

Minutes from District 13 District Conference in Reykjavík, Iceland, 14-16 September 2017

Friday 15 September

Opening session

Musical performance by two women, a singer and a pianist.

Dagný Sigurbjörg Jónsdóttir chair of the hosting Zonta club Sunna addresses the conference.

Governor Ingibjörg Elíasdóttir welcomes all Zontians and the First Lady of Iceland Eliza Jean Reid. Gov. informed that 149 Zontians were registered for the district conference.

The First Lady, Eliza Jean Reid addresses the conference. She is from Canada that embraces multi culture. Our society needs immigrants to fill the jobs and give diversity. They should be welcomed by the people. We need to go outside our comfort zones to get to know these people. It should be cheap to learn Icelandic and we should be tolerant of foreigners who do not speak Icelandic. To summarize: We need to listen to these immigrant's voices. Can we form a safe home for all the refugees that come here? Probably not. But we can make the world a better place.

The Governor Ingibjörg Elíasdóttir thanks the First Lady for her good words.

Key Note presentation: *Arabic Women in Akureyri*

Andrea Hjálmsdóttir and Fayrouz Nouh: They are doing a research on women refugees from Syria that had stayed in in refugee camps in Lebanon before moving to Akureyri, Iceland. They have been taking interviews with eight arabic speaking women. Their main obstacles, what positive things, experience of attitudes.

Education system is different in Syria, more strict, more book studies. It is difficult for children to have friends outside the school. They think it takes longer time get a high education.

Takes a long time to adjust to new rules of society, like shake hands with each other, sitting next to others etc. Women in Syria stay at home and they feel they had more social life when in Syria. In Iceland all women work so the immigrant women feel they do not have any social life, difficult to meet with Icelandic women because they are at work.

They also had problems with adapting to weather, food and language. They do not have the spices they are used to. The language is the most difficult thing to learn. People are curious about their costume and that puts more pressure on Syrian women in Iceland. Young people are less understanding than older people. They have had problems practicing their religion, i.e. there is no mosque. They have one room that they have to order when they used to have open mosque the whole day in Syria. We should be aware that they did not choose their country, they were sent here without having anything to say.

In Syria the women stay at home and do all the work in the house. Then they see that women work in Iceland and men do work at home. But the Syrian women do not seek their rights.

Some discussion about the role of men and women in the household now and before.

Presentation on Zonta Issues

ZI President Sonja Honig Schough addresses the conference via Skype. Women's rights are human rights. We can reach sustainable successes internationally. New presentation on goal 5. We need cooperation to reach equality.

Presentation by ZI liaison to District 13 Lydia Chaillou: Zonta and SDG's. Lydia is happy that so many women from district 13 are here. She is proud to be part of Zonta. Goal 5 Gender equality is the main focus of ZI. She also talked about Zonta's 100 years of empowering women. She thanks the governor for her tireless work and goes back with a smile.

Presentation by ZI Advocacy Committee Chair and PIP Maria José Östergaard Landeira. We are a leading global organisation. We have to start working with the advocacy tools. SDG 5 emphasized. She has looked at the shadow reports about the gender gap. Normally it is the lack of money that is in the way of doing something about the gender gap.

Presentation by former gov. Eva Nielsen, Member of ZI centennial Anniversary Committee. She is working on archives to save information about the history of Zonta, to get everything digitalized. There was a book published for the 80th birthday which is sold out and will not be republished. ZI is planning to have a book about 100 women empowering other women. We need to know about our organization, all the clubs, clubs that have been disbanded etc. Eva has traced every Zontaclub ever chartered except for 23. She is working on this matter but there is lack of money. She was hoping we could have both E-book and a "real book" on the history and is trying to work out how to proceed with her work.

*Presentation by Lt. Gov. Dorte Olesen. **The global membership Drive.*** It's about achieving a breakthrough in engagement and growth. Campaign launched from ZI. Works on three levels, to engage and retain and recruit. We need members to go into leadership circle. Clubs should have mentors for new members. We have to start at club level, assess how engaged your club is and act. There are tips on how to activate passive members. They would like to mobilize all clubs to recruit new members and clubs. Recruiting the right members that are willing to speak and take on positions. Awards and scholarship to girls play a big role in recruiting members. The credibility and visibility.

Everything is available on the internet when you log into My Zonta at the zonta.org website.

Lunch break

Business session

Opening by governor.

Legitimacy of the meeting is established.

Agenda is approved upon.

Roll call of club/delegates.

Secretaries, tellers and timekeeper elected/appointed.

- a. Helena Guðlaug Bjarnadóttir and Thóra Ákadóttir secretaries
- b. Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir and Sigríður Jónsdóttir tellers
- c. Aðalbjörg Jónsdóttir timekeeper

Report from the credentials committee chair, Fjóla Björk Jónsdóttir: 51 votes in the district, 48 are present.

