

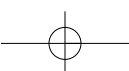
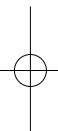
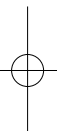
International Inner Wheel

MINUTES
of the
Governing Body Meeting
held at

Copenhagen Island Hotel and Conference Centre, Copenhagen,
Denmark

14th October - 16th October 2008

Headquarters Office:
Stafford Court
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United Kingdom



**MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING held at Copenhagen Island Hotel
and Conference Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark
14 October– 16 October 2008**

PRESENT

Suzanne Nielsen	President, in the chair
Anne Fryer	Vice President
Kamala Ramakrishnan	Immediate Past President
Doris Johnsen	Treasurer
Shirley Hope	Constitution Chairman

BOARD DIRECTORS

Gabriella Adami	Ann Kvist - Walter
Val Corva	Eleonore Naef
Seham Elgohary	Catherine Refabert
Ulla Eloranta	Pallavi Shah
Carmel Fernandopulle	Ulku Somer
Norma Friar	Gunnel Torstensson
Rinie Gobby	Sophie van den Berg
Rosalind Jardeleza	Carole Young

Elaine Hathaway Administrator, in attendance

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

Good morning everybody I hope you had a good night's rest and that you are happy with our hotel accommodation. My congratulations to all of you on your election as Board Director.

A special welcome to you, who are attending this meeting for the first time, but also a warm welcome to you ,who are with us for the second time. I hope you will all feel that you are among friends.

It is important for all of you to remember, that when you are elected as a Board Director, you are representing International Inner Wheel. That means you are not representing your own country but have to think Internationally. We are here to talk about International matters, to discuss and make decisions on behalf of all members. Of course we are all bringing with us experiences we have gained in our own country, and we shall use this knowledge in our discussions to the benefit of International Inner Wheel. It is important to remember, that we are a worldwide organization, and we have members with different cultures, customs and religions.

Regarding discussions at this meeting let me remind you of your confidentiality.

I hope you will all feel free to express your opinions. If there is something , you don't understand, please ask for explanations. We have to remember that for many of us, English is not our first language.

During the meeting tape recording will be used on grounds of the minutes. I therefore ask you please do not speak at the same time. You will have the opportunity to express your points of view.

Before we start the meting I would like all of you to give a short presentation of yourself.

1) Apologies:

None

2) Minutes of Governing Body Meeting held at Mere Court Conference Centre, Mere Court Hotel, Mere Cheshire UK 1st October to 4th October 2007 were accepted.

Proposed by: Ulla Eloranta

Seconded by: Norma Friar

CARRIED

3) Matters Arising:

None

4) Correspondence:

None

5) Reports:

(i) President

When I started my year, I was very overwhelmed by the many greetings I received with good wishes from all over the world. It also surprised me how many positive reactions I received on the IIW theme and to learn that it has been implemented in the work undertaken by our members. I have also received and dealt with quite a lot of correspondence including Administration, Constitutional matters, visits and many requests for messages for souvenir programmes for every occasion.

(ii) Treasurer

Presentation of the 2007/8 Accounts.

Before she presented the Accounts and Budget for consideration the Treasurer explained that the bank regulation paperwork had been completed in July 2008. There were many restrictions and rules to prevent money laundering and any other irregularities. It was necessary to send the Auditor a very detailed letter acknowledging the Treasurer's responsibilities in making accurate representations to them regarding the Accounts and showing the detail of the conduct of our finances. The Auditor's firm was governed by the bye-laws, regulations and ethical guidelines of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and they had to follow these when preparing the International Inner Wheel Financial Statement.

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

The Treasurer proposed the acceptance of her Report.

Seconded: Val Corva

CARRIED

Accounts

The Treasurer explained that the total income of £407,137 was greater than the previous year because of continued vigilance and cost savings. Income from Capitation Fees had been £345,551. Expenditure for the year was £315,847 which was less than the previous year and resulted in a surplus of £82,344. Membership was 99409 but 2243 of those members joined after 31st December paying only half membership.

The Treasurer said it was a very good feeling to show a profit and not to have to request an increase in Capitation fees. But she warned that natural resource costs were increasing worldwide, catastrophes, ethnic conflict and globalisation had brought its worries to the world and International Inner Wheel was not insulated from these troubles. She stated that Inner Wheel had been in being for nearly 90 years and the reason for that was because members recognised the need to think of the future and be careful how they spent the organisation's funds. She encouraged that forward thinking and planning must continue. She stated that despite the cost of holding Conventions that it was important to meet at the Convention because it strengthened the three objectives of the organisation and was an opportunity for members to enjoy meeting friends from all over the world.

The Treasurer moved the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended June 2008

Seconded: Ulku Somer

CARRIED

Budget for 2009/10

The Treasurer presented the Budget explaining those areas where money would be spent. Being a non Convention Year it would be expected that there would be reduced spending on some items. However the Treasurer pointed out where she felt some increases to the budget would have to be made. She explained the difference between general insurance to cover for accidents or losses and National Insurance which was the compulsory tax payments made by employers and employees to the UK Government to cover entitlement to certain social security benefits, including the State Pension.

The Treasurer explained that although the reserves might seem large it was necessary to have the resources to pay for the Convention and that this was an increasingly expensive operation. She also warned that the lease on the present offices would fall due in early 2011 and that an office move would probably need to be funded.

