



## Minutes of District 13 Joint Board meeting, Friday 28 August 2020

Zoom meeting

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**Present:** Dorte Olesen, Governor 2018-2020  
Jane Bordal, Governor 2020-2022  
Rasa Birutiene, Lieutenant Governor 2020-2022 and 02 Area Director 2018-2020  
Ellen Skartvedt, Treasurer  
Aase Schmidt, 01 Area Director 2018-2020  
Karen Marie Hougaard, 01 Area Director 2020-2022  
Rima Dabuliene 02 Area Director 2020-2022  
Thóra Ákadóttir, 03 Area Director 2018-2020  
Sigridur Bjornsdottir, 03 Area Director 2020-2022  
Elin Hetland Mong, 04 Area Director 2018-2020  
Siri Meling, 04 Area Director 2020-2022  
Berit Birkelund, Secretary

### 0. Presentation round

Dorte welcomed the meeting and everyone briefly introduced themselves.

### 1. Adoption of agenda.

Agenda approved.

### 2. Status for minutes from District 13 Board Meetings

A reminder of the rules for minutes from the District Board to be published not too late after the meeting, in a form that complies with GDPR.

According to D13 Bylaws, minutes of the district board meetings shall be published at the district website no later than 30 days after the meeting. This means that all minutes must necessarily be approved by email and therefore the agenda does not include an item for this.

All approved minutes are published on the D13 website:

<http://zonta-district13.org/who-we-are/d-13-board-members/d-13-board-meetings/>

### 3. Did we reach our D13 goals for the biennium 2018-2020?

**If yes, what were the main reasons – if no, what went wrong?**

The District Goals 2018-2020 were aligned with Zonta Internationals goals, with special emphasis in some.

Dorte has by mail on August 24 sent out her summary on how we succeeded in meeting the goals for the biennium 2018-2020.

Dorte went through the document with her opinion on the reason for success or failure.

**Goal 1: We maximize our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls, by**

- **All clubs in our district contribute to the Zonta International projects for 2018-20**

Many clubs did contribute to ZIF – but not all clubs – in Denmark 19 clubs donated to ZIF during this biennium, including one that disbanded. In Iceland, a little more than one third of the total donations went to International projects. Figures have not been received directly from Norway and Lithuania. According to ZI, the average donation per member in D13 was USD 156,27, which is lower than the global average of USD 164,83, but higher than the D13 average in 2016-18 which was USD 152,64. This makes D13 one of the 11 districts with improvement – the rest were below last biennium.



We should ask ourselves how we can improve this?

The new Governor and Area Directors - outgoing as well as incoming - give their opinion / comments:

Karen: Part of the explanation may be that many clubs have learned that it is easier to achieve good PR on local projects. Zonta becomes more visible in the local area when the club supports local projects.

Thora: The clubs in Iceland generally donate 1/3 of their project funds to ZIF.

Aase: This may also depend on the answer to the question: Why am I an Zontian?

The clubs in Denmark have in total donated approximately 1/4 of the total amount to ZIF. Donations are also made to other international projects. Local projects provide good PR for the clubs.

Elin: Restrictions due to COVID-19 have prevented several fundraising events from taking place this spring 2020, and this has probably had an impact on the number of donations.

Siri: One thing is donations - Another is advocacy. Our efforts are not just a matter of money / donations.

But it has been difficult to understand how D13 should concretely work with advocacy.

Rasa: The clubs in Lithuania have so far not donated that much to ZIF, but still something. The club presidents focus on this and discuss how it should be secured in the future. The area management finds it important that so many members as possible participate in events such as District Conferences and Conventions, because this can ensure better support for the international work.

Jane: We - the new D13 Board - will take up the challenge and continue to focus on this issue. We would like to remind the clubs of the "1/3-agreement".

**Goal 1: We maximize our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls, by**

- **All clubs in our district support a local project empowering women and girls**

All Danish clubs and all Icelandic clubs supported local projects - no data were received from Norway and Lithuania; however it is believed that also those clubs did support local projects.

**Goal 1: We maximize our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls, by**

- **All clubs in our district support a local project empowering women and girls**

- **District committees for all Zonta International scholarships are formed with active members from each area - We aim to have several club winners and at least one district winner every year for each ZI scholarship.**

The district succeeded in forming committees for all scholarships, and we had D13 winners for YWPA (2019 from Denmark and 2020 from Iceland), Jane M Klausman Women in Business (2018 from Denmark and 2019 from Denmark), Women in technology (2019 from Lithuania, this new scholarship only started 2019).

