

Minutes For Nordic Meeting Saturday the 23th of September 2017

Hotel Scandic Simonkenttä, Simonkatu 9, 00100 Helsinki

1. Opening of the meeting

Kaija Keijola, the President of National Council 2016-2018, opened the Nordic Meeting by welcoming the participants to Helsinki and to Nordic Meeting 2017

2. Presentations of the participants + function

Participants at this meeting:

National Representative Liv Elin Broberg Lewin, Norge (Liv)
National Representative Margareta Wesslau, Sweden (Margareta)
National Representative Lena Pedersen, Denmark (Lena)
Deputy National Representative Birgitte Muthel (Birgitta)
Deputy 2017, Past Chair (DC 2015-2016 Kristjana E. Guolaugsdóttir, Island (Jana)
District Chair 2017-2018 Stefania Svala Borg, Iceland (Stefania)
Deputy National Representative 2016-2018 Tuula Kareinen (Tuula)
President of National Council/National Representative 2016-2018 Kaija Keijola, Finland (Kaija)
Past Chairman District 142, Secretary of the Meeting Riitta Nissinen, Finland

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

3. Secretary

Riitta Nissinen, Past District Chairman, was approved as the secretary for this meeting.

4. Ratification of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

5. Ratification of the minutes of previous meeting in Island 2015

Jana presented the minutes. Margaret asked about the 7.point IIW Convention 2015 – Discussion, she wanted to know has there been any progress in making the voting system less time consuming. So far none. The same fact was noticed also about the issue of the protocol of all the amendments and proposals having to be seconded.

The 12th point in minutes, excel sheet about the economic data from each country. Jana told us that there has been a lot of problems to create this

because every country and even some districts of same country have had different systems in calculating the income and the costs. Jana promised to send a new questionnaire with more detailed questions and then she will send the summary to every Nordic country.
The report was approved.

6. Information about IW from every Nordic country

Denmark:

In Denmark there are 2.867 members in 106 clubs and five districts. There has been a loss of 500 members since 2014, 20 clubs have closed down their function in 8 years. The membership fee is 60 DKK, about 7,5 euros. Bridge, a project to help children. Clubs have collected 1,5 milj.DKK for local projects.

National rules have been simplified, the big question is how to tell about the good work Inner Wheel is doing by the clubs and how to be more visible for the public.

Norway:

In Norway there are 1.369 members in 58 clubs, five districts, lost 146 members in two years. Three clubs have disbanded, two in D28, one in D30, number of newly joined members 24.

The clubs have raised about £20.000 for the both local and international projects to help children and youth to have better life and to give them the possibilities for education.

The main international project of IW in Norway has been the Fistula project/SMA project. It help girls and young women in Ethiopia who are suffering from fistula after child birth and various mutilations such as rape. Safe Motherhood Ambassadors (SMA) is a new Fistula project where the ambassadors are former fistula patients who have been cured. This project will continue from IW year 2018 to 2020. NOK 100.000 is given twice a year and in addition to the money, IW members are knitting babycovers to be sent to Ethiopia.

Sweden:

In Sweden there are 4200 members, about 200 new members last year, 95 clubs in 9 districts. One club was disbanded. The average age for members is 70+

Sweden's Inner Wheel council promotes three projects: Sniffer dogs in collaboration with Swedish Customs, active at the moment are 26 dogs. The Inner Wheel Doctor in collaboration with Rotary Doctors and Garissa, girl's home and school in Eastern Kenya. This project is also involved in stopping female genital mutilation. It is important to tell to the members and clubs the amount their are supporting the welfare projects with. That can also be inspirational for the others. The amount for the welfare was

about 50.000 euros. On top of these projects almost every club has their own project or transfers money to various charity programs or organisations.

Iceland:

In Iceland there are 184 members in seven clubs. All the clubs are located within 1,5 hour radius from one another. There in one district in Island and for this year it is in the hands of IW Reykjavik.

The number of members is in decline, two clubs disbanded but they continued still to meet as “Golden Clubs”

Projects vary for each club, some only aim to fulfill the goal of friendship and service to one another, some have good funding programs and donate the money to a chosen local charity. The district, although small and the member fee fairly low makes a public donation each year at the national meeting. The chosen project is always towards helping women and children. For the past three years the district has donated towards the earthquake fund in Nepal 2015, towards a special fund within UN Women in Iceland 2016 and towards a women´s shelter for women fleeing domestic violence in Iceland 2017.

