



**BALTIC SEA LIONS 14<sup>th</sup> Coordination Conference**  
**28th-29<sup>th</sup> September 2012 Tartu , Estonia**

**Participants:**

**Guests:**

*ID Kelle Elster, Estonia, IPDG Olev Saluveer, VG Andrus Kore, Leo Kristjan Anderson*

**Delegates:**

*Mona Neppenstroem, Sweden*

*Knud Loekkegaard, Denmark*

*PDG Ilkka Siissalo, Finland*

*2nd. VG Sanna Siissalo, Finland*

*2nd. VG Lutz Baastrup, Germany*

*Ragnar Loivukene, Estonia*

*Elżbieta Szmyd, Poland*

*Marina Zimina, St. Petersburg*

*VG Alexander Zimin, St. Petersburg*

*Tatyana Romanenko, St. Petersburg*

*Dmitry Kolomicev, St. Petersburg*

*Svetlana Vatagina, St.Petersburg ,*

*Silja Thimsen, Latvia*

*Thomas Grigas, Lithouania*

*Axel Scherrer, Switzerland*

*Beginning : Friday, 28th, 9 am*

### **Top 1 Welcome**

*Elzbieta and Ragnar welcomed all participants and ID Kalle Elster as special guest for the 14th Baltic Sea Lions Conference. Elzbieta pointed out, that for the first time the founders Harald Dräger and Viggo Puggaard are not present but welcomed at the same time the new delegates.*

### **Top 2 Chairman and Secretary**

*The conference voted for Elzbieta as chairman and for Lutz as secretary.*

### **Top 3 Self presentation**

*Ilkka Siissalo announced that he is the Finish delegate for the last time. The next delegate will be apointed by the Multi Distrikt 107 since BSL is now a multi district affair. Sanna Siissalo will be candidate.*

### **Top 4 Welcome Speach**

*ID Kalle Elster welcomed the delegates to Estonia and spoke about the aims of IP Wayne A. Madden.*

### **Top 5 Acceptance of minutes of meeting in Norrtalje, Sweden**

*The minutes were reviewed and accepted by the participants of Norrtalje, Sweden.*

### **Top 6 Presentation of BSL - the past, aim and purpose - presented by Elzbieta.**

*Founded in 2000. All Baltic Sea countries are members. However Kaliningrad has taken part only sometimes and not anymore in recent years. Possible reactivation of Kaliningrad were briefly discussed.*

*The aim of BSL is to offer a platform of support and exchange between member states including youth exchange, jumelage between Clubs and Districts and support of special projects. Many support activities have focused on Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia as well as Russia.*

## **Top 6 Presentation of NSL - the past, aim and purpose - presented by Knud Loekkegaard**

*Members of NSR and NSL are North Sea countries and districts. They decide upon specific projects worldwide. Funds can be from 1€ up to 1,6€ per member in the member districts.*

*Each country, that is in charge of a specific project, has to check on this project and the further development for five years after the project has officially ended.*

*The meetings are only half a day but everyone has to do his homework and be prepared for the meeting.*

## **Top 7 Presentation of lionism situation**

*D 120 Estonia - Ragnar*

*6 Leo Clubs (from 6 to 36 members), 1294 members in 62 Lions clubs with*

*continous small growth despite loss of members (80 to 100 members each year). The loss is mainly due to economic reasons.*

*One main project for the second year is called "67 charity projects for kids". Estonia started "round tables" in all 4 regions. A training day for club officer and meetings of Zone Chairpersons are installed. Every year one international. youth camp is taken place. Also a family day.*

*Leo Kristjan Anderson spoke about the Leo Clubs in Estonia.*

*The Leo clubs in Estonia are functioning well. One project is to take blind people to concerts. Also help with homework at orphanages or have a meetings with them including baking Christmas cookies.*

*D 131 Lithouania - Thomas*

*20 clubs, 618 Lions. Lions are doing fine in Lithouania. We are not loosing member. We had our first youth camp in Lithouania and it was a success. The next camp is already planned for next year. It is a uniting project for the clubs. Lions Quest is working well. The DG signed a 100.000 USD grant including the pledge to promote Lions Quest further.*

*PZC Latvia - Silja*

*5 clubs, 84 members, 1 Leo club, 27 members. Situation still difficult. Partially only 7 members in a club (LC Liepaja).*

