

INNER



WHEEL

Nordic meeting in Iceland 18.-20. September 2015



Participants from left to right: back row; Sólveig, Marja, Britt-Johanne, Helene, Guðlaug, Kaija, Kerstin, Lena and Soffía. Front row; Kristjana and Jana.

Report

1/ Opening of the meeting.

Kristjana Þ. Ásgeirsdóttir, past chairman Iceland, welcomed all the participants. She started by introducing herself and her work within Inner Wheel. Kristjana Á is a member of IW Hafnarfjörður and has been a president as well as participated in other responsibilities within her club. She then asked the other participants to introduce themselves.

2/ Participants at this meeting.

National representative Marja Kyrölä, Finland (Marja)
Vice National representative Kaija Keijola, Finland (Kaija)
Past national representative Helene M. Torkildsen, Norway (Helene)
National representative Britt-Johanne Indresövde, Norway (Britt)
National representative Kerstin Jonson, Sweden (Kerstin)
National representative Lena Pedersen, Denmark (Lena)
District chairman Kristjana E. Guðlaugsdóttir, Iceland (Jana)
Past district chairman Kristjana Þ. Ásgeirsdóttir, Iceland (Kristjana)
District secretary Soffía Heiða Hafsteinsdóttir, Iceland (Soffía)
District treasure Sólveig Einarsdóttir, Iceland (Sólveig)
Past district chairman Guðlaug Jóhannsdóttir, Iceland (Guðlaug)

The participants gave a short presentation of their roles in Inner Wheel.



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Kristjana introduced Jana as the head chairperson and time manager of this meeting. Jana welcomed members and started by speaking about our goals within Inner Wheel and introduced the theme of our international president Charlotte de Vos "Unique & United". In the spirit of this theme the Icelandic members had made bracelets for each participants with the help of their children.

3/ Secretary.

Soffía Heiða Hafsteinsdóttir, district secretary Iceland, was approved as the secretary for this meeting.

4/ Ratification of the agenda.

The agenda was approved and additions were made. It was decided to add discussion about the economy of our countries and to hear a bit of Icelandic IW history.

5/ Ratification of the minutes of previous meeting in Filskov, Denmark.

Kristjana read the Report from the Nordic meeting in Denmark. Jana asked the meeting to explain the acronyms DISO and ISO. RISO (national), DISO (district) and ISO(club) – International Service Organiser - is the officer/person within IW that inform members about international and national matters such as concerning projects, UN, contact with friendships clubs etc. Britt asked if this system of DISO and ISO is working in Denmark and Lena confirmed that it works very well without RISO.

(Norway: RISO - officer – in the Council. In Sweden: Nat.repr./RISO)

The report was approved.¹

6/ Information about IW from every Nordic country.

It was agreed that each countries participant would send their report to the secretary, see attachments.

A summary of each report will be covered.

Norway – report.

The clubs projects are dedicated to help children and youth around the world, and in Norway, to have a better life and give them possibilities for education. They also support women in childbirth and in the aftermath of rape through "Fistula project". IW Norway supports the Custom authority with money to buy and train sniffer dogs, they also participate with other Nordic countries in the project Happier future as well as supporting Rotary project Handicamp, a camp for handicapped youths.² Helene mentioned that the clubs knit baby clothes to new born babies; Project Fistula and Haydom Hospital, Tanzania

¹ Attachment 1 – Report Nordic meeting 2014

² Attachment 2 – Report from IW Norway 2015

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Finland - report.

Finland collected 3002 euros to donate to Malawi after the floods in February. It took them almost 3 months to collect the money from the clubs, due to each club wanting to focus on domestic projects. Donations were made to 25.000 students to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

Sweden – report.

Sweden supports the project Happier Futures through donation towards a girl's home in Garissa in Kenya. Also support the Customs office with "sniffer dogs". They support the Rotary doctor's project by paying travel cost and accommodation for women doctors going to Kenya for voluntary work as well as provide money towards scholarships to nurses who specialize in dementia care. ³

Denmark - report.

Denmark has joined projects with Norway, and used the income from the international convention. Total it gave 290.000 DKR. They collect can-rings since 2002 for the pure aluminium – Since February 2013 they hope to reach 200.000 DKR before January 2016. It is necessary to activate members, they make little teddy bears and enjoy handcrafting like knitting and sewing. Lena invited everyone to attend the Danish Rally in September of 2016, held in Skagen Denmark. Attached is a copy of e-mail with notes from this meeting ⁴

Iceland – report.

