

International Inner Wheel

MINUTES of the Governing Body Meeting

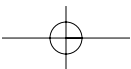
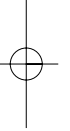
held at

Mere Court Hotel and Conference Centre, Mere, Cheshire U.K

1 October– 4 October 2007

Headquarters Office:

Stafford Court
Washway Road
SALE
Cheshire M33 7PE
United Kingdom



**MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING held at Mere Court
Hotel and Conference Centre, Mere, Cheshire U.K
1 October– 4 October 2007**

PRESENT:	Kamala Ramakrishnan	President, in the chair
	Suzanne Hem Neilsen	Vice-President
	Janet Day	Immediate Past
President	Doris Johnsen	Treasurer
	Shirley Hope	Constitution Chairman

BOARD DIRECTORS

Gabriella Adami	Olufunmilayo Adesina
Carolyn Brown	Charlotte De Vos
Ulla Eloranta	Norma Friar
Annelise Gyl Dahl Jensen	Ursula Kobriger
Ann Kvist-Walter	Eleonore Naef
Rose-Marie Nikolakopoulou	Carolyn Riches
Almond Royds	Karin Rydja-Lindahl
Doris Stolz	Sophie van den Berg

Elaine Hathaway

Secretary, in attendance.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

President Kamala welcomed everyone to the Governing Body Meeting. She first welcomed her colleagues on the Executive Committee, Vice President Suzanne, Immediate. Past President Janet, Treasurer Doris and Constitution Chairman Shirley. She said that sitting by her side, they will be her source of strength and she looked forward to their support and wise counsel. She extended a warm welcome to Secretary Elaine who has worked hard organizing this meeting and has also kept the administration smoothly running on well-oiled wheels!! The President also extended a special welcome to those who will be attending a governing body meeting for the first time and will take back special memories of time together. She also warmly welcomed those who had served on the Board last year and said it was her pleasure to meet them all again.

President Kamala also said that the members had all travelled distances to be at the meeting and hoped they were comfortably rested. She hoped that the evening together, the day before, would have done a lot to break ice and also hoped that they had all enjoyed the fellowship and were all set for the next few days of serious deliberations.

She also said it was her duty to remind them that they have been elected as Board Directors to an international office. She requested them to think internationally and deliberate and take decisions in the interests of International Inner Wheel. She also said that they bring to the table their great experience as leaders of Inner Wheel in their own countries. Their experience was of special value and their knowledge will benefit International Inner Wheel. She also requested them to respect confidentiality and not talk outside this forum about anything that will not be reported in the minutes.

She requested all the members to feel free to participate in this meeting and express their views whenever they wish to. If they have any problems during the meeting with understanding anything she requested them to feel free to ask for clarification. The aim she said was to have a successful meeting in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, a meeting that would help Inner Wheel move forward.

She also wished to use this opportunity to thank everyone who had sent her cards, letters and emails of congratulations and best wishes. The Inner Wheel theme has been received with far greater enthusiasm than she had expected and seemed to be motivating members to do what she had aimed for – Communicate Our Vision.

President Kamala announced the sad news that IIW has been notified about the death of Past President - Britt Fjellander - She requested the members to stand for a few minutes in silence as an acknowledgement of her contribution to our Organization.

1. Apologies:

None

2. Minutes of Governing Body Meeting held at De Vere Grande, Jersey 11 October – 14 October 2006 accepted after the following correction.

Correction page 16 Move Anne Fryer's congratulations to Shirley Hope and insert below the election result 3 sentences down.

Proposed by Almond Royds
Seconded by Charlotte de Vos

CARRIED

3. Matters Arising:

None

4. Correspondence:

None

5. Reports:

(i) President

The President reported that if someone were to ask her what she would say were her most important preparations before taking over and in the first months of her Presidential year, she would probably say – writing messages since everyone seemed to want messages. She has also been receiving a lot of mail, some congratulatory, some on the theme and some with queries. She felt that there seems to have been a number of natural disasters and a lot of mail had gone out to affected countries sharing with them their pain and sorrow. She has received mail from the National Representatives of the countries receiving the mail thanking IIW for sharing their sorrow!!

She has been very happy with the way the Executive has been able to address queries this year. The executive has been able to give their views immediately, come to a consensus and Elaine been instructed on the reply, all within a few days. Having the constitutional Chairman on the committee has also helped enormously on this point.

President Kamala said the IIW Social Project with the UNICEF- Global Education for Girls has been attracting a lot of donations. It had been decided at the beginning of the year that the Vice President will handle the project and the President announced that Vice President Suzanne will talk about it shortly. A lot of final decisions regarding the Convention were being put into place and would be announced shortly.

(ii) Treasurer

Presentation of the 2006/7 Accounts

Before she presented the Accounts and the Budget for consideration the Treasurer reported that her predecessor Beatrice Lapham had passed all documents and papers to her and had been a tremendous help in ensuring a smooth handover. The bank regulation paperwork took place in July 2007. There are tougher restrictions now because of laws against money laundering and other irregularities. Because of these it was necessary to send to the Auditor a very detailed letter acknowledging the Treasurer's responsibilities for making accurate representations to them for our Accounts and showing how we conduct our finances. A document received from the Auditor showed the firm is governed by the bye-laws, regulations and ethical guidelines of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. This listed their responsibility when preparing the International Inner Wheel Financial Statement.

The annual subscription to the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna have been paid.

The Treasurer proposed the acceptance of her Report

Seconded Carolyn Brown
CARRIED

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2007. She explained that this was her first financial report. And she thanked her

predecessor Beatrice Lapham for all her help and to the Auditor John Moss for his help and advice.

