voting National Society Members
 - 68 Total Eligible Voting Members present including proxies
 - (51% required for a Quorum, 70.8% in attendance)



- Motion to Approve Revised Quorum by Cornelia Volino, Secretary General
- Revised Quorum was Approved by Majority.

10. During President Thomas Gugler’s address, he thanked everyone for being part of the Worldchefs family and discussed the devastation we are all facing due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. He encouraged everyone to stay positive, support each other, believe in the “Power of the White Jacket” and together we will shine. President Thomas Gugler made special mention of the additional challenges being faced in Berlut, Mauritius, Somalia, Indonesia and Belarus.

President Thomas Gugler encouraged everyone to respect each other, all the animals and Mother Nature. He encouraged Worldchefs members to be aware, open-minded, tolerant, and try to learn from each other.

During the past 4 years, President Thomas Gugler shared how much he has enjoyed meeting the Worldchefs members all around the world, learning their cultures, traditions and specific cuisine styles.

President Thomas Gugler is particularly proud of the accomplishments of Worldchefs Academy and the free online Pre-Commis Chef Course, which provides an excellent platform for young and aspiring chefs to launch their career.

11. President Thomas Gugler presented his plea for the Extraordinary Vote to grant 2026 Worldchefs Congress to the Russian Culinary Association in lieu of cancellation of 2020 Worldchefs Congress due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. Motion was Approved by Majority. (70 Yes, 3 No, 4 Abstain) It was officially confirmed that the 2026 Worldchefs Congress will be held in Russia. President Thomas Gugler thanked all the members for their support and consideration.

12. Introduction of the 2024 Worldchefs Congress Bids was provided by Managing Director Ragnar Fridriksson.

13. 2024 Worldchefs Congress Bid Finalist presentations were made by Singapore Chefs Association and Culinary Association of Wales.

14. 2024 Worldchefs Congress Bid Voting - Singapore received 40 votes and Wales 37 votes.

15. President Thomas Gugler officially announced the 2024 Worldchefs Congress will be held in Singapore. President Thomas Gugler thanked both National Society Members for all their efforts during the bid process.

16. The Singapore Chefs Association thanked everyone for their support and look forward to hosting the 2024 Worldchefs Congress.

17. Managing Director Ragnar Fridriksson provided a synopsis reviewing the financial statements and activities previously circulated to all the National Society Member Presidents.



18. Assistant Vice President Uwe Micheel provided the Audit Confirmation and Motion to Accept the 2018 & 2019 Financial Statements and Grant Discharge to the Board of Directors for their Management. Motion was Approved by Majority.

19. Assistant Vice President Uwe Micheel called a Motion to Approve the Budget for 2020. Motion was Approved by Majority.

20. President Thomas Gugler thanked all the Worldchefs Committees individually for all their efforts during the past 4 years.

World Chefs Without Borders (WCWB) Committee Chairman Willment Leong thanked his Committee members, all the Worldchefs Members and volunteers that contributed to the WCWB Chef Social Responsibility (CSR) events around the world over the past 2 years. He encouraged everyone to support WCWB CSR Siem Reap in Cambodia June 13-17, 2021.

21. Honorary Life Member Committee Chairman Murray Dick provided an overview of the application process and President Thomas Gugler announced the Honorary Life Member recipient for this year is Ulla Liukkonen (Finland).

22. Worldchefs Awards, Medals and Recognitions were introduced and presented by President Thomas Gugler.

Humanitarian Award - Philippe Frydman (South Africa)

Education Award - Amro Alyassin (UAE) and James Griffin (USA)

Communication Award - Karen Doyle (Australia)

Lifetime Achievement Award - Eddy Fernández Monte (Cuba)

Escoffier Award - Toshi Utsunomiya (Japan)

President's Award - Armand Steinmetz (Luxembourg)

Worldchefs Lifetime Honorary Judge Recognition: Gert Klötzke (Sweden)

Worldchefs Honorary Judge Recognitions:

Marco Brueschweiler (Thailand)

Bruno Marti (Canada)

Aloyse Jacoby (Luxembourg)

Frank Widmann (Germany)

President's Medals:

The Late Claudio Ferrer (USA)

Isaac Kofi Sackey (Ghana)

Stefu Santoso (Indonesia)

Shonah Chalmers (Canada)

Frank Fol (Belgium)

Irina Danilova (Russia)

Stuart McLeod (Great Britain)

Mike Pansi (Austria)

Stafford DeCambra (USA)



Rodrigo Ibanez Rojas (Mexico)
Sam Timoko (Cook Island)
Damir Crleni (Croatia)
Giuseppe Casali (Italy)
Guido DeBono (Malta)
Coovashan Pillay (South Africa)
Arkady Ponomarev (Russia)
Eric Teo (Teo Thiam Lye) (Singapore)
Chern Chee Hoong (Malaysia)
Karlheinz Haase (Germany)

(Note: It was later announced during Open Forum the 2020 Worldchefs Award and Medal recipients would receive their awards/medals by courier with a certificate of recognition and those attending the 2022 Worldchefs Congress would be recognized on stage with the 2022 recipients.)

Special recognition was given by President Thomas Gugler to Wales and Luxembourg for hosting Board of Director Meetings during the last 2 years.

23. Andy Cuthbert, Continental Director Africa and the Middle East invited everyone to join Worldchefs and the Emirates Culinary Guild for the 2022 Worldchefs Congress in Abu Dhabi. The Ceremonial Ringing of the Bell was done by President Thomas Gugler and Vice President Martin Kobald.

24. Open Forum was held for 30 minutes providing the opportunity for Worldchefs Members to ask questions and provide feedback to the Board of Directors.

25. Heartfelt Closing Remarks were shared by President Thomas Gugler. He thanked all the Worldchefs National Society Member Presidents and Members for their confidence and trust in supporting his presidency and the Presidium for the past 4 years and as his candidacy for president was unopposed for the next 4 years, he thoroughly appreciates the demonstration of continued confidence and trust in him and his Presidium.

President Thomas Gugler thanked the entire Board of Directors, Committees, Corporate Partners, Sponsors and Head Office team for all their efforts, support and contributions towards Worldchefs.

President Thomas Gugler thanked everyone for attending the 1st Online General Meeting in the 92 year History of Worldchefs! He wished that everyone and their families will stay safe and well during these challenging times and asked they continue to believe in the “Power of the White Jacket”. “Together, we will all see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

26. In closing, President Thomas Gugler looks forward to seeing everyone again in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates at the 2022 Worldchefs Congress! He then proposed a Motion to Close the Meeting. Motion was Approved Unanimously.