

Report from the 12th European Meeting in Stavanger, Norway 2018

The 12th European Meeting took place in Stavanger, Norway 6-9 September 2018. Participants from 16 countries met on the Friday evening for dinner at our hotel where everybody introduced themselves and their husbands. In this connection husbands are “Outer Wheelers” enjoying themselves on outings, while the Inner Wheel members are working hard on their two-day’s agenda. This year we luckily managed to skip the gifts to each other – they steal too much time – and presence from why we are gathered. Instead we collected a voluntary amount of money from each – resulting in 8,000 NOK a little less than 1,000 Euro enabling the Children’s Ward at the Stavanger University Hospital to invite the Hospital Clowns. Promoting Inner Wheel!

The European Meeting that started in Tours, France, 12 years ago, is an annual meeting where Council Chairmen, National Representatives “vices and immediate pasts” catch up with one another to gain information, inspiration and insight into our everyday Inner Wheel life in Europe. As Europe has both old and new Inner Wheel countries, our challenges may differ, we therefore have to share best practices. Those of us who have volunteered to become officers on Council level, know that it can be quite lonely at the summit – it is therefore both rewarding and sustainable to share with each other both successes as well as frustrations.

The issues discussed after ad-hoc groups had been working on them for a year, were among others: Extension – how to get new members and keep the old ones, How to avoid disbandment of Clubs – Possible new proposals for Jaipur 2021 and International Social Projects. Ask your NR about our discussions and get good pieces of advice!

In the evenings we met up the Outer Wheelers. On Friday we went on a walk through Old Stavanger with its small white wooden houses, charming small gardens and narrow streets for a dinner down town. However, the great final was on Saturday visiting “Flor og Fjaere” situated 20 minutes by boat from the harbour – a unique island more or less covered in unbelievably beautiful flowers – quite a few chins dropped several centimetres when we approached the island! After a guided tour among the flowers, trees and dams we had our evening meal – equally well-tasting and good-looking!

It must be mentioned that the European Meeting isn’t usually organised by a country’s Council, but volunteers who have attended EMs before. Local Inner Wheel Club Members and also Rotarians help out! The same happened this year – and we are so grateful as none of us live in Stavanger! Münster, Germany is the next venue right ahead of the European Rally in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in September 2019.

Organisers in Stavanger

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