



Kari Vieth
District Governor 2008 - 2010

Governor's Info.

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Dear Zontians in District 13

The District Conference 2009

The big event since my last newsletter, has been the District Conference in Roskilde –the last weekend in September. Roskilde Zonta Club was the host club. Club President Ella Schuman, together with the board and the other club members, did a marvellous job, working hard to make the conference a success.

155 Zontians from Norway, Iceland, Lithuania and Denmark came to Roskilde. We met old friends, got new ones, shared nice experiences, such as: “get together” at Ledreborg Castle, dinners at beautiful Zonta homes, and a “farewell dinner”, at Comwell Hotel with 140 Zontians.

And it was possible to learn about Roskilde's fascinating history and join guided tours to the Viking ship museum and Roskilde Cathedral – where the Kings and Queens are buried.

President Elect Zonta International, Dianne Curtis had specially wanted to come to our District Conference. – Dianna gave her message from President Beryl Sten and pointed out in her own speech, the importance of supporting the Zonta International service projects, but also to set realistic goals.

Many zontians got the chance to talk to Dianne, finding her friendly, open and eager to talk about Zonta and to listen and learn about the district.

Diannes parents came from Norway! And she loves “lefse”, this special Norwegian, potato pancake.

“Women can”

We named the Conference, “Women can” because we wanted to set focus on womens potentials, possibilities and challenges.

The three key speakers, Hotelowner Sandra Weinert, Hotel Guldsmeden, geophysist Catherine Fox Maule and “adventurer” on the Vikingship Havhingsten, Susanne Malmström, gave us their stories about entrepreneurship, how to go from vision to reality, and what it means to work as a female scientist in a “mans world”.

Keywords in their achievements are: Determination, seeing challenges as possibilities instead of obstacles and having the ability to change and adopt to new circumstances. Keywords which also are useful in branding Zonta !

Sandra and Susanne are, by the way, -zontians.

You can find their interesting PPP. on the District 13 home page, www.zontadistrict13.org (Roskilde 2009).

Zonta makes a difference

Zontians from all four areas gave examples of where Zonta has made a difference in women's lives. Four examples out of many, where Zonta and clubs in District 13 have helped to "advance the status of women".

Crisis Center in Iceland

AD Ingibjörg Eliasdóttir, from Iceland, told us about "Empowering women at Stigamot Crisis Center". All seven Clubs in Iceland played an important role fundraising for the center. Services are free of charge, and Stigamót receives today economical support from the government and from Zonta. The center has been in front, fighting against all forms of violence against women in Iceland.

College for single mothers in Denmark

Merete Dick (Copenhagen 3) spoke about the "Alexandra College" for single mothers with small children. Zonta clubs in Denmark have given financial support to these young women, helping them to get an education and "get off" social

welfare. They often come from broken homes with violence and abuse. It is therefore impressive that 90% of them have left the Alexandra college with an education or training, making the fit for the jobmarket. The College is named after princess Alexandra (now countess Alexandra – honorary member of Copenhagen 1).

Zonta has through lobbying and "The Alexandra College Association", succeeded in getting "political attention" to the need for such colleges, but also to get financial support from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Amelia Earhart Awards helped a young student to finish her ph.d

Annelise Velde from Norway, told us about the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award, which helped a young student from Serbia, to finish her Ph.d. studies in engineering. Ljiljana received the AE award twice, at a period in her life when she was not sure if she could afford to finish her studies, being a single mother with a small child. Zonta made this possible for her! She is today an active member of Haugesund Zonta Club, and has a leading position as an engineer.

The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships were established in 1938 in honor of Amelia Earhart, famed pilot and member of the Zonta Clubs of Boston and New York. The Fellowships are made annually to women pursuing graduate PhD/doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences and engineering. (ZIF gives 36 AE awards of 10.000USD each, in this biennium.)

Zonta “university” in Lithuania

Irena Ivanauskiene from the Alytus Zonta club, told us about democracy and equal rights for women in Lithuania.

The Zonta clubs in Lithuania have several projects focusing on these issues:

“Development of girls’ and women’s social skills, self esteem and democracy”, “Zonta women for themselves and for Lithuania”, etc.

Irena is today working as Head of Regional Economics and Social development Division, for the Alytus County Governor’s administration. At first she was not sure she could manage this leadership challenge and responsibility. Irena expressed it in this way:” *I am therefore very grateful to the women of the Zonta organization who encouraged me saying - Irena you can! I am also sure that my career would have been quite different if I had not acquired the valuable experience of social activities and support at Zonta “University”.*

You can find the reports on,
www.zontadistrict13.org (Roskilde 2009)

YWPA international winner

YWPA international winner Ida Marie Sørensen from Denmark received the diploma and check of 4025,00 US dollars from the District and Zonta International Foundation. AD Ruth Juul Høgh, Denmark, also gave her - on behalf of the Area Board - a scholarship of 5000 D.kr.

A nice, financial support to a young, bright woman, who just has begun her studies of political science at Copenhagen

University. Ida gave us an inspiring speech about her vision to “do a difference” in the world.

The Young Women in Public Affairs Awards (YWPA) encourage young women who have demonstrated leadership skills and interest in civic causes to continue pursuing their dreams.