The Treasurer moved acceptance of the 2009/2010 Budget

Seconded by Carole Young

CARRIED

The Executive confirmed the importance of the figures and stressed that all Clubs receive a copy of the Accounts and should read them and discuss their significance. It was reiterated that the National Representatives should see that the figures were converted into local currencies if this would encourage Clubs to take more interest.

The Treasurer agreed that an alternative printing format for showing the budget to the Governing Body so that a closer comparison could be made between budget for a year and actual spending for the same year might be tried in the future.

The Treasurer proposed that John W Hirst & Co be appointed as Auditors and Accountants for the Inner Wheel year 2008/2009

Seconded by: Shirley Hope

CARRIED

Board Director Rinnie Gobby requested that a special Vote of Thanks be given to the Treasurer for all her hard work at a particularly stressful time in the world economy with the general banking crisis and recessionary trends affecting many economies worldwide.

Seconded by Rosalind Jardeleza and carried unanimously.

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

The Third issue of News on the Web had been uploaded on the website. The Editor was now convinced that presenting the ideas and actions of International Inner Wheel in that way was a very good idea. Whilst she remained convinced that few members from Great Britain & Ireland read it, the response from the rest of the world had been uniformly positive. Reports now came in requesting publication on the website. The main advantage was that she was able to publish far more material than was previously possible so most members saw their activities reported in some form. It had, she reported, for example, been a great pleasure to include material from small countries like La Réunion and Iceland. The Fourth (October 2008) issue was now ready but she would hold it for a few more weeks because it consisted almost entirely of reports from India. Admittedly, there had also been two sent from Australia, one from South Africa and one from Greece but she wanted to be able to present a more balanced picture of Inner Wheel activities worldwide. A German member had asked why France and Germany were not featured in the Newsletter and on the website. She explained that this was because she rarely received reports from those countries and invited her to write one.

The dropping of national flags from the Newsletter and website seemed to be a wise precaution because inadvertent errors could occur with their use, although they had added colour. Learning by experience, she now checked the United Nations website for the name and status of any country of which she was less than certain, particularly in the Balkan region, and made a point of always using the UN designation. For example, she found that Macedonia was actually "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

The Third and Fourth issues contained reports from the United Nations and she thought it would be both valuable and interesting to publish an article about the work of the UN Representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna, together with potted biographies. Members had been very curious about them. Any contacts or information the Executive could provide would be most welcome.

She had to admit to being thrilled by the response to her Postage Stamp cover on the last Newsletter as she had received compliments and congratulations on it from all over the world. She only wished that she were a "proper" graphic designer and could produce a masthead for News on the Web. She was still experimenting but had not so far managed to produce anything suitable.

She confirmed that being International Inner Wheel Editor was very hard work but it was immensely satisfying and she was grateful to members for giving her the opportunity to do this. She had been approached for advice by Jean Urry, who edited "Reaching Out", the magazine for the Inner Wheel districts of Southern Africa. She had found communication of this sort gratifying and mutually beneficial.

The Administrator requested the adoption of the report on behalf of the Editor.

Proposed by: Seham Elgohary

Seconded by: Ann Kvist-Walter

CARRIED

(iv) Extension

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

She said that it gave her great pleasure to give her extension report at this meeting. She said everyone was aware that extension remained one of the organisation's premier priorities as the vibrancy of our Organisation would depend on our capacity to attract new members. In fact everywhere that she went last year as the IIW President, one question that was constantly posed, was how clubs could attract new members? She did have a lot of advice to give and many suggestions but even as she gave them she knew that it was not as easy as it sounded. The period of easy growth for our organisation and in fact for many organisations was over and only a concerted, continuous and committed effort towards extension would have the desired effect. She felt we needed to make Extension our top priority at every level with special efforts being directed towards membership growth.

She was happy that effort was being put in by clubs and districts all over our IW world and we do have new clubs being added to our organization although it was only three months since the new IW year began. She provided the latest statistics—one club in W. Africa, 3 clubs in Germany, one in New Zealand and one in Belgium & Luxembourg with a membership increase of 89 from these clubs. India had sent an application for 12 more clubs taking the total new clubs to 18. Of these the club from Belgium was made up of young members and although they have not called themselves a "New Generation" club she felt they fitted this category well. The interest in New Generation clubs was quite strong and both the office and she had had enquiries on what a New Generation Club was. She had answered them and felt that IIW needed to set out an exact structure for the new Generation clubs so that a similar note could go to all those who asked about these clubs.

Last year she explained that there had been 81 new clubs start and she was sure we would see similar numbers or even more this year. Unfortunately there were a lot of clubs that also disbanded last year making the total membership increase less impressive, two districts also disbanded in the USA. This year we had already lost 25 clubs with most of them from GB&I. She felt this was a little sad because when these clubs close down the organization lost members who had so much Inner Wheel knowledge. She hoped the organization would be able to retain members and clubs with special efforts being put in by extension officers at the district and club level.

One of the best developments of last year was the inauguration of a club in Brazil which marked IIW's entry into that part of South America. She was hoping that we would be able to start Inner Wheel clubs in other parts of Brazil and also in Argentina. There was a

possibility for another club in Thailand and also in Dubai. She said she would like all the National Representatives to focus on New Generation Clubs and off Shore clubs wherever possible.

