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KI-E Board meeting minutes

Meeting held in Gent, Friday October 11 at 15:30

Attendees

Elio Garozzo, Josy Glatigny, Gunnsteinn Björnsson, Karl Lippitz, Lee Kuan Young

Dolores Muniz, Konráð Konráðsson, Ralf Otto Gogolinski, Jan Boen, Michel Tefnin, Svein Gunnar Aanerud, Björn Bergmann Kristinsson, Eiður Ævarsson, Guðlaugur Kristjánsson, Mihai Bobitan, Josef-Peter Schachermayr, Richard Baumann, Orsi Süveges, Jaroslav Jevčák, Lenka Janatová, Jeff Oatess, Samyrra Bafdel, Franz Nagelseder, Jan van Hove, Paul Palazzolo.

Manfred Puchner, Dominique Swerts, Stefano Farese, Wolfgang Brunner, Anita Turel, Guido De Bie, Beverly Bogle, Henk Oostdam, Christ van Oevelen, Achim Härterich, Marco Duden, Richardo Whyte, Simona Dragu, Michael Mulhaul, Maura Magni, Markus Lanz, Filip Delanote, Daniel Vigneron.

Welcome

President Gunnsteinn Björnsson started the meeting by welcoming board members and guests.

As this was a joint board meeting, after his introduction Gunnsteinn invited the immediate past president, Josy Glatigny, to address the meeting. He expressed his thanks to the governors and chairs of his board and specially the secretary, Michel Tefnin. He also remembered KI trustee Vincent Salembier who passed away last October. Josy talked about the Back to the Race project that implemented a common social project for children in Ukraine and the support for membership through the Neo Club project. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and the potential for larger projects to increase brand awareness. Josy also mentioned the recruitment of 1,759 new members, with an average age of 51 and 330 under 40. He suggested the need for area club builders and the possibility of establishing a contract with KI. Josy also addressed the challenges faced by KI-E in 2023, including financial management and legal issues. The need for change of our bylaws was unexpected and thanks go to the legal advisors. He expressed optimism about the future, mentioning a potential favorable financial outcome and the need for effective communication. Josy concluded by wishing the new board success.

Gunnsteinn asked for permission to record the meeting. No objections.

He then informed that two governors are missing but that we have a quorum.

The meetings agenda was approved.

Approval of last meeting minutes

As there were no comments and no objections, last meetings minutes were approved.



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General status update

In addition to what Josy already stated, Gunnsteinn said that the main focus this year, as previous years, will be on growth by increasing membership. Our main plan is to make our organisation stronger and to do that we need more members. The average age of new members last year is good news and means that we are on the right track. Franz Nagelseder will lead the membership committee for another year. It is also important for us to think about our brand and Eiður Ævarsson will be the chairman of the BMC committee.

In just two weeks there will be a BMC training event with marketing people and chairs from the districts. During this event there will also be an opportunity to discuss how we will be moving forward.

The plan is to put more attention towards lieutenant governors training. A summit will be held in Copenhagen in January where some of the lieutenant governors will have chance to meet and learn from each other. This shows how important this role is to us.

Then there is the Kiwanis young summit in Lisbon. It is very important that we attend to this group. They are our future leaders and we must give them an opportunity to communicate and learn from each other as well as from our experienced leaders. We should also learn from them about the most efficient ways of approaching younger people.

A strategic plan has been worked on for several years. Document will be sent out next week and at the next meeting, in Munich, this issue will be discussed, possibly in a special event.

Finance report

KI-E treasurer 2024-2025, Ralf-Otto Gogolinski presented the preliminary financial report for 2023/2024 per 30. September 2024. Status is good and total operations are within budget and a 28.000 EUR surplus. Ralf-Otto pointed out that the governor elect training (20,976) was not budgeted for because at the time the budget was done we didn't foresee that KI-E would have to finance that.

Donations to SOS – Ukraina of 9,435 are reported but are not part of our budget.

With a grant of 7,000 EUR from authorities in Luxembourg the conference is within budget.

Our financial situation is comfortable.

No questions or remarks.

Extraordinary convention in Luxembourg.

The extraordinary convention where we will have a vote on new articles of our bylaws has to take place in Luxembourg so we will have to travel there by bus tomorrow.



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PP&G

Gunnsteinn explained that if passed, the new articles will be much simpler than before, leaving us in the position that we have the old PP&Gs from KIEF (the federation) plus the new bylaws but these two documents will leave gaps in our guidelines of governance. This calls for a review and changes to be made to the PP&G's. Gunnsteinn proposed forming a committee to work on new PP&Gs, with Manfred Puchner as chair, Piero Grasso, Anita Turel Hauser and Henk Oostdam as members as well as Gunnsteinn, Elio and Karli.

This was agreed.

Henk was asked to explain his proposal that had been sent out before the meeting regarding the regulation of upcoming elections. Henk explained that the simplest solution is to fall back to the KI bylaws and that is his proposal.

With regard to the internal regulations as mentioned in the articles of association Kiwanis International Europe will follow as its own from the moment the new articles of association take effect and until further notice:

1. the bylaws, policies and procedures of Kiwanis International with regard to the terms and conditions of membership of the management board and election, including the eligibility criteria, of board members, if elected at the general meeting;
2. the policies, procedures and guidelines of the Kiwanis International - European Federation;
3. In case of conflicting rules the articles of association of Kiwanis International Europe take precedence over the bylaws, policies and procedures of Kiwanis International which take precedence over the afore mentioned policies, procedures and guidelines;
4. If no precedence or resolution in those rules can be determined the executive board will decide and resolve the matter.