There are 7 clubs total in Iceland, total of 199 members. Each club has their own local project, for example one club supports the rescue team in their town, another one supports families through a fund run by the church. IW in Iceland focuses mainly on projects supporting women and children as well as the local community. In spite of the small community of IW members we participated in the support to the rescue in the aftermath of Nepal earthquake paying donation directly to IW Nepal in Nepal.

Participants agreed that activating members is vital to prevent members quitting. Hands on projects such as designing and handicraft is working well. Respecting different cultures in each club is also vital. Some clubs in Norway visit nursing homes and sing for the elderly. IW needs to evaluate how others perceive the organization – we need to be more active in representing what we stand for, we could provide local papers with our activities. Expenses can be a factor with new members and age as well. Need to find ways to get new members.

7/ IIW Convention 2015 – Discussion

Kristjana discussed the projection at the convention, that it was a good show. The Indian input was unusual as the usual way is to promote the country hosting the convention. Participants discussed how time consuming the voting system is and how detailed some of the issues were. Is it really necessary to vote on different wording of paragraphs and such. Is

³ Attachment 3 – Report from IW Sweden 2015

⁴ Attachment 4 – Report from IW Denmark 2015



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it possible to hand some of those decisions to the board or members of the board? Members travel a long way to participate in the convention and to meet other members. Maybe it would be possible to save some time and manage business hours in a more productive way.

Participants also discussed the possibility to make a proposal on what issues are presented at the convention for voting, should detailed change of voting be considered as time well spent at business sessions, or should the minor changes and issues in that category be decided upon by the board or other members at the international officers. Also the issue of the protocol of all the amendments and proposals having to be seconded, is it possible to save some time in that area. Participants also support that the international president would sit for two years at a time. Attached is a summary from Kerstin.⁵

8/ Minutes from the European meeting in Bristol

Marja Kyrölä read her report from the European meeting. It was agreed that the European cooperation is good and to continue with the European meeting in the future. It's necessary to share experience and reports with other European countries. There were some discussion about the voting at the International convention and also the successful closing ceremony that shows the level of togetherness among IW members. No formal report has arrived from the secretary at the European meeting but attached is the report from Marja in full.⁶

9/ How do we get new members – looking back.

Lena spoke of experimenting with open club meeting amongst several clubs. Most members are around 40 years old and getting older. Hard to get younger members. Jana mentioned that Rotary clubs are also trying to recruit new members and the issue about tradition and resistance to change could be a part of the problem. Members tend to stick to habit, always sitting in the same seat, beside the same members. It may be difficult for new members to integrate into the club. Kristjana said that she and her club members phone the wife's of Rotarians and invite them to a meeting, some of them are now members of IW. Helene said it has been tried in Norway but unsuccessfully – no new members. It's good to have personal communication when we invite new members.

Statistic show that more women enter the clubs of Rotary than Inner Wheel, and the question is why? We wonder if they feel that they are making a carrier move and have a better chance within Rotary than within Inner Wheel. Why is Inner Wheel not a carrier move for women? Britt urged us to be active in promoting the clubs, to use the local papers and the media accessible to us. We need to put it out there who we are and what we stand for. Someone thought Inner Wheel was a motorcycle club 😊.

The connection with Rotary was discussed. Jana thinks we should realize that we may be going in a different direction than Rotary, since the new regulation on membership was accepted we do have members with no relation to a Rotary member. We are changing and we need to look at that issue. Both Kerstin, Lena, Helene and Guðlaug emphasized that we need to work with Rotarians, that we are still a big part of the Rotary activities where some IW clubs work together with the founding

⁵ Attachment 5 – summary from Kerstin – Convention for what?

⁶ Attachment 6 – The European meeting in Bristol

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Rotary club towards charity projects. We should look at our clubs as brother/sister clubs rather than parent/child club (or husband/wife clubs). It is necessary to look also to the members still with relation in Rotary and make compromises, we do not want to be in competition with Rotary, but rather in cooperation with them. Lena mentioned that with Inner Wheel in Denmark there are single women and women with no relation to Rotary, and that they want to do activities with those women as well. Guðlaug mentioned that when a Rotarian has a partner within Inner Wheel the projects are supported by both spouses for example when exchange students are living in the home of Rotarian the spouse (and an Inner Wheel member) participates and takes on responsibilities as well. There should not be a total divorce between Rotary clubs and Inner Wheel, we should still celebrate our history together and participate. The conclusion is that we are separate clubs and we do compete for members but both Rotary and Inner Wheel have a joint history and good cooperation based on tradition and relationships that are still very active within both. Sólveig encouraged us to focus on our own independent objectives.

