



BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



Zonta International District 13 Conference, **Akureyri, Iceland August 31st. - September 2nd. 2023**

Thursday, August 31st.

Welcoming party at Deiglan and at Listasafn Akureyrar (Akureyri Art Museum)

Friday, September 1st.

Venue: HOF Culture House, Strandgata 12

Governors welcome: Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir welcomes the guest to the conference especially recognized The Major of Akureyri Ásthildur Sturludóttir, International representative: Fernanda Gallo Freschi, Maria Jose Landeira Østergård, Past International President (PIP) , Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir International Honorary Member and former minister from Iceland. Past International Directors Ragna Karlsdóttir, Mari Ramsten Vangdal, Dorte Olesen Past Governor of District 13, Eva Nielsen and Ragnheiður Hansdóttir.

Póra Ákadóttir runs the opening session.

Welcome from Akureyri: Ásthildur Sturludóttir, Mayor of Akureyri.

The mayor stressed the importance for young girls to have strong role models. She also mentioned the importance to facilitate interesting lives for women in rural areas. In particular modern technology should assist in that matter.

International Honorary Member: Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir.

She stressed the importance that women are empowered everywhere. Power has been passed on through the male line and still is. She encouraged women to be more disobedient and fight this fact. She also emphasized that we live in a volatile world where liberal views like gender equality is under a threat. Hence, it is vital to continue to fight the battle.

International President: Ute Scholtz; Welcomes us online. (see online link).

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wmgh8askcqnid49bqm7lk/UteScholz_DistrictConferenceMessage.mp4?rlkey=reqhh9ykv2mwv4z81zd9dcuat&dl=0

International representative and Vice President of ZI Fernanda Gallo Freschi.

Gender equality is most in our district with Iceland on top next Norway. Our journey has not ended, the road is long and there is still a lot of work to do. The conference should help us work together to our goal. Fernanda thanks us for our work. She gave an artwork to our District.

Guðrún Halla has a birthday today and the guest at the conference sang for her.

Entertainment: Ylur Duett, with Hafþís and Björn.

Keynote speakers

Climate Change – What is it and why is it important?

Reidun Elise Vold, Manager of climate and external environment at AkerBP, Norway (MSc Chemical Engineering).

Explained the Paris agreement: the legally binding international treaty on climate change. Then she listed what the oil and gas industry in Norway is doing to lessen the greenhouse emission. Presented a video that explains climate change. Reported what Zonta district 23 has been doing in order to fight the negative climate change: Zonta says now to gender equal climate action.

See also powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Gender and climate change – What are the links?

Audur H. Ingólfssdóttir, owner of Transformia, Self-Empowerment and Social Responsibility, Iceland (PhD International Relations)

At our District meeting 2011 she also talked about the same topic not many things have changed from then, then we didn't link gender equality and climate change together but now we do.

Gender equality and climate change – discussed how this topic has become very central in the discussion about climate change.

Who suffers from the consequences of climate change? Magnifies inequalities, not gender neutral, poor people suffer more. Thus, climate change magnifies discrimination in society.

Important to think about gender when we try to combat climate change + pay close attention to regional specifics.

Gender differences in consumption and how that affects climate change. Feminine values (nurture and care) support a sustainable lifestyle.

We need to solve the problem together women and men.

See also powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

What is the role of oppressed groups in battling climate change?

Ester Alda Hrafnhildar Bragadóttir, Advisor at the Icelandic Environment Agency (Msc Environment and Resource Management) Key concepts in the talk: Intersectionality – Ecofeminism – Responsibility of the oppressed

Climate enhances all inequalities. Thus, the importance of fair treatment and involvement of everyone in environmental decision making. Important to focus on the traits and qualities of women that they can bring to the table in relation to fighting against climate change.

Maybe it is not the best solutions to solve a crisis the same way it was created (windmills and Sami people for instance).

See also powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Panel discussion with keynote speakers

Business session 1 and Open Forum

Roll call of clubs/delegates Secretary Sigríður Björnsdóttir calls on all notified delegates and concludes that there is a total of 23 club delegates present + 13 proxy + 7 delegates from the District 13 Board, giving a total of 43 district votes.

Election of moderator: Þóra Ákadóttir ZC Akureyri.

Election of notetaker: Guðrún Þóra Gunnarsdóttir ZC Akureyri is elected unanimously as the other note taker together with District 13 Secretary Sigríður Björnsdóttir.