Sweden circulates the tasks of the most northern district and as said, Iceland does the same.

Finland; covers both Finland and Estonia

In Finland there are 993 members, 34 clubs, two of them in Estonia, Tartu and Turi. We have National Council and four districts(139, 140, 141 and 142).

We have got some new members but in the same time lost members during the last few years, Reasons for this have been mostly ageing challenges, because Finland is an old Inner Wheel country.

Some figures to give you the idea of the member loss:

Year	2000	IW members	1486	
	2004		1482	- 4
	2007		1328	- 154
	2010		1275	- 53
	2015		1031	- 244
	2017		993	- 38

Projects:

During the IW period 2017-2017 the Finnish clubs have donated altogether 56.877 euros to different charity projects. Our most important projects were our National Project Life Education (Preventive Health) 17.540 euros and Support for Children 13.703 euros. Projects for supporting the wellbeing of families were also on top of the list. We have also had the project “Sniffer

dogs for Finnish Custom “ and we have donated over 60 dogs during the years.

In Finland we don't have a special international project, but clubs send donations to different countries where a catastrophe has occurred or to countries where the help is needed (Tanzania, Nepal, Sri Lanka).

7. **11th European Meeting in Denmark (European Rally, Formed Groups and so on..)**

Lena gave a short introduction of the matters discussed in European Meeting 2017 in Denmark. There were 34 IW members from 16 countries participating .Main issues were

membership issues, in many countries clubs are facing the same type of problems, new members are hard to find, clubs have difficulties to find board members, clubs are disbanded, new clubs are rare. Two groups were formed in order to work with the problems about disbandment of clubs and how to keep the members in the clubs.

The groups present their work at the next European Meeting in Stavanger.

The commission for the groups and members of the groups are:

1) Finding a Strategy to avoid disbandment (for member countries participating in EM)

Members in group: Margareta Wesslau, Sissel Michelsen, Ria Heijens and Kristjana Gudlaugsdottir

Time limit: Presentation of schemes/ recommendations on next EM in Stavanger 2018.

2) Guide lines and ideas for recruiting and keeping new members

Members: Liv Elin Broberg Lewin, Meri Suman Tolic, Marian Tellegen, Sandra Neretljakovic and Bambi de Ceuninck Leunckens

Time limit: Next EM in Stavanger 2018.

- Amendments
- ThinkTank, a group for a Think Tank/extension was formed and the theme is: The Image of Inner Wheel. The group presents their work at the next European Meeting in Stavanger.
The group members are:
Bambi de Ceuninck Leunckens Belgium&Luxemburg
Ria Heijens The Netherlands
Elisabeth Haye FAMAT
Gabriella Schrümpf Austria & Cz. Rep.
- Communication, how do we tell about IW, our values and work, how do we use the new ways of communicating
- European Meeting in Stavanger, Norway 6th-9th of September 2018
- European Rally in Rotterdam 2019

- Nordic Meeting discussed also these items ;

Margareta presented Vision 2017 and pointed out the importance of communicating the core values of IIW.

Lena told that the lack of voluntary people in Denmark is known also in sports and other interest groups.

Liv pointed out that extension matters being the responsibility of the past district chairman gives perhaps other members the possibility "to sleep" . Recruitment group could be a good idea!

Margaret: One way of telling about IW is to leave brochures to places where women often go.

About the different meetings in the future: Nordic Rally "on ice" the year 2019, European Rally in Rotterdam 2019, European Meeting at the same time, could it be possible to have both Nordic Meeting and Nordic Rally also at the same time.

8. Proposals submitted by the International Inner Wheel Governing body

9.

All the 20 proposals were reviewed in the meeting. Most of the countries in European Meeting agreed the proposals, except 13 and 15 were against and in some proposals the opinions were divided.

Lena suggested that we revisit those points discussed in European Meeting. All agreed. Here are those proposals;

No.5 advise – to clarify
Denmark will make the proposal, Norway will second

No.9
Logo and International IW
Denmark

No.18
Against; but Denmark will propose a Skype-meeting,
Iceland will second and check the text

10. Convention 2018

The 17th International Inner Wheel Convention takes place in Melbourne, Australia 11-14 April 2018

The information of voting delegates should be

In IIW office latest on the 12th of November 2017

There will be groups from Sweden, Norway and Denmark travelling to the Convention.