10/ How can we activate “old” members – looking back.

Helene mentioned that they place every member in little committees or groups for certain activities to prepare projects or work with the president or treasurer. Also to make sure new members are working with older members to get the feeling that they have purpose within the club.

Lena spoke of little groups meeting outside of formal meetings over a cup of coffee, they pick up older members and have a good time in reading groups, patch working groups and other activities. Helene told that some clubs in Norway do the same.

Jana mentioned that members of Inner Wheel are often working women with less time and it can be a problem to activate members outside of the formal meeting, at least in Iceland.

Members agreed that the clubs need to change and adapt. Kristjana talked about a little conference where the speaker asked them to try to change regular every day activities like how you brush your teeth, what route you drive on your way home from work, sleep on the other side of the bed and so on. We have to embrace change, even in our senior years. We are doing the best we can but change should be a motivator and nothing to fear.

Jana mentioned that last year the club decided to introduce all members, both the older one and the younger/new members. That way we can hear about their achievements as well as get to know them all over again. Often the members have a small group within the club that they communicate more with, maybe even have friendship outside the club. Sometimes new members feel like outsiders, without the older members realizing it. When each member speaks about herself she opens up the opportunity to a deeper friendship. A few members in the club already made their introduction and it has been a success so far. Britt and Kaija also say that this is done in their club.

We can learn a lot from one another.

11/ Nordic issues in Inner Wheel

Jana asked about the purpose of the Nordic meeting. It can be difficult to get cooperation from our small district in Iceland. Are we here to learn from one another? Britt said that the purpose of our meeting is to work together and share our experience. That way we can use others experience to our advantage. Lena underlined that we all get new ideas from one another. Helene mentioned that it can be difficult to have voting on the best international/Nordic project. Many of the clubs have their own project and do well on their own but they are reluctant to put money on international (or Nordic) projects. She does not recommend that method. Kristjana says we all have different ideas on what to spend our money on. Lena suggested that if a country has a good project it can invite other

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countries to join in and cooperate together. It's not good to have too many Nordic projects going on at the same time.

12/ Economies of the countries

It was decided that Jana would send an excel sheet to collect economic data from each country. That way the countries might get a better understanding on the spending and the income as well as learn from one another. Iceland has only 199 members and fairly low annual fee to the district – the result is limited recourses for participation in international conventions and meetings. The district has to make a choice in how the limited income is spent and for example has decided to participate in the Nordic meetings at the cost of the European meeting. Participation at each international convention has to be decided on in relation to overall cost. It seems that the other Nordic countries have a more structured and detailed financial report – even though all countries would welcome higher income and less cost. It will be interesting to look at the data collected in the purpose of learning from one another.

13/ Summaries of the meeting

A short discussion of the same points as are above. At the start of the meeting it was requested to get a short history of Icelandic Inner Wheel. There was no time to discuss that further as the day wore on.

14/ Next meeting

Kaija mentioned the meeting being held at the same time and place as the European meeting in July 2016 in Italy. Finland will be next year's hosts for the Nordic meeting. Participants agreed that the timing of the European meeting could be a problem and might affect the turnout from the Nordic countries. Lena suggested that the Nordic meeting be held at the same time and area as the Danish Rally at Skagen in September of 2016. It is being considered as an option by Finland. They asked for a chance to discuss this with their board and come back with a final answer within the month, at the end of October at the latest.

Lena urged the members of the meeting to book the hotel before March of 2016 and to commit to come to Denmark and join in the fun and learning experience.

Meeting was adjourned at 15:15.

Soffía Heiða Hafsteinsdóttir
District Secretary
District 136, Iceland

Kristjana E. Guðlaugsdóttir
District Chairman
District 136, Iceland
Proofreader

Attachment 1

Report

Nordic Meeting, Denmark – September 13, 2014

1/ Meeting Opening

NR Lene Krüger Schade (LKS) welcomed the Nordic participants to Nordic Meeting 2014. LKS had been looking forward to meet the participants and told that this was her 2nd Nordic Meeting.