Adoption of the legitimacy of the meeting

District Conference Rules, District Meeting Rules, Voting and Election Rules is given by District 13 Bylaws § 20. The rules were published on the D13 website before the meeting and sent out to registered delegates. The rules are considered as approved. The dates for the call for conference are found to be in accordance with both the district bylaws and the Zonta International bylaws for Call to Conference. This is considered as approved.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted

Election of tellers and timekeepers

As timekeeper and tellers Sigríður Sía Jónsdóttir ZC Þórunn Hyrna and Ann Marit Nielsdóttir ZC Þórunn Hyrna are elected unanimously.

Zonta, Gender Equity, and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond:

International representative and vice president at Zonta International Fernanda Gallo Freschi Freschi went through Zonta international actions regarding 1) Education for girls: Projects in Peru and in Madagascar

Education programs: the 4 programs are the only programs that are run entirely by Zonta.

2) Gender based violence: Carried out in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Peru, and global program to end child marriage promoted through program in 12 countries.

Zonta says No is a very important program and Freschi thanked all the clubs for the important work in that regard.

3) Climate change projects: District 23 was the leader in this regard with their project in 2020. Zonta international published 2021 the first statement on climate changes being a climate equality issue.

Engaging Girls on Climate change in Madagascar is the first Zonta international project on this issue.

The Zonta says Now.

Issues of importance 2022- 2024

- Zonta spirit
- Membership
 - Greater diversity
 - Young talents
 - Mentoring
 - Greater visibility
- Advocacy

Zonta '66 convention in Brisbane 27-30 June 2024

Zonta, Gender Equity, and a vision 2030 for 2030 and beyond: Strategic plan goals and strategies 2023-2030

Freschi described the process of the development of the new strategic plan.

Key principles:

- Advocacy
- Club success
- New alliance and partners

Freschi stressed that at the core Zonta will not change but the mission has been updated somewhat:

ZI is a leading global organization of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls.

Listed up the 2023-2030 mission and goals and went through the reasoning behind the four different goals.

Discussions:

Ragna stressed the importance that each and everyone would be active in engaging new members.

Someone from Copenhagen 3 stood up and second what Ragna said but added that the clubs need more money to keep the work going.

Freschi agreed to that and reminded the meeting that it is exactly the goal of Zonta International to find more money to be able give and support. Thus, the importance of reaching big foundation and secure external fundraising is stressed so ZI is able to support the work of the clubs.

2022-2024 Biennium Top Donors in District 13

Aarhus II

Egersund Og Omegn

Hillerod

Roskilde Area

Silkeborg

Thy

Embla

Only a little percentages have listed to the webinars online so we need to do better.

2023-2030 our mission and goals.

Zontians are most visible on club level.

See also powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Hand in hand - circle around Hof

All the conference guest made a circle around Hof to say NO to wars and conflicts.

Saturday, September 2nd.

Memorial Ceremony - Rose Ceremony

We were all able to write a card to remember our fellow Zontians that have passed away.

Business Session 2

Secretary Sigríður Björnsdóttir calls on all notified delegates and concludes that there is a total of 23 club delegates present + 13 Proxy + 7 delegates from the D-13 Board, giving a total of 43 district votes.

Governor's report on the state of the district 2021-2023

The governor encourages all to attend the ZI conference in Brisbane. Gave an overview of the numbers of districts and number of members.

District 13 has 4 areas and 894 members in 2023. Some of the clubs are over 80 years old and some are rather new. The decline in membership needs to be addressed. Growth opportunities: More young members – all genders – individual membership?

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website including the presentation from the Governor.

Q&A

Maria Jose points out that there is true that we are missing member and clubs over the years.

AD reports 2021 - 2022/ 2022 - 2023

Area 01 Denmark - AD Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg

Have been losing members and have closed 2 clubs. We need to change our attitudes in order to change this trend. However, the remaining clubs are gaining members. Listed highlights from club activities. Important to collaborate with other charities collecting funds for those in need. Through this cooperation Zonta gets to be better known and more visible.

In „lop de lux“ they gained in one day 50.000 DKK.