Report from Governor Ingibjörg Elíasdóttir. We are reminded of our service goals. The D-13 board has had four meetings so far, the first in Lithuania, a joint meeting with the outgoing board. One meeting in Norway in September 2016, one in Denmark in March 2017 and one in Reykjavík in connection with the district conference. Members are a little over 1000 in 53 clubs. There are 22 clubs in Area 1 and one in the making in Bornholm, three clubs in Area 2, Area 3 has 7 clubs, lost one club last year and one club is struggling. Area 4 has 9 clubs, they also have clubs struggling. There are two clubs in the district with more than 50 members. One club has a waiting list! Many clubs are having very good club life. Thirteen clubs in the district have fewer than 20 members which can make leadership difficult. There are so few members to take on the leadership roles. Zonta is working closer with the UN every year. Donations have gone a little down since last year. We are encouraged to give individual donations to ZI. There has been focus in the district on forming "real committees", that is with more members than just the chair. Special emphasis has been on the UN Committee and the Membership Committee and now we would like to put focus on the PR Committee. Conclusion: District 13 is vibrant with many different projects, but we need to constantly work on retaining our members and recruiting new ones. With no members there will be no Zonta. Together we can move mountains.

Report from the Chair of the Nominating Committee Ruta Jasioniene. The candidates introduce themselves and since there are no candidates from the floor, they are all elected unanimously.

- a) Dorte Olesen, candidate for Governor is elected
- b) Jane Bordal, candidate for Lt. Governor is elected
- c) Mette Kloster Blom, candidate for treasurer is elected
- d) Ellen Skartvedt, candidate for alternate treasurer is elected (not present)
- e) Eva Niederstebruch, candidate for auditor is elected (not present)
- f) Sigríður Jónsdóttir, candidate for alternate auditor is elected

Presentation of candidates for Nominating Committee, Ruta Jasioniere.

- a) Gytt Pedersen, ZC Viborg (not present)
- b) Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg (not present)
- c) Hildur Helga Gísladóttir ZC Sunnur
- d) Viduta Bačkierienė, ZC Marijampolė
- e) Wenche Christenson Olstad, ZC Stavanger (not present)

Elections according to the D-13 Bylaws, Article 20.

- a) Gytt Pedersen, ZC Viborg, 28 votes
- b) Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg, 28 votes
- c) Hildur Helga Gísladóttir ZC Sunnur, 29 votes
- d) Viduta Bačkierienė, ZC Marijampolė, 29 votes
- e) Wenche Christenson Olstad, ZC Stavanger, 44 votes

Wenche Christenson Olstad, Viduta Bačkierienė and Hildur Helga Gísladóttir are rightfully elected to the Nominating Committee.

Reports from Area Directors.

Area 1. Lisbeth Løvenov AD . Service project 2016-2018 is Girl Talk - 25.000 DK. Many of the clubs have their own scholarships. Not too many people know about Zonta in Denmark but they are doing their best in PR work.

Area 2. Viduta Bačkierienė AD. The clubs in Lithuania have grown of 10% the last years. "I do not use violence against others" a campaign from the Marijampole club. All the 3 clubs have their own projects.

Business session adjourned until Saturday.

Workshops

Zonta and the UN, conducted by Astrid Grude Eikseth

Membership matters, conducted by Dorte Olesen

PR and social media, conducted by Dorthe Tronier

Dinner at Zonta homes

Saturday 16 September

Governor thanks the hosts that hosted the dinners last night and those Zontians who conducted the three successful on Friday workshops are thanked.

Presentation of a successful project: Karen Marie Hougard, Zontaclub of Sönderborg. Zonta summer School in Greenland. In 2008 Danmark chose Greenland as their main project. 5000 inhabitants at the East Coast. There is much domestic violence in Greenland, alcoholic abuse and neglect of children amongst other things. The first summer school was in Kulusuk in 2008. In the beginning they had a Danish teacher but since the language was a problem they decided on trying to find native teachers. The summer school was then moved to Ammasalik (now Tasilaaq). The women were offered good meals and babysitters. 160 women have finished summer school and now write and read Greenlandic, have talked about their bad experiences in life, know how to cook amongst other things.

Key note presentation: *"Towards a better society".*

Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir, District Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Only 20% of the Police Force are women and they just reached that last year. Only 3% of women officers are 60-65 years old. Now we have a university for police officers and hopefully we will have psychiatrists and sociologists etc in the university so we can change how the police force functions for the better. Domestic violence is dealt with right away now with the municipality and investigated on the scene. There are always 55 cases every year. Does not go down. In Iceland we have organisations who talk to women when they have been abused in a nice house named Bjarkarhlíð. Sigríður Björk has worked to changing how the police works so that you do not have to go through many levels of higher officers to get something done and move matters forward.

