

# Minutes of the District Conference & Meeting 13 and 14 September 2019

(referring to Program and Agenda with Attachments as announced in Third Call to Conference as well as printed and delivered in conference covers upon participant registration)

# Opening Session, Friday 13 September 2019 at 09:00

Conferencier Dorthe Tronier, ZC Roskilde introduces herself and gives the floor to Governor Dorte Olesen.

Dorte Olesen welcomes everybody to this Centennial District Conference, and gives a special welcome to our keynote speaker, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Development Cooperation, Mrs. Ulla Tørnæs, and to the Ambassador to Denmark from Lithuania, Ms. Ginté Damusis, as well as International Director Sigrid Duden, Governor for District20 Lea Helle and Centennial Award Winner, Ms. Inga Laukytè-Budrienè.

The Centennial Anniversary theme globally is "honor and empower" – we honor the past and at the same time we look to the future – and even though significant progress has been made during the last 100 years, there is still quite some way to go before all women all over the world are truly empowered. If we look at some of the important goals that were set up at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 in Cairo, things have moved much slower than anticipated at the time. Five main goals for the ICPD were

- 1. To lower the number of mothers who die during pregnancy or birth, by 75 % over a 25 year periodehere only a drop of 40 % has been realized
- 2. To eradicate violence against women this has simply not happened, still one of out three women experience physical or psychological violence and we have again recently seen one of these dreadful examples in Palestine, where a 21-year old well educated woman has been beaten to death for not bowing to male superiority, possibly by her own brothers
- 3. To end female circumcision and child marriages there has been a drop from one out of 4 women getting married below the age of 18 to one out of five but that is still far too many
- 4. To ensure that all women and girls get information about child prevention and access to it this has been improving, but we are still far from this goal
- 5. To promote equal rights and opportunities well, international statistics show that only one fourth of members of parliament are women on the global scale, and only 5 % of CEOs in the biggest companies are women.

So even though we can all hope that great results will come from the Nairobi Summit this coming November, it is clear that things only move if all good forces get together and work in the same direction. This is where Zonta comes in – as an organization where so many strong hands join together and produce results in collaboration with UN agencies and other voluntary organisations.

Governor reads a special greeting from Mr. Rasmus Prehn, Minister for Development Cooperation. He regrets not being able to be there to open the conference in person, thanking Zonta for the invitation, and points out that Zonta is doing an important job working for women's rights globally, regionally and nationally. He congratulates Zonta on the 100th anniversary and wishes us the best of luck with the conference.



Governor also reads special greetings from Past international Director Gro Ramsten Wesenberg, ZC Oslo and Past District 13 Governor Eva Nielsen, ZC Copenhagen II. They are both sad that they cannot attend the conference and send us their warmest greetings.

**ZI Board Liaison Sigrid Duden deliveres her message to the conference.** She sends us greetings from ZI President Susanne von Bassewitz. Sigrid has been a member of Zonta since 1982, where she was invited to a coffee meeting, which proved to be a test of her as a potential Zonta member. At that time, she was already focusing on the issue of women's situation and her husband encouraged her to join. Sigrid became very active and took on leadership roles in the organization. We can now look back at 100 years which tell a story of continuous leadership. Zonta was founded by women with good education and good jobs. They valued friendship and they wanted a better life for women. Taking leadership gives us the opportunities for friendships and development, we become responsible and we grow personally. Zontians do a great job — Zonta needs us all to carry on and to contribute new knowledge, our strong leadership and great activity.

# Keynote presentation "Empowering women worldwide" at 09:45 by Ulla Tørnæs, MP and former Minister for Development Cooperation.

Ulla thanked for the invitation and the opportunity to talk about a topic that is at her heart. She feels humbled to face so many dedicated women. Ulla has on her many travels especially to Africa learned what organizations such as Zonta means, their important work makes a big difference for women who do not have "access to a microphone".

Leadership and Education is important. It is a Danish priority to empower women all over the globe and secure them rights that we may take for granted. Millions of women do not have basic rights that we take for granted:

- The right to prevent pregnancy
- The opportunity to freely participate in the labor market
- Safe abortions (which means 25 million unsafe abortions)
- Safe pregnancy and childbirth ( which means 1800 daily suffer injury or death due to these)

We must change this. Women must have the right to decide over their own body - when and with whom they want to have children.

