

**BSL Coordinating Conference**  
**Helsinki, Finland 23-25.09.2016**  
Majatalo Onnela, Rantate 34, 04310 Tuusula

**1. Opening of the Conference**

2. **Choosing the chairman** – Lutz Baastrup  
**and secretary** – Silja Thimsen

**3. Self-presentation-including a short account of situation of Lions and BSL in the delegates' countries**

Participants

D-107, B Finland: Sanna Siissalo and Ilkka Siissalo as guest

D-101 A, Sweden: Mona Neppenström

D-106 C, Denmark: Knud Løkkegard

D-111 N, Germany: Lutz Baastrup

D-121, Poland: Wojcieh Dmochowski

PZC Latvia: Silja Thimsen

D-120, Estonia: Ragnar Lõivukene

D-131 Lithuania: not represented

- **D-106 C, Denmark, Knud:**  
Good results in getting new members, but losing quite a lot after a few years of membership.  
(main reason: age difference between long time members and new members)  
In Total: membership loss  
No of mixed clubs increase  
BSL: too few projects for cooperation between BSL countries  
Proposal: invite a young person from EE, LV, LT to summer camp in DK
  
- **PZC Latvia, Silja**  
Silja reports that no of members is staying at the same level.  
Financial situation in the clubs on the Zone as a whole continues to be difficult.  
High interest in the country in the work of BSL.
  
- **D-101 A, Sweden, District 101 A, Mona**  
Sweden is experiencing age problems as well  
Manage to get new members  
Most clubs transform to mixed clubs

Report about the water project which is becoming quite popular in Sweden

- **D-121, Poland, Wojciech**

Poland is starting to experience age problems as well. Trying to solve these by inviting sons of club members.

Problems in finding young people to participate in Youth exchange programs.

- **D-120, Estonia, Ragnar**

Informs that Europe Form will be held in Tallinn in 2019

In the course of the LCI Centennial Estonia is setting up 100 benches throughout the country.

No of members is stable. Nevertheless Estonia is losing clubs due to the lack of activities.

Lutz reminds everyone that: "A high no of interesting, various activities is the best argument for attracting new members and to tie them to the club."

- **D-107 B, Finland, Sanna:**

Membership loss and club closing situation is very severe.

Lions reputation has decreased in the country.

D-107 B has high interest in the work of BSL.

The Karelia project is very successful. Finland is mainly delivering clothes and furniture. It sums up to 150 t per year. Finland is offering Latvia to participate in the project as well and will inform Silja about new offers.

- **D-111 N, Lutz Baastrup**

Membership situation stable, but the age problem is starting to effect the number of members and clubs.

MD Germany will start a big press campaign in the course of the LCI Centennial in 2017.

Lutz is telling about how successful publishing articles about Lions in smaller, weekly newspapers is working in his district.

LEO is quite successful with a no of 300 clubs. Germany aims to get old Leos to continue in Lions.

#### **4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last Meeting in Stockholm, 2015**

#### **5. Actual situation of BSL and ongoing projects**

As announced in 2015 at the conference in Stockholm the cooperation with Russia in BSL has been stopped as a result of no response from their side to any correspondence concerning BSL issues. Nevertheless is BSL open for them whenever they show interest again.

The Question about further cooperation with Lithuania and Switzerland (as associated member) was raised. Lutz will collect information about D-131 interest for international cooperations.

Wojciech is reporting about the 2 current projects in Poland:

1. Korczak's gardens (playground)
2. Schooling dogs for the blind and impaired people.  
2 dogs have been delivered, the 3<sup>rd</sup> will come in December.

Ragnar is talking about the need for Maarja Village for a new car.  
Costs for a new car are estimated to 22.000 EUR  
Ragnar will find out why Maarja Village wants a total new car (until the end of next week)

## 6. New projects

- A) **Silja**: Equipment for an outdoor sports ground in Western Latvia  
The school is asking for funds to set up 6 outdoor training devices.  
Costs in total: plus installation costs.  
Silja is asked to send detailed project description to all delegates by email and pictures to Ilkka who is responsible to put it on the website.
- B) **Wojciech**: Equipment for a new built hospital in Szczecinek (West Pomerania Region)  
For hospital beds and other medical equipment LCIF granted funds for half of project costs, summing up to 31.000 EUR.  
Polish Lions have collected app. 20.000 EUR  
There is additional need for furniture and kitchen equipment.  
Wojciech is asked to send a detailed list of what is needed to everyone by email.
- C) **Mona** is telling about a project in her district which is very successfully working. Her district organises a camp for children who have suffered from burned skin. She suggests it for other clubs to think about implementing an activity like that.

## 7. Web site:

The address [www.baltic-sea-lions.org](http://www.baltic-sea-lions.org) is going to be cancelled  
Ilkka is responsible for putting the project descriptions on the website.  
The delegates are asked to send a short description of the projects as well as pictures to Ilkka by Oct., 30<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone is asked to put the BSL link to his districts' website.

## 8. Presentation of International Convention

Lutz reports about and shows picture of the last International Convention in Japan as well as a movie about the upcoming Convention in Chicago in 2017.

## 9. Future of BSL and reorganisation

- A) Lutz proposes to hold **cyber meetings** in addition to the on-place meeting in fall.  
The delegates agreed on one meeting at the beginning of January, 18<sup>th</sup> at 19.00 MEZ (20.00 EST) and on May, 18<sup>th</sup> at 19.00 MEZ (20.00 EST)
- B) Knud brought up the question about the awareness of BSL in everyone's own district.  
He supposes to inform the 1. Vice District Governor instead of the District Governor in about the work of BSL in order to raise interest in the clubs.
- C) Finland and Germany are raising the issue of asking other districts in their countries to join BSL. All delegates agreed that each MD is having one vote only, though.
- D) Ilkka is proposing to hold the BSL meeting at bigger scales every 3 years, offering trainings or seminars. The delegates agree.

## 10. Agreement on next BSL meeting

September, 28-30<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Montreux , Switzerland during EF 2018. Proposal to hold the official meeting on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. Silja is holding responsibility to ask Axel Scherrer if he will help with the organisation.

## **11. Open discussion**

Ragnar is talking about struggles to collect funds for LIONS Quests.

Costs in total for training of 1 teacher

Finland: 350 €

Sweden: app. 300 € (covered by the schools)

Germany: 220 €

Estonia: 80-100 €

## **12. Closing of the meeting**