The Immediate Past President explained that one area of membership that would need constant monitoring was our Non Districted clubs. Last year on her travels she was made painfully aware of the fact that we hardly have information from many of our Non Districted clubs. Many of them did not write because of language barriers and we had not been able to make them realise the importance of sending in their Minutes and other details to IIW. Much of the details of their office bearers were also often missing or outdated. Every year our Board Directors were given a list of non districted clubs to write to and many of our Board Directors were frustrated by mail that came back or no replies at all. She also found that the HQ did not have a current list of which Board Director is placed in charge of which club. This information was necessary for future allotments and for all structured working on any issue. While the policy had been to allot the clubs after the Governing body Meeting she took the decision to do so earlier, so that the Board Directors could bring to the table at the Governing Body meeting some information on the work they had done. She had given each Board Director an average of 5 clubs keeping in mind language, geographical proximity, and cultural similarities and also attempted to give a Board Director all clubs of a country. She said that those who had responded had been most enthusiastic. What was even more satisfactory for her was that some of our Board Directors had offered to help each other out with clubs that they have had some interaction with. Unfortunately with no information or wrong information from Non Districted clubs we would need HQ to help out in terms of finding the correct addresses.

The IIW booth at the Rotary International Convention had attracted a lot of visitors and IIW information had gone to all those who requested it. She had enquiries from some Rotarian womenfolk whom she had met and mailed them the necessary information. It was of course difficult to judge if the Booth at RI Convention made a difference to numbers but in the long run visibility could never go to waste.

She stated that we were not growing as fast as we should but that was possibly because the organisation expected a lot. But the positive news was that it was growing and that every Inner Wheel member that we have was committed to the organisation and was our best spokesman. It was her enthusiasm that finally attracted new members. She added that thankfully we had many such members and so her faith in our ability to sustain and grow remained strong.

The Immediate Past President proposed the acceptance of her report.

Seconded: Norma Friar

CARRIED

There followed a general discussion on some of the responses that the Board Directors had already received and what could be done to help those from some of the most troubled and challenging parts of the world. It was a salutary reminder to those of us in more stable and affluent parts of the world that other Inner wheel members were, despite incredible personal hardship still trying to help others even worse off than themselves in their local communities.

(v) United Nations

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

She paid tribute to the UN Representatives for their dedication on behalf of International Inner Wheel.

She explained that as we now have a dedicated page on the International Inner Wheel Website further information would be recorded during the year. Members might also consult the United Nations websites at www.un.org and for the Rights of the Child at www.childrightsnet.com

The Rights of the Child (Geneva)

Christiane Nicole attended the 48th session the Committee on the Rights of the Child which took place in May/June this year.

The Deputy High Commissioner noted that the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities had been accepted and she highlighted the important role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. A recent meeting had taken place between UNICEF and the High Commissioner for Human Rights on enhancing their collaboration in the field of children's rights.

This Committee is the only Committee responsible for examining reports on three treaties namely the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children and the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict.

Closing remarks of this session of the Committee were to ensure that all children enjoy their rights without discrimination, in some countries to make combating discrimination against girls a national priority, ensure full birth registration and to reduce the rate of infant mortality. It further recommended to take effective measures to protect all children from torture, to provide adequate reparations and rehabilitation to all child victims of torture, to prohibit corporal punishment by law, and to implement the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children. Further recommendations were to ensure the access to quality and affordable health services for all children and to prohibit and criminalise female mutilation, early/forced marriage and to prohibit the use of illicit substances, alcohol and tobacco by children.

Anne Fryer reported that in September 2008 she attended three sessions at the UN Geneva at the Palais Wilson: two Sessions to observe the discussions and questions by the Committee on The Rights of the Child to the delegation from the United Kingdom. It is expected that the UK will sign the Convention shortly. The third Session concerned the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Combat.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child session in which the UK Delegation took part raised some concerns. The Committee's main concerns included the number of children held in detention or corrective institutions and children kept in detention with parents who were asylum seekers. Immigration authorities were working closely with local authorities within the four nations of the UK and children were not held in detention for longer than 10 days and during that time Social Services become involved. Other concerns were that there should not be criminal punishment for anyone under 16 years of age and that children have the right to be heard. Generally, in all fields throughout the four nation's priorities are Child Care, Support of Parents, Advice Services for Parents, Child

Maintenance, Education, Teenage Issues, and Trafficking and Abduction. Observations by the Rights of the Child Committee noted that the UK had made children a priority since 2002 and that positive action was now being taken for all children in the UK to be well protected. Rights of the Child Website – www.childrightsnet.com

Children in Armed Conflict

Following constructive dialogue it was noted that some points deserved further attention by the UK Government. Much had been accomplished but more remained to be done including discussion on raising the age of recruitment, the issue of deployment in direct hostilities, the treatment of children encountered in conflict areas, asylum-seeking children who had been involved in armed conflicts and regarding military tribunals.

Human Rights Conference (Venice)

During March 2008 President Suzanne attended the Human Rights Conference in Venice and outlined the problems concerning the Committee on the Rights of the Family, the Status of Women, the Rights of the Child, Human Rights, the Committee on Aging and Narcotic Drugs. She made specific reference to violence against children, to women who look after the home and the children and are often physically and mentally abused. The birth ratio in some parts of the world is reaching catastrophic proportions as a result of eliminating girl babies and many, many thousands of baby girls are just abandoned, leading to a substantial increase in aggression, crime, rape and other forms of violence against women, drug and alcohol abuse and situations where all men of the family share the same wife. An extremely harrowing story I am sure you will agree. President Suzanne completed her report by saying that organisations like International Inner Wheel will continue to play their part in using the knowledge gained from our UN Representatives to help make the world a better place.