*We are working on a new club Jumala (near Riga). Both existing Riga clubs are not very active. LC Liepaja is the most active club. LC Valmiera and the Leo club are also very active. One girl could be sent again to a summer camp in Switzerland.*

*Very often members say, we have no money and can't do anything, which is not right as Thomas proved with his youth camp in Lithuania.*

*One project "Tandem bikes for the blind" was very successful. Another project was cameras to children or cameras to blinds, who made pictures which are quite interesting.*

*There will be a charity ball with Lions, Rotary and Round table.*

*Upcoming projects: accessories and aids for blinds and a school bus for orphans.*

*D 123 Russia - Marina translating for Alexander Zimin*

*In Russia most Lions clubs are in Moscow (20 from 30 clubs in Russia). We try to help Lions in Kaliningrad. We have good relationships with clubs in Moscow.*

*Ilkka asks about Putin's policy about the US Organization of Lions.*

*There is a law that all non commercial organizations must be registered. It is a difficult situation. But Lions clubs are social organizations and should not have any problems. In St. Petersburg the local government knows about the Lions of Great Bear and supports this club.*

*The projects of Great Bear concerns veterans, orphans, disabled children and poor families. Including travels to Turkey, Italy and Norway with young sportmen and disabled children.*

*18 members at the moment in the club. Increasing a bit.*

*Svetlana reports about activities for disabled sportsmen for example Basketball in wheelchairs. We have 19 club members.*

*There are two more Lions clubs in St. Petersburg (LC Golden Pelikan and LC Stars )*

*D 107B Finland - Ilkka*

*We are doing better than it used to be. 30.000 Lions in the multi district ten years ago. By now its 24.000 members and its rising again. Also two new Leo clubs. From previous 14 districts the District Lettland is no longer a district due to loss of members.*

*One major project is still help for Carelia in Russia - clothes and shoes and computers. It's simply collecting stuff and then transporting it to Carelia.*

*D 101A Sweden - Mona*

*Situation is similar to Finland. We lost members, but it's going up again. The biggest problem is in the big cities. On the country side there is no problem.*

*Lions Quest in Sweden is still a big success. There are plans for new Leo clubs and also Student clubs at University. Projects are for example to come along to high risks hockey and football games and to sponsor coffee and try to calm things down.*

*D 106C Denmark - Knud*

*Almost 1900 members in 78 clubs and 3 Leo clubs. We just finished a project in St. Petersburg. But many projects are done individually by local clubs. A participation in the Carelian project seems too difficult from Denmark.*

*Our district is sending 26 young people to youth camp worldwide. The costs will be covered by the local clubs.*

*Also we have one youth camp every year. Last year we had a sailing camp with blind people.*

*A suggestion from Alex Scherrer:*

*LC Nienburg, LF Christian Göllner ([c.goellner@goellner-spedition.de](mailto:c.goellner@goellner-spedition.de) Fon: +49-5021-90114 / Fax: +49-5021-90199) can help with transports to the Baltic countries.*

*D 111N Germany - Lutz*

*We have rising club and member numbers with 105 clubs and around 3.600 members.*

*The Leos have cleaned their member and club list and started up anew with 12 existing clubs and with three clubs to be chartered this year or next.*

*After a couple of years of difficulties between District Governor and Vice Governors including a Vice Governor, who quit, we are on track again. PDG Wolfgang Stein is as District Governor in charge of the 2013 IC. We switch to the so called Switzer System. We elected a third Vice Governor and next year we will not appoint Region Chairpersons.*

*The biggest project is of course the International Convention 2013 in Hamburg were we hope to have 1.000 Volunteer of Lions and Leos to help.*

*Because of the international convention there will be no youth camp in 2013 but the blind youth camp again in 2014. Also the participants of youth camps in the multi district 111 will take part in the parade. The next youth camp will be in 2015. Also we will try to increase the outgoing youth exchange from Germany.*

*D 121 Poland - Elzbieta*

*58 clubs, 1090 members, 1 Leo club. Many clubs are not so active. Also in the eastern part we don't have a lot of clubs. We need more members otherwise we may not be a District anymore.*

*There is lots of cooperation with LCIF. For example for the center of rehabilitation of handicapped.*

*We have a youth camp every year in Poland.*

*D 102 Switzerland - Alex*

*300 clubs, 10000 members. My club has around 100 members and are very active towards Georgia and the Baltic states.*