11. New ideas for membership

Liv: There is a recruiting team in Norway, which she is responsible for.

Tuula: Let's invite single people!

Jana: Membership fees are lower for Inner Wheel than for Rotary clubs.

Liv: Joint event for Rotary club and Inner Wheel club members

Jana Experiences that joint events are harder for members without Rotary background to join, they have a feeling being outsiders.

Margaret: We shall clearly inform about IW core values; what we are, what are our values. Three good reasons to join IW. Membership questions should always be discussed when the district chairman is visiting the clubs.

Jana. The most asked question is "What is Inner Wheel?" The Rotary history comes first, Inner Wheel used to be the wives club, it can still be an obstacle to become a member.

Margaret: The club members are the best ambassadors.

Kaija: The first is to recognize the values of the existing members and secondly to attract new members.

Jana: International Inner Wheel is growing fast.

We all agreed that it is also important to notice and take care of the old members while recruiting new members.

12. Funding for international activities in your country

Jana: In Iceland the participation in Nordic and European Meetings is the priority.

Margaret: Also in Sweden the Nordic and European meetings are in the budget, about 2,5€ /member. Even for three years there is a sum for Convention on the budget.

Liv: In Norway there is a certain amount in budget, mainly for the visits in District meetings. If any money is still available, it will be used to participate meetings outside Norway, Nordic meeting is priority.

Kaija: In Finland the funds for the participation in international meetings are in the budget of the National Council and every 3. year there is an extra 3€ in the member fee for the Convention. The National Council has also sold postcards to get some more funding.

Lena: In Denmark there is an amount of 8000 DKR annually for the Convention, in the budget also money for Nordic and European Meetings.

13. Inner wheel News – in paper or electronic – Experiences from positive impact?

IIW Magazine

Margaret made a proposal that IIW Magazine should not be printed and distributed to the members on the paper. It should be available only in the Internet.

Nordic Meeting was unanimous in this decision!

Margaret: In Sweden “Inner Wheel Nytt “ Magazine 4 times a year, also in Internet, costs about 50 Skr/member /year to be distributed to members by post, covers the whole country also in reports. Membership fee in Sweden is at the moment 142 Skr plus this magazine .

Lena: In Denmark , once a year a magazine, also in the Internet, costs about 7000 Dkr, in the beginning of October.

Jana: In Iceland a District Newsletter about 5 times a year.

Liv: In Norway Internet pages, a printed magazine 3 times a year, is included in membership fee . It is sent to the secretaries of the clubs to be distributed to the members.

In Denmark, Sweden and Norway there is a printed member directory, not any more in Finland and in Iceland.

14. International and National Social Projects from the influential point of view

Some projects have been introduced already in these minutes, point 6.

Liv: IW Norway is giving twice a year about 15.000€ to welfare projects.

To get some more publicity for the cooperation with the Customs there will be more information when the 16. sniffer dog is donated, head lines “ New dog for the Customs,” “ Saved by the Sniffer dog”.

Lena: In Denmark there is a national project Bridge for the better future of children, 310.000 Dkr per year and local projects for sports, school choirs and others, 1.5 milj.Dkr. Clubs also have godchildren from many different counties.

Margaret: In Sweden the international project is Happier Future.

Administrative costs are taken from the welfare funds, not from the membership fees.

Jana: We should always keep the influential point of view in mind!

15. News from the Global Project

Kaija. Finland has suggested for the new international project “Preventive Health” and Denmark FGM-project

All the suggestions for a new international project will be listed and presented to the Board members in October, there will be voting and the final result will be announced in Melbourne.

16. Summaries of the meeting

Kaija, chairperson of the meeting, thanked all the participants for an excellent meeting and for active discussions, good new ideas of getting the number of members to grow, how to raise funds, about the newsletter – printed or just in Internet, about the new IIW project to be launched in the Convention.

European Rally takes place in Rotterdam, arranged by the Netherlands. It is also possible that the European Meeting will be arranged at the same time in Rotterdam.

17. Next meeting

The next Nordic Meeting will be held in Rotterdam, during the European meeting. Norway will be responsible for the agenda and probably half a day would be enough for the meeting.

Kaija Keijola
Chairperson of the meeting

Riitta Nissinen
Secretary of the meeting