Human Rights Council (Geneva)

Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet participated in several sessions of the Human Rights Council but also sessions of Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The 7th and 8th Sessions took place in March 2008 and June 2008 and raised concerns regarding women and children. These are many and varied covering topics from all around the world - these concerns are noted in some examples:

- a. Women who marry non-citizens are denied the right to extend citizenship to their children leading to restrictions in society (access to education, health care, employment and safety).
- b. Defence of women's rights recommended voluntary commitments in gender and eradication of violence, free decision regarding reproductive, sexual life and recognition of unpaid domestic labour as well as paternity leave to promote gender equality in the family.
- c. Freedom of the press, Human Rights defenders, protection of vulnerable groups, rights of children, eradications of poverty, right to employment and recognition of status within the family.
- d. Treatment inflicted on migrants and refugees.
- e. Training for security and law enforcement officials in Human Rights Law and the implementation of Human Rights standard for the protection of women and children.

- f. Cases of torture in custody, elimination of child labour and caste-based discrimination, National policies for the prevention and mediation of forced evictions.
- g. Sex Education, protection for children in the womb, provision of contraceptives to reduce numbers of unsafe abortions.
- h. Reduce maternal and child mortality and improve health service for women and children.
- i. Exploitation of women migrant works, religious rights, destiny of asylum seeking children.
- j. Detention of children with their families in immigration centres.
- k. Human trafficking.
- l. Recruitment of child soldiers.
- m. Vocational training for juvenile prisoners.
- n. The right to fair trial, improvements to detention centres and access to lawyers and independence of judges and lawyers.
- o. Homelessness and access to HIV/AIDS treatment.

Ageing (Vienna)

1 October 2008 – International Day of Older Persons Theme: **‘Rights of Older Persons’**.

Ceja Gregor reports that in 2002 the UN Member States adopted the Madrid Plan of Action and committed to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including age discrimination. They recognised ‘that as they age persons should enjoy a life of fulfilment, health, security and active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies’ and they determined ‘to enhance the recognition of the dignity of older persons and to eliminate all forms of neglect, abuse and violence’.

Despite this commitment, in many parts of the world the rights of older people are violated every day. Older persons often face discrimination in the workplace. In social environments they may experience a lack of recognition and respect and they may be deprived of full inclusion and participation in social, economic, cultural and political affairs. In many countries incidences of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons are not rare or isolated events.

The first review and appraisal of the Plan made it abundantly clear that much more needs to be done at the national level to support older persons, promote their income security and social protection and ensure quality health care as well as the provision of long term care services. To make these possible national ageing-specific policies must be improved substantially and the concerns of older persons mainstreamed into a wider policy frame-work.

“LET US MAKE THE DREAM OF A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES A REALITY” – a summary of the message of the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Elder Abuse (Vienna)

The full report was posted on the Inner Wheel Website. Elder abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person which can take different forms – physical abuse, psychological abuse, financial abuse, sexual harassment or abuse by neglect.

It appears that in only a minority of cases does the abuse of older people represent a deliberate attempt to harm or exploit the victims. The circumstances of elder abuse can be diverse and is often a result of a lack of knowledge, overburdening and stress on the part of professional and family carers alike.

The member states are beginning to deploy a variety of measures to prevent and tackle the abuse and neglect of older persons including: systems for reporting and tackling cases of elder abuse, educational programmes or public awareness campaigns, support available to abused or neglected older people, systems for gathering information and data on the prevalence and incidence of elder abuse and neglect.

The UN can play a useful role in promoting the conditions whereby the dignity and fundamental rights of elderly can be protected but the dignity and fundamental rights of frail elderly people have to be safeguarded at local level.

The growing percentage of older people, the increasing strain on relatives who need to reconcile work and private obligations, and the risk of affordable professional care, could make the situation worse.

Council of Europe

Application for participatory status was made earlier this year. At present the Council does not believe that International Inner Wheel meets the required criteria. So far as can be established, the Council does not have "observers" as does the UN. Instead it seeks to benefit in some way from those enjoying participatory status. In the decision that we do not meet the required criteria, the suggestion is clear that we are not perceived as being able to offer anything from which the Council could benefit.

If we wish to pursue this application we shall have to establish precisely what the acceptable criteria are and determine whether we do, can or wish to meet them. This could probably be an expensive and time consuming exercise. We have been advised that the application could be reconsidered in two years time.

The Vice President proposed the adoption of her report.

Seconded by: Catherine Refabert

CARRIED

(vi) Appointment of UN Representatives 2009

The Vice President reported that Christiane Nicole and Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet, Representatives in Geneva and Ceja Gregor in Vienna have agreed to continue their Inner Wheel service at the United Nations. I am yet to hear from Ulrike Nemling (Vienna) Erle Andersen and Babette Gold (New York).

The Vice President proposed that those Representatives prepared to continue be elected.

Seconded by: Sophie van den Berg

CARRIED

International Inner Wheel Social Project 2006-2009 UNICEF Global Education for Girls and Madagascar

The project was started on 1 July and was taking place in the Malagasy region of Madagascar. Twice as many boys as girls attended school. Generally girls stayed at home taking care of the household and their younger siblings. Girls were married and get pregnant sometimes before their 14th birthday. It was generally believed that women were only required to read and write and did not require further education.

Because of this project twice as many girls aged 12-15 years would complete secondary education before 2010 by financial support to the girls, school transportation and dormitories. The schools would be equipped with better teaching material, sanitation and libraries and the teachers would receive training enabling them to pass on more relevant information to the teenage girls. Furthermore an important aspect was to create a change of attitude in the communities regarding gender equality.