*It would be good to support young people of Baltic countries to go to youth camps in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland or else.*

### **Youth exchange:**

*Finland sends out about 225 young people every year. There is a youth camp in Finland every year.*

*Russia has the problem, that often kids suddenly decide not to go. So they send disabled children with their parents i.e. for sport events.*

*Lithuania - the clubs will pay most costs but parents shall be involved as well.*

*Germany and Denmark send out lots of young people and the clubs pay for travel expenses and pocket money.*

### **Top 8 Proposals and/or presentation of common projects for BSL:**

#### *proposal of BSL sailing trip - Thomas*

*Thomas would like to have information about the support activities from BSL countries to other Baltic Sea Countries. He would like to have a more active BSL. Transforming BSL into an active role.*

*Idea of a common BSL project to foster the spirit of cooperation and to get to know each other closer and intercultural exchange: Joint sailing trip.*

*Sailing rally around the Baltic. Each leg for one week and every year one leg. All sailing ships will meet at starting point and depart on finishing point.*

*Every lions crew should accommodate two guests i.e. young people or disabled children.*

#### *proposal of programme for clean waters of Baltic Sea - Mona*

*Scientists claim, that within 20 years, most of Europe will have a shortage of drinking water. We should start now to save and clean water by an information campaign.*

#### *proposal of school project in Germany*

*A school in Flensburg invites every year from Baltic Sea countries each two teachers and six students to take part into an international workshop. This has been paid for in the past by another international organization but it becomes more difficulty. So they ask, if Lions could help with some of the necessary funds.*

*The discussions are postponed for Saturday.*

*End of meeting on Friday: 4 p.m.*

*Start of meeting on Saturday: 9:30 am*

## **Top 9 LCIC Hamburg and next meeting of BSL - Lutz**

*The International Convention in Hamburg will be from Friday July 5th til Tuesday July 9th. Friday is simply arrival day with the convention center already open for registered participants. On Saturday morning the parade will be in the cent of the city around a lake.*

*In the evening an international show will be held in a sports arena.*

*On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday the plenary sessions will be in the morning. The IC ends on Tuesday around 1 p.m.*

*Lions interested going to the IC should register in advance since it will cost 100 US Dollar until end of December, 130 \$ until end of march and 150 \$ after that. Online registration will be available probably mid October on [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)*

*For Hotel reservation it is recommended to use [www.hrs.com](http://www.hrs.com) since this is very popular in Germany.*

*The delegates discussed the three options for the next BSL conference (during convention, after convention or in September in Travemünde) as well as the proposal to have the conference in Latvia.*

### **Saturday, September 29th.**

*Beginning : 9:30 a.m.*

## **Top 10 Agreement of the next conference - Elżbieta**

*After discussion the delegates decided to have the next conference to be held in Riga, Latvia. There will be an unformal meeting in Hamburg on Friday July 5th. during the convention.*

*The conference in Latvia will start on Friday 27th afternoon. Conference day will be Saturday 28th and departure on Sunday.*

*There will be an online survey regarding major important issues in the districts to collect and spread these information before the conference.*

*The conference in 2014 shall be held in Germany. Probably in Hamburg.*



*A future meeting shall be planned for Kaliningrad in 2015.*

### **Top 8 - continuous discussion about future projects**

*There will be a biker meeting held in Estonia including a charity event (see included information by Ragnar).*

*The sailing trip and the water saving program are rather PR projects and not so much humanitarian projects.*

*Everyone should collect information about the projects already in work.*

*Also Mona, Thomas and Lutz shall make a powerpoint presentation of their projects to distribute around the delegates to give the information to the clubs.*

### **Top 11 - Presentation of BSL Homepage - Lutz**

*The side is almost finished on the technical site. Passwords will be distributed around to the delegates soon to update their own language site.*

*The project site shall be coordinated by Germany.*

### **Top 12 - BSL banners and leaflets**

*It is agreed that the new banner shall be without personal names. Instead the contact data shall be reduced to an e-mail like "[germany@baltic-sea-lions.org](mailto:germany@baltic-sea-lions.org)"*

*The banners costs all together 550 € / 49 = 8 € per piece. After the distribution 5 are left over and can be requested by Thomas.*

*End of meeting: 11 am*