Sigríður Björk was thanked for her presentation by standing ovation.

Presentations on Zonta Issues.

Anne Kuhnell, Foundation Ambassador and Chair of the Service Committee of D 13. ZI foundation. She begins by asking us the question why we are in Zonta. Why was Zonta established and when? She suggests we google "when did women get the right to vote?". What represents the yellow rose? The right to vote. In the USA the states had to ratify the rights of women to vote. Those who were against it had red roses, those who wanted the women to get the right to vote had yellow roses. Everybody knew why Rotary existed, what about Zonta? She points out that we need to donate to Zonta International to be able to grow and be visible. We should donate to the educational programs. They are really important for us. Only 16 people work at the headquarters of ZI. Up to now we have donated av. 80\$ per person in first half of the biennium in D-13. Need as much for the next half of the biennium.

Lydia Chaillou, ZI liaison to D-13. Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign. We need to give money now for the future. Our first service program was in 1923. Today we have had projects in 63 countries. We work with many different international organizations.

Endowment fund is aimed for long-term investments. We are invited to give donations to ZI. We can give monthly or only one time. We can not have a long-time project if we do not have an Endowment fund.

Ragna Karlsdóttir Chair of the D-13 Centennial Anniversary Committee. Centennial celebration. Honoring the past and focusing on the future. There will be portraits of important women in the history of Zonta. Ragna asked the clubs to start thinking about how to celebrate, start putting ideas forward.

Lunch break

Business session continued

Roll call of delegates

Reports from AD's continued

Lára Hansdóttir AD area 3. Every club has their own projects, but there are 7 clubs in Iceland. (lost one, the Selfoss club). 9 meetings over the club year, 70-75% attend the meetings. ZC Reykjavík celebrated their 75 years anniversary in October 2016. The ZC Sunna had a seminar about endometriosa in Reykjavík.

Mari Ramsten Vangdal AD area 4. Nine clubs in Norway with 209 members. One of them is "sleeping". There is no planning on new clubs but focus on keeping those that already exist. One of the clubs is often in the media. There are leader-training programs at the ZC president's meeting. "Zonta and you" is the only way to keep Zonta going. The Oslo-club will have their 70 years birthday in October with a seminar about Zonta and a dinner. They will use this opportunity to emphasize Zonta and its work. They have donated 160.000 nok to Zonta.

We need to attract people under 40 years of old. Some of the members do not want to do leadership. 230 members is the goal and they will keep working on that goal. Area 4 is not so good at the "HeForShe" campaign.

Presentation and approval of the district budget and the financial statement. Berit Birkelund district treasurer. We have a budget with a small loss this year compared to last years small profit. We need to increase the number of members of 5% for the budget for coming years.

The financial statement is put to the vote and approved of by the majority.

The budget it put to the vote and approved of by 46/50 votes, (majority).

Approval of reports 2015-2016

The reports from AD's from the the biennium 2015-2016 are approved on.

Proposal from D-13 board.

Proposed new clause in the District 13 Reimbursement Guidelines.

The board of District 13 shall issue reimbursement guidelines for the district.

The board of District 13 can amend the guidelines and/or issue new ones.

The reimbursement guidelines shall be published on the District 13 website and they shall always be up to date.

Rationale for the proposed addition to the District 13 Reimbursement Guidelines.

Reimbursement guidelines are a tool designed first and foremost for the treasurer of the district to assist her in performing the duties of the district treasurer. In the current guidelines there is no clause on who is responsible for the guidelines and who can amend them. It is necessary to state it clearly that it is the board of district 13 that is responsible for the guidelines, can amend them and shall have them posted on the district website.

The guidelines are rules about procedure and in order for the district board and the treasurer to be able to work efficiently it needs to be clearly stated that it is within the board's authority to amend or change the guidelines.

The proposal is put to vote and approved by the majority.

Invitation to the next district conference by lt. gov. Dorte Olesen. Centennial anniversary 2019 the D-13 conference will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 12 – 15.

Any other business.

The governor talks about Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir who is an honorary member of ZI. There are now two international honorary members from Iceland. She is a former minister, member of parliament and mayor of Reykjavík. She joined UN women and has been their representative in the Middle East. Currently she is the director of the office for ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights).

Thanks are given to the ZC Sunna who arranged this D-13 conference.

Lydia thanks the Governor and her team.

Meeting adjourned at 14:55.

Helena Guðlaug Bjarnadóttir secretary

Þóra Ákdóttir secretary

Saturday night

Dinner and entertainment at Iðnó, downtown Reykjavík

Sunday – excursion