She explained that the total income of £403,819.00 was £118,758.00 more than the previous year because of the increase of the Capitation Fee which showed the figure of £285,061.00. Income from the Capitation Fees rose to £343,440.00, £108,793.00 more than the previous year. However membership continued to decline and was 98,061 at the end of the year. Expenditure for the year was £356,604.00 an increase of £28,153.00 over the year ending June 2006 (£328,451.00) because of the higher costs particularly for publications, accommodation and administration.

The General Reserve showed a figure of £770,264.00, £ 40,750.00 more than the previous year. Deposit interest increased to £36,723.00 which was £5,257.00 more than the previous year.

The Treasurer moved the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended June 2007

Seconded by Olufunmilayo Adesina

CARRIED

Budget for 2008/09

The Treasurer presented the Budget explaining that despite an increase in Capitation fees the organisation would still be showing a deficit. She explained that the cost of the biannual Newsletters swallowed the majority of the capitation fee in printing and distribution costs. She also explained that postal charges had risen twice in the year so far. She explained that because it would be a Convention year the budget had to reflect the additional costs relating to that event – for example the higher legal fees from consulting the Lawyer.

The Treasurer was firmly of the opinion that savings would have to be made and she looked to all areas to help achieve that. Although there was a surplus in 2006/2007 this was because of the capitation fee increase and she stated that the large number of fixed costs always had to be met. Her conclusion was that the organisation must be very frugal and careful.

The Treasurer moved the acceptance of the 2008/2009 Budget.

Seconded by Carolyn Riches

CARRIED

The Treasurer proposed that John W Hirst & Co be re-appointed as Auditors and Accountants for the Inner Wheel year 2007/2008.

Seconded by Ann Kvist-Walter

CARRIED

(iii) Editor –the Secretary read the Report submitted by the Editor

The Editor stated that editing her first issue of the IIW Newsletter had been a stimulating and challenging experience. There had been no shortage of copy

but much of it had come in the form of bullet points and not as anything approaching publishable articles. Where the material had been well prepared she had published it as written, usually within quotation marks. Otherwise, she had re-written it, linking together items with similar subjects, and trying to make it as readable as possible. In all cases she sought to avoid the use of words and phrases which are not comprehensible to English-speaking readers. Throughout she had striven to make the Newsletter as readable as possible with larger photographs than previously, in the hope that members might be encouraged to read about activities in districts other than their own.

She had not altered in any way the articles submitted by members of the IIW Executive.

The draft issue 30 had been produced in QuarkXpress, font Humanist 777, point size 7.8, in PDF format with the pictures in CMYK format, as required by the printer. This should mean that Dixon Target print it straight from her CDs with no input from them. They told her that this should mean a reduction in the cost of printing. She hoped very much that this would be so. The cover design was not quite complete as she was still awaiting the delivery of some software to finish it.

She explained that she took the reports up to the end of the Inner Wheel Year to minimise confusion of reports and pictures of two IIW Presidents in the same issue, apart, of course, from the President's message. As a result she already had some copy for the next issue and stated she was very much looking forward to working on it and learning more about the amazing work that the members do throughout the world. She had already discussed a possible cover with President Kamala and very much looked forward to benefiting from the technical expertise of President Kamala's graphic designers in India in helping to design it.

Proposed by Karin Rydja- Lindahl
Seconded by Doris Stolz

CARRIED

(iv) Extension

The Immediate Past President/Extension Co-ordinator presented the following report:

She stated that we all knew that 'extension' meant growth and she was sure that the every member wished to see the membership of International Inner Wheel expand steadily. However the potential for expansion differed greatly from country to country and that was why we must elect our Extension officers with great care. They must be aware of their areas, have a good rapport with Rotarians and the Rotary District Governor and Extension officer; they should have a good understanding of the IIW Constitution, be enthusiastic and do their best to promote Inner Wheel at every possible opportunity. They must also be aware of the clubs in their District, and their 'state of health', as that was also an important part of their responsibility. She commented that perhaps this was a 'tall order' but there was a large band of supporters behind them in the form of their District Executive Committees and the members of

their District – all of whom were potential Extension ambassadors in their own right.

She felt that enthusiasm and good communication skills were the key to all this for we must attract new members by infecting them with enthusiasm and projecting the enjoyment derived from the Friendships we gained and the Personal Service that was given.

Many Clubs recognised this and had appointed their own 'Ambassador', often an experienced member - perhaps the IPP - who also made sure that new and prospective members were looked after and the various aspects and involvements of the Club explained to them.

She explained that some countries were doing very well, and that last year we had Chartered 50 new Clubs with 784 founder members, that we had our first Club in Thailand giving us great potential and interest in that country. She explained that the enthusiasm of members in those new Clubs was infectious and they had a vision and were eager to play a full and meaningful part in all that IIW stands for. However in some other countries, often where Inner Wheel had been established for many years, this was not the case and, with ageing members who were unable or unwilling to change, Clubs were disbanding. Fortunately some members transferred to nearby Clubs where they could again be actively involved and sometimes after a few years new Clubs formed in those areas with new and younger members bringing fresh and updated ideas.

She reiterated that District Officers and particularly Extension Officers had a responsibility to watch for signs of Clubs experiencing problems and should carefully offer help and advice at the earliest opportunity. Difficulties in finding Officers could usually be resolved with open discussion, possibly reminding the members of the **Objects of Inner Wheel** and why they joined originally. Finding one or two new members could inject new enthusiasm into an ailing Club and they, as with new Clubs, then needed to be nurtured and encouraged whilst they become established and learn. She said it was important to found new Clubs and attract new Members but it was equally important that we worked to retain our existing Clubs and Members which will then ensure strong, lively and healthy Clubs for the future – remember, Support gives Strength.