2/ Participant Introduction

National Representative Marja Kyrölä, Finland (MK)
Past National Representative Maija-Leena Virta-Kangas, Finland (ML)
National Representative Helene M. Torkildsen, Norway (HMT)
National Representative Kristina Anderson, Sweden (KA)
Board Director Christine Berggren, Sweden (CB)
National Representative Kristjana Ásgeirsdóttir, Iceland (KJA)
National Representative Lene Krüger Schade, Denmark (LKS)
Past National Representative Annalise Larsen, Denmark (AL)
Vice National Representative Lena Pedersen, Denmark (LP)
Secretary Aase Christensen, Denmark.

The participants gave a short presentation of their roles in Inner Wheel and they were all very happy having the Icelandic representative join the meeting.

3/ Secretary

Aase Christensen, secretary of the Danish National Board was approved.

4/ Ratification of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

5/ Ratification of the minutes of previous meeting in Sundsvall 2013.

The participants approved the minutes of the meeting in Sundsvall 2013.

6/ Information about IW from every Nordic country.

It was agreed that each participant forward their information to the secretary of this meeting. The information about each Nordic country will follow once this report is published.

7 / Convention 2015

LKS presented a slide show about the Convention on May 7-9, 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Look for further information on the official site

<http://www.iiwconvention2015.com/en/forsiden>

LKS is a part of the Convention Committee and encouraged to register/sign up. HRK Crown Princess Mary of Denmark is patron for the Convention, which takes place in Tivoli Congress Center (located close to Tivoli). The theme of this Convention is children. At the Banner exchange, LKS recommend bringing small gifts for exchange. Please note early bird registration before October 31, 2014. LKS told about the tours before and after Convention.

Look for further information <http://www.iiwconvention2015.com/en/Tours>

Housing at a local Inner Wheel member was recommended. The names are situated on a site for members only and cannot be shown in this report.

HMT told about registration problems. LKS took notes regarding the registration form and the answers will go to the participants of this meeting. KJA told that Icelandic IW members

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intend to join in a number of 40-60 people.

Voting at Convention 2015:

The newly received VOTING AT CONVENTION 2015, Choosing Your Voting Delegate Convention 2015 from IIW administration was looked through with the help of CB. Please note that December 15, 2014 is the last date that the districts must return the completed list by post or e-mail attachment to the Headquarter. Take note of Christmas and late postal service!

8/ Proposals submitted by the International Inner Wheel Governing body. (Collection after EM in Malmö)

Forwarded text received August 17, 2014. Proposal 19, Exclusion of a Member, with the right to appeal, was discussed.

Proposal 19 was recommended.

Proposal 18. Membership. E. Transfers.

Sweden and Belgium would make a new proposal. News about this proposal has not been received.

Proposal 18 was recommended.

9 / How do we get new members

Recruitment through Rotary - Women in Rotary through personal calls - §17 - your friends as members of the IW club and contact to newcomers in town are fine examples of how to obtain new members. These and more subjects were discussed, see below.

Rotary membership, as well as Inner Wheel membership

CB made a point that Rotary data shows that Rotary obtains more female members than Inner Wheel. HMT told that some women have both memberships. LKS said that in her opinion, the women in Rotary wanted to use Rotary for business purposes and Inner Wheel for women talk and social relationships.

Media – advertising for new members – homepage - flyer

KJA put forth the question: “Do we tell about ourselves in the media? The local press? LKS told about the difficulties in obtaining a small note/article and a picture in the newspapers in Denmark.

CB asked: “What about advertising for members?” - This has never been seen before. Or “Are you interested in joining Inner Wheel?” There are many ways to advertise, and the content of the advertisement versus the homepages were discussed. Kristina recommended a flyer with directions to the homepage.

Other women clubs

MLK wanted to know if anyone has had meetings with other women clubs. Was met with yes. ML told about joyful meetings with some of these women clubs in Finland. LKS told about a yearly meeting with Ladies Circle. These members often join the IW clubs when they reach 40 years of age. The foundation of these meetings was made through the friendships that were already obtained. ML told about meetings with members of Junior Chambers equal to before mentioned friendships.

CB closed the discussion by saying that Inner Wheel has to attract women in some way. Good speakers and not “How can the hospital take care of you at 70?” as an example. This was not attractive for younger members. Interesting women recommended for meetings: “Women lecturers for women” was recommended.

Rules for obtaining new members

In connection with the discussion, another subject was brought up: clear rules and clear boundaries before a future member visits a club, without discouraging current member

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introductions. Club rules about the subject have to be agreed upon, and make sure to inform the club why this member is recommended. This gives the current members an opportunity to object or to agree. Now you are ready to invite the future member to visit the club to observe 2-3 meetings before they obtain membership. Mentoring for a period was advised when you invite future members.

