

The detailed annual accounts, including the Trustees' and Independent Examiners Reports, will be available at the AGM, on the COPA website (www.copa.international) or can be obtained from the COPA Secretary, contact details on page 2.

A summary of these accounts can be found below.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Regular income from sponsors	23,393	33,553
Gift Aid on sponsorship income	3,399	4,574
Contributions from Project Trust	0	1,324
Donations for specific purposes	690	1,634
Donations for general purposes	390	1,000
Promotional and fundraising income	15	33
Interest received	3	108
	<u>27,890</u>	<u>42,226</u>
Resources expended		
Support for our work in the Dominican Republic	28,110	24,457
Newsletter costs	459	388
Administrative and other costs	1,192	1,383
	<u>29,761</u>	<u>26,228</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year	(1,871)	15,998
Funds brought forward	116,348	100,350
Funds carried forward	114,477	116,348

BALANCE SHEET	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Net current assets:		
Bank balances	107,899	113,171
Gift Aid recoverable	7,975	4,574
Less amount due to COPA USA	(1,397)	(1,397)
	<u>114,477</u>	<u>116,348</u>
Representing funds:		
To support our work in the Dominican Republic	89,299	89,927
To react quickly to emergencies in the DR	12,848	12,848
For general purposes	12,330	13,573
	<u>114,477</u>	<u>116,348</u>

Community Partners Association (COPA)

Registered Charity No. 1027117



Invitation, Agenda and Reports

relating to the

31st COPA Annual General Meeting and Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, 25th September 2022 at 10.30am

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COPA UK COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2021/22

PRESIDENTS Sebert and Doreen Lane

TRUSTEES & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Peter Gardner	Chairman
John Youe	Vice Chairman/HR
Ian Robertson	Insurances/Treasurer
Elizabeth Robertson	Secretary
Paul Arthurs	Fund Raising/Publicity/IT
Bryony Clear Hill	Newsletter
Sandra Samways	Sponsorship
Verona Smith	Education
Roger Tovey	International Finance

Community Partners Association (COPA)

Registered Charity No. 1027117



COPA Service of Celebration and 31st Annual General Meeting Sunday, 25th September 2022

Dear Donors and Friends of COPA

We are pleased to invite you to a Church Service celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the first school opening in the DR and to 31st AGM of COPA UK to be held on Sunday, 25th September 2022.

10 30am Thanksgiving Service will be held in person at Cricklade United Church, Calcutt Street, Cricklade SN6 6AZ and will be led by The Rev Anthony Hick.

11 15 am Coffee will be served.

12 noon 31st COPA AGM which will be held in person at Cricklade United Church **AND** remotely. If you wish to join the meeting using the Zoom client on a computer, phone or tablet please use the following details:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2104420555?pwd=UDBUVXU5OUFBaTNaQQFqSTZtaDBtUT09>

Meeting ID: 210 442 0555

Passcode: copaagm

During the meeting we will use the Chat and Polling functions to allow you to vote on motions, to ask questions and to interact with the COPA Committee.

A light lunch will be served following the AGM. If you wish to attend it would be helpful for catering purposes if you could let Elizabeth Robertson, Secretary COPA UK know (details below).

Should you have any queries on the above please contact Elizabeth Robertson, Secretary COPA UK (details below)

If there are any topics that you would like discussed at the AGM, please send your suggestions to Elizabeth Robertson prior to the meeting and we will do our best to include them.

Secretary, COPA UK:

Elizabeth Robertson

3 Branders, Cricklade
Swindon, SN6 6NQ

e-mail: copa.secretary@gmail.com

Tel: 01793 751166

Chairman, COPA UK:

Peter Gardner

35 Orchard Rise, Tibberton
Gloucester, GL19 3AT

peter@familygardner.plus.com

Tel: 01452 790564

considering the proposals and funding. During the year Maribel has also undertaken an annual evaluation of each teacher, which has been appreciated by most teachers as they develop and improve their skills. Many have asked for this to be more frequent.

The COPA UK Committee has closely monitored the budget to provide extras in the COPA Schools and ensure that the money has a direct effect on the education of its pupils. As described above, its effectiveness is noted at local and national level.

In September 2020 we announced that, in part because of recruiting and pandemic difficulties, we were no longer able to operate the child sponsorship scheme. This came at a time when the committee felt that COPA had more than achieved its ambitions and a time when the DR Government had become more positive with its education provision. We indicated that we would understand if Sponsors decided to end their support. Many have, but several have continued with their Standing Orders (we now have about one-fifth of what it was 10 years ago). Existing reserve funds will cover the current budget for the next two/three years and the planned strategy to hand over the full management of the COPA Schools to the Fundacion in the near future.