Last year Members enthusiastically Showed that they Cared through Friendship and Service which included caring for their Clubs and fellow Members and this year she asked them to work to the IIW Theme 'Communicate our Vision' – this was certainly a focus for Extension and retention which, she was sure, Members everywhere would apply with great zeal and extend the opportunity to others to be involved in worthwhile service activities, extending the friendship and, most importantly, the enjoyment.

She explained that membership categories had widened enormously over the past seven years and she urged everyone to remind themselves of them, to look at their families and friends, for they may well be interested in joining if members talked about this wonderful organisation enthusiastically, explaining the difference that they could make to the lives of the poor, sick, malnourished, uneducated and generally neglected people around the world, when fully involved in Inner Wheel. IPP Janet urged that members should follow the Rotarians example and wear their lapel badge with pride at every opportunity – they would be surprised at the interest it would bring, giving the

opportunity to '**Communicate our Vision**'. After all, she reminded everyone that International Inner Wheel was, most probably, the largest women's Voluntary Service organisation in the world.

She reiterated that the Founder, Mrs Margarette Golding, was not so much concerned about the liberation of women as giving women the opportunity to liberate others. Paul Harris, the founder of **Rotary**, understood this and was a great supporter of Inner Wheel; together with encouraging the close relationship with Rotary, he could see the benefits of Inner Wheel - working together with Rotary whilst retaining independence. IPP Janet said she had been heartened to hear many Rotarians say how proud they are of their Inner Wheel Club and that Rotary would not achieve so much without the help and support of their corresponding Inner Wheel Club.

She suggested that whenever the opportunity arose, working with Rotary brought a better understanding all-round and a chance to meet and get to know female Rotarians and family members of those Rotarians who do not have an Inner Wheel connection. Good communication was a key factor – the more information and understanding of Inner Wheel given to Rotary Clubs should, in time, lead to healthy growth.

She explained that we were greatly indebted to Rotarians who had taken the initiative in promoting and causing Inner Wheel Clubs to form – in Hatyai, Thailand 10 of the founder Members were Rotarians who saw the benefits of Inner Wheel and the enormous amount of good that would come to that country in the foreseeable future with Rotary & Inner Wheel working together.

She explained that Extension should always be in the forefront of member's minds; keeping in contact with Rotary to learn of new members; offering to help with their activities and asking them for help when necessary. Many District Chairmen were invited to speak at the Rotary District Conference – if this was not so in every District, she said that they should contact the Governor, flatter him and offer themselves as a speaker, if he realised that this is usual practice in many Districts he would not want to be the odd one out. An Inner Wheel booth at the Conference also provided good publicity within the organisations.

From Reports and Minutes, she said, it was very obvious that Members were supporting every known charitable cause and bringing hope and comfort to all manner of adverse situations. She explained that it was quite humbling to read of the tremendous personal service – some of which she was privileged to witness during her visits last year – which members gave and which is ongoing – so many acts of kindness, generously given and quietly performed – she commended their dedication to the tasks and challenges which she considered truly amazing.

Publicity and promotion via the media, in any form, was encouraged; so many projects and fundraising events undertaken were newsworthy and it was heart-warming to read and hear of them instead of the bad news which is reported so frequently.

The New Members/Information Brochure, which was introduced last year in English, was now available from HQ in French, Spanish and Japanese – it is also available, in downloadable form, from the IIW web-site together with a version in Italian – these have been so useful and have proved to be very successful at awareness days, fund-raising events and, of course at Rotary

Conventions and Conferences. The IIW Newsletter was also an excellent means of publicity at those events. The Web-site had had a total overhaul during the past year with a great deal of information projected on it; various forms and information now downloadable and more use would be made of it in the future. ; She said it was updated regularly which was of major importance. There were also many excellent Association, National Council, District and Club web-sites available most of which provide valuable information for Members as well promoting IW to the general public. However some contained out of date details and she reminded National Representatives that it was their responsibility to check those sites ensuring that the details were correct.

She continued to say that Inner Wheel really was a success story written by women about women whose aim for over 80 years has been the ideals of Friendship; Personal Service and International Understanding and she strongly urged members everywhere to promote those Inner Wheel Objects – the basis of the organisations success. She reminded everyone that participation enhanced enjoyment of Membership so Members needed to diversify and explore different avenues of service in this every changing world. Without Rotary and our Founder members we would not be here today, however without new members we will certainly not be here tomorrow and many millions of people will suffer accordingly.

In the words of a Founder Member of many years ago (she quoted) “Whatever changes may take place it is hard to imagine a world where kindness and thought for others will not be needed – kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can read’ All our members understand this language – it is part of their being.

STATISTICS

Extension work carried out since July 2007:-

- Many enquiries and contacts had been made and received all of which had been followed up and information packs sent where applicable.
- Charters have been sent to 3 new Clubs in Pakistan and 1 in Hungary.
- Notification of disbandment of Clubs had been received from:- G.B. & I, 18; Jamaica, 1; USA, 2.
- Following the success of the IIW Booth at the Rotary International Convention held in Salt Lake City USA last June an application had been made to the RI Convention Committee 2008 in Los Angeles USA.
- The pictorial emphasis for that booth will be placed on ‘Rotary & Inner Wheel working together’ and she asked everyone to look for good photographs which emphasised this clearly. Please send them, via your National Representative, either to Headquarters at admin@innerwheel.com or to Janet Day at janetdayiiw@tesco.net . It was felt to be very important that Rotarians saw what could be achieved. An IIW Booth at the R.I. Convention with the Immediate Past President in attendance and Administrator/Secretary, when possible, was a valuable P.R. exercise providing a significant opportunity for Extension and promoting IIW.