Ensuring pregnancy prevention is a priority. Could better cooperation between UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and WFP (United Nations Food Program) be ensured? WFP's mission is to eradicate hunger in the world – but why can the women who queue for food not receive family planning information at the same time?

We are up against strong political powers. The Catholic Church is opposed to abortions and family planning Muslim conservatives are against giving women the same rights as men. President Donald Trump has expanded and announced a further expansion of the global gag rule - also known as the Mexico City Policy, which prohibits U.S. support for family planning and abortion projects.

Education is a second priority. It is very important to ensure that the girls have access to school and education. We must ensure safety for the girls by providing transportation and facilities in schools to ensure that girls can attend classes.

# Centennial Anniversary Award Ceremony at 11:00

Motivations for the Centennial Anniversary District Recognition Awards is given, and the awardees tell a little more about themselves. As background some facts about the awardees are mentioned.



### Centennial District Recognition Award Winner Ulla Tørnæs, Member of the Danish Parliament

- Minister for Development Cooperation in Denmark from November 2016- July 2019
- Minister for Development Aid from February 2005 February 2010.
- Minister of Education 2001-2005
- Minister of Research and Higher Education in 2016
- Member of the European Parliament 2014-2016.

As Minister for Development Cooperation Ulla Tørnæs has been a strong supporter of women's empowerment on the global scale – with knowledge and engagement in both education and women's rights issues.

Ulla Tørnæs receives her diploma and flowers and donates the prize of DKK 10.000 to the organization Maternity Foundation.

**Centennial District Recognition Award Winner Inga Laukytè-Budrienè,** one of the founders of the association **"Padedu Augti"** and its head since the establishment of this organization, which is or has been active with a number of activities:

- psychological, social, emotional support to families who have premature babies born or have lost their premature newborns
- project "Healthy Start in a Drop of Mom's Milk" contribution to the establishment of the first donor mother milk bank in Lithuania
- national project of knitting tricolored socks for newborn babies "Lithuania celebrates the centenary –
   Hello, Little Baby"
- a memo and a book for parents "Caring for Your Baby in the Newborn Unit"

Inga Laukytè-Budrienè receives her diploma, flowers and the prize of DKK 10.000 to the organization Padedu Augti. The Lithuanian ambassador to Denmark also gives her flowers.

# Business session and Open Forum, Friday 13 September 2019 at 13:15 Start of the District Meeting.

# Governor's welcome and election of moderator Governor welcomed everybody and especially recognized

- Past International President Maria José Landeira Østergaard, ZC Copenhagen Multicultural
- ZI Board Liaison Sigrid Duden, ZC Heidelberg
- Past international Directors

Kirsten Theisen, ZC Copenhagen III

Mari Ramsten Vangdal, ZC Oslo

Ragna Karlsdóttir, ZC Embla

Heddy Tangen Steffensen, ZC Stavanger

Dögg Pálsdóttir, ZC Embla (now also District 13 Parliamentarian)

- District 20 Governor Lea Helle, ZC Varkaus
- Delegates
- Club Members

Governor then continued to report on the state of the district, see more below under agenda item 6.

# **Election of moderator:**

Dorthe Tronier, ZC Roskilde was elected as the moderator of the Conference program items and the Open Forum, but not of the specific business issues.



## 2. Adoption of the legitimacy of the meeting

District Conference Rules, District Meeting Rules, Voting and Election Rules is given by District 13 Bylaws § 20. District 13 Parliamentarian Dögg Pálsdóttir, ZC Embla reads the rules and these are approved.

The dates for the first, second and third call for conference were read and found to be in accordance with both the district bylaws and the Zonta International bylaws for Call to Conference.

### 3. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 6 is deleted as this is completed at item 1.

# 4. Election of secretaries, timekeepers and tellers

D-13 Secretary is always one of the note takers and Berit Birkelund, ZC Næstved takes on the role. Ruth Juul Høgh, ZC Hillerød is elected unanimously as the other note taker.

