

Presentation of the Workshop Law-Area for the EM in Rimini 2021

The 2 workshops took place on 3rd and 24th August 2021. It was created by IIW PBD Luisa Vinciguerra and was divided in the Evaluating the changes for the Constitution 2021 and the future visions to the Constitution 2024.

Our Constitution is 54 years old. Times changed and are changing – we need urgently some very important changes.

First Workshop about the accepted Proposals at the Convention Jaipur 2021 (10 Proposals approved, 1 Amendment approved, 1 General Motion approved)

In April 2021 we had the first Virtual Convention and did the first electronic voting about the 14 Proposals which were accepted by the CCC for this Convention.

- **Membership – Proposal 6:** All Members are equal – no categories of members anymore. What will be the result of this decision for the whole membership? In the discussion it was clear said that all members must have the same rights and duties. Being part of Inner Wheel needs to know the rules about, we all found that training is a very important part for a good friendship. Especially real friendship would be needed and should be practiced. This means to know and understand our common rules and to respect each other, but not only to respect each other, also to respect different cultures, different religions, different possibilities in the countries. Real friendship would ask for the same chances for equal qualified members in our Association. This could be understood by giving trainings to all levels and all members. IIWPBD Sissy Avgerinou suggested that the training for National and District level should be done by the Constitution Chairman. Members would respect and appreciate this training more than some trainings in their own countries.
- **Honored active Membership – Proposal 8** – no discussion at all, it's clear
- **Termination of Membership – Proposal 1** – some of the participants feel that it is not right to have this way of exclusion in our Constitution, they feel unhappy about because our first object is FRIENDSHIP

- **Electronic Voting for the International Governing Body (EC+BDs+IIW Editor)- Proposal 2+3** - in the discussion some members wonder how an E-Voting could work. On the other hand, we already experienced E-Voting at the first Virtual Convention in April and it worked very well. Also the results are published immediately which is a big advantage too – for the nominated candidates and for all members. So we are excited to do the first E-Voting in this IW-Year!
- **Election of CC by the clubs – Proposal 10** – the participants felt that for more democracy it is correct that the CC is elected by the Clubs. I wonder, if the CC should not be nominated by a District, but maybe by the IIW GB? Because the position of CC needs a huge knowledge of the Constitution, of our History and about different cultures. It's in a way the same like the NR is suggested by the D-Board.
- **Canvassing Proposal 11** – all participants agreed that this proposal was already needed for a longer time, all agreed and there was no further discussion.
- **Abolition of any limit to resubmit a similar proposal - Proposal 14** – we all agreed and were very happy about the passing of this proposal, because sometimes a proposal nearly gets the majority – why to wait 6 years to resubmit? It takes a little time sometimes that members understand the result of a proposal, that's why it sometimes needs more Conventions to pass through. We all were happy about this decision at the Convention
- **Introduction of a new article on Bye-Laws – Proposal 4** – Countries with NGB can have their own Bye-Laws – why? Why do countries need own Bye-Laws and don't follow the rules for all of us? The Constitution is our common rule-collection, guilty for all of us!
- **Cancellation of the phrase “with no National Governing Body” – Proposal 5** – the rules for all members and levels are the same

Conclusion: Many changes are still needed to make IW life more friendly to all IW-members. There should not be different categories of members inside of IW, the one Proposal which went through is a start, but now we need equal chances for equal qualified members. The Constitution after 54 years need to be made more modern, more simple and easier to understand and live.

I personally love History and I would love to keep the History about the changes written down, also the changes in our Constitution to let future-members know that we worked for them 😊

Second Workshop about what to do till the Convention in Manchester 2024? What is needed?

– Modernization, Simplification and more Democratization

Is our Constitution still timely, still valid? The Goal is to prepare changes and transformations in the Constitution due to the changes in our Society.