She concluded that we had been daily bombarded by gloomy news from around the world. However Inner Wheel provided a bright ray of sunshine and International Inner Wheel was a success story because individually and sincerely each member was deeply concerned that tomorrow could be a finer time in which to live. Members probably did not consciously think of the service that they give – in fact few, if any did. Nevertheless, past members had proved themselves to be forward-looking, *caring* people and present members proved it daily. The fate of the organisation tomorrow lay, not in the hands of any Association of it, nor in those of its Officers, Districts and Clubs but in the Members who, she sincerely hoped, would feel inspired throughout all the years of their membership

**TO PROMOTE TRUE FRIENDSHIP
ENCOURAGE THE IDEALS OF PERSONAL SERVICE
and FOSTER INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.**

Immediate Past President Janet proposed the adoption of her report.

Seconded by Sophie Van Den Berg

CARRIED

(v) United Nations

The Vice-President presented the following report on behalf of the UN Representatives

Most sessions don't start until the beginning of October, so I have only received reports from New York, Erle Andersen and Geneva, Christiane Nicole.

With only two reports I find it difficult to limit myself, so I don't know what to do, when I get reports from all our Representatives, even if I am looking forward to that, and I really am. Reading the reports you become aware of the fact that members of IIW our UN Representatives are helping to keep the world's attention upon the various kind of problems.

Convention ratification:

Erle Andersen writes that the General Assembly, by its resolution of November 1989, adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on January 1990 and entered into force on September 2, 1990. As of June 30, 2007 the Convention had been ratified by 193 states. On May 25, 2000 the Assembly adopted two optional protocols to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict. These had been ratified by 116 States and signed by 122 States. The optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been ratified by 121 States and signed by 115 States.

Climate change agreement:

Deputy Secretary General New York address urges Non Governmental Organizations to build grass-roots support for breakthrough climate change agreement.

Cholera Outbreak:

At the moment there is a cholera outbreak in Iraq. There have been reported 5.000 cases since August 10 with 10 death reported. Two hospitals in another

part of Iraq have reported about 2,000 diarrhoea cases. UNICEF has delivered medical supplies including 15,000 sachets of rehydration salt and 4,000 safe water kits.

The Rights of the Child

During its 46th session the Committee on the Rights of the Child will examine the situation of children in Sierra Leone and Venezuela. The states will present a complete report about all that concern children's life: family, health, education, justice, protection and so on.

States like Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Lithuania, Qatar, Spain and Syrian Arab Republic will present their first report on the OPSC – Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. These 8 states will also present their first report on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

There are so many differences between the countries and therefore it is difficult to make each country understand and respect the rules of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The 18 experts of the Committee ask precisions and details about education, health care, prevention and rehabilitation, protection and justice.

There are enormous problems with HIV-AIDS and millions of orphans are infected (especially in Africa). The governments try to organise adoptions, or to give some money to the families to encourage them (uncles or grandparents) to keep the children with them.

When a mother dies of HIV-AIDS the daughter has to stay at home and replace her, and she will not be able to go to school. A real tragedy for millions of girls. Christiane says that IIW made a marvellous choice with "Education for Girls".

Malaysia also has big problems with HIV- AIDS. The Ministry of Health provides free anti-retroviral therapy to all HIV positive pregnant women and to children affected. Babies born by HIV mothers are given free formula milk for at least 6 months and free treatment for HIV for life.

The government of Malaysia realizes that "a child is the key to the country's survival, development and prosperity". When the experts of the Committee asked about the children in the streets, in institutions the answer was "We take care of them". They do their best to make progress but will not give an answer until after 5 years.

The mentioned countries are only meant as examples and not to judge or criticize just to show some of the problems that exist all around the world. The state parties are concerned and make efforts to improve the situation of the children and their families.

The Convention says that a CHILD is a CHILD from the BIRTH until 18 YEARS OLD (an adolescent from 12 to 18 years old). It is right, but when it comes to marriage a man has to have completed his 16th year and a woman 14 years. Many girls have their first child at the age of 12.

The Committee is concerned at the practice of falsification of documents proving the age of children in order to legalize early marriages or involve children in prostitution, which is a legal activity for adults in possession of a government certification.

They are proud to have a free phone number for the children 24 hours a day to help them, but how many children have the opportunity to use it? Perhaps in towns, but in the country, who has a phone? They have a new internet site to teach the children their rights, but who has the opportunity to see it? How many children have a computer? There is an enormous PROBLEM with POVERTY, with CHILDREN in the STREETS and all the VIOLENCE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. Many children are working from when they are 5 years old and therefore unable to go to school. A high attention is given to "Girls Education" as a preventive measure.

The most important thing that asks the Convention on the Rights of the Child is to recognize a child as a PERSON with personal rights. As the Committee we have to insist on this.

Every country speaks about laws, education, health, family, but it is always the grown ups who are concerned at first. Nobody ask the child what he thinks about the problem, and what he would like to do. To hear is one thing but to listen is another very important problem.

Tradition, religion, knowledge, old belief and poverty are so many difficulties on the way of the progress, that it seems impossible to change old habits.

All the state parties say that they will do their best, and they do, to improve the life of the children in their country. "A better LIFE in a better WORLD" is the purpose that every country will try to realise for their children as soon as possible. If they have problems of poverty or infrastructures, they can ask for help and/or money to the UN.

The Vice President moved the acceptance of her report.
Seconded by Carolyn Brown
CARRIED

(b) Appointment of UN Representatives

The Vice President stated that Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet, Christiane Nicole and Beatrice Lombard (as reserve) in Geneva; Ceja Gregor-Hu and Ulrike Nemling in Vienna and Erle Andersen and Babette Gold in New York had confirmed that they would represent IIW for 2008 at the UN.

