

If you missed the 2020 Virtual AGM that took place on Tuesday September 22 2020, you won't make that mistake again next year. Special apologies to the members who were unable to sign on. You were missed as were those who were unable to participate. Check out the AGM photos at LinkedIn post: <https://bit.ly/2RThsaU>

This year's 2020 AGM was a whopping success. Fighting against the obstacles presented by COVID a lagging economy, and international time zones, the 2020 Board pulled it off and the members showed their appreciation with their enthusiastic attendance and kind remarks.

President Sachit Kumar presided over a seamless AGM, with support from Vice President Toine Goorts, Secretary Melissa Kelley-Hilton and Treasurer Christopher Nielsen. The officers provided succinct and informative reports, including a vision for the future of CII.

In a historically close election, Sachit Kumar was re-elected as President. Also re-elected to the Board were Toine Goorts and Yosh Wong, along with first time nominee Niclas Franklin. Citing the need for continuity, Toine was invited by President Kumar to continue his service as Vice President of the Council.

Past President David MacLeod presented the awards.

Galen R. Clements was the humble recipient of this year's *Malcolm W. Thomson* award. Since assuming the role as Executive Regional Director, Galen has personally overseen or completed 200 background investigations of CII applicants. No easy task.

Alice Campbell received the *Meritorious Service Award* while providing heartfelt praise of CII and her association with the Council over the past 7 years. Alice is responsible for auditing CII's financial records and plans to continue in that role.

Speaking of finances, Anne Styren presented a motion which passed requesting the Executive Board and Treasurer publish budgets for the present and previous year on a bi-annual basis.

Although there wasn't any recipient of the International Investigator of the Year, that award will remain safe in the hands of last year's recipient, Ron Tevel.

"Trust, integrity and ethics" were the words used by Norm Willox to describe the principles of CII during his announcement of the formation of the CII - Kirby Family Scholarship Fund, to be launched by Norm and Karen Willox's generous donation of \$10,000.00 in honor of Steve Kirby, and the Kirby family's legacy of commitment to CII.

A special moment occurred when past President Derek Nally's remarks about Steve were played for the membership. Against great odds, Derek conveyed the history of Steve and family's relationship with CII and kept it under three minutes as only a gifted Seanchai could. Remarkably, Derek remained calm while discussing the POD ball, which currently rests in its rightful home on the western shores of the Atlantic. Yes, many years have passed since the days when we were kicking the ball around, but it was nice to see all the faces, including the young members who will carry CII forward another 65 years.

Without a doubt, the hero of the day was John Withers, who, like the Wizard of Oz, stood behind the curtain and made the entire virtual AGM possible. Let's hope he doesn't live to regret being so talented if we hit him up again for assistance.

The stars of the show were the members themselves who logged in with smiles on their faces from various time zones from around the world. The day was ending for some and beginning for others. A special thanks to our Asian members, whose appearance was close to midnight.

Providing closure to the meeting, Ed Kelly's exceptional montage of photos provided a framework for the last dozen or so years of AGM's. It was delightful to reminisce with such beautiful photography.

All in all, it was a job well done. While John may have a second career awaiting as a virtual stage manager and producer, none of us are sure what Steve is going to do with all of his new free time. Maybe he should be appointed to a few committees.

In the meantime, we need some news to publish in our upcoming newsletter so please help us out. Tell us what's happening in your country with respect to privacy issues or Covid or whatever you feel is relevant and timely. Please send submissions directly to our editor, Lauren Sowers at ciicouncilor@gmail.com. You are welcome to copy me in at lec@cii2.org.

Thank you, members, for making the most of the 2020 AGM!