

BSL Coordinating Conference
Hamburg, Germany. 19.-21.09.2014
Seemannsmission Hamburg-Altona, Große Elbstraße 132

1. Opening of the conference – Ragnar Lõivukene, Lutz Baastrup
2. Choosing the chairman and secretary of the conference - Ragnar Lõivukene, Lutz Baastrup
Chairman: Ragnar Lõivukene
Secretary: Silja Thimsen
3. Short self-presentation of delegates and other participants.

Delegates present:

Ragnar Lõivukene, D-120
Lutz Baastrup D-111 N
Mona Neppenstrom, D-101A
Sanna Siissalo, D-107 B
Knud Løkkegaard, D-106 C
Elzbieta Szmyd D-121
Giedrius Indrasius D-131
Silja Thimsen, PZC Latvia
Absent: Marina Ziminia, D-123

Guests:

Rolf Halberg, D-101 A
Daiva, D-121

4. Acceptance of Minutes of meeting from last meeting in Riga, Latvia.
Accepted unanimously
5. Presentation of actual situation of BSL basing on delivered information form by all BSL members - Lutz Baastrup
Lutz states that Russia has not sent in any information.

111N Germany:

Lutz is offering everybody to join their Youth Camp in July 19th-August 2nd 2015, especially inviting Youth from the Baltic States and offering to help out financially.

120 Estonia:

Estonia has introduced LIONS Quests.

Ragnar Lõivukene wants to promote Jumelage club founding in his District. Asking delegates to inform him about clubs in their Districts who might be interested in Jumelage.

LEO European Convention 2016 will be taking place in Estonia.

107B Finland:

Pace of membership loss is slowing down.

Their biggest project: Renovating the children's hospital in Helsinki. Fund raising by offering plane rides over the city of Helsinki.

Difficulties in Lions aid for Karelia due to the political situation in Russia.

2015 a Youth Camp will be held in Sanna Siissalos district, she is sincerely inviting the Baltic States. The Exchange Program foresees 10 days in camp, 2 weeks in host families.

This year her district has sent out 20-30 Youth within the Youth Exchange Program.

131 Lithuania: Giedrius Indrasius reports that 1 new club has been founded in North Lithuania.

District Governor aims to found 2 new clubs within the next year.

LIONS quest is working very successfully in 20 schools. 20 clubs are being involved in the project.

Latest project: Establishing a Day Care center for children in Uzpaliai municipality.

Lithuanian clubs are interested in contacts to other countries.

106 C, Denmark: MD 106 consist of 4 districts, but 2 of them will join to 1 district. No. of

Members gradually going down. It is hard to get new members especially in the bigger cities.

Recognition of BSL in the district is very small due to very few achievements. Knud Løkkegaard is asking everybody to be more active and react to offers in time.

121, Poland: Elzbieta Szmyd is reporting that Poland's no. of members (1093) is actually lower than the minimum needed for forming a district. Experiencing difficulties to gain members, especially in big cities. Governors' aim is to found new members and clubs. 1 Youth camp will be organized in 2016.

Big success in the project: Festival of Songs for blind people in Krakow, which will be held every other year from now on.

In 2014 the District is celebrating 25 years of LIONism in Poland.

Biggest projects

2012: 6 clubs joined to finance a playground at a special school in Gdansk.

2013: Establishing a sports field in the city.

2014: started a project for a tartan track on a sports field.

101a, Sweden: Mona Neppenstrom reports that in 2015 will be celebrated 100 years of Lions in Sweden. Also experiencing loss of members. Big efforts are being put into saving Lions Quest Program.

Other big project: Water-saving project of the Baltic Sea,

Mona Neppenstroms district held 1 Youth Camp with 30 youngsters, but experienced big difficulties finding host families.

PZC Latvia: Silja Thimsen reports that no. of members is staying at the same level, one club is in the course of formation. Financial situation in the clubs on the Zone as a whole continues to be difficult.