The Vice President proposed that they duly be appointed IIW UN Representatives for 2008

Seconded by Ursula Kobriger

CARRIED

(c) IIW International Social Project - UNICEF Global Education for Girls”

Immediately after the Executive Meeting in July the Vice President, in her newly appointed role as International Social Project Liaison Officer wrote a letter to the Danish department of UNICEF in which she told them a little about IIW and the International Social project.

After only a few days she received a phone call from the Secretary General of UNICEF Denmark Sten Andersen. They had had a good talk and he told her about UNICEF. At the moment they have education projects in Senegal, Tanzania, Afghanistan and Bolivia to mention only a few of them.

He explained it would be possible for us to “ earmark” our money for “The Education of Girls” and she was told that the money could be marked with a special code, which would make it possible to “follow the money” right to where it had been used so we would be able to tell our members in detail for which purposes our money has been spent.

Sten Andersen suggested that the organisations together could make a statement to the media telling them that UNICEF and IIW are co-operating to promote “Girls Education” in the developing world.

He invited the Vice President to go to his office to talk about the details of the collaboration. The Vice President explained that she would need an approval from the Executive before she could promise anything but she also asked for materials for the Convention and the response was that he would be able to provide all sorts of materials relating to the project – CD’s, photographs and whatever else might be useful.

She made an appointment for a meeting at the end of October to ensure that momentum was maintained.

Sten Andersen is a member of The Standing Group – a consultative organ with representatives from all the national committees world wide in UNICEF.

In 2007 UNICEF received a distinction in Jalalabad for their education work in the eastern part of the country. During 2007 the plan is to supply 5.4 million children with teaching materials and school buildings, and try to reach 400.000 girls in isolated villages. The person from UNICEF who is in charge of education in Afghanistan tells that it is amazing to observe how the people of Afghanistan are aware of the fact how important education is for the country. The big problem is the Taliban. They are determined to keep the girls from schools and education by threatening to cut off their ears and noses. In spite of that the girls are determined to go back to school.

The Vice President suggested that if suitable, Sten Andersen should be considered as the guest speaker at the Convention. He could speak about the project – and then the IIW cheque would be presented to him and all the delegates would be a part of it. In that way the project would have more visibility and tangibility to the members and they could really see what IIW had achieved over the 3 years of the project.

The Vice President moved acceptance of her report.
Seconded by Gabriella Adami

CARRIED

(vi) Appointment of Trustees

The Vice-President proposed Dr Brenda Taylor (Great Britain & Ireland) and Carol Buchanan (Australia) be appointed as trustees for the Inner Wheel year 2008/2009

Seconded by Carolyn Brown

CARRIED

(vii) Appointment of Lawyer

Immediate Past President proposed the re-appointment of Slater Heelis Collier Littler as Lawyers for the Inner Wheel Year 2008/2009.

Seconded by Shirley Hope

CARRIED

6. Convention: 14th Convention, Kota Kinabalu Malaysia 2009.

The Treasurer proposed the Registration fee for Convention in Malaysia in 2009

Earlybird - that is prior to 31 January 2008 1950 MYR Malaysian Ringitts
Later Registration – from 1st February 2008 2100 MYR Malaysian Ringitts

Seconded by Charlotte de Vos

CARRIED

The Secretary showed two videos and a series of still photographs to the Governing Body to provide them with an overview of the location, the facilities available, the transport links, the accommodation types, examples of available activities and the flora, fauna and local culture. The Secretary then answered their questions and requested that they encourage as many people to attend the Convention as possible.

7. Constitution:

The Constitution Chairman reported that many queries have been received, answered and acknowledged:

- 1) MEMBERSHIP Problems with a difficult members and Clubs wishing to expel a member. She had advised according to the Constitution membership may only be terminated on the non payment of dues.
- 2) MEMBERSHIP Regarding a member retaining her membership on the death of her Rotarian husband. In some countries civil law states she must cut off all official bonds with her late husband. The Constitution Chairman referred to appropriate section of the Constitution.
- 3) MEMBERSHIP Many requests for information on Honorary Membership/Honorary Active membership.
- 4) VOTING PROCEDURES. The Constitution Chairman had explained that a simple majority or 2/3rds was required.

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL/CHANGES TO BYE-LAWS

The Constitution Chairman reported that amendments to the bye-laws of France, Norway, Greece, India and Italy had been received and requested that the Governing Body ratify these changes.

ACCEPTED

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Constitution Chairman explained that the purpose of the Constitution & Handbook review is to redraft the Constitution & Handbook into a more logical and user friendly document without changing the rules governing International Inner Wheel.

The three members of the Review Committee were Yvonne Cavazzi (Australia); Vimla Abraham (India); and Ineke Sasse (Netherlands).

Elaine had provided members of the Committee the Constitution & Handbook in document form which proved to be an excellent format enabling the committee to consider in detail and add comments.

It had taken some time for members of the Committee to work on the review due to family commitments etc. Each member had found the task more difficult than thought at first. Things may be expressed very succinctly, but need to be presented in simple and understandable terms when one takes into consideration that English is not everyone's first language.

The Constitution Chairman initially made her comments and added them to the draft which she then sent to the committee members. They in turn had sent to her their comments which she had also added to the draft. Each of them had a different colour. It had been interesting that these comments had engendered further thoughts from the committee. At present the draft was quite confusing, but she thought some consensus would follow.

