



Kari Vieth
District Governor 2008 - 2010

Dear Zontians in District 13

The first months of the current Biennium have already past by, and the year 2008 is coming to its end. It is time for a short glimpse of activities of the past weeks and months.

Area meetings in Denmark and Norway

It was a great experience to go to the Area meetings in Esbjerg and Haugesund in September. A special thanks to the arranging Clubs and to the Area Directors Ruth Juul Høgh and Brit Haave, who led those meetings with efficiency and professionalism.

The Area Meetings gave me an opportunity to listen and learn, to meet old friends and get to know new ones - but also to meet outstanding young women who received Zonta awards.

In Esbjerg a young student from Denmark received the Young Women in Public Administration Award (YWPA).

A young Social Worker from Esbjerg was elected "Woman of the year" and given a fine price.

In Haugesund the Area meeting decided to give 50.000 Nok to ZIF Rose Fund!!

District 13's very active Foundation Ambassador Aud Aakre, appealed to us to

District 13
Area 1 Denmark
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Governor's info

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"save a cup of Coffee or tea" for Zonta. In a Year this makes a lot of money!

One of the key-speakers in Haugesund – a Zontien –told about the importance of winning the Amelia Erhard Award (AE) when she was a young ph.d. student in Serbia. She is now working as a successful Engineer in Norway.

In 2008, District 13 got a new AE award winner: A young woman taking her ph.d. in nuclear science, at the University of Oslo. The Zonta Club of Oslo 1 will take care of the celebration, and give her the AE wing and the Diploma.

I would like to remind you, that Zonta (ZIF) gives 35 AE scholarships (\$US 10.000 each) this biennium. An important help to " Advance the status of women" – which we as Zontiens shall be very proud of.!

Zonta International –ZI board and ZIF board

This Fall the Contract of Excutive Director Janet Halsted ended. For the time being, former ZI Director Judy Johnston is Acting Executive Director for Headquarters. Lisa Noack, Executive Assistant at Headquarters has also just resigned her position. Lisa has a.o. been working very actively, planning the last 3 Conventions. Both Janet and Lisa have been helpful to us as new Governors

On Nov. 25, all Club Presidents and Governors , got a special letter from President Beryl Sten. The letter said:

"The Zonta International has acted in its capacity as Sole member of the Zonta

International Foundation, to remove some of the individual members from the Zonta International Foundation. The Foundation's Bylaws permit this action."

To be accurate, ZI removed all elected members of the ZIF board, and only the present ZI president and ZI president-elect stays.

The ZI board is in its full right to what they did, according to bylaws. The board is obliged to secure Zontas assets, if they feel that is necessary. But let me point out, there is no fraud etc. involved in this case.

The letter from Beryl Sten was sent to more than 1200 Club Presidents all over the world, which led to many questions and remarks from the Members.

You can find Beryl letter and answer to FAQ's on www.Zonta.org or District 13's homepage www.district13.org under "news".

The disagreement has much to do with the handling of the sale of the old Zonta Building, (belonging to ZIF but rented out, at least partially to ZI office) -and the purchase of a new Condominium.

I got the clear impression at the Governors training in Chicago in February, and also at Convention, that there was a general understanding that the old Zonta building does not meet Zontas requirement any more.

The information about the issue ZI/ZIF, has, as I mentioned, raised comments and questions from members and Clubs. Beryl Sten writes in her letter to the Governors, Dec. 2nd, "that the communication about the case could have been more clear". Beryl has promised to keep us updated.

I have sent Beryl's letter to AD's and asked them to forward it to the Club presidents. You can find Beryl's letter on www.zontadistrict13.org under "news".

As Kirsten Theisen (Copenhagen 3) is no longer a member of the ZIF board, I would like to thank her for being a very active "ambassador" for the international projects. She has for years, and with great enthusiasm

and knowledge, visited Clubs etc. telling about the projects - and the need for us to help.

Let us go on supporting Zonta's projects and Funds. Our support is needed and necessary for many underprivileged women !!

The district board meeting in Copenhagen

The first district board meeting took place in Copenhagen at the beginning of October. All board members were present, and I am happy to say, that we had a positive and dynamic weekend together. We decided among other things the Districts goals for this biennium.

For the first 6 month of this Biennium, we have status quo regarding number of Clubs and members.

Today we have over 1200 members in 44 clubs (incl. Golden Z Club), and we want to make Zonta grow. The Board has therefore decided, that the goals shall be realistic, and measurable.

The Goals for 2008-2010 are:

1. 2 new Clubs (net)
2. 30 new members (net)
3. All 4 AD's making leadership training, visiting Clubs
4. Donation of US \$ 100.000 to ZIF
5. New improved Home Page for District 13
6. Reduce the number of Clubs with less than 20 members to under 4 Clubs
7. 2 Clubs shall have more than 40 members

Problems with the home page

Getting the District 13 homepage to function well, has been, and still is a problem. Our Active Web master has worked hard- but the page needs a full service check. We will work on that. Last week the homepage was "down", because our "Maintenance firm", by mistake, had closed it. Improvement needs to be done. We can get good inspiration from Norway and Iceland. They already have nice Homepages.

The new by-laws –delayed

At Convention in Rotterdam, new by-laws were ratified. The bylaws, promised in

October, have been delayed from headquarters. They are expected to be printed and published in January, along with the 2008-2010 directory

The interdistrict seminar in Bonn in February 2009

The 3rd European Interdistrict seminar takes place in Bonn 13-15 February 2009.

The topic is, "Zontas way forward: How to implement womens rights". I am responsible for arranging one of the 5 workshops: "Visibility –how to make Zonta and Zontas Vision better known in a world where branding is so important".
A very important issue!!

Poula Helt, authour and management consultant from Denmark, will be the key speaker. Poula is a member of the Zonta Club of Frederiksberg. I am pleased to tell, that 140 Zontiens from all over Europe will participate. All 8 European Governors will be there – and so will President Beryl Sten.

The international Zonta meetings are very good experiences, giving input and inspiration about the challenges and possibilities we are facing in Zonta today.
And the meetings give a good opportunity to network and to meet new Zontiens.

Zonta - 90 Years in 2009

Of course you all know this, but I find it suitable to end my News Letter by quoting ZI´s homepage:

Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta members volunteer their time, talents and money to local and international service projects, as well as scholarship and award programs aimed at furthering women's education, leadership and youth development.

More than ever, I think it is important to remember that we have a task to do and a vision to work for. Lets look to the future and

work for the " well being" of this 90 year "old lady".

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

Best regards

Kari Vieth

Governor