A proposal will be put to the AGM that **“Paid-up Sponsors on 31st July 2022 will be asked to stop their regular donations by 31st December 2022 and become life members whilst COPA UK exists”**. This is done to ensure that COPA UK continues to have an electoral body of interested people. Our aim will be to produce an annual newsletter and website updates. It will, of course, be possible for sponsors to opt out.

In the 30th Anniversary year of COPA, we recognise the fantastic work done and the influence that so many people, through their donations and volunteering, have had in the lives of the children of La Hoya and Bombita over the years. In gradually withdrawing our funding, we are saying COPA has achieved its aims and now is the time for the State and the community to continue that work using the skills and experience of the Fundacion Committee.

Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Gardner

Chairperson of COPA UK

Chairperson's Report 2021-2022



In celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of COPA, we can look back with pride on how COPA has faced the many challenges, always determined to provide the resources and quality education for the children in the COPA Schools. In fulfilling this aim, the COPA UK Committee has learnt through experience to adapt its policies and strategies. This year has been no different. It began with the Annual General Meeting being held by zoom due to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic. All but one of the Committee Meetings have been held by zoom, saving travel costs for those travelling long distances but also members' travel time. The other advantage has been that Rev. Connie DiLeo (former project Director) and Marlene Huggins (former US Chair) have been able to join the Committee as co-opted members from America. The COPA US Committee disbanded during the year and their knowledge and insight has continued the international co-operation, as we empower the Fundacion (the Dominican Committee). With the Chair and Vice-Chair, Connie and Marlene have participated in zoom conversations with Pastor Pedro (Fundacion Chair) and Maribel Medez (Project Director), Connie also providing the important facility of interpreter. These meetings have been particularly useful as we continue to develop mutual understanding and look to the future of COPA without funding and management from Great Britain.

During the year the Fundacion has worked hard to secure the "namings" (payment by the State) of all staff and the leasing of now unused volunteer housing to provide income for COPA and accommodation for members of the community. The COPA UK Committee has found funding for re-roofing the dining shelter in La Hoya and the two-bedroom house in Bombita. With the State halving its funding for the resources and management of the schools, COPA's provision of funds has been most important in providing books and equipment in both schools. An exciting development during the year has been that the State chose Bombita School to be a "pilot" in developing pre-schooling from the age of 3, paying for the teaching staff. Using COPA funds for resources and the employment of teaching assistants, our Project Director and the Bombita Headteacher have organised a successful venture in which all children experience those skills so necessary for future learning. The State has recognised this achievement and La Hoya School will also become a "pilot" this next academic year. This has necessitated a remodelling of the accommodation at both schools and currently the COPA UK Committee are

AGM AGENDA



1. Welcome and Opening Devotions
2. Apologies for absence: Please send apologies to the Secretary prior to the meeting
3. Adopt the minutes for the AGM held on 16th October 2021
4. Presentation and Acceptance of Treasurer's report plus questions
5. Presentation and Acceptance of Chairman's report plus questions
6. For reasons stated in the Chairman's Report, the Executive Committee proposes that
"Paid-up donors on 31st July 2022 will be asked to stop their regular donations by 31st December 2022 and become life members whilst COPA UK exists".
7. Election of members of the UK Executive Committee for 2022/23. Donors and members may vote at the AGM. Appointment of the COPA UK officers for 2022/23.
8. Appointment of Independent Examiners
9. Q & A Session relating to COPA activities and achievements

Nomination of members to serve on the Executive Committee

The COPA constitution stipulates that the Executive Committee shall comprise not less than 5 or more than 15 members and that the committee shall be elected annually at the AGM.

When elected, the committee has powers to co-opt additional members.

The members currently in office are listed on the front page of this booklet.

The constitution also requires that nominations of Honorary Officers and Committee Members must be made at least 14 days before the AGM. Nominations should be sent to Elizabeth Robertson (Secretary, COPA UK) either by post or e-mail to arrive by 11 September 2022. In the event that nominations exceed vacancies, a ballot will be held at the AGM.

Minutes of the COPA UK Annual General Meeting held on 16 October 2021 via Zoom, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Present: Paul Arthurs, Jean Butcher, Kate Colechin, Christine and Peter Gardner, Anthony Hick, Doreen and Seburt Lane, Richard Roberts, Elizabeth and Ian Robertson, Sandra Samways, Sandra Spraggs, Pam and Roger Tovey and John Youe

Welcome

Peter Gardner, Chairman COPA UK, welcomed everyone to the AGM, once again on Zoom. He hoped that next year we might be able to meet in person and set up Zoom for those at a distance or unable to travel.

Apologies received: Rhoda Bamford, Paul Colechin, Pam and Geoff Haslam, Margaret Roberts and Verona Smith

Devotions

Peter led devotions based on Hebrews 10 vv 36 – 39 followed by prayer giving thanks for all those called by God to carry out His work to improve the lives of children in the DR, work which had continued despite the difficulties of the pandemic.