President Suzanne Neilsen had stressed "We think that educating girls will create the path to a better existence. It decreases poverty and the abuse of women. If girls get an education they will also make sure that their own children get one as well. Men are not so good at that. It is women who have to receive the support if we want to succeed in creating progress for the whole family and for society".

The Executive Director of UNICEF Denmark Steen Anderson would address the Convention and accept the cheque representing the monies raised by Inner Wheel worldwide.

The Vice President proposed the adoption of her report.

Seconded by: Gunnel Torstensson

CARRIED

(vii) Appointment of Trustees:

The Vice President proposed Dr Brenda Taylor (Great Britain and Ireland) and Carol Buchanan (Australia) be appointed as Trustees for the Inner Wheel year 2009/2010

Seconded: Rosalind Jardeleza

CARRIED

(viii) Appointment of Lawyer:

The Immediate Past President proposed the appointment of Slater Heelis Collier Littler for the Inner Wheel Year 2009/2010.

Seconded: Shirley Hope

CARRIED

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

The Administrator showed videos and Power Point presentations to the Governing Body to provide them with an overview of the location, the facilities and the activities available.

The Administrator went through the Registration forms and practical details for the Governing Body on their particular timetable of events and likely additional commitments in the form of Governing Body meeting and seminars.

The Seminars topics were explained:-

Fund Raising / Charities – an opportunity for people to come together and exchange ideas and information. This had proved very popular in New Zealand and was being repeated.

Speech Writing and Public Speaking – it was apparent that communication skills and the confidence to speak in public – even at Club level could be very daunting. This seminar was hoped to be able to boost confidence and provide some good suggestions.

New Generation Clubs – focusing on the creation of Clubs made up of eligible younger women.

Zoning – to change the role of the Board Directors. (See AOB for further information.)

The Governing Body members were encouraged to volunteer to assist with those seminars which played to their particular strengths and experiences.

International Social Project 2009 – 2012

President Suzanne requested that the Governing Body looked through the suggestions that had been received by HQ by the 1 September 2008 deadline and research the suggestions further if they wished.

They were asked to submit their choice by the end of November 2008. The office would send reminders to those who had not done so in December. The result of the ballot would be announced at the Convention in May 2009.

7) Constitution:

The Constitution Chairman reported that she had had a very busy year. She was saddened by the death of the Lawyer Iwan Hnylycia who had not only been an associate but a good friend to IIW.

She explained that technology had speeded communication but also increased the workload of the Constitution Chairman but she was happy to be able to assist with queries via the internet.

She commented initially on the Minutes received and explained that Minutes were a historical record so should not include titles that were not recognised by IIW, that full names should be included and acronyms fully explained.

She explained that for nomination forms she would accept either the signature of the District Chairman at the time the nomination was made or at the time the form was completed.

She commented that membership queries had made up a great deal of her workload with increasing numbers of enquiries regarding disruptive members. She confirmed that the only way a member could be removed was through the non payment of fees. She

reminded everyone that we should not stand in judgement of our fellows as this was totally at odds with the objects of the organisation.

She had received queries regarding bye-laws but found that few countries adhered to the request for copies of bye-laws to be sent to Headquarters, one copy for the office and one for the Constitution Chairman. It was difficult to advise if the bye-laws were not forthcoming or available when a problem arose.

She commented on the involvement of Board Directors attending and contributing to local meetings. She reminded everyone that they must only hold one position at a time.

She explained the role of the Constitution Chairman in more detail explaining that on average she worked 2 hours each day on IIV matters, with her computer supplying the day's tasks by e-mail. She explained that the Executive worked as a team providing advice and support continuously.

The 18 month period prior to a Convention was particularly busy with over 100 proposals being received which had been reduced down to 37.

The retirement of the old printer also meant that the proposal booklet had to be checked repeatedly and even so some typographical errors had slipped through. Nomination forms had also been checked for proper signatures and the appropriate Minutes.

She explained that countries with difficulties were a worrying phenomenon. The Executive Committee tried to be supportive but frequently the problems were domestic and resulted from internally created problems. She said that the Executive Committee might be criticised for lack of action but it could only work within the Constitution and any changes had to be approved by the Governing Body.

When submitting changes to bye-laws she explained that some countries just submitted Minutes. This was not acceptable and they must submit a formal request for the bye-laws to be considered. Others sent in the proposals prior to taking them to their own country and voting. This again was not correct. Bye-laws were only ratified once a year at the Governing Body Meeting in October and only came into force after ratification.

On the matter of bringing proposals to the Convention she requested that all consider their suggestions carefully. She felt that too much time was spent at the Conventions on small matters that made only minimal changes to the organisation, when most delegates expressed the need for more time for seminars, workshops and open forum rather than continuous lengthy business sessions discussing very repetitive proposals.

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL/CHANGES TO BYE-LAWS

The following bye-laws had been thoroughly checked and were recommended for ratification.

Sweden
USA
New Zealand.

ACCEPTED

The 37 proposals and 1 General motion received were discussed in detail. The Constitution Chairman was waiting for the closing date for amendments before submitting them to the lawyer where necessary.

Only one nomination for Constitution Chairman had been received and therefore Shirley Hope was appointed unopposed. This would complete her three year term in office. The Governing Body thanked her for her continued hard work and willingness to undertake all the hard work of the position of Constitution Chairman.

8) Office Administration/Paperwork.

The Administrator explained that this was the first opportunity to take the Governing Body meeting away from the UK since the change to the Constitution in 2006. The Administrator hoped that the Governing Body had found the arrangements satisfactory.