The subject of point 9 was also discussed during the European Meeting.

10 / How can we activate "old" members

LKS pointed out that we do have to care for old members. All participants agreed that this was an important topic. HMT told about lunch meetings for all members once a month besides the ordinary meetings – very popular. ML has been arranging meetings for women in a church parish on Saturday mornings. Ethics was the main subject. Men joined occasionally. Great success, but not Inner Wheel related. KA told about intercity meetings once a year. New members can be invited to fashion shows, and current IW members do the catwalk, show the clothes and have great fun. ML told about a visit to a women's apparel shop. You are offered a cash rebate of 20%. Interesting for younger members as well.

KJA recommended visiting another club if you cannot join your own club on the scheduled day. Look at the website for information. LKS recommended and informed about a 3-month club program on the website of the Danish Inner Wheel.

11 / Economy - club quota and economy at Council meetings – what rules apply in your country?/current/existing rules in your country?

Please look at the enclosed reports from the participating countries with notes about this subject.

12/ Inner Wheel News – in paper or electronic

History

AL explained that the paper edition previously was forwarded to the members 4 times a year by post. The Danish board members discussed the matter in January 2012. A mission to go digital was put forth and joined by people from the board. In October 2012, the guidelines for a digitalized form were put up for discussion about when to go digital 6-8 times a year. The first edition was published September 2013.

IWI – Inner Wheel News

The Nordic countries can have a copy at request. So far 7 IWI issues have been published which can be read and printed from the home page

<http://www.innerwheel.dk/da/Nyhedsbreve> open site.

An annual newsletter (Aarskrift) is published and distributed to members in October at the annual meeting and placed at public places as well. A copy of Aarskrift was distributed to the participants.

Editors and guidelines

3 Editors are responsible for IWI. The executive editor for IWI is the PNR supported by 2 editors of which one is a graphic designer. The editors are working within given guidelines and ethical rules. DISO's are involved (district basis) and ISO's on club basis. Time schedule is made for the year and 6 editions are scheduled per year. Technical problems occurred, but have been solved by now.

Some members are still disappointed that they have to print IWI for reading the paper edition.

Sponsoring and money saved

One sponsor for the next edition. The yearly cost was about 200.000 DKK of which half was spent on printing and the other half for postage. Last years cost was 35.000 DKK according to the yearly account. Members do pay less for the magazine now!

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AL explained that inquiries showed that a few persons per club didn't print their monthly meetings. So it was not a problem. The same results were shown with e-mail addresses. 3% didn't have a computer.

KA explained that the first edition in Sweden will be printed, as well as distributed via e-mail considering the old members with no computer. This was supported by CB. LKS said that in Denmark the same procedure was adopted for a short time. LP informed that the old members can have an IWI printed at request in the clubs. The group in between old and young members does not print or read IWI.

Websites

We were given an instruction of how webmasters worked in clubs, districts and on country basis. MK gave us a tour on the Finnish website and during the meeting we also had the opportunity to see life from Iceland on the IW Icelandic website.

13/ IW sisters transferring to/joining the Rotary Clubs – Do we have a problem?

This issue has been discussed in point 9. No more comments were provided.

14 / New and different/various ways to collect/raise funds for activities/charity

KJA informed about lottery held at the Christmas meeting. The money was given to the town purposes. Cards for presents etc. are sold. LKS informed about club meetings where you have to bring a parcel if you have passed your birthday. A lottery is held and the lucky one received the parcel. AL mentioned the Rotary Polo Plus project and found it interesting if we had a program like that running for 3-4 years. No project was proposed. CB said that "Educating a Girl" was an excellent project, but mentioned that nothing was heard about the Bolivia project.

AL put forth the question: "Can we guarantee that the money we collect reach the right purpose? Could we build our own organization?". CB pointed out that it costs a lot of money to build an organization and corruption is an issue.

15 / Nordic issues in IIW - Thoughts on the next 3-year International Social Project (2015-2018)

LKS proposed SOS Børnebyerne (SOS Children's Villages), worldwide project with our local project inside, as a project for the Nordic countries. CB could not recommend support to SOS. Gave an example of a non-existing child in India. "It is a big organization", she said. AL proposed an annual project that is local and in the district, a local project in the club and also an international project.

The discussion concluded that each country should find their own project to support.