As timekeeper, Astrid Grude Eikseth, ZC Trondheim is elected unanimously.

Ella Schumann, ZC Holbæk, Karen Lassen, ZC Lillebælt og Lisbeth Deleuran, ZC Lillebælt are all elected unanimously as tellers.

## 5. Roll call of clubs/delegates

Secretary Berit Birkelund calls on all notified delegates and concludes that there is a total of 46 club delegates present + 7 delegates from the D-13 Board, giving a total of 53 district votes.

## 6. Governor's report on the state of the district 2017-2019

- It was a major goal for 2017-2018 to participate in the Global Membership Drive and ensure that at the end of the biennium 2016-2018 D13 had grown in membership number. This was achieved.
- In 2017 two important committees were formed the Centennial Anniversary Committee and the District Centennial Conference Committee. Both have been very active and ensured that the centennial is really being celebrated and used as a tool to make Zonta more visible in our district.
- For 2018-2020 our district has aligned with the ZI goals 1-3.
- As regards Goal 1: We maximize our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and
  educational programs that empower women and girls, D13 has put special emphasis on all
  clubs contributing to ZI projects as well as supporting a local project empowering women and
  girls, and on increasing the number of applicants for the ZI scholarships and the YWPA award.
- We have succeeded in increasing the number of scholarship and YWPA applicants and thank the very active district committees in this field for their work.
- As regards Goal 2: We strengthen our resources to support our mission, D13 has put emphasis on increasing collaboration between nearby clubs and the exchange of experience between all clubs and areas, and on calling attention to the online resources at zonta.org and having a very active UN and Council of Europe Committee that can effectively inform clubs about women's issues. Here we have seen a significant increase in the collaboration and exchange of experience between clubs and we have a very active UN and CoE committee that also hosted a workshop yesterday, September 12. We have chartered two new clubs but not yet increased the number of members, so we need to work more with the membership development.
- As regards Goal 3: We enhance our profile through our Centennial Anniversary activities, We have seen a very high level of activity in many clubs and good success in improving the visibility of Zonta in the media and we have just handed out 2 district centennial recognition awards and achieved quite some publicity for this. Lithuania has also already handed out country centennial awards, with good publicity, and the other 3 countries are on their way to do so. As for the District Conference, we have a more than 50% increase in attendance as compared to 2017 and 2015. Perhaps it is even an all time high.



#### 7. AD's reports 2018-2019

#### Area 01 Denmark

- Discussions about international and national scholarships. Now also a scholarship/award for female craftsmen. Now also a national award for the new WIT scholarship.
- Web voting has been used as a tool
- Eva Nielsen has written Zonta District History and wanted it to be published as an e-book. Area 01 decided to pay for this, but ZI Board later made an budget for it. There is now an ongoing workprocess. The date for the release is still unknown.
- In terms of goals, Area 01 looks at the "red thread" the goals at club and area level reflect the goals set at district and international level.
- Area 01 has a strong focus on scholarships, and more clubs participate now.
- Area 01 has 558 members and 22 clubs.
- The Country Centennial Award event will take place on November 8.

#### Area 02 Lithuania

- Zonta in Lithuania has now been around for 25 years.
- Area 02 has 3 clubs and 65 members.
- All members are dedicated to the work for the district (and international) goals and the clubs carry out local projects in accordance with the goals.
- The clubs achieve good publicity in the local press. This results in great visibility and publicity. Knowledge of Zonta in Lithuania has increased.
- Area 02 is characterized by much cooperation between the clubs.
- It is like one big strong club only 100 km distance between the clubs, which ensures good opportunities for collaboration.
- The Centennial Celebration Event in Area 02 took place in May 2019, where the D-13 Board members were present.