There are money out there and we just need to find them

2028 Denmark is hoping that we will have the convention.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Area 02 Lithuania – AD Dainora DAINORA Svitojienė, ZC Marijampole

Continuous efforts to invite new members. All the clubs try to emphasize the themes of ZI. Important to have good relations with other clubs such as Rotary, etc. Gave an overview of the activities of the three clubs.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Area 03 Iceland – AD Sesselja Sigurðardóttir, ZC Þórunn Hyrna

140 member in Iceland. Stressed that it is uplifting to read the club reports. Innovative fund raising activities and good spirit. Gave an overview of the highlights of the club activities. Important to nurture each other in our meetings, have interesting lectures, etc. Agreement that we need to make Zonta more visible, attract more members and strengthen the clubs. Thus, the annual meeting of Zontasamband Íslands that will be held sept 3rd will focus on the issue of how we can strengthen

Zonta. We need to be courageous and embrace changes and be brave to make necessary changes to be attractive to young women.

There is no lack of imagination in the clubs. Meetings are live and on teams.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence will be held both in Akureyri and Reykjavik 8th March open seminar in the University with Soroptimist in Akureyri.

Need to make Zonta more visible.

Zonta is a lifestyle.

No slides but the presentation is published on the Zonta D13 website.

Area 04 Norway – AD Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo

Seven clubs. Two closed recently. Thus, membership is going down. Important to embrace the good work of those women who have chosen to be Zontians. We need to nurture our members even though we all want to grow. Important to have variation in age. Keep an eye on what is successful and learn from each other. We could do more advocacy. Cooperation with other charities such as UN Women is important. One thing to consider is the opportunities to run e-clubs.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Q&A

The club of Egersund and Omegn sells 1,5 tonn porrage two weekends around Christmas. They are 48 members and they all help each other.

Presentation and Approval of the budget and financial statements D-13

Treasurer Ellen Skartvedt presents the financial statement 2021-2023 and the budgets 2024- 2026.

Dues are 175 DKK for each members and 50% for younger people under 30 years.

The District Boards needs to secure that there is enough money to run the organization for two years. Due to fewer travels in Covid the District is in plus. Pointed out that the District board is always willing to give out money to good projects. The fee for the next period will not change. Due to increase in travel cost the aim is to have fewer physical meetings and more Teams meetings. Has been decided to support activities that can increase membership such as the making of films in Danmark and Norway. Thus, the clubs should be aware that they can apply for money to launch activities to increase membership. There is also the possibility of travel funding for committees. The application should be sent to the AD's who will take it to the next district board meeting.

Q&A

Maria Jose asked for support the Interdistrict meeting in Copenhagen 2025.

She asked if you should give the money away but that is not the purpose of the District Board Dorte when she was governor the Board supported the Area 2 and 3 for struggling clubs.

Birgitte from Roskilde ask if we should form friendship club.

Birgit Foundation ambassador asked for fund to travel in her Area to the clubs. There are money set aside for some committee travel cost but she will ask her AD to apply.

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 years of age the dues are only half of this, 87,50 DKK.

Foundation ambassador: Birgit Lenhard Hansen

All the money that are donated to this foundation goes directly to the foundation, these are not the dues that we pay to Zonta. It's important that all clubs give 1/3 to this foundation.

The delegates at the convention vote on these projects there and its important that we are promising to raise money for all these projects. If we devide the goal that we need to raise all Zonta members should give 170 USD. Today we are up to 97,50 each members. In general Zonta International or in our Distict? Rose funds covers the other funds if they do not reach the goal in other projects.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

UN and Council of Europe Committee: Dorte Olesen, Past International Director

3 members in the committee.

Reported on the activities of the committee. Special focus on the Council of Europe as Iceland led the presidency. Zonta is a member INGOs meetings at the council of Europe. The committee tries to create awareness of all the tools available in relation to gender equality within the council of Europe. Also listed the work in relation to the UN. Dorte stressed that the UN convention is accessible online and she encouraged clubs to pay attention to that.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Advocacy Committee: Maria Jose Landeira Østergård, Past International President (PIP)

All clubs should send Maria information about their activity for 16 days of activism.

Goalfive.org a platform to teach about the goal five in the school.

Zonta Interdistrict seminar will be held in Copenhagen 2025.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Keynote speakers and panel discussion

Muslim immigrant women's labour market participation in Iceland:

Fayrouz Nouh is a PhD candidate at the University of Iceland, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics.

Nouh's research indicates that muslim immigrant women feel lonley at work. They do not know their rights at work. They do get job's that they are educated for. They get only work that are low paid such as cleaning job etc. People don't understand them and their religious.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

New generation of Zontians. How can we grow?

Signý Óskarsdóttir, owner of Creatrix ehf. a consulting company specialised in project management and support in the field of education, culture, and innovation.

How is the ideal Zontian ? We need younger members. Be active. You dont have to be on board to be active. For that we need to get all the information from the Board and ZI directly to the members.