Ida was chosen among 12 candidates from Denmark. I hope we shall get candidates from the other areas too - next year.



AD Ruth Juul Høgh giving Ida the check and flowers from Area Denmark, while Governor Kari Vieth is watching. Ida was the district and ZI international winner of YWPA - but the Area also wanted to celebrate her.

The foundation ambassador

Our foundation ambassador Aud Aakre put focus on violence against women and ZI international service projects. She collected 950 USD in her “give a cup of coffee for Zonta”, cup. The money has been sent to ZIF Rose fund.

The District 13 business session

The district conference also has a business agenda, where important issues and decisions are voted upon. Minutes of the meeting has just been sent to all zontians at the conference, and you can find it on our homepage
www.zontadistrict13.org

I will therefore just mention a few decisions here:

The new district Board 2010/2012

The following were elected:

Governor: Ragnheidur Hansdottir
Lt. Governor: Brit Haave
Treasurer: Fjola Björk Jonsdottir
Vice treasurer: Karen Bredgaard Lassen
Auditor: Sigrídur Jonsdottir
Vice auditor: Grete Jensen

District/ int. Nomination Committee:

Helga Finsdottir (chairman)
Margareta S. Johnsson
Nina Allin

Change of By Laws – Zonta International board meetings

Proposition: Esbjerg Zonta Club.
The purpose of the Amendment was, “to assure that any interested Zontian will have very prompt access to all the decisions made by the ZI or ZIF board, but not access to the minutes themselves, or to the discussion at the meetings”.

The motion was passed and has been sent to the ZI Bylaws and Resolution Committee.

4 “Scholarships” for Convention in San Antonio 2010

Proposition: The Board of District 13.
The motion was passed, that each area gets 10.000 D.kr. to support a Zontian who wants to go to Convention in Texas. To be qualified, the candidate shall

have been member of a Zonta Club no less than two and max six years, has shown great engagement in Zonta, been dedicated and proved a high level of activity in club life. The Candidate cannot be a delegate. Applications shall be sent to AD,s with arguments why the Zontian is a candidate. (deadline Dec. 15th) The District Board will select the four winners and inform them no later than February 1st – in due time for registration to Convention.

Focus on the Goals for this biennium 2 new Clubs

D-13 has 44 Clubs – and the goal is 2 new clubs net. I am optimistic about getting one or two new Clubs in Denmark – Skagen and Ikast. Lithuania is also working on a new club, but that is not “just around the corner”.

30 new members net

We have a goal of 30 new members net (1190 members in the district). There has been a net loss of 17 members in one year (8 died). I am confident that we shall be able to change that, as many clubs are working hard to get new members. Keeping members and getting new ones is therefore a main target for the district.

Clubs with less than 20 members

Reducing the number of clubs with less than 20 members to under 4 clubs is also a goal. There are 7 clubs with less than 20 members: 4 in Norway, 2 in Lithuania, 1 in Denmark. All clubs in Iceland have more than 20 members.

3 Clubs have more than 40 members:
Reykjavik, Copenhagen 1, Copenhagen 2.

Donation of USD 100.000 to ZIF

The status is, that we have collected more than half of it, with Norway clearly ahead. If ZIF shall have sufficient money for the International Service Projects, we need to send money. According to bylaws we are expected to send 35% of collected service money to ZIF.

D-13 has contributed, with 45 % of the voluntary dues (15 USD) approved upon at the 2008 Convention in Rotterdam.

Thanks to the many members and clubs who have generously given money to ZI and The international service projects!

The focus is on:

- Getting more new members - and clubs
- Retaining members - good leadership is essential on all levels.
- More focus on Zontas mission and ZI/ZIF international projects
- Donations –we need money to help and pursue our goals.
- Visibility and branding Zonta – PR -making Zonta the favorite "membership" organization
- Networking

New Improved Home Page for D-13?

The homepage is "homemade" and needs to be more up to date. This will cost money, and I will look into that matter together with the District Web Master Biola Akinde.

Let's celebrate

I know that many clubs will mark Zonta's 90th birthday, which we can celebrate until November 2010. Our Founder Marian de Forest envisioned 90 years ago a strong network, that would help women reach their rightful place in the professions. Zonta is and should be such a network!



My own club Copenhagen 1, the oldest in the district, will be 75 years in 2010. We also have much to celebrate - which of course we will do!

And finally

The financial crises has been tough on our district – especially in Iceland and Lithuania. I am very impressed about the hard work Zontians are doing to support service projects, but also to focus on clubs and members. We should be proud of all our fine achievements!

I would like to thank you all for having distributed in so many different ways to help district 13 advancing "the Status of Women!"

"Women Could -Women can"!

Best regards

Kari Vieth

Governor

The District 13 Board together with Dianne Curtis

From left to right: Governor Kari Vieth, AD Maryte Balkeliene, treasurer Sigridur Jonsdottir, Lt. Governor Ragnheidur Hansdottir, AD Brit Haave, Ingibjörg Eliasdottir, secretary Inge Egeskiold, President Elect Dianne Curtis, AD Ruth Juul Høgh



Galla dinner at Comwell Hotel



Zontians from Iceland - singing a
song – welcoming us to the,

District Conference 2011 in Akureyri