### Area 03 Iceland

- Area 03 have 6 clubs and around 160 members
- 2 clubs at Reykjavik, 1 club at Hafnarfjördur, 1 club at Borgarfjördur and 2 clubs at Akureyri.
- All clubs pay 1/3 of their fundraising to HQ and their emphasis this year is the goal 1 "Ending child marriage."
- Area meeting took place at Akureyri April 2019. 60 Zontians was participating. 3 powerful keynote presentations from Zontians in Akureyri.
- Centennial committee prepares the celebration of 100 years of Zonta
- Anniversary of clubs: Embla 30 years, Thorunn Hyrna 35 years, Akureyri 70 years
- At March 8 each year the 2 clubs at Akureyri organize together a conference where the theme is Zonta says no to violence against women
- Local projects as "Bubbles and Dresses", Christmas markets, Selling flowers each spring and more.

#### **Area 04 Norway**

- Area 04 have 216 members in 9 clubs: Trondheim, Oslo, Ålesund, Sauda, Haugesund, Bergen, Stavanger, Egersund and Vigrestad. (last mentioned is new, from 2018).
- Focus on organizational culture and Zonta Identity
- Why am I a Zontian?
- What do I want with my membership?
- Need for change in the clubs to meet new times.
- Instead of saying things are going wrong can we say we need revitalization of the clubs?
- Starting e-clubs?
- Centennial activities are planned in the clubs.



# **Open Forum**

Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg started the discussion with a short presentation of a paper by herself and Eva Nielsen, which was distributed to all participants. A lively discussion ensued, with many viewpoints expressed by the members present and also by the International Board Liaison in response to these. Below we list some of the topics raised:

- Together we must find the answers. We must agree on using the situation to develop Zonta.
- Why are we loosing members We have done the same thing over and over again?
- We must look for what young people want in order to get new young members.
- It doesn't matter how many members but what we do and what we achieve.
- Information from the internet must be short. The same with the magazine The Zontian.
- Zonta has only a few followers on Instagram where we should be It speaks to the young people.
- Ask followers if they know Zonta and if they want to know more and invite to club meetings.
- Don't be afraid to ask others if they want to be a member
- We need to change focus how do we secure Zontas values to match the wishes of younger members?
- Dare we discuss whether we need other and new methods?
- There is a need to develop democracy in the organization.
- At the Convention in 2018 we saw the ZI Board come under fire the board needs to be in line with members. Communication is important the board members must listen to the roots.
- The organization must be less conservative and allow for more flexibility
- In Asia, they increase membership what's their secret?
- If all members recruited just one new member, we would write history.
- Several have expressed disappointment over changing admission criteria fear that the clubs will only ensure socializing.
- Lt. Governor Jane Bordal gives input to the discussion with her presentation on Exploring the New Individual Membership Category:
  - Allows a person in a recognized business or profession to join Zonta without being affiliated with a Zonta club.
  - Could attract women and men who want to be part of Zonta without being a member of a club.
  - Could attract high profile women or men to be members.
  - Has the potential to increase membership.
  - Many members resign from Zonta because they can no longer commit to club life. Offering Individual membership can provide them with a way to stay connected to Zonta.
- Is the individual membership the way forward? Will this mean that we lose the club life?
- There must be a balance between effective club meetings and the social club life.
- We must respect each other in the club ensure democratic processes and cooperation we do not have to argue and discuss all the time who wants to join that kind of work?
- It is important with active attendance that provides inspiration and encouragement.
- Create an optimistic atmosphere at the meetings for example, ending meetings to mention 3 things we liked and only 1 thing that was not so good.

# Business session, Saturday 14 September 2019 at 09:00

#### 8. Credential report

Secretary Berit Birkelund calls on all notified delegates and concludes that there is today a total of 49 club delegates present + 7 delegates from the D-13 Board, giving a total of 56 district votes.

Agenda item 7. AD's reports and Committee reports 2018-2019 - continued



## Service Committee by Mari Ramsten Vangdal

Donations to Zonta foundation are important and we know that our money are spent the right way because we cooperate with the UN. Because of the Anniversary we should all donate a little more than normally – and especially we should observe the special 47 hour donation option on November 8. At the moment, there is no Danish member in the committee as Anne Künell has stepped down recently. A new Danish Foundation Ambassador is being searched for, please contact Governor about this.

### PR Committee, by Xenia Nedergaard

We made a new "Zonta Fact sheet" in both Danish and English for the clubs to use at all centennial events – you all got one in your Conference Bag – they are also sent to the different PR responsible in the Areas for electronic distribution and possible translations and will be put on the District Website.

