

Minutes, Board Meeting nr. 3, March 4th 2017, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Present:

Ingibjörg Elíasdóttir (IE), governor
Dorte Olesen (DO), lieutenant governor
Lisbeth Løvenov (LL), area director area 1
Viduta Bačkierienė (VB), area director area 2
Lára G. Hansdóttir (LGH), area director area 3
Mari Ramsten Vangdal (MRV), area director area 4
Berit Birkelund (BB), treasurer
Helena G. Bjarnadóttir (HGB), secretary

Welcome: IE gives a warm welcome to the members of the board.

Approval of the agenda: Two points were added to the agenda; one from MRV and one from DO. *Agenda approved.*

Information from governor: IE reminds us about being true to Zonta's Vision. IE sent the first governor's report to D-13 liaison Lydia Chaillou in January. In the report successes and challenges were mentioned. Challenges regarding membership, retention and recruitment were an issue in the report as always. The International Board had a meeting in Vienna in connection with the 7th European Inter-district Seminar in the beginning of February. IE draws attention to a few points from ZI: Firstly there will be some changes on the ZI website in the beginning of April with the adoption of a new iMIS system for membership. After this the clubs will be able to pay online and ZI records and club records should be in sync. Secondly the ZI board reminds members that we can not take sides with political parties in the name of Zonta. Thirdly all clubs are encouraged to share their stories on the ZI web page. Fourthly IE encourages members to donate to ZIF whenever we find the opportunity. It is not in the culture of the northern countries to make individual donations and we need to work with that. Some discussions. One view that came out that we should always encourage fundraising but maybe not individual donations. Mentioned that many younger members are struggling already to pay the dues. MRV points out that instead of giving small gifts for birthdays we should donate to ZIF. IE mentioned that some clubs in Iceland donate to ZIF when someone in the club has a big birthday.

IE talked about the Vienna seminar. She suggests that we should have a budget for some participation on behalf of the board in seminars like that. Especially since they seem to be gaining status as is shown by the ZI board meeting there.

Reports from Area Directors:

Area 1, Denmark: LL sent e-mails to all the clubs in Denmark and got 8 answers out of 23. It seems to be "status quo" in membership, some clubs are gaining and others are losing members. It is difficult to get the clubs to pay 1/3 to ZIF. LL says that most of the Danish clubs are doing well. There are some problems regarding the new club in Bornholm because there are not that many members active in building the club. The clubs in Aarhus, Silkeborg and Copenhagen had bingo "Banko & Bobler" to raise funds and that seems to be a success. The local shops gave some items and they got 300 people from the streets to participate. Some clubs are repairing old handbags to sell and raise money. LL's club is taking part in a big meeting of women in June "Kvinnfolkemöde", mostly for advocacy. In some clubs the members are getting older and they do not all share ZI's vision. That can be a challenge. Some of the clubs are small but they have good club life. Most clubs are optimistic and have a good club life.

Area 2, Lithuania: The Vilnius club has 20 members at the moment but are hoping to gain 5-10 new members before the end of 2018, said VB. The Marijampole club has 22 members now, gained two last year. They raised money for two girls and they will send money to the Rose Fund when they can. They would like all women that are Zontians to have a certificate that they are Zontians. Next year the Marijampole club will pay in Danish kronas but last year they paid in NOK so they paid a little less than what they should have. There is good information about the Marijampole club on the website. In Marijampole they are making a meeting room for their meetings and are very happy about that. The club is planning to take part in the International Women's Day, Zonta Rose Day and the project "Happy Childhood" dedicated to the problem of violence against children in Lithuania with the participation of educational institutions. The Alytus club has 17 members. They engage in various activities, both with likeminded organizations and ministries, i.e. in fighting against women's poverty and supporting disabled children.

Area 3, Iceland: In Iceland the main problem seems to be retaining and gaining members. The clubs are working according to the goals. All the clubs except those two clubs in the north, report that the members are not efficient enough and don't attend the meetings. There are very few members in the club in Ísafjörður. The meetings are rather informal. LGH went there in the fall with two other engaged zontians to try to help them revive the club. She gave them slides about how meetings should/could be conducted and about the goals of the district/area. LGH is worried that the club in Ísafjörður will be disbanded. In the Reykjavík club, only half of the members attend meetings, 20 out of 40. The club Sunna is having a seminar about Endometriosa (women's Health) on the 8th of March. In Akureyri the two clubs will have seminar about young people's health on the 8th of March. Dorte points out that we need to focus on young women in business schools when there is such a school in the vicinity, and one club in Copenhagen has been coordinating that in recent years for all the Copenhagen clubs. This gives a lot of visibility for Zonta in the group of ambitious young

female students, and their teachers. In doing so good opportunities to inform about Zonta and gain members occur.