6. Presentation of ongoing and possible future common projects of BSL

1. Silja Thimsen:

- Home for the elderly in Pavilosta in January 2014:
Denmark contributed 60 second hand bedside-tables as well as various medical supplies and devices, organized the Transport to Latvia
Germany contributed 20 second hand beds and matresses and donated 2000 EUR to cover the transport costs.
- LEGO
Denmark helped Latvia to get a donation of 1,5 mt of LEGO bricks which have been distributed to app. 3500 children in app. 60 different kindergartens, preschools and hospitals. All 6 Lions clubs were involved. It was a big success for the Lions movement as a whole in Latvia.
- Mona Neppenstrom collected 1653 EUR of donations, Associated member Axel Scherrer (Switzerland) collected 2052,03 EUR to be used for the home of elderly in Pavilosta, Latvia.

Silja Thimsen is asked to send a short report and pictures to Ilkka Siissalo to be put on the BSL website.

2. Elzbieta Szmyd:

House for disabled people in Sopot. 6 clubs in Gdansk support the Home.
Planned project: Sports equipment for outside sporting activity. Project sum: 5.500 EUR

Elzbieta Szmyd will send description of the project to Lutz who agrees to ask clubs in his district to support the project. If further support is needed, he will forward it to everybody else.

Knud Løkkegaard tells about a catalogue of projects which is sent out to clubs in Denmark where international projects are presented and split up in smallest bits in order the clubs can decide smallest amounts to spend. Encouraging delegates to send in their projects.

3. Mona Neppenstrom reports about the water project she had presented on the meeting in Riga 2014. Asking everybody to translate the folder to their language by the end of the year.
4. Ilkka Siissalo is reporting about Finnish activity in Karelia. They have been closely cooperating with the "Karelian Aid Organization" in order to take care of the formalities for the border control. Very successfully they collect clothes, shoes and toys in a Container which is placed on an department-store parking lot.
He is offering used PCs to all BSL states (4-5 years, Windows XP)

7. Web page –

Ilkka Siissalo presents his draft asking everyone to send a small explanation of what is BSL in the native languages to him.

Mona Neppenstrom asks to put in a link for the water project. Silja Thimsen proposes a link to country/district websites. Very important will be the list of past projects and future projects.

8. Presentation of Convention in Toronto - Lutz Baastrup, Sanna Siissalo,

International president seems to be full of energy, spirit, very open-minded. His message: "Strengthen the Pride". Meaning that we as Lions can be proud of what we have achieved, that we should go on bravely and strengthen the Lions family through membership growth.

9. Future of BSL, possible reorganization - Knud Lokkegaard, Lutz Baastrup

Knud Løkkegaard is reporting about North Sea Lions which has started its work 43 years ago. 11 districts (4 countries England, Holland, Germany, Denmark) are represented, covering 800 clubs. Every club in the 11 districts is paying 80 EUR/per year (summing 64.000 EUR) Clubs or a district can present projects by giving very specific information. They have to present as well how they contribute financially. NSL is also contributing to projects as one of a several sponsors.

Mona Neppenstrom proposing more Districts from the different countries (eg. Finland, Sweden) to join BSL. The delegates agreed on the countries of Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Germany to approach relevant districts.

Discussing the question of raising finances in order to set a BSL budget.

Elzbieta Szmydis pointing out the importance of a common project once more.

Lutz Baastrup and Knud Løkkegaard again encourage Eastern European countries to send in small scale projects.

Elzbieta Szmyd will send information to every delegate about "Blinds musicians' competition" taking place in Poland in 2016.

Everybody is asked to collect information about past projects. Instructions where to send it will be send out later.

10. Agreement on next BSL conference.

Date: 25.-26.09.2015

Place: Stockholm

Responsible for arrangements: Mona Neppenstrom

11. Open discussion .

The Russian official delegate is Marina. She as well as Svetlana will be invited for Stockholm 2015. If no response, they will not be invited for 2016.

12. Closing of the conference - Ragnar Lõivukene, Lutz Baastrup