She explained that inevitably much of the organisation in Denmark had fallen to the Hotel Events Co-ordinator, the Hotel Events Co-ordinator's mother who was, by our good fortune an active Inner Wheel member and to President Suzanne herself. Some practical details were a little more challenging to organise from a distance but it was felt that if the organisation never tried anything new how would we learn to adapt and change.

The Administrator explained that much of her report would require feedback from the Governing Body.

Masthead

In October 2007 it was proposed to the Governing body that a pilot scheme of more frequent News on the Web and then one issue of the Newsletter be printed at the end of the year reporting on all the activities that had been undertaken worldwide. The feedback that had been received via the IIW Editor Wendy Tindall-Shepherd was generally positive. However the Governing Body had been asked to ascertain views from a wider range of individuals from a variety of backgrounds and bring their comments to the meeting.

The Governing Body members presented their results. The results were overwhelmingly positive in favour of continuing with News OnThe Web and a single printed Newsletter per year. It was also confirmed that a more up to date magazine style might be more attractive, along with better pictures and better quality paper. They were aware that the cost of this would be greater but felt that fewer copies might be provided as all were very disappointed at the numbers of magazines currently discarded or left unread after distribution amongst the membership.

The Administrator reiterated that the IIW Editor was looking for a more eye catching masthead for the News On The Web. She explained that in 2005 the Governing Body was provided with some initial sketches for a more informative New Members and Extension leaflet. One Board Director had taken on the project of virtually redesigning it by amalgamating many of the suggestions provided from the Governing Body. It had since become a really successful marketing tool. The Executive were hopeful that the present Governing Body would be able to help similarly with the masthead.

Directory

The Administrator explained that we had a very cost conscious Treasurer and that she was concerned with the increasing carriage costs of the Directory, which was sold in any case as a loss leader. The other concern was that it quickly became outdated as was just a snapshot in time. By the time it was printed many Secretaries names and addresses had changed between HQ receiving the information sheet in March and the handover in June. Alongside this those Clubs failing to submit forms only realised that out of date information appeared on their Club 6 months into the year after mail shots had not been received and provided the correct information far too late for inclusion in a printed book.

The suggestion had been made that in fact the first 36 pages of the Directory was all that people actually ever looked at and was all that most wanted. It had been researched that if printing was cut down to these pages (though of course the organisation would still need the other information for the database that provided mailing labels etc) the weight of the booklets would be much reduced and also the carriage costs. The Printer had given some approximate costs for both the printing and the carriage charges for the reduced volume. Those seeking further information on particular Clubs would be encouraged to contact IIW HQ which could then provide the information or point them to the person in the country concerned who could assist them. With many countries having websites much better information could also be gleaned from these alternative sources which were in the public domain.

The Governing Body were of the view that this should be tried for one year to see if the smaller Directory was suitable, with a review to take place in October 2009.

In conclusion the Administrator requested that her Report be adopted.

Proposed by Ann Kvist-Walter
Seconded by Rinie Gobby

CARRIED

9) Presidential Visits.

My first visit went to Rostock, Germany from September 5 - 7. District 89 had invited me to a meeting with IW members from countries around the Baltic Sea, "Bridging the Baltic Sea". The meeting was of a social and cultural character. There were members from Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark.

I was met at the ferry and was taken to a hotel in the centre of the old Hanseatic city of Rostock. On our way to the hotel we made a stop, so I could join the meeting held by the National Representatives and Past National Representatives from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland for half an hour. Every year these countries have such a meeting where they discuss matters of common interest, and because they were all going to Rostock they decided to have the annual meeting there.

On the Friday night a get together party was held in a restaurant, a former pharmacy, now named as "Alte Apotheke". It was an evening with a very cheerful atmosphere and a lot of talking.

Saturday morning we started the meeting. After the official welcome greetings I had the opportunity of making a speech. I touched on subjects like membership, Bye-laws, my personal visions for the future of IIW and of course I made a lot of promotion for our education project in Madagascar and the Convention in Kota Kinabalu.

Then followed a very interesting lecture by Dr. Michael Grisko. He is a scientific leader of the cultural institution "Hansestadt Lubeck". The title of his lecture was "Eine Liebe zum Meer – Thomas Mann und das Baltikum". Thomas Mann was one of the greatest writers in the 18th century and he was a Nobel Prize winner for literature.

In the afternoon we went for a guided sightseeing walk in the old part of Rostock. We saw the old City Hall, used as an indoor market during the Middle Ages. The building unites many different building styles with its Gothic façade with its seven towers and the Baroque porch. Then we went to see the St. Mary's church, the most beautiful and important church in Rostock built from 1230 onwards. There are fantastic furnishings from every century but the most fantastic is the astronomical clock from 1472.

We were blessed by the most beautiful weather excellent for walking.

Our excursion ended with a boat sight seeing trip down the river and the city harbour. The day ended with a dinner at a restaurant on the top of a high building with a fantastic sunset view over the river.

Sunday morning it was time for returning to Denmark. Some interesting inspiring days in Rostock had come to an end.

The following week-end my husband and I were invited to a Rotary District Conference in D.1480. I was invited to make a speech. One of the subjects of my speech was about the co-operation or sometimes the lack of co-operation between Rotary and Inner Wheel. I also stated that it has to be a co-operation between two equal organisations. The conference started with two very interesting lectures one about "Management by Heart" and the other about "Doctors without Borders".