16 / Summaries of the meeting

Convention 2015: Early bird registration before October 31, 2014. December 15, 2014 is the last date that the districts must return the completed list of who is acting as their Club Voting Delegates on one single form – to be forwarded by post or e-mail attachment to the Headquarter. Book hotel or look for housing at a local Inner Wheel member.

Note the rules for obtaining new members. Develop interesting meetings. Search for other women clubs to invite. Advertise for new members. Make a flyer and mentor new members.

Visit a club in your neighborhoods if you cannot join your local club on the scheduled day.

Look at the Nordic websites.

It is important for the participants joining Nordic Meeting that they have maximized opportunities to stay and talk after the meeting.

Attachment 1

Follow up actions, calls, and correspondences are the glue that holds the Nordic group together.

17 / Next meeting

KA brought a question from her National Committee. "Do we need to have this meeting each year?". Proposed the Nordic Meeting to be joined with other meetings for example European Meeting. Or with longer intervals. In ML's opinion, this proposal did not fit with the European Meeting. Every second year could be an idea. LKS had the opinion that it was good to hold Nordic Meeting every year for exchange of views and the representatives from the Nordic countries meet each other. CB did not recommend every second year. Found it most important to meet every year as we are small countries. AL recommend every year – continuation.

Nordic Meeting to be held every year was recommended.

Next meeting to be held in Iceland or Finland on September 5-6, 2015. KJA and MK coordinate and announce who is conducting the meeting.

LKS announced Rally in Denmark September 16-17, 2016. Further information to follow.

Aase Christensen
Secretary

Attachment 2

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORT 2014-2015

To Nordic Meeting, Iceland 18.-20. Sept. 2015

from past Council chairman/ Nat.repr. Helene M Torkildsen 2015-2017

NAME OF COUNTRY: NORWAY

Council Chairman/Nat.repr. 2015-2017: Britt-Johanne Indresövde, Volda IWC, D 27.

Number of Districts: 5

Number of Disbanded Districts: 0

Number of Clubs: 64

Number of Members: 1512 (lost 357 members last 4 years)

Number of newly joined "invited members" (Proposal 17, 2012): 78 new members.
(Ca 75-80 % not related to a Rotary or IW Member).

Number of newly formed Clubs: 0

Number of Disbanded Clubs: 4 (lost 18 clubs last 4 years)

Number of merged Clubs: 0 (1, last 4 years)

Approximate amount raised in GDP £ 24500

Approximate number of beneficiaries: 4 main projects, but many clubs have their own local projects and many clubs have "adopted" children.

The Norwegian Council meets two times in an IW year, end of August and end of January. All the districts have their District Meeting in March. (D 31 has two Districts Meeting: End of October and in March)

Rights of the child/ Status of women/family:

The clubs projects are dedicated to help children and youth around the world and in Norway, to have a better life and give them possibilities for education. Many children from Asia, Africa and South America are "adopted" by clubs, with the same intention. Some clubs work together with Rotary, building and running schools for children in Asia and Africa, who are excluded from the society due to lack of money or other reasons. Some clubs work together with "SOS Children City", and the 3 last years, IW Norway have project due to the Theme: "Happier Futures for children": "Greenland project", together with Denmark.

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With “Fistula project”, “Greenland project” and above-mentioned projects, we have been able to send more children to schools, and we have provided families with information and skills, how to take better care of themselves. In some countries women is the head of the family, and education make families stronger and help them to take better care of themselves.

Fistula project:

The “Fistula project” is the main international project for IW Norway. The project helps girls/young women in Ethiopia who are suffering from fistula after childbirth and various mutilations such as rape. These women need to be transported to hospital for surgery. The IW clubs have collected money in many years, to provide special education to 4 midwives for helping these women/young girls. We have bought them a vehicle for transportation. IW Norway has now started a new Fistula project in Ethiopia, under the name: “Safe Motherhood Ambassadors”. These “safe motherhood ambassadors” are former fistula patients, who have been cured. They are going to be trained in giving advice and help to pregnant women and urge them to go to established health centers to give birth. One hopes to get rid of the tradition of delivering alone out in the open, which will reduce birth injuries and infant deaths. The trained ambassadors will also give advice about hygiene and nutrition, and thus the whole society will profit from their work. Instead of a salary they will be able to get a 200-dollar loan to establish their own small businesses. In addition, the project will continue to transport women with birth injuries to a specialist hospital for treatment.