- **Objects** – True Friendship, Giving Service, Foster International Understanding – the opinion was that our objectives are great. There is no change needed, because this is very clear for everybody
- **Membership** – here we maybe need the biggest changes – why? Young women cannot attend coffee meetings at 3 pm in the afternoon. Young women don't want to discuss things for several times, they want fast decisions and then to implement the decisions. Young women are used to use digital tools – they want to use it also for a club membership – therefore we need **E-Clubs!** Young women live with less boarders than elder generations, they love Internationality and we have to offer this to them! So **International or Global E-Clubs** are needed! And maybe we also need a **Double-Membership** inside of IIW! How could this work? We definitely don't have the time to need 3 or 4 Conventions to implement the new possibilities, **we have to become attractive for young women now!**
- **Liberalizing the access to leading positions** – this means to give access to leading positions to all qualified members, not only to members of countries with a NGB! We all agree that we don't want A and B members, but exactly this we have now in our Association. We need more Democracy in this point. IIWPP even suggested that all countries, also ND countries could nominate somebody for BD and with this Qualification even further into the Leading Positions.
- **3 Committees (Executive, Constitution, Convention) today** – the question is, if changes there are needed too? Nowadays we are more than 100.000 members in more than 100 countries. When this system was installed 54 years ago, how many countries did IW have at that time and how many members? A rethinking is definitely obligatory! For the Constitution we need more persons than one, maybe from every continent one, so that

we have all together 5 or 6, a team which could work together and takes the whole responsibility of one person. A team to discuss difficult situations before making decisions, a team which could explain why proposals were not accepted. Last time we heard from IIWPP Charlotte de Vos that there were more than 70 Proposals sent in, only 9 were accepted without any explanation. I would love to discuss this point after the summary again.

- **Do we need new Committees?** Yes, we do – the **Counsel of Legislation**, the General Motion which already passed at the Convention in Istanbul 2012 and which disappeared without having been installed. An **Extension Committee**, which should work on the foundation of IW-Clubs in new countries (this could consist of IIW PPs) and to avoid the closing of clubs in several countries. **Training Committees** to educate Mentors (active PBDs) for the Training in their countries and to produce and update all E-training documents
- **Editor/ Media Manager?** An attractive and updated Website is a MUST! The Website should be easy to handle, should represent us in a nicely way and should have an easy handling for members – just to be user friendly
- **The Position of the NR** – in the Constitution we can read that the NR is only a translator and the official link between HQ and her Country. But isn't a NR more than that? The NR represents her country to the outside. The NR is promoting the program of IIW to the members of her country. She is asked by the EC to send twice a year a report about the club-activities, sometimes she is asked by the EC to make suggestions about the international social project. The NR is between the bottom and the top – the position of a NR is therefore an important one – for both – for her country and for the IIW GB!
- **Changes to the Constitution – is the procedure to submit Proposals and Amendments satisfying? How to react when a “correct” proposal is not accepted? What could be done? What when a Proposal is withdrawn in the last minute by its proposer or seconder?** The discussion showed that members are not happy with the procedure. The most hurting thing of the last Convention was that members brought Proposal in and they were not accepted without any explanation. Members invest a lot of time to form Proposals, members do Proposals because they are unhappy with some rules or the

wording of some rules, they want to make IW better with their suggestions, so they are irritated even not to hear why their Proposals were not accepted. They think this is a very rude and impolite way to handle members. If a wording is incorrect they have the feeling that the CC should help them and correct it, so that it could be brought in. France has brought in 18 Proposals, none were accepted, India brought in 27 Proposals, only one was in the Convention. Charlotte de Vos knows more about and I am sure she will share with us.

- **Withdrawal of a Proposal at the last Minute from the Proposer or the seconder** – of course it can happen that a Proposal is withdrawn in the last Minute. It happened at the **Convention in Melbourne**, because the passed Amendment changed the Proposal so much that the Proposer and the Seconder decided together to withdraw their Proposal because it would not make any sense anymore. Another thing is what happened to **Proposal 9 shortly before the Convention in Jaipur** this April. The Proposer has withdrawn the Proposal without informing the seconder and against the strict protest of the seconder. As there are several times written in our Constitution that to bring in a Proposal or an Amendment you need a SECONDER! To make sure that more than one would like to have this change. In fact, Proposal 9 for Jaipur was a Proposal regarding 20 IW countries, so one fifth of us and the CC accepted and supported the withdrawal of this Proposal. As Seconder you have no chance at all – this is a tremendous lack in our Constitution and behavior!

So at the end you can see, many things have to be done. I wait now for your suggestions what you think about?