



Board Director 2013\15
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NR: Different positions within a National Governing Body

IIW President Ebe, Inner Wheel Authorities, Dear Friends,
We begin the second Plenary Session, with an often-debated topic, which in my opinion needed some deepening, to clear doubts and misunderstandings.

The title of my speech is: National Representative: Different positions within a National Governing Body.

So, I expressly wanted to focus on the National Representative role, precisely in the Meeting in which National Representatives from all over Europe gathered together each year to meet, discuss and establish collaborations.

Before getting on to the substance of this brief report, please let me refer to our Constitution with regard to the tasks of National Representatives.

As well as to explore the models of the National By-Laws adopted by the Countries provided with a National Governing Body.

The National Representative in the Constitution (Constitution 2021, page 23).

The Constitution regulates the role of the National Representative making a distinction between the Countries provided with a National Governing Body and those which are not. Moreover, it briefly describes the tasks of this role, leaving its detailed analysis to a specific document, constantly updated, about Duties & Responsibilities.

Duties of the National Representative: "The National Representative is the link between the District and the International Governing Body; she receives, translates and sends all communications. It is essential to be fluent in the official language of Inner Wheel, the English language!".

The Constitution should better detail the tasks and assignments of National Representatives, who play a crucial role as they connect the IIW with their country of origin.

A far more complex role, well detailed in the above cited Document "Duties & Responsibilities".

Scrolling quickly through the Document, some highlights are to remember:

the Reports, Data Base and Directory, Charters, the care of International Inner Wheel President during her visit, Margarete Golding Award, to check the accuracy regularly of all

information from her Country on Inner Wheel home pages or similar as created by Internet users.

After the Constitution, the other source to read and consult is the National Bye-Laws.

I find it appropriate to start citing the provision set forth in the Document about the Formation of a National Governing Body, updated on March 2017:

«2. EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.

National Representative and Deputy National Representative.

Each National Governing Body decides on the status of the National Representative.

The information concerning her role will be contained in the National Bye-Laws ».

Different models...

Therefore, it was very interesting to check the various National Bye-Laws to find those which contemplate the role of National Representative, with related similarities and differences, and those which do not.

There are broadly 3 different models adopted and developed by the various NGBs.

And please, let me take this occasion to thank all Friends who kindly provided me with all information and documents.

Aside - In my opinion, it would be desirable that the Directory reported all information and data, in order to allow all interested members to mature a deeper knowledge. By way of an example, indicating not only the Countries provided with a National Governing Body but also with National Bye-Laws.

Furthermore, on a secure area of the website, such Bye-Laws should be available for consultation.

Countries in the Inner Wheel World

PROVIDED WITH A national governing body.

From an inspection on the latest review of the Directory it results that 15 Countries are provided with a National Governing Body.

Geographical Distribution.

As regards their geographical distribution, it results they have a decisive preponderance in Europe.

Africa: Nigeria.

America: United States of America.

Asia: India and Philippines.

Oceania: Australia and New Zealand.

Europe: Belgium and Luxembourg, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden.

Structure.

Concerning National Governing Body structures, currently two types can be distinguished: the Association and the National Council.

It should be noted, however, that the above cited guidelines for the formation of a National Governing Body do not include such distinction.

Currently, the Associations are:

- F.A.M.A.T., Association of Inner Wheel Clubs of France, Andorre, Maroc, Algérie, Tunisie.
- Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain & Ireland.

- Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India.

NR: Different positions within a National Governing Body.

An important clarification.

An important clarification comes from a Document written by CC Norma Friar “She (the National Representative) takes no part in the running of the Districts or National Governing Bodies except if she is an elected member, but she must cooperate and develop a good working relationship with the Clubs and all the District and National Officers. Her role is very important, but she does not have precedence over the District Chairmen or National President”. (N. Friar 2013)

2 Situations.



National President and National Representative are the same person.

President and National Representative chaired by the same person are 10:

BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG, DENMARK, F.A.M.A.T, FINLAND, INDIA, NIGERIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, USA.

Considerations.

One person covering two functions, two roles, only one vote (some By-Laws specify this).

President \ National Representative.

Vice President \ Deputy National Representative.

Mandate can last 1 or 2 consecutive years.

Certainly a great commitment in terms of workload even if, to a certain degree, summing the two function can prove useful.

Considerations.

Reading some By-Laws available and according with the information received, in most cases the National Representative IS NOT part of the Executive Committee, nor she is an Ex Officio Member of it.

In few cases, however, she is part of the Executive Committee.

Differences with are significant although without altering their work.

National President and National Representative ARE NOT the same person.

The Countries where the roles of National President and National Representative not chaired by the same person are 5:

AUSTRALIA, PHILIPPINES, GB&I, ITALY, SWEDEN

Considerations.

It appears that only 1/3 of the Countries provided with a NGB chose to have the roles of National Representative and of National President chaired by two different persons. This situation, as well, features positive and negative aspects. The task is complex and diverse,

including the intense work of translation which has grown considerably in the recent years, and a fully dedicated person has more time available to perform it.

Among the negative aspects, a difficulty of relation between the National President and the National Representative could occur, with all related consequences.

Some interesting notes:

In Great Britain & Ireland as well as in Sweden, the role of National Representative is covered by the Immediate National President.

In Italy as well as in the Philippines, the National Representative is an Officer of the National Council and, as such, she votes and plays a part in the governance and management of the same Council.

In Italy, as the National By-Laws sets forth a limited permanence, one can choose only one career between those of President and Representative.

Concluding.

I hope that this work of reflection on the placement of the National Representative within an NGB has served to better understand the different possibilities and nuances.

A complex and demanding, but beautiful role, which allows for one or two years to be in constant contact with the IIW, communicate with the Districts and Clubs, bringing the IIW closer to the base so that it is increasingly aware of the international soul that we unites and identifies.

Thanks for your attention