We also produced some other PR materials for clubs to use, everything will eventually be put on the website. We had good publicity about the Centennial Award to Ulla Tørnæs in the Jutland newspapers, and one big anniversary mention in Politiken.

We established a District 13 Facebook page some months ago and have been running a campaign about the 100 years anniversary and celebrations. By now it has 360 followers, we would be happy to have more.

# The centennial anniversary committee by Ragna Karlsdottir

The committee has sent out information so that clubs have been able to decide for themselves how to do it. A lot of different events have been going on since the beginning of the year and this is foreseen to continue till November 8, where there will be many events in different places.

# **UN Committee by Hanne Friis**

This has been a very active committee with a number of face-to-face meetings in Yokohama, the Inter District European meeting in Tartu and CSW in New York, and also 5 skype meetings. On Thursday the committee held a workshop in connection with this district meeting, with 17 participants.

# Governor Dorte Olesen remembered with a moment of silence Zontians in memoriam:

Copenhagen III Aase Hagemann Egersund og Omegn Liv Fredriksen

Egersund og Omegn Bodhild Bakka Andreassen Esbjerg Karen Marie Dyekjaer Isafjordur-Fjorgyn Josefina Gisladottir Odense Lise-Lotte Blom

Reykjavik Marta Bibi Gudmundsdottir Reykjavik Thuridur Kristjansdottir Reykjavik Thorey Vigdis Olafsdottir

Reykjavik Gudrun Jonsdottir

Akureyri Johanna Valdimarsdottir

Vilnius Danuté Vigiliene
Silkeborg Marie Jepsen
Trondheim Inger Lise Blakstad
Trondheim Greta Hjerto
Trondheim Vera Komissar
Trondheim Anne Lauvland

# 9. Presentation and Approval of the budget and financial statements (change from item 11)

D-13 treasurer Ellen Skartvedt presents the financial statement 2018-2019 and the budgets 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.



The result of the operation activities is characterized by major economic caution, which has ensured that the operation cost is in line with the budget.

According to the Auditors endorsement, the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet has been revised and approved.

The audience asked questions about the size of the savings - does this amount need to be so large? Maybe more money could be allocated to support participants in international meetings. Secretary Berit Birkelund explains the need to secure a certain amount of savings which can cover the cost of operating at least one biennium. It should be noted that we have already reduced our savings over the past few years through provisions for larger amounts allocated for precise purposes such as financial support for struggling clubs etc.

The Financial Statements and the budgets as presented are approved unanimously, including that the annual district dues are unchanged at 175 DKK for members at least 30 years old, however for members under 30 the dues are only half of this, 87,50 DKK.

# "Women's economic power and Zonta's role past, present and future" at 11:00

Talks by Marlene Nørgaard Carolus from My Banker and Pernille Fenger from UNFPA leading to a panel theme discussion.

These two very inspiring talks elicited a number of questions and comments during the discussion.

# "Great girls meet great women" at 13:30

Awards for Zonta International scholarships Winners from District 13 and presentations by former winners This session was chaired by Biola Akinde Reuther, chair of the District 13 YWPA Committee and the Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Committee, with a contribution from Jane Andersen, Chair of the District 13 Women in Technology Scholarship Committee.

The 2019 Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA) winner Emilie Sloth Spliid and the 2018 Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship (JMK WIB) winner Line Wedam Fruergaard were given their certificates along with a nice bouquet of flowers and told a little about themselves.

Afterwards five former YWPA or JMK WIB winners told about their careers after receiving the scholarships and what the scholarships had meant to them. The five were Julia Kositzki, 2015 International & District Winner of JMK WIB, Carolin Brückmann, 2014 District JMK WIB winner, Zainab Al Atraktchi, 2016 District JMK WIB winner, Agne Ceplinskiene, 2010 District YWPA winner, Simone Lotus Møller, 2012 District YWPA winner.

# Final Business session, Saturday 14 September 2019 at 15:30

#### 10. Report from the Nominating Committee (change from item 9)

Chair of Nomination Committee Wenche Olstad, ZC Stavanger presenting the committee, the members and the tasks.