The project is in cooperation with the Norwegian Missionary Society, which has been Inner Wheel Norway’s partner in project on women and children’s’ health for many years.

Narcotic /Drugs

The national IW project for IW Norway is our Narcotic project. IW Norway is providing The Custom authority with money, for buying and training sniffer dogs. IW Norway has handed over checks NOK 150 000 (£18520) 15 times through the years. Last time in September 2014.

Happier Futures

The Nordic countries, Denmark and Norway, have together through the 3 last years collected money for the project: “Children from Greenland”. The project will give children without family and social problems, lack of money, drug problem etc, a better future. It was handed over a check at the Convention in Copenhagen, approx. £ 20 000.- to the Organisation: “Grönlandske Börn”.

Handicamp

This is Rotary Norway’s project, which IW Norway supports. A camp for handicapped youth between 18-28 years old, from the whole world. The “Handicamp” is arranged every second year. Next in Summer 2016, July.

Ageing

The clubs lose members, but are now inviting new members, since we are able to invite members not related to Rotary or IW members. One challenge is that members are getting older and did not want to take important positions and many ladies are not comfortable with

Attachment 2

using electronic tools, as email, web etc. Therefore we have worked very hard the last years providing all clubs with g-mail account and to learn to use it. We have also give special administration and computer courses for all members who have a position in the club. We constantly try to inspire our members to work for a good and social environment in the club, and to present IW in the different communities in the country, so IW can be more visible and known.

Helene M Torkildsen
Arendal, 15. September 2015
(Updated 25.09.15)

Attachment 3

Inner Wheel Sweden 2015-2016

In Sweden we have 102 clubs, nine districts and 4,248 active members. Four clubs have closed down during the past year and we are about 50 members fewer than last year.

As an international project, under the umbrella "Happier Futures", we have supported a girls' home in Garissa in Kenya over the last three years. The home was founded in 2007 by a Swedish doctor and his wife, who was a dentist. They had been Rotary Doctors in Kenya earlier and had seen the misery when the young girls were forced to marriage and genital mutilation. Now 120 orphan girls live in this place and over 300 more are at school there.

The school offers education from kindergarten to high school. If someone wants to continue at university, they will get contributions also for this. A one-year course, including accommodation, at a university costs SEK 5,000.

"The sniffer dogs" is a successful national project. We give money to the Swedish Customs Service for buying and training dogs, which "work" at our borders. They detect a lot of drug-smugglers which means a social benefit amounting to many million SEK every year. From this year on, all dogs are also trained in searching for weapons.

From the start of this project in 1986, we have collected money for 58 dogs. 23 of them are in service today.

Another national project concerns the Rotary Doctors. We pay travel costs and accommodation for about four women doctors a year, who go to Kenya for six weeks of service, without pay (!), in rugged areas where hardly any white person have been before.

A third national project, very popular among our members, concerns scholarships to nurses who specialize in dementia care. Queen Silvia of Sweden saw the need and started this education at the Silvia Home in Stockholm, when her mother became demented and the care was not really sufficient.

Many clubs also have their own projects. About half of the funds we collect in Sweden annually (about SEK 1 million) goes to local projects.

Our magazine "Inner Wheel-Nytt" is published four times a year in paper format. It is also available on our website, but just a few members are willing to read the paper only on line.

The economy is one of our most important issues right now. Costs are rising, the membership fees are not enough and the members do not want pay more. Today, a member pays SEK 178 per year to the national council. It covers the costs of Inner Wheel-Nytt, the directory, the fee to IIW and the registration fee, which leaves only SEK 30 for the national council administration, which is not enough.

Today the members think that the National Council have too much in Funds. They mean that, in the first place, the money should be used to cover the budget deficit to avoid having to raise the membership fee. The current proposal from the National Council is an increase of the membership fee with SEK 20 per year.

Sandviken, Augusti 2015

Kerstin Jonson

National Representative Sweden

Attachment 4

Inner Wheel Denmark

We have 5 districts, 114 clubs and 3037 members.

We have lost 97 members and 5 clubs the past year. in the last 10 years we have lost 11 clubs, gained one, and have lost around 200 members in the period. We have our yearly donation, where we pay 60.- DKR. pr member, This year it gives 191.000 DKR that will be donated to the organisation Danish Hospital Clowns .

Besides that we have donated together with Norway, mostly earned at the Convention, 290.000 DKR.