Not all clubs carry out projects in support of the scholarships. ZI wants the programs to be promoted so that more applications are received.



The programs are popular in Denmark, and the experience is that it provides good PR. We also saw at the D13 conference in Copenhagen that both the participants and the press were excited to meet these young strong and committed women.

Dorte tells that ZC Copenhagen 1 has scheduled several meetings to present certificates to local scholarship winners and many members look forward to such meetings, which always have many participants.

A call from here: Put that meetings on videos!

Jane:

The Norwegian clubs are not so active at this point. Scholarships program is a good thing, but the support from the state to Norwegian students is so attractive that the scholarships will not have the same effect here as in other areas.

It can also be discussed whether it would be fair that Norwegian students are to compete with students from other areas where there is no such financial support?

Aase:

Denmark supports the scholarship programs but have decided to create a new scholarship for young students in vocational educations, too.

## **Goal 2: We strengthen our resources to support our mission, by**

- **Empowering clubs by increasing collaboration and exchange of experience between clubs and areas**

Exchange of experience and club collaboration definitely increased during this biennium. In Denmark 8 clubs used the “Bingo and Bubbles” manual produced by ZC Aarhus II, Rose Beds were created in the Centennial Year by several clubs, and for example 4 clubs from Jutland collaborated in a joint project against violence aimed at high school students and 5 Copenhagen clubs collaborated on several Centennial events, including the District Conference. In Lithuania the 3 clubs collaborated on several events, and in Norway more meetings were held to exchange experience.

## **Goal 2: We strengthen our resources to support our mission, by**

- **Increasing our membership**

This unfortunately did not happen – and we cannot just blame COVID-19, even though this undoubtedly had an influence on the very low recruitment of new members in the spring 2020. The first year of the biennium saw an increase from 1066 in May 2018 to 1079 in May 2019, but in April 2020 we only had 1015 members. So, for the biennium as a whole we had a decrease of 51 members. We closed down 3 clubs, 2 in Denmark and 1 in Iceland, but chartered 2 new clubs, 1 in Denmark and 1 in Norway. It is expected that the transition to the biennium 2020-2022 will show a further decrease – it is normal to have a decrease from May to July/August, however this year this will probably be bigger since the lack of recruitment of new members due to COVID-19 will really be visible here.

Some clubs in the district have not responded to ZI mail regarding the payment of dues. Jane confirms that as governor she receives cc mails to the clubs and this will be followed up along with AD.

Specifically, there are 3 Danish clubs. We guess that this is mainly due to misunderstandings, but also that many clubs have been prevented from holding annual meetings due to COVID-19, which is also to blame for the lack of timely submission of Club Officers Report Form.



Ellen: We have not heard that any Norwegian clubs have given up due to lack of contributions from members.

Rasa: Is quite optimistic about the number of members in the Lithuanian clubs, which have only had a total loss of 3 members. The financial as well as the moral support from D13 has been very welcome. There are now powerful presidents in all 3 clubs, and the members give great support to the cooperation between the clubs - most recently, about 50 zontians met for a joint meeting in June.

**Goal 2: We strengthen our resources to support our mission, by**

- **Calling attention to the online resources at zonta.org**

Attention has been called to these resources, in Denmark there have been training in the tools – including the leadership development tools – at meetings with Club Presidents and Committee members, and courses for the Web and Media responsible in the clubs. Also, Governor Dorte has called attention to these tools at meetings in Norway and Denmark and in Governor’s Newsletter and mail correspondence with Club Presidents. However, it still seems that Club and District Officers find it rather difficult to find things on zonta.org. At the end of the biennium, ZI has launched a new website which HQ believes is easier to navigate in.

Jane: It can still be difficult to find the right forms.

Aase: Has received several inquiries from club presidents who find it difficult to find Club Officers Report Form on the ZI website.

Siri: We should not only look at websites, but also at the use of social media, which are suitable for addressing the members. It is well known that if the members do not find the content they are looking for or do not find the content on the website interesting enough, they give up. In Norway, a committee has been set up to look at the possibilities for increased use of social media.

Aase: The new ZI website has become simpler in form and in a logical structure, but many relevant documents can be found using the search box.