Internal marketing is something we need to think of.

See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Multicultural Club in Copenhagen. Maria Jose Landeira Østergård, PIP.

Hard work to start a new club. First they were only 5-6. They established the club on 8. March 2019.

First they had one male but not today. They have many meetings online and due to that they are able

to get good key note speakers. Had training in negotiation skills. If they are under 30 they pay 50% dues and under 20 years they pay ¼ of the dues and the clubs pays the other ¼ for them. See powerpoint presentation published on the Zonta D13 website.

Business session 3

Report of the Nominating Committee:

Chair of Nomination Committee Guðríður Gyða Eyjólfsdóttir ZC Akureyri 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:

Slate of Candidates for District Board 2024-2026:

Candidates for District Board 2024-2026

Governor: Rūta Jasionienė, ZC Alytus, Lithuania

Lt. Governor: Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg, Denmark

Treasurer: Mette Kloster Blom, ZC Sønderborg, Denmark

Treasurer – alternate: Elsebeth Lauridsen, ZC Copenhagen I, Denmark

Auditor: Ragnhildur Traustadóttir, ZC Sunna, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

Auditor – alternate: Eli Wikse, ZC Egersund og omegn, Norway

Nominating Committee Candidates for 2024-2026

Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo Norway

Rasa Birutiene, ZC Vilnius, Lithuania

Elsemette Cassøe, ZC Aalborg, Denmark

Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir, ZC Reykjavík, Iceland

Siri Meling, ZC Egersund and omegn, Norway

District Board 2024-2026:

Governor: Rūta Jasionienė, ZC Alytus, Lithuania

Lt. Governor: Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg, Denmark

Treasurer: Mette Kloster Blom, ZC Sønderborg, Denmark

Treasurer – alternate: Elsebeth Lauridsen, ZC Copenhagen I, Denmark

Auditor: Ragnhildur Traustadóttir, ZC Sunna, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

Auditor – alternate: Eli Wikse, ZC Egersund og omegn, Norway

There were no candidates running from the floor. All candidates were presented by Guðríður Gyða from the Nomination Committee. They were all agreed on by applause.

Nominating Committee for 2024-2026 and total votes

Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo Norway 28 votes

Rasa Birutiene, ZC Vilnius, Lithuania, 26 votes

Elsemette Cassøe, ZC Aalborg, Denmark, 38 votes and will be the chair of the committee

Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir, ZC Reykjavík, Iceland, 8 votes

Siri Meling, ZC Egersund and omegn, Norway, 20 votes

2 votes were invalid.

Election of candidates (District 13 bylaws, article 20)

Three are voted to take seat in the Nominating Committee with the most votes.

Proposal from Area 01 on continuing STEM to be discussed and decided if District 13 will support this proposal:

MOTION:

The Zonta Club of Copenhagen Multicultural moves that the attached "Proposal for bylaw changes" and "Resolution" are sent to the Zonta International Bylaws and Resolution Committee so they can be presented for discussion and vote at the 2024 Zonta International Convention in Brisbane.

RATIONALE:

The aim of the "Proposal for bylaw changes" is to ensure that the Zonta scholarship for women in STEM becomes a permanent Zonta educational program.

In order for the proposal to pass at the Convention, 2/3 voting is needed. In case that the

2/3 voting is not reached, then the "Resolution" will be presented.

Approval of Resolutions

require majority.

The meeting votes on the proposal with 43 votes

Proposal from Area 01. District 13 moves to amend the Zonta International Bylaws Article XI Convention, SECTION 1. Purpose by adding the word "hybrid" before the word "biennial", and the words ", except in case of unforeseeable and unavoidable catastrophes" after the word "convention".

42 says yes and 1 absention

Proposal from Area 01. District 13 moves to amend Zonta International Bylaws Article XIII Committees by changing the number of SECTION 15 to SECTION 16 and adding a new SECTION 15

Total votes 43


Why Zonta? Films from Denmark and Norway

The films were both shown at the conference and are available online as well.

<https://zonta.dk/>

<https://zonta.no/>

Closing remarks: Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir Governor



We are coming to the end. Thank you for these days that we had together. All the prestatation were very good. Guðrún Halla thanks her board and all the others that have contributed.

Welcome to Lithuania: Ruta Jasionienė

Lithuania and Vilnius is her home town. She showed film about the city and welcomed all of us for the next conference that will take place in Vilnius 2025, dates will be sent out when available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQoRzxjgR34>

Closing Banquet at Hof Culture House

Entertainment, lottery and good company.