The District Conference ended with a gala dinner with performance by opera singers.

My next visit went to Tromsø, the Gateway to the Arctic, in Norway – about 500 Km north of the Polar Circle from September 19th – 21st. Tromsø is the largest town in North Norway, close to the Arctic Ocean. Because of the situation the town was a natural starting point for polar expeditions. Names of famous explorers such as Roald Amundsen and Fridtjof Nansen are linked with Tromsø.

At this time if the year there might be snow but the weather was excellent with 13 degrees.

In the night they had arranged a get together party at an old brewery Mack's Brewery, the most northerly situated brewery in the world. In the old days only men were allowed to enter the brewery and women have not had access for that many years.

The meeting had been arranged by the members of Tromsø IW club.

The next morning there was a welcome meeting. Three candles of friendship were lightened by the club President, the Council President and myself. After this ceremony the local director of tourism told us about Tromsø and the variety of activities of which the most famous is the University the most northerly university in the world with students from many different countries. We were told that many different nationalities are living in Tromsø.

After the introduction to the town we were told about a project to which IW Norway is very dedicated – "the Fistula Project". We were informed of the sad stories of these

women who are forced to live a humiliating isolated life repudiated by their husbands, and we were shown a film in which the women talked about their miserable life IW Norway has given a lot of money including a minibus to transport the women to the hospital in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. Because the urine is flowing constantly they are not able to go by the ordinary bus.

After the welcome ceremony we were taken by busses to the University where we visited the Samish Culture Centre, Ardna, and the different faculties including the "Institute for Arctic Biology". During the guided tour focus was concentrated on architecture and art.

The morning ended with a very interesting lecture by a former principal/rector of the university Ole Dambolt Mjoes. For many years he has been the chairman of the committee of the Nobel Peace Prize. This prize has been awarded in Norway since 1901. In the year 2000 the university had arranged a peace conference, and now as the only university worldwide they have established a Peace Centre where you can have a master degree in conflict resolution.

During his lecture of peace he related to International Inner Wheel as an organisation for peace.

Professor Mjoes did something very unconventional when he some years ago made a famous Norwegian humorist a professor of humour at the University of Tromsoe, a very popular decision.

After this very interesting lecture we heard about the efforts of extracting medicine from the arctic areas – for instance they make acetyl-salicylic acid from the bark of the willow tree.

In the afternoon I was taken by cable car to Mount Storsteinen (421m) with a fantastic view of Tromsoe.

An interesting day ended with a gala dinner, where I had the opportunity of making a speech.

The next day, the day of departure we were taken to the Polaria, an arctic experience centre. We saw a fantastic film "Svalbard – Arctic Wilderness" on five screens, an arctic walk and aquariums of fish. We also met the bearded seals and saw them feeding. Each seal eats around 4 kilos of fish a day.

After the visit at the Polaria it was time to leave for the airport. Another interesting visit had come to an end.

I am very touched by the warm welcome I have met during my visits. There is an instant feeling of friendship which is so special for our organisation. A friendship you feel from the very first moment – like a big family welcoming you. It makes me feel very privileged.

10) Any Other Business.

Zoning and the possibility of reducing the number of Board Directors

The Constitution Chairman had carried out additional analysis since presenting this idea to the Governing Body at the previous meeting. She explained that the Governing Body originally consisted of the Executive, plus a Board Member from each country with one or more Districts with eight or more Clubs, which had been functioning as a District for a minimum of two years.

With expansion of Inner Wheel it became obvious that the Governing Body was becoming very large, unwieldy and extremely expensive to maintain.

The proposal to reduce the number of Board Members was passed at the 1993 Convention in Sydney. There would now be 16 Board Directors who would not represent their countries but would act "globally". At the same time the position of National Representative was created. This person was to be the liaison between her country and International Inner Wheel. She would essentially carry out the duties of the former Board Member.

In the opinion of the Constitution Chairman the creation of the National Representative position has negated the duties that a Board Director may have undertaken. It had also created another tier in the system.

Summary of official positions of IIW excluding the Executive.

Countries and geographical regions with IW Clubs	95
Total Countries	65
Countries with National Representatives	28
Countries with NR/President positions combined	10
Countries with Presidents in addition to NR's	7
Countries with National Governing Bodies but no NR	7
Countries with Non Districted Clubs	37

Board Directors had expressed frustration at the small part they played in the affairs of IIW. To allow Board Directors to have some involvement, they had been allocated non Districted Clubs to communicate with. This had been successful in that the Clubs involved had felt they were important to IIW and had welcomed the contact. However, in some cases the involvement of a Board Director lasted for less than one year, for only part of the time the Board Director was in office. This was frustrating for the Clubs concerned as they had no continuity of involvement with the same Board Director.

Originally when this scheme was mooted, Board Directors were given a list of countries to contact. This then caused resentment from some National Representatives who felt their positions were being challenged.

With the membership decreasing and the subsequent loss of finances caused by the reduction in capitation fees received, and the increasing costs of administration, the Constitution Chairman was asked to put forward some scenarios for consideration by the Executive, in 2007. She subsequently spoke to that year's Governing Body meeting, and received very favourable comments.

The expense to IIW of bringing together 16 Board Directors from around the world was large. The honour of becoming an elected Board Director was very real and though one does not represent one's country, it was considered a very real compliment and one which the country was very proud of.