The Membership section and in particular Active membership, for her, was an area of concern. As Constitution Chairman she had had many queries regarding the membership clauses. Honoured Active, and in particular Honorary membership, becoming active within two years and the number of such members a Club can have at any given time. She said as yet no one had come up with a satisfactory solution. She thought it would need a proposal to Convention and maybe they could come up with something easier to understand.

PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE OCT 2007 BOARD MEETING

The Constitution Chairman presented the Board with a number of draft Proposals. These were discussed and two were accepted.

Page 5. GOVERNING BODY

2. The Governing Body is to be elected as follows:

A Officers

a) President

Nominations:

After 'Any District Committee may nominate a member suitably qualified for the office of President'

Add 'If a candidate is elected President of International Inner Wheel the District Committee(s) of her Governing Body cannot nominate another President within a period of 5 consecutive years'.

Motivation: This new rule would give a greater opportunity to all those Inner Wheel countries or Governing Bodies who have never had an International Inner Wheel President.

CARRIED

Page 14. STANDING ORDERS

To reduce the time taken in the proposing and seconding of proposals and amendments at a Convention it is suggested that the time for speaking to or against a proposal be reduced to two minutes from three.

Voting delegates speaking to a proposal or amendment are limited to two minutes.

This would mean a proposal to alter Standing Orders Nos. 8, 10, 14.

Motivation: To cut down on time spent in the Business Session so that more time may be spent on seminars.

CARRIED

8. Office Administration/Paperwork.

The Secretary reported on the following matters.

She said she had now been with the organisation for nearly 3 years and was still finding that she was learning new things at every turn! The organisation for this meeting so close to the Executive meeting had been quite an experience, so she apologised for any gaps or errors.

Savings

Savings had been sought in the area of printing and distribution and quotes to reduce photocopying, Newsletter and postal costs had been regularly reviewed. Extensive use of e-mail had continued, and has been particularly useful during the intermittent postal strikes that had occurred in the UK and to reduce the escalating costs.

Outsourcing

Some outsourcing has been done abroad to obtain better savings and many items are now available on the website.

She explained that commercial organisations have used outsourcing to cut their costs, by moving back office functions around the world. This maybe something that will have to be seriously considered in the future.

Directories

Secretary Elaine explained that a number of District Secretaries and National Representatives had suggested that IIW gather information about Club Secretaries for the IIW Directory from the Districts rather than sending out a form to each Club (approx 4,000 in total). She was therefore going to trial a system of obtaining the addresses from the Districts and will evaluate the feedback received both from the organisation and the Printer's data entry clerk. The Districts can submit this information electronically if they wished, as a Word document, an Excel spreadsheet, by e-mail or on CD. Many have to gather this for District or National Directories so hopefully it will not duplicate work already being undertaken and should avoid the mistakes that can arise with handwritten forms.

The Printer had requested that Countries which already know who are the Club Secretaries for the following year submit this information as early as possible, in an attempt to get the Directory printed earlier. The current deadline is 31 March to accommodate meeting timetables. Districts that can get the information to Headquarters at the end of January or in February would be helping to get the Directory printed before the start of the new Inner Wheel year, which was the next challenge she had set herself – not that she will be necessarily be successful but it is goals for better achievement that drive the organisation forward.

Website and Club Developments

Much more could go on the website. In the past the website was used just as a static history of the organisation. On her appointment it was then moved towards a website that contains more information and some downloadable materials. The next goal was to continue to develop the site with more frequent updates and including additional pages – for example a page for Frequently Asked Questions, a page for recent news articles and messages from the President. Some further investigations would have to take place before these were launched and feedback from Board Directors was welcomed.

At the RI Convention it became apparent that some members and potential members would be interested in the development of E-Clubs. These would be where members meet through an IIW chat room or via Skype, rather than face-to-face, in countries or areas where distances to travel are impossible to contemplate. This would need a great deal of preliminary investigation on the logistics – for example the collection of Capitation Fees and Club structure etc and how the Club would fulfil the service requirement for their membership. Again something that she said they might have ideas for the Open Forum at the end of the meeting.

Banking

One matter that had arisen between the Executive meeting and this Governing Body meeting was a visit of the Treasurer and IPP to the HSBC Bank in Altrincham to arrange a new mandate for the current Executive. She explained that changes to the signatories on the Bank Accounts have to reflect the changes to the Executive Committee on a fairly regular basis. She also commented that Banking systems and payment methods keep changing and that we will have to keep abreast of these requirements as well as get the best out of the financial world that we could.

Nominations

The deadline for nominations for next year 2008/09 fell on Sunday (30th September). As soon as the nominations had been fully checked by the Constitution Chairman and Executive Committee a list of valid nominations would be sent out. She reminded those standing for office of the canvassing requirement and the guidelines on the matter. She said that although it was enjoyable to continue with previous roles, accept invitations to Clubs, Districts and country events anything that could be construed as canvassing or self promotion between the nomination and the election ballot deadline would invalidate nominations. She also reminded them that negative canvassing was equally unacceptable.

Deadlines and Dates

She reminded the meeting of some Dates and Deadlines:

6 November 2007	Proposals for 2009 Convention
6 November 2008	Amendments of the Proposals
1 December 2008	Bids to host 2012 Convention
1 September 2008	Suggestions from the National Representatives for the next International Social Project

She explained that the Minutes of this meeting would be sent out with the Proposals booklet – as always to save the organisation the cost of two mailings, but the document would be put on the website as soon as it was made available by the Printer and in electronic form to the Governing Body and National Representatives too.

The Secretary requested approval for her report.
Proposed by Ursula Kobriger
Seconded by Olufunmilayo Adesina

CARRIED

9. Presidential Visits.

It seems a little unbelievable that it is only 3 months since I took over as the President. There has been so much to do that it does seem to have been longer. Between a lot of paperwork, I have also been planning for my trips, organising the actual details and finally getting ready to go.