Area 4, Norway: At the leadership meeting in January the focus was on the goals for the District. That was very necessary since many of the clubs still have some old ideas about the goals. There are 232 members in the area. Women are queuing to get into to the Egersund club and MRV would like that to be more common. The Egersund club is very well known in the society and is usually asked to participate if something is going on. They have 55 members now. Most of the clubs have particular arrangements. The Egersund club gives out the "Zonta of the year" price. Women focus on the Rose Day, selling yellow roses. The clubs have different projects; Norwegian language education for female immigrants, handicraft Café (knitting) for female immigrants, free legal assistance for women, Norwegian and immigrants and helping prostitutes and drug addicts. There are some concerns though: The Bergen club has older members and they have not focused enough in recruiting younger members. The area board is doing its utmost to help them rejuvenate. They have the same problem in Aalesund. MRV said that they do absolutely not want to close the club in Bergen down. DO points out that you can put on your cv that you have had a responsibility in a Zonta club and that starts to be a selling point in your professional life. We should tell our Zonta-friends that it is fun to be a leader in Zonta, and go places and see different things. And that you get so much more than you give.

Budget and finances: Review of the 2017-2018 budget. Presentation of a draft budget 2018/19-2019/20.

BB informed the board that the financial situation is quite good. There was an unexpected income from the Selfoss club in area 3 that was disbanded in May 2016. DO suggested that a certain amount should be earmarked for the Membership Committee to go to the District Meeting in Reykjavik, in order to run a Membership Workshop and have a "face-to-face" meeting. DO points out that BB has not included the intended 5% increase in membership in the calculation of membership dues. IE says it would be a good idea to have an extra column with the 5% increase, to see what that would mean financially for the district. BB said that because the finances are in good health she will not propose a raise of dues.

LGH, had applied for a grant from the district because of a trip to Ísafjörður to help the club. In the budget there are 16.000 DKR for such projects. IE proposed that area director in area 3 would get a reimbursement of up to 5000 DK. *The proposal was approved.*

BB, treasurer, suggested that the board would propose that 40.000 DKR from the surplus in the budget would be allocated for the convention in Yokohama in 2018. Going to convention in Yokohama is bound to be very expensive. *The board approves of that proposal.*

District Membership Committee (DMC): DO gave an overview of the work of the district membership committee and she informed about the upcoming Global Membership Drive.

Liaison for D13, 20 and 21 is Helinä Karell, ZC of Helsinki II, Finland. All members of the committee are now on Skype and DO has had one to one meeting with all of the members. They also had one joint Skype meeting. ZIMC will launch a Global Membership Drive on the first of April. Information will be on the ZI website. The committee will conduct a membership workshop at the district meeting in Reykjavík and afterwards publish a small summary of the best practices and recommendations. The DMC wants to recommend that all clubs have a club membership committee that at least once a year arranges information meetings for new and prospective members and keep an eye on how members thrive. The area boards are kindly asked to help make the clubs aware of the Global Membership Drive (GMD). The DMC wants to be more visible to the members, having all the names on the District Website and being invited in all Areas to meetings between the area Boards and Area Club presidents. New material is being added to the website about membership. Preparations have started for an English speaking club in Copenhagen (a multicultural club), that is the case in Luxemburg and in formation in Brussels and surely is an option. They are also discussing Golden Z club in Copenhagen. The ZIMC recommends that DMC members should be assigned as liaisons to clubs. She asked whether it was all right with the Area Directors that DMC members or she as Chair took direct contact to Clubs in the respective areas? The answer was affirmative. She pointed out that having direct contact to all Danish clubs might be a special challenge due to the large number of clubs.

Members are encouraged to use the website and the tools under "Membership Resources". There was some discussion about e-clubs. Maybe it is possible to have members who leave a club form an e-club. MRV points out that you can maybe be an e-member rather than being in an e-clubs, i.g. if you move somewhere temporarily. The board finds this to be an interesting idea to explore further.

There is a number of membership tools at Zonta.org and that is vital part of the Global Membership Drive. The DMC committee is willing to help the AD's as needed.

Some final questions from DO: Is it realistic to have club membership committees with a joint set of tools and reasonably similar agendas in all clubs by the end of the biennium?

If we think so, how do we collaborate between the D13MC and the AD's.

Everybody on the D 13 board thinks this is good work and very interesting.

Other committees:

Nominating Committee. Governor has been in contact with the Nominating Committee. The committee is working actively in finding suitable candidates for the next board. IE has sent information to the committee about the relevant clauses in the ZI bylaws and the bylaws for district 13.

District Centennial Anniversary Committee. IE has taken contact with zontians to be on this committee and also asked the AD's to help with finding candidates in each area. This

committee will be established right after this board meeting and IE will send the relevant information to the respective ZI committee.

Foundation Ambassador. IE has had contact with her and she will come to the district meeting. MRV mentioned that the areas need more support from the Foundation Ambassador. Governor will take action.