Slate of candidates for the Board was presented as announced in the Call for Conference. There are only identified one candidate for election to each office:

Governor: Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo

Lt. Governor: Rasa Birutiene, ZC Vilnius Treasurer: Ellen Skartvedt, ZC Egersund



Tresurer – alternate: Eva Niederstebruch, ZC Copenhagen I

Auditor: Asta Skripkiene, ZC Marijampole

Auditor – alternate: Fjola B. Jonsdottir, ZC Akureyri

There were no candidates running from the floor.

All candidates presented themselves.

Although there is no more than one (1) candidate for any Board office, voting is done by secret ballot.

Slate of candidates for the Nomination Committee was presented:

Aase V. Schmidt, ZC Næstved Jurgita Beinoriene, ZC Vilnius Thora Akadottir, ZC Akureyri Hanne Friis, ZC Aarhus Astrid Grude Eikseth, ZC Trondheim

The candidates introduce themselves with the exception of Jurgita Beinoriene who is not present. Hanne Friis, ZC Aarhus announces that she has reconsidered and wants to withdraw her candidacy. Parliamentarian Dögg Pálsdóttir, ZC Embla states that she is not allowed to do so, there has to be a vote now with her name on the ballot. Hanne Friis accepts this.

Voting is done by ballot. It is allowed to vote for the maximum of three (3) candidates. The three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes are the elected ones.

# 11. Elections according to the District 13 Bylaws, article 20 (change from item 10)

D-13 Secretary Berit Birkelund presents the Election results. There has been given a total of 56 votes, including one blank.

The candidates for the District Board 2016-2018 were elected with the following numbers of votes:

- Governor: Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo 55 votes
- Lt. Governor: Rasa Birutiene, ZC Vilnius 54 votes
- Treasurer: Ellen Skartvedt, ZC Egersund 53 votes
- Treasurer alternate: Eva Niederstebruch, ZC Copenhagen I 51 votes
- Auditor: Asta Skripkiene, ZC Marijampole 52 votes
- Auditor alternate: Fjola B. Jonsdottir, ZC Akureyri 50 votes

The Candidates for the Nomination Committee obtained the following votes:

- Aase V. Schmidt, ZC Næstved 53 votes. Elected as chair of the committee.
- Jurgita Beinoriene, ZC Vilnius 20 votes. Not elected.
- Thora Akadottir, ZC Akureyri 39 votes. Elected.
- Hanne Friis, ZC Aarhus 0 votes. Not elected.
- Astrid Grude Eikseth, ZC Trondheim 38 votes. Elected.

# 12. Bylaws Proposals for 4 updates of the District 13 Bylaws as proposed by the District Bylaws Committee and one suggestion for a resolution proposal to be sent to Zonta International as proposed by Eva Nielsen and supported by Area 01.

All presented proposals for changing District 13 bylaws were adopted unanimously.

The motion for resolution was withdrawn by the District Board. The Bylaws Committee chair had pointed out a procedural error, so it is returned to Area 01 as it has not been properly submitted through the District 13 Bylaws Committee.



The audience had one main question:

• What are the consequences if we don't discuss it here?

The Bylaws Committee Chair, Dögg Palsdottir, clarified that the Bylaws Committee will discuss it as soon as it receives it and help Area 01 to find the best way forward.

Conclusion: Area 01 will send the resolution directly to the District 13 Bylaws Committee.

# 13. Next district conference

Governor Elect Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo announces that the District Conference 2021 will take place:

# 9-12 september 2021 in Egersund, Norway

– the precise dates have to be confirmed by President-elect Sharon Langenbeck.

# 14. Any other business

None

October 13, 2019 Berit Birkelund, D-13 Secretary Ruth Høgh, Elected note taker Dorte Olesen, D-13 Governor 2018-20

In accordance with D13 Bylaws § 19 the draft minutes were forwarded to the voting members 13 October 2019. Governor should receive any objections no later than 13 November 2019.

The minutes are finally approved as of 20 November 2019 and will be uploaded on the D-13 website.