My first visit as President was in my own country -to District 301- New Delhi. This was a commitment that I had made way back last year to IIW Past President Anita Agarwal. So there I was rushing to Delhi immediately after getting home from the Executive Meeting. I was the chief guest for their District Assembly and the installation as we call it in India of the District Chairman. All such changeover functions in India are pretty important events and organised with a lot of care and some show. This was no exception. In a very well organised function at a lovely venue the new District Chairman Nisha Bhargava and her new team took charge of their offices. I was also asked to give away the motivational awards to the clubs of the previous year. To me it was an enjoyable function as it gave me the opportunity to meet up with the two IIW past Presidents Minna Kapoor and Anita Agarwal. The next day I was asked to inaugurate a very good project that all the clubs of the city had come together for. They were donating a diagnostic machine to a socially committed hospital in the city. The machine cost a lot but with all the clubs coming together made it easy. After all there is strength in numbers! I was also able to meet a lot of good friends and also answer some doubts and exchange a lot of information on Inner Wheel besides motivating the members to attend the IIW Convention in 2009.

My next event was much easier as it required no traveling. A Rally – the South Zone Rally was organised in my own hometown Chennai by my District 323. District Chairman Bhamini Pathasarathy along with 11 other Districts came together to felicitate me on my taking over as IIW President. But to make the day more interesting to all the members who were coming all the way a seminar on Investments was organised in the morning. Experts in various fields addressed the 500 odd participants and aimed at instilling confidence in women to handle their money on their own. Standard Chartered Bank came forward to sponsor the entire event and besides being well attended the event also received a lot of media coverage.

The event in the evening was a felicitation to me. The President of the Association of IW Clubs of India, Gomathy Vishwanathan was also part of the function. Since the organising committee had asked each participating district to put up a small programme as a felicitation rather than a speech, the efforts of the districts were varied and imaginative. Made for a lot of talent show among the members!! It was also a lot less embarrassing for me as I did not have to sit through speeches that would focus on my existent or non existent qualities. The Rally was a good way of building up fellowship among the Districts of the Association of Inner Wheel clubs in India and quite enjoyable. Chairman Bhamini and the executive Committee helped by Convener Azhaghu Annamalai who is also the Vice President of the Indian Association put up a grand event.

September was the month when I was to visit two countries for their inter country Rally's that take place once in three years. The first was the Nordic

Rally in Aalesund, Norway on the 7th and 8th of September. The members of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland participate. Unfortunately private problems cropped up and with regret I had to cancel my trip. I know that I disappointed the organisers and I do feel bad that I could not participate in such a lovely event but circumstances were beyond me!

Thankfully I was able to participate in the Charlemagne Rally which had six countries participating, and I am happy that I did go as it was a lovely event. Bright sunshine, Warm weather and a beautiful locale made the Rally a delightful event. Well attended with almost 600 registered from France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and also from Nigeria the Rally was more like a small international Convention!!

I arrived into Paris and was met by National Representative and President of the National Council, Christiane Requin and District Chairman, Dist 66, Danielle Duval with their respective spouses. I was taken to my hotel near the Eiffel tower to check in. A quick bath did much to take away the strain of a long journey. We were joined at the lounge by Imm Past District Chairman, Marcelle.

After lunch, I was taken to a quick tour of Versailles. I have been there before but it is still a vicarious pleasure to see the extravagant beauty of Versailles.

Dinner was a surprise. Finding no vegetarian place for dinner Danielle's husband zeroed in on an Indian restaurant for the simple reason that it was also called Kamala Inde. The food was extremely good and I am not sure who liked it more – me or my French hosts who tasted Indian food for the first time! The evening was not yet finished. Danielle's husband Gerard decided that his city must necessarily be seen by night so off he drove for almost an hour around the city showing it looking so beautiful that I could not but agree that he had a very valid point. Paris is a lovely city by day but irresistibly beautiful by night!!

Next morning saw me attending a meeting the clubs of district 66, mainly the Parisian clubs. The discussion centered on the difficulty of attracting members. The Parisian clubs had a membership that was growing old and were finding it impossible to attract younger members. I did deliver an informal talk with some suggestions on membership but unfortunately one realises that there are no easy methods. There were other points that were raised which included comments on our name that does not translate well or have a punch!! Presentations were also made on the projects that the clubs of the District 66 were involved in. The district was very involved with projects in Dist 909, Togo and are also involved with projects in Madagascar and Nigeria. Most of these projects are for the education of the girl child. We ended with an all vegetarian lunch in my honour. Quite touching!

The lunch was followed by a leisurely cruise down the river Seine with some of the members joining us. After this was tea in Immediate Past President Marcelle's beautiful apartment amidst her husband's huge African artifact collection. She had invited a number of members and I was able to have an informal chat with many of them on their club's problems. A good learning process for me as well!!

A quiet dinner with President Christiana ended a very useful day.

The next day saw us motoring down to the Tours where the Charlemagne Rally was to be held. I was being hosted by Imm. Past President of the National Council Catherine Refabert who had also taken on the job of

organising the Rally! We arrived at Catherine's very French, beautiful house in time for the Dinner to which she had invited the Switzerland National Representative, Beth and a few other Past National representatives. The dinner was a good way to begin my trip in Tours and I must say that Catherine and her husband were indeed great hosts!