We have also made 140.000 DKR. on can-rings since february 2013, and hope to reach 200.000 DKR before january 2016, then I'll go to Thailand with the money, on my own cost:)

I suggested on the meeting that we won't get members under 40+, but we have to be openminded! positive and invite guest, our nighbour, friends, and/or new citecents in our Towns.

Lena Pedersen

National Representative Denmark

Hadsten , September 2015



Attachment 5

Svenska Inner Wheel Rådet

Convention for what?

I guess you were all at the last Convention in Copenhagen. So was I, and another 2 000 women.

It's always very nice to meet all Inner Wheel friends from near and far, but

Do we use the Convention-days in the best possible way? Most of the women have traveled a long way and much money from our members has been spent on travel, accommodation and participation fees.

I wonder: Do we need to spend so much time for the Proposals and Amendments during the Business Sessions? Is this the most important thing to do when we all meet?

The proposals have been the subject of a lot of discussion in all the clubs, districts and national councils for a whole year. Should it then be necessary to discuss the questions once again? Should really Proxy Vote Holders have the right to change what the clubs have decided? Is this democracy within Inner Wheel?

I would have liked to learn more about current women's issues in different countries and environments, to get tips and advice from others how to solve current and future member recruitment problems, to get good examples from other nations, districts and clubs around the world when so many were in place.

These are my personal thoughts. What do you think?

Sweden in August 2015

Kerstin Jonson

National Representative

Inner Wheel Sweden

Attachment 6



The European Meeting in Bristol

September 3-5, 2015

This year the representatives of the European Inner Wheel countries gathered together in the United Kingdom, in the beautiful city of Bristol www.bristol.uk



The first day of the meeting began with an interesting briefing by the Mayor of Bristol Clare Champion-Smith. The position of Mayor is given for one full year, but is mostly ceremonial.



www.innerwheel.co.uk

The President of IIW Charlotte de Vos told us that the idea of having a European meeting came to realize with India progressively wanting to take a more commanding position over IIW. European meetings will continue to be informal.

Attachment 6



Christine Berggren, the past Board Director of Inner Wheel in Sweden briefed others on her project in Zimbabwe. She has been collecting money to fund goats for kids. One goat costs 22€. The Finnish representatives donated money to fund one goat.

<http://herzimbabwe.co.zw/2015/07/the-inner-wheel-women-in-service/>

In her introduction, Charlotte de Vos emphasized the importance of cooperation with all parties involved. Inner Wheel is above all an international service organization, as she reminded everyone.

www.internationalinnerwheel.org

Lene Kruger Schade briefed us on the Copenhagen Convention. Everything was organized very well, and the closing event really showed the level of cooperation and feeling of togetherness of Inner Wheel worldwide. www.iiwconvention2015.com/

However, the vote seemed to have taken up a lot of time with having several different additions and suggestions. This raised a lot of questions among the participants.

There are now 103 Inner Wheel countries in the world. Most countries have several members and multiple clubs, but in some there are only one or two clubs. Each country, no matter the numbers, is equally important. It was agreed that the sharing and discussing of the International Inner Wheel reports was important to do at National Meetings. www.internationalinnerwheel.org

Gertie Murto shared the story of how the first IW club was founded in the Czech Republic.

<http://www.internationalinnerwheel.org/iw-club-morava.html>

Board Director Nelly Bratoeva briefed on the Europea clubs which brought out active discussion and lots of different ideas. Several of us had not heard of the clubs before and were very interested to learn more.

The IIW representatives at UN offices are also allowed to participate in the meetings.

<http://www.internationalinnerwheel.org/representatives-at-the-un.html>

All European countries except France and Iceland were present at the meeting. The decrease in the numbers of members as well as the members' aging was an important topic for discussion.

Attachment 6

Some of the ideas presented were:

- A shared project for 2-3 clubs where they could make for example small candy bags for ill children. The project would gain publicity in newspapers and magazines as well as on the radio, which could in turn bring new members in.
- An Open Forum discussion, where the club could tell the public of its activities. Belgium for example has organized these in the past.
- In Greece different women's organizations get together in order to connect and to combine their strengths and projects.
- Gertie Murto from Austria had worked for a full year and managed to found the first Inner Wheel Club in the Czech Republic. She said that there had been a lot of enthusiasm and that it had in fact been easy to gather members. The common goal was what got people excited. The first charity of the new club is to support the attendance of a Paralympic athlete at the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.



The picture above includes some of the meeting participants. We were excited to see each other and to share our thoughts and ideas.

Marja Kyrölä

The President of Inner Wheel Finland 2014-2016