**Goal 2: We strengthen our resources to support our mission, by**

- **Having UN, Council of Europe and Leadership Development Committees that can effectively inform clubs about women’s issues and leadership.**

The UN and CoE Committee has published regular newsletter and both the Un & CoE and Leadership Development Committees conducted workshops at D13Conference.

**Goal 3: We enhance our profile through our centennial anniversary activities, by**

- **Honoring a person or organization for outstanding achievement to empower women at both district and area level**

Centennial District Awards have been handed over during the District Conference in September 2019. Country Awards have been handed over in Area 2 in May 2019 at a national event with attendance of the District Board and in Area 3 on the 8 November 2019 at a national event in Reykjavik with streaming to Akureyri, and the Danish Country Award was handed over on March 8, 2020, at an event in Sønderborg. Norway had found a recipient, but the event ran into difficulties due to COVID-19.



**Goal 3: We enhance our profile through our centennial anniversary activities, by**

- **All clubs take action to increase Zonta's visibility in order to more effectively empower women.**

Area Directors reports indicate that there has been a high level of activity in the clubs especially in 2019 in order to increase Zonta's visibility in order to more effectively empower women. For example, the Icelandic clubs worked together with Soroptimist clubs in Reykjavik and Akureyri in November at the 16 days of activism against violence.

**Goal 3: We enhance our profile through our centennial anniversary activities, by**

- **The Centennial Committee ensures a coordinator in each area and a strong collaboration with the District Conference Committee**

Ragna Karlsdottir, Maria Jose Landeira Østergård, Heddy Tangen Steffensen and Jurgita Beinoriene were all working actively in their areas and Ragna took part in the Icelandic celebration on November 8 as chair of the meeting. Maria Østergård participated in the District Conference Committee and some subcommittees.

**Goal 3: We enhance our profile through our centennial anniversary activities, by**

- **We work towards a big Centennial District Conference in 2019, with at least 200 participants and an accompanying event**

This went above expectations with more than 220 participants and close to 300 at the Town Hall Square Event, where the photo of the many participants with orange umbrellas was viewed on Facebook by around 20.000 viewers in the course of a few days. It was also mentioned in the big Danish newspaper Politiken and later in an Alytus newspaper.

**Goal 3: We enhance our profile through our centennial anniversary activities, by**

- **The District Conference September 12-15, 2019 in Copenhagen is a central biennial event**
- **We will invite high profile speakers and the district centennial award winner, former recipients of the Zonta International scholarships – Amelia Earhart, Jane M. Klausman Women in Business, Young Women in Public Affairs – and winners of local scholarships, and we will combine the conference with an event.**

All this was realized, and the number of participants exceeded expectations. The Centennial Awards handed over at the Conference were publicized in a range of media and also later on there has been reference to the Award given to the former Minister of Development Cooperation, Ms Ulla Tørnæs, for example when she later in the year received an honorary doctorate from a French university and when she received another prize for much the same work as we had honored in Zonta. This has definitely made Zonta more visible in Denmark.

**Goal 3: We enhance our profile through our centennial anniversary activities, by**

- **Highlight also in all clubs: November 8, 2019**

A number of clubs had special events on November 8, 2019, and in all clubs, this was in some way highlighted. Area 03 had a big celebration in Reykjavik and Akureyri on the 8th of November, where a big amount of money was donated to the Women's Shelter in Reykjavik, which is planning to build apartments for women after their stay in the shelter if they have nowhere to go.

#### **4. Did the Areas reach their goals for the biennium 2018-2020?**

All 4 outgoing Area Directors are asked to make a 5 minute presentation of their area goals for 2018-2020 and whether these were achieved or not.



## Area 01 – Aase:

- All clubs in our district contribute to the Zonta International projects for 2018-20:  
*14 of 21 (2019/20)*
- All clubs in our district support a local project empowering women and girls:  
*17 of 21 (2019/20)*
- Empowering clubs by increasing collaboration and exchange of experience between clubs and areas:  
👍
- Increasing our membership:  
👍
- Calling attention to the online resources at zonta.org:  
👍
- Honoring a person or organization for outstanding achievement to empower women at both district and area level:  
👍
- All clubs take action to increase Zonta’s visibility in order to more effectively empower women:  
👍

See also the powerpoint presentation, which is attached as appendix 1.