Governor will contact all committees after the board meeting to get information about the work so far and remind them of their duties.

The District's Web site:

Proposal from BB to establish a Task Force for proofreading of website. It is proposed that one person from each area, BB and the Chair of the PR Committee form a task force for proofreading material on the web site with BB as the coordinator of this work. *Proposal approved by the board.* IE will contact those who are suggested for the task force.

Proposal from BB to appoint a District Administrator of the website. Xenia Nedergaard wants to do this voluntarily as a Zontian. All the other webmasters could then contact her if they want to put something on the website or make changes that they can not do themselves. There is confusion as to who is responsible for what. BB and IE would then write a clarification of what is the responsibility of the web master and what is the responsibility of the district administrator of the website. These suggestions to definitions of roles will be sent to the board and after approval to the persons involved. *Proposal approved by the board.*

District conference: IE introduces the draft program for the District Conference in Reykjavik in September. The registration site is almost ready and will be opened in the next few days. The conference program will be set up in the usual way. There will be a reception on Thursday evening, opening session and business sessions of Friday, dinner at a Zonta home Friday night, business sessions of Saturday and a banquet dinner on Saturday night. It will be possible to register for sight-seeing trips in connection with the conference. The theme of the conference is "Women on the move – refugees and immigrants". Note that this is a working title, it will be made more specific later in the process. The host club of the conference is the Zonta club Sunna in Hafnarfjörður.

Three workshops will be conducted on Friday afternoon. IE will take contact with prospective workshop leaders. IE informed about various Zontians she already has asked to contribute to the program.

The board was in favor of a proposal to tell about a project a Danish club has conducted in Greenland. There was also some discussion about other successful projects that might be celebrated at the conference. Governor will take action regarding that matter.

Information for First Timers and Delegates: IE suggested that existing information will be sent out to First Timers and Delegates before the district conference. Former gov. Eva Nielsen made thorough information documents before the last district conference and this is the information IE wants to use again. DO points out that Roberts Rules need to be mentioned. *The board agrees on using the existing documents.*

Governing documents of D-13:

Reimbursement guidelines. IE and BB have reviewed the guidelines and have some suggestions for amendments. Discussion about guidelines in general and that the board should prepare and adopt guidelines when and if they need to be made.

District 13 Bylaws. Bylaws and resolution's chair is reviewing the bylaws adopted in Legoland in 2015. She will make her suggestions for simplification and/or clarification of the bylaws, articles in the bylaws, as she sees fit, and send to the board. Some discussion. Governor clarified that the bylaws are now being reviewed in order to establish if there is a need for changes or not. The board will take that discussion via e-mail later in the spring.

Situation in D-13, overview:

Chartering of Zonta club of Greve, area 1, will be on April 1st. Governor will not be able to attend because of the area meeting in Iceland the same day. DO and LL will be the official representatives of the D13 board.

Review of the goals and the work in the four areas: All AD's report that clubs are aware of the goals and are working towards achieving them. Areas and clubs continue the campaign "Zonta says no to violence". Participation in that project is increasing year by year. It was discussed that the board needs to emphasize that 1/3 of funds raised should be donated to ZI. IE will work on getting information about donations from District 13 to ZIF.

Overall assessment: District 13 working quite successfully towards the district goals.

District calendar:

Area meetings.	Iceland April 1 st . Lithuania April 21 st and October 14 th . Denmark September 30 th . Norway, in Reykjavík during the district meeting in September, 16 th or 17 th . AD in area 4 and gov. will find out a suitable time.
Charterfest, Greve.	April 1 st 2017.
Board meetings:	September 14 th , final preparations for the District Conference. September 17 th , short meeting with the ZI liaison.

Joint meeting of the two boards, incoming and outgoing, spring 2018.
-April 27th - 29th 2018, Marijampole, Lithuania? IE and BB will explore possibilities and take care of the logistics.

Any other business:

MRV: The club from Egersund in area 3 was giving a lot of money to ZIF and received thank you letters by the post. They would like to suggest to the ZI board that it is enough and appropriate to send an e-mail to say thank you and thus saving on paper and postage and then the saved money could be used for something more important. The board agrees with that note. *Governor will contact the liaison to District 13 with the proposition.*

DO suggests that the next district conference after Reykjavík will be held in Copenhagen, where there are many suitable hotels and conference sites. There are already two hotel owners who are Zontians who could help with this. The conference could be held at the Tivoli Hotel and Conference Centre. One of the Zontians who organized the conference in Billund has volunteered to help organizing the conference in 2019. Historically it makes sense to celebrate the centennial anniversary in Copenhagen. The board is in agreement with It.gov. DO on this matter.

Governor thanked the board for an informative and productive meeting. Meeting adjourned at 16:00.

Helena Guðlaug Bjarnadóttir secretary.