The next morning was a relaxed breakfast and an equally relaxed morning. Mid afternoon Catherine Refabert had organised a meeting of the National Representatives and the Presidents of the National bodies. I was invited as an observer. It was a very interesting meeting as members discussed possible proposals that could help solve some of the problems that their clubs faced. A lot of thought had gone into the proposals already and I was specially impressed the pages of possible proposals that Luisa, Past NR Italy read out!! The bulk of the discussion of course centered around membership!! I did leave the meeting a little early to let the others their privacy to continue their meeting.

At 6.30 pm the Charlemagne Rally was formally inaugurated by the Mayor of Tours. He pointed out all the important paintings in the room and gave a brief introduction to the history of Tours. I spoke on the importance of communicating our Vision. The hall was a little crowded and the huge gathering of members was good proof of the success of the Rally.

The next morning was far removed from the formality of the night before. The organisers had offered different tours and by 9am I was on one of the tours that took us to the beautiful Cathedral, a lovely Chateau that once belonged to Catherine de Medici and a leisurely lunch and cruise on the Cher River. On the whole a lovely day that was helped by the bright sunshine and the warmth!!

In the evening a grand Gala Dinner had been organised and one could feel the fellowship and enthusiasm among the members. We had a few speeches and a lot of photographs. Men and women beautifully dressed in period costumes added to the atmosphere and also gave us some unbelievably agile dancing and a whole lot of humorous interludes. Unfortunately it was all French to me and meant that I missed a great deal!! However I did not need French to appreciate the fact that Catherine Refabert and her team had put in an enormous amount of planning on doing a perfect job!

Next morning I got a quick look at their museum of Modern art, and then joined the members for an informal brunch. After brunch it was back to Paris with Christiane Requin and her husband Jean. We stopped to see another beautiful Chateau on the way and reached Paris for a dinner back at the Indian restaurant to be joined by Dist Chairman Danielle and her husband.

Next morning I caught my flight back to India after being seen off by Christiana and her husband and I really had no words to thank them as this affectionate couple really looked after with so much care and affection. District Chairman Danielle and her husband were also such affectionate hosts. I do feel rally's like this do a lot for fostering a sense of international fellowship in our Organisation.

10. Any Other Business.

Zoning

Constitution Chairman Shirley Hope presented a feasibility study on the restructuring of the Governing Body and the introduction of zoning. Her initial

suggestions were well received by the Governing Body. It was felt that additional investigations and analysis should be undertaken before the idea could be presented to the Membership but the initial reaction had been positive and she was congratulated upon her hard work and her approach to the double problems of effectively using the talents of the Board Directors as well as keeping it a cost effective solution.

New Generation Clubs

The Immediate Past President explained to the meeting that there are a number of 'New Generation Clubs' being formed saying that the membership comprises of women fitting into the Active Membership rules as set out in the Constitution and Handbook, page 3 A Active Membership a); b); c); and d). They are also using the Honorary Members category e). Members of these Clubs are usually women in the age group 18 years – early 40's who are often business/professional women with young families who find it difficult to join an existing Club in their area because of time restrictions. Their connections are therefore often with several Rotary Clubs. These Clubs are very successful and the members have very innovative ideas. The Immediate Past President would be pleased to answer any queries which current and prospective members may have and to help with the formation of more of these Clubs.

Communication and Publications

The Governing Body were in agreement that it was very necessary to investigate methods of using the website as a tool for the dissemination of News and information more fully and that reducing the number of printed and postal despatched publications, whilst at the same time increasing the frequency and number of publications on the website was the potentially the next step forward. The IIW Editor was to be contacted for comments and suggestions on how to carry the plan forward.

National Representatives Reports.

These reports were read and discussed.

11. Open Forum

A variety of interesting comments were made and the meeting closed at 4pm.

President's closing remarks.

President Kamala said that the governing body comes to a close now and unbelievably time seems to have gone by very swiftly. She had enjoyed every moment of everyone's company, whether it was during their fun time together or while working with all during the meeting. She said that the Board Directors had all been very supportive and involved, giving of their very best for the betterment of our Organization. Their ideas had often opened up new trains of thought and she was sure their deliberations over the last few days and the decisions made would make a great difference in the growth of our organization.

She specially thanked the executive committee for their unstinted support and inputs that went a long way in getting the best out of all during the meeting.

She thanked Elaine for the hard work that she put in for the success of this meeting. The EC and the Board Meeting being back-to-back did not make things easy for her but she managed, as always to make the most difficult of jobs look easy!

She also reminded the Board Directors that the Board Meeting might be over but their responsibilities as Board Director are far from over. She requested them to continue to keep in touch with each other and the EC and continue to work for our Organization's growth.

President said that they will all be starting their travel back soon. She wished them all a safe journey.

She ended with the words of management guru Deepak Chopra, spiritual author and global thought leader, which she felt was very relevant to the growth of any organization including ours "Survival of the wisest will become the new criteria for evolution. It is a new civilization based on wisdom-based consciousness, a wisdom-based economy, and a wisdom-based power structure and leadership."

Vote of Thanks

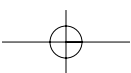
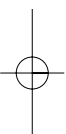
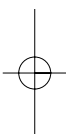
Vice President Suzanne Nielsen said that it was her pleasant duty to close the meeting, she said that it had been conducted in a relaxed atmosphere and some good decisions had been made. She wished President Kamala a safe journey home and on her forthcoming travels, but before then Kamala had a very important job to undertake – that of becoming a grandmother.

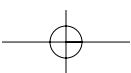
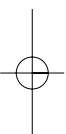
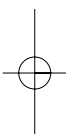
She wished a safe journey to all the Governing Body back to their home countries, and thanked everyone for their participation.

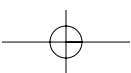
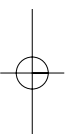
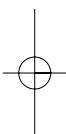
President.....

Date.....

October 2007







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