Some Directors served for only one year, and in all honesty, did they really get to act globally in that year? With one Governing Body meeting a year, there was not a huge opportunity to contribute a great deal. Board Directors had the experience of having served as a National Representative, so were aware of the duties and responsibilities that position demanded. The Constitution Chairman felt having that expertise available to the organisation there must be a way to harness and make full use of their abilities.

Possibilities and further discussion points

To reduce the number of Board Directors from 16 to 12.

Make each Director responsible for a ZONE.

She would not be "acting globally" as at present, but would come together with the Governing Body each year and be able to contribute more effectively and productively. Each National Representative in that zone would liaise with the Board Director who in turn would still be the liaison for her area with IIW. All communications would be copied to IIW

As at present, the qualifications for Board Director would be the same in that she must have been a National Representative.

The nominees for a Zone Board Director must be from the same zone.

All Clubs in the zone to vote for their choice of Board Director.

An internal election would be necessary in each zone.

Nominations would be accepted as at present by IIW, checked for approval and the necessary paperwork prepared for each zone election.

The Constitution Chairman explained that these changes would necessitate major changes to the Constitution and she then enumerated some of the considerations and technicalities that would have to be overcome if such a system was to be inaugurated.

The election of a Board Director in each zone

How would these elections be conducted?

The first inaugural election would probably have to be from IIW HQ.

An 'ad hoc' committee comprised of National Representatives in a zone could be responsible for the election of their Zone Board Director.

If there were 12 Zones, and the number of Board Directors was reduced to 12 – would there be a need for all Clubs, internationally, to participate in the elections, or would just the Clubs in each Zone, vote for their Board Director?

Would there need to be provision made for the rotation of countries within a Zone to nominate for a Board Director? E.g. a country may not nominate anyone again for (?) years after having had a Board Director elected?

Would this process exclude any Club, District or Country from participating?

What about Non Districted Clubs?

They would be included in a Zone.

If elections were to take place in Zones, how would they be financed?

Would the IIW Constitution Chairman be required to check nomination forms as at present?

She presented this exercise to the Governing Body and hoped they would consider it very seriously. She explained that the organisation faced a serious and real dilemma. She felt that if the organisation did not act now for the future the organisation could become a much lesser force than it was at present and indeed as it had been

in the past. Unless the membership could be increased substantially and in the very near future, the alternative was an increase in the capitation fee to International Inner Wheel to a realistic figure. She felt it was very sad that this capitation fee had not been increased each Convention and that was why the Executive Committee had moved to include this as a General Motion at each Convention in the future. For 15 years the Capitation Fee stayed at the same figure, and now with ever increasing costs of administration, travel and all incidental expenses, she considered that to survive the organisation must act, and act now.

She explained that to get any legislation into effect for any change to come about would take a lot of work and a lot of time. The earliest it could be voted upon would be in 2012 but possibly not until 2015. This topic would, in the interim, be the subject of a seminar at Convention 2009.

She concluded her remarks by asking if things should be left the way they were but with a drastic increase in the capitation fee?

She also posed the question – did Board Directors actually want the extra involvement and commitment the changes she had outlined would require?

A general discussion followed and the Governing Body thanked Shirley Hope for her efforts to present the suggestion in such a detailed and thoughtful way. It was agreed that it would be a very interesting seminar topic in Kota Kinabalu.

National Representatives Reports.

The National Representatives reports were discussed. It was agreed that reading all the reports made the Governing Body very impressed and proud at the major contribution Inner Wheel made all round the world in all sorts of projects.

It was again confirmed that countries wanting a Presidential visit needed to send an invitation to the President.

It was agreed that the National Representatives Duties and Responsibilities should be up-dated so that more explicit instructions be given on the format and deadline for this report as many of the reports, rather than providing a brief countrywide overview contained detailed Club by Club analysis and far exceeded the required word count.

11) Open Forum

Many issues were discussed and feedback sought. It had been interesting to find that opinions were so similar amongst the membership from all parts of the world on so many issues. The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

President's closing remarks.

To all of you thank you very much for all your gifts.

Now this Governing Body meeting has come to an end but your responsibilities and obligations as Board Directors are far from over. Keep in touch with each other, HQ and the Executive Committee. Continue to work for the growth of our organisation.

Thank you to all of you for your contribution and for the good discussions – hopefully to the benefit of the future of International Inner Wheel. We all want a vibrant organisation in growth.

I hope all of you feel that you have had the opportunity of expressing yourself.

I have enjoyed being together with all of you, and I look forward to seeing you again in Kota Kinabalu – in the meantime take care.

Working as a team is essential. I therefore wish to express my warmest thanks to my fellow members at the Executive Committee. Thank you for your support and your inputs.

Also a warm thank you to Administrator Elaine for your hard work preparing this meeting. I know it has given you a lot of extra work and worries because you had to pack and send all the papers to Copenhagen.

To all of you safe journeys home. I look forward to visiting some of you in your home countries, and hopefully be able to see some of the many projects going on worldwide.

Those who always walk in the footsteps of others will never be in the front.

Vice President's Vote of thanks to the President

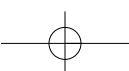
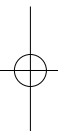
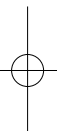
It is my great pleasure on behalf of all of us, to thank President Suzanne for the calm and friendly way in which she has steered us through all the business of the Governing Body.

It has been a happy and stimulating experience for us and we shall leave Copenhagen knowing more than we did when we arrived, and with the knowledge that we have discussed and interacted on many subjects.

President Suzanne, I and all members of the Governing Body wish you a very safe, healthy and happy nine months as you travel the Inner Wheel World.

President.....

Date.....



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