Adoption of the 2020 AGM Minutes

There was one amendment to the minutes and to Maribel's report: Anthony Hick had suggested providing a plaque to be awarded to a child in Bombita School, not La Hoya. Having noted this amendment all present indicated that the minutes of the AGM held on 10 October 2020 on Zoom (previously circulated) be adopted as a true record. Peter to sign a copy and send to the Secretary.

Matters arising: A plaque in memory of Rosalind Hick had been presented to Bombita School, and a similar plaque had been given by Doreen and Seburt Lane to La Hoya School, though to date they had not been asked for any money. Peter to look into.

Treasurer's Report

Noted that Ian Robertson had been elected as Treasurer early in 2021 but as interim Treasurer following David Rush's resignation Roger Tovey presented the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021. The full accounts were available to all to access on the website. Roger explained that the drop in income was due to a decline in the number of donors as a result of COPA moving from a scheme sponsoring individual children to become a grant making body. Income was expected to drop further during the coming year. (Income from the US would cease at the end of this academic year.)

Noted that La Hoya was not receiving decentralisation funding which begged the question as to whether COPA should provide additional finance? Peter explained that the situation was being monitored – COPA was keen to see the government meet its obligations and would not rush to bail them out unless Maribel advised that the children were suffering.

Noted that COPA DR have independent income eg from letting houses and were seeking other sources of income. Roger continuing to oversee management of funds in the DR and to encourage Head Teachers and Maribel to manage funds sensibly and adopt good financial accounting practices. Roger was thanked for his report which was accepted.

The accounts, having been fully examined by Messrs Kingscott and Dix, were agreed and accepted by all.

The Chairman thanked Roger for his hard work in looking after the finances, in monitoring spending and ensuring that all money raised and donated was spent wisely.

Chairman's Report

Peter elaborated on his report, previously circulated, and shared with the meeting the sense of celebration at how well the schools had adapted and moved forward in the pandemic. The reports from the Head Teachers and Director had been uplifting. Jean Burgin echoed this

sentiment, commenting on how encouraging the Head Teachers' reports were and how inspiring was Maribel's influence.

Peter thanked Maribel for her hard work as Project Director. He also thanked Pastor Pedro and the Fundacion for taking on more responsibility as the hand over from the UK and US Committees continued.

Sandra Spraggs wished to place on record her thanks to all the early sponsors who had helped to create COPA and to all past and current sponsors and donors for their support in enabling COPA's work to be continued to such effect. She also paid tribute to and congratulated the Committee on their hard work.

Peter thanked Sandra for her kind words, commenting that he considered it a privilege to work with the UK Committee, the Committee in the US, the DR, and with Connie who was a crucial link between the Committees and the DR.

The Chairman's report was received and adopted.

Election of Members of the UK Executive Committee and Appointment of the officers for 2021/2022

Paul Arthurs showed a list of the proposed Committee for the forthcoming year. Peter advised that new members were always welcome but none was forthcoming from the Meeting. He thanked Teressa Cornish for all her work as a Committee member in the past and advised that should she wish to re join in the future, the Committee would be pleased to co-opt her. All agreed. Members of the Executive were approved and re-elected en bloc by the meeting and the Officers were appointed (see end). Peter thanked all members for their help and support.

Appointment of Independent Examiners

All agreed that Messrs Kingscott & Dix be appointed as the Independent Examiners for a further year. Peter expressed appreciation for their continuing support in providing their professional services at no cost. A letter of appreciation to be sent to Peter Morgan.

Suggestion by Anthony Hick

The Revd Anthony Hick suggested that a letter of greetings and appreciation be sent from the AGM to The Fundacion, Maribel and the two Head Teachers. All were in agreement.

Good wishes to Connie

Jean Butcher suggested that best wishes be sent to Connie following her accident and operation, wishing her a good recovery. All agreed.

30th Anniversary of COPA

Next year would see the 30th anniversary of the first school opening (?22 September) and it was suggested that it would be good to celebrate the occasion, perhaps with a service. Anthony offered to lead such a service. The idea to be furthered.

Where are they Now?

Roger advised that a photograph of 21 students graduating had prompted him to wonder what had happened to those students subsequently. Agreed that it would be interesting to know more, to share the information on the website and that this could provide the basis for an article in a future newsletter.

Newsletter

Thanks to Bryony Clear Hill and Pam Tovey for putting together the recent Newsletter and to Pam and Roger Tovey for collating and mailing the papers, including the newsletter, for the AGM.

Keeping in Touch

Pam Tovey suggested that it might be a nice gesture, as a way of thanking donors for their support, to send them a group photo of classes of children. All agreed this personal touch would be appreciated. The matter to be furthered.

Peter thanked everyone for attending the meeting.