## Area 02 – Rasa:

### **Goal 1. We are maximising our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls.**

- Every year each club from Area 02 contributes to ZIF 100 USD, in total - 300 USD. Our ZIF Ambassador was working on this, and we made a small improvement of 10% more donations than before. We are planning to continue working on this.
- All Area 02 clubs support a local project empowering women and girls.

### **Goal 2. We strengthen our resources to support our mission, by empowering clubs and by exchange of experience and club’s collaboration.**

- In Lithuania we are strong in increasing collaboration. There are lots of events all 3 clubs are doing together, also we all met 2 times in 2018-2020 as open Area 02 Board meeting.
- Increasing our membership numbers has not stopped.
- We are still planning to create a new club in Kaunas.

### **Goal 3. We enhance our profile through our centennial anniversary activities.**

- We did a centennial event in Birstonas, where also was District 13 Board meeting. Lots of Lithuanians were present in Copenhagen in September. We also take action to increase Zonta visibility.

See also the AD Report, which is attached as appendix 2.



## Area 03 – Thora:

The Area goals correspond to D13 goals.

### Goal 1:

There have been several fine events with great support.

### Goal 2:

There is very good communication between the Icelandic clubs, and we have encouraged the clubs to participate in the Scholarships programs.

### Goal 3:

All clubs have conducted events that have provided good visibility and PR.

See also the AD Report, which is attached as appendix 3.

## Area 04 – Elin:

See the powerpoint presentation, which is attached as appendix 4.

## **5. The financial situation in D13.**

Dorte has by mail on August 19 sent out the accounts and the auditor statement.

Our District Treasurer went through the main figures at the end of the biennium and we will ask for approval of the accounts.

Higher income and lower costs have means higher profits than budget.

In the accounts, DKK 70,000 has been set aside to cover expenses in connection with the joint meeting to be held in Reykjavik - as this belongs to the biennium 2018-2018.

There were no significant comments and the accounts are approved.

## **6. How are Area finances organized and how do Areas support delegate participation in Convention and District Conferences?**

Our four different Areas seem to have very different financial set-ups, in some areas it is totally up to the individual clubs to support a delegate going to Convention, in other areas clubs help each other so that big clubs via a higher area fee help small clubs send delegates to international meetings.

It might be helpful to have all the outgoing Area Directors describe their financial structure so that the different models and their pros and cons are made clear to everybody.

Aase: Area 01 has an agreed policy regarding coverage of transportation costs and financial support for club delegates and committee members. The policy includes rules for reimbursement of expenses for conventions as well as for district and national meetings. The money used is received as part of the fee payment to Area 01, which also includes amounts for administration and operation (which is small) as well as fees for D13.



In addition, some clubs have additional rules, which may mean additional coverage.

After a brief discussion of whether this principle is also possible in the other and smaller areas, Aase is encouraged to submit Area 01 policy for inspiration. Aase will arrange for the policy to be translated into English.

## **7. Good advice to our successors: what did we learn that we think may be helpful for you?**

All the outgoing members get 5 minutes speaking time to describe something that they would like to share with their successors in all areas.

Dorte: As Governor she has one point / problem that she encourages her successor to focus on, namely the clubs' submission of The Club Officers Report Form to ZI. It is her experience that not all clubs submit this to ZI. Many clubs, on the other hand, send the right information to Areas / ADs.

Therefore, there is a discrepancy between the lists of club presidents that ZI can extract from their database and the lists that ADs have. This means that important information from ZI does not always reach the right persons.

This leads to frustrations, confusion and overwork. We need to help / guide the clubs better.

Rasa: Want to compliment the incoming Area Director Rima Dabulienė for her great work. Rima will as always do her best as an AD as well as an active member of the D13 board.

## **8. Any other business**

Dorte thanks everyone for their efforts in Board 2018-2020. We have all worked well together and we have achieved good results. Dorte welcomes all members of the new board 2020-2022 to the future work.

Rima thanks Rasa for the kind words and also for her patience and helpfulness in teaching her the English language.

Jane thanks Dorte for the great effort. It has been a pleasure working together. It has been inspiring to see Dorte take care of the tasks - for example, the great work with the organization of the Conference in Copenhagen. We will miss Dorte - but we know where to find her...

The new board will take responsibility and meet all the challenges.

Ellen thanks everyone for a great collaboration. So does Thora, who also gives her best wishes to her successor and the new board.