The proposal was accepted anonymously.

Report on membership

Franz Nagelseder, the European Coordinator for Membership and Growth, expressed gratitude to the staff, especially Jan van Hove. He then highlighted the achievement of recruiting 1,800 new members, which halted the annual loss of 500 to 900 members. He emphasized the importance of nurturing and retaining existing members, as well as building new ones, and noted that the average age of new members has decreased from 60 to 51. Jan van Hove also discussed the development of resources to facilitate communication and engagement, including short videos in five languages and the Academy, a training resource. He urged the districts to utilize the KI club toolbox, a collection of tested tools, and announced a webinar for district membership coordinators. Franz also mentioned the introduction of regional club builders in Austria and the potential for similar roles in other districts.



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Franz and Jan then answered some questions.

Report on Training & Education

Jan van Hove discussed the organization and schedule of training activities for the year, including webinars, membership training, governors elect training, and lieutenant governor summits. He also mentioned the development of training material to be translated into different languages for use in district lieutenant governor training, and the creation of training videos in five languages available on kiwanis.eu where there are currently 6 different videos available. Training material will be worked on for the new KI member database, Kiwanis Engage. Jan highlighted the need for improvement in governors training and introduced the lieutenant governor summit as a pilot program to improve training. The LG summit will be held in Copenhagen as an answer to governors and districts advocacy. The training will be interactive and will include a follow-up at the European level, with a budget allowing for 25 participants per district. Multilingual training sessions will be held, delivered in French, Italian, German, and Dutch. The training is intended for incoming lieutenant governors or those interested to take on that role. Governors are asked to introduce this in their districts. The governors elect training in Indianapolis was also discussed and the fact that due to budgetary reasons European governors were not invited last year.

BMC Update

Dolores introduced the new BMC chair Eiður Ævarsson. They are going to work together promoting the Kiwanis brand while supporting education of district chairs and development of tools for district support like website templates and promotional videos. Eiður mentioned a new project „3 four 3“ that's in the making and presented an example of a promotional video.

Achim expressed his concern over that every Kiwanis website has a different look and said that we need templates to make them consistent. Dolores and Eiður agreed that this was a problem. Jan Boen informed about work that is in progress with new Wordpress templates in cooperation with KI.

Remote Voting (Simply Voting)

Jan Boen talked about the electronic voting system that has been used in Europe since the Zurich on-line convention and wants to correct some misinformation about it. He explained the difference between electronic voting and remote voting and said that with the Simply Voting product, voting can be restricted to those present at a meeting but can also be used to allow remote voting. Recent updates to the product and more experience is using it means that it is possible to carry out complicated voting scenarios. Jan encouraged the districts to use the electronic voting system and offered help from the Gent office. Districts using the system will not be charged since the license is already paid for by KI-E.



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District/Nation Plan 2024-2025 (3' per district/nation)

Christ suggested that the 3 minute address of all governors would be postponed until tomorrow on the bus. This was accepted.

KCF Update

Markus Lanz, the new KCF trustee from Europe, discussed the Children's Fund and its impact emphasizing its separate status from Kiwanis International and its reliance on donor generosity. Donations come from clubs and individuals and there is no support from member dues. He highlighted past achievements, including raising over a quarter of a billion dollars to fight global health issues, and introduced the "Possibility Project," aiming to impact more than 10 million children over five years by raising 25 million US dollars. The project aims to raise money specifically to help kids through Kiwanis Clubs' service projects that focus on health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.

Markus also discussed the the urgent need for funds since requests for support have increased rapidly. The Impact Club pledge sets a fundraising goal for clubs by multiplying the number of members by 500 US dollars. Club leaders and members are encouraged to think of this as a commitment to fundraise an average of 100 US dollars per member annually.

Henk was concerned over KCF's fiscal problems and Markus will take that up with the KCF board and get answers.

Updates by KI board members

International president Lee Kuan Young was happy to be able to share information with two boards of KIE at the same meeting. We are part of Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis language is the same anywhere in the world. Mr. Young wants to appoint people from different regions into KI committees.

- The most important committee is the Build, Nurture, Retain committee. The international president is president of this committee and the president elect is also a member as well as the immediate past president and now, Gunnsteinn, president of KI-E, is appointed to the committee!
- The new club building committee will provide resources for assistance with new club building through KI and the Gent office. Franz Negelseder is appointed to the committee.
- Henk is appointed to the Resolutions and bylaws committee
- Governors committee, Daniel Vigneron.
- For the District Secretaries committee Konráð was appointed.

He then stated the goal of 424 clubs and stretch goal more then 600 clubs, offered help to district governors and stressed the importance of enjoying friendship.



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KI CEO Paul Palazzolo thanked those districts that started new clubs in 2023-3024. District Italy stands out with 10 new clubs and one of them with more than 40 new members. That club is eligible to compete for a 1.000 \$ grant from KCF to start their signature project. Paul noted that in Europe, 1.100 new members were added last year and suggested a goal of 1.500 new members for 2024-2025.

International president elect, Michael Mulhaul, and international trustees Philip Delanote and Maura Magni also addressed the meeting.

Any other business

There are two committees that have to be appointed before the special convention tomorrow. For the committee of credentials Ernest Nilen, Marco Duden and Christ Van Oevelen are nominated. For the committee of elections Michel Tefnin, Björn Bergmann Kristinsson and Svein Gunnar Aanerud.

This is accepted.

Meeting ends at 18:26

Gunnsteinn Björnsson
KI-E President 2024/2025

Konráð Konráðsson
KI-E Secretary 2024/2025