

## **Nordiska Samarbetsrådet NSR International relations seminar**

Hotel Rantasipi Sveitsi, Seminar room 63, Hyvinkää, Finland

Friday 28.1.2011 14.00 – 17.30

Participants: See separate list at appendix. 27 participants.

Chairman: PID Tapani Rahko, Finland

Minutes: PDG Ilkka Siissalo, Finland

### **1. Opening**

IRC, PID Tapani Rahko opened the meeting at 14.00 and wished all participants warmly welcome.

### **2. Restaurant school of Oradea, Romania; Sven-Arne Wennerberg, Sweden**

A progress report was shown, including pictures and financials. The results look impressive. Total cost figure is 6 446 818 SEK.

- Building cost of the school was 4,9 M SEK

- Running of the school will in the future be at the cost of the locals. They say they have received help from the EU.

### **3. Lions Quest in Georgia, PDG Hilde Straumsheim, Norway**

PDG Hilde Straumsheim showed an update with pictures. Georgia as a young Lions country and with a fairly unstable environment is an area which might benefit immensely from the Quest program. First task is to translate the "Skills of Adolescence" part into Georgian. They need educated instructors, at least two.

A Nordic committee is set up, 4 members from Norway, 1 from Denmark, 1 from Sweden, 1 from Iceland and now also one from Finland.

A Georgian committee is also being set up. LC Kutaisi will be responsible in the first phase. They have an advisory group with people from the ministry, politics, the church and the city.

Workshops and training of local instructors (one pilot workshop for teachers, school leaders etc) will take place in August. Dates are not yet known, but will be fixed soon.

PDG Hilde Straumsheim and PID Jørn Andersen will travel to Georgia in a month's time to help Georgian lions to fill in and send the LCIF Core 4 application for the project.

#### **4. Children's home No. 53, St. Petersburg, DG Kim Larsen, Denmark**

DG Kim Larsen gave a presentation about refurbishing the orphanage home in St Petersburg. A lot of pictures were shown.

The orphanage consists of over 100 years old buildings, with now about 150 children living in there (earlier 200). Now Lions have sponsored over 150 000 € in helping the home. Roofs, paintings etc. have been renovated.

LCIF did not want to pay for the projects, so it was run without the LCIF grant with a total budget of 200 000€. Total payment from Lions is 132 000 €.

The main building renovation is now almost complete and an additional support function building will be worked on next summer. The quality of work looks good and the contractors have stayed within the budget, which is good, knowing the environment. Lions members will visit the area this spring to decide what else needs to be done in the surroundings.

#### **5. Norwegian Lions Projects in Africa, PCC Marit Klokkehaug, PCC Otto Brødholt**

Norwegian Lions have performed many projects in Africa supported by Norad, the Norwegian state aid agency.

Projects have included for example 6 eye clinics in Uganda and 5 polyclinics (not open all days) for cataract surgery. A lot of effort goes also in educating nurses, doctors and local politicians and leaders. By 2009 27 900 patients had been treated in northern Uganda and the total figure (all places total) was over 76 000 patients.

School projects: Co-financing a school in a slum area in Kampala, 2 M NOK. Other school projects have been 5 primary schools in various parts of the country, including teacher housing, playgrounds etc.

Water and well projects: About 20 wells have been built in Uganda, 2 in Malawi. A lot of tents, blankets and foodstuffs have been delivered as well.

Foster children: About 200 children have so far been “adopted” as supported godchildren in Uganda so far.

Norway has also been active in Malawi, creating two eye clinics and a training program. 6 mobile clinics are set up and over 500 health workers have been trained.

Projects are now starting in Zambia. There is now one resident Norwegian lion in Zambia. Zambia has high figures of trachoma problems.

Until the end of 2009, 69 M NOK of NORAD and 19 M NOK of Lions money has been used. Now the activities in Uganda will be shut down and focus moves to Zambia. Norad points out that the activities in Uganda will end in 2015. Downphasing massive aid has to be done carefully, as aid creates also aid dependency. A certain lowering of the service level was expected and also seen in Uganda.

Otto Brødholt presented pictures from Uganda.

## **6. Bring Quality to life**

### **CC Sven-Arne Wennerberg, Sweden**

CC Sven-Arne Wennerberg presented the Swedish project of providing tents to catastrophe areas. The project was started as a cooperation with the Swedish search and rescue (SAR) officials. Tents are standardised, 12m<sup>2</sup>, with cotton roofs and walls, very easy to build up.

Tents are sent in wooden boxes, which then later can be used as toilets in the target area. The boxes contain also blankets. 2628 tents have been sent out, last 395 to Haiti.

LCIF has supported provisioning of these tents to some recent catastrophe areas including China and Haiti. Now there are plans to widen the project in cooperation with further organisations.

## **7. Greenland and the international relations**

### **DG Kim Larsen, Denmark**

Greenland is a huge area, close to Canada, area 2,166 million km<sup>2</sup>, 2670 km long. The northernmost part is only 740 km from the north pole. 81% is covered by ice. 80% of the people are Inuits. The rest is mainly Danish. Population is about 60 000. Greenland is part of district 106D Denmark. There are about 120 places where people live, out of which half have less than 100 people. Roads do not exist between places; boats and helicopters are the only means of transport. In total there are only about 50km of road. A lot of young people, up to

20%, have experienced violence, alcoholism and/or incest. A lot of families experience unemployment and prices are a lot higher than in mainland. Many prices are up to 3x higher than on the mainland Denmark.

There are 5 lions clubs in Greenland, located in 5 towns along the coast. Some make a lot of money and they spend it all locally. Much of the support and contacts from mainland Denmark are club to club.

One way of helping is the mini projects catalogue online ([www.lions.dk](http://www.lions.dk)). Danish Lions clubs foundation has sponsored 50 000 EUR in 2009-10 in Greenland; 21 different projects. Christmas baskets and moving boxes full of food and delicacies are being delivered. There are also many shelter houses necessary for children who cannot be at home.

## 8. **Baltic Sea Lions projects** **PDG Ilkka Siissalo**

BSL president PDG Ilkka Siissalo showed a summary of the Baltic Sea Lions network projects during 2010. The Baltic Sea Lions network working principle was explained. Project examples were shown: Sweden to Latvia, Germany to Estonia, Switzerland (BSL associate member) to Latvia, Finland to Russia. The Finnish project "Lions aid for Carelia" was discussed in more detail. The Carelian project is gradually expanding to other countries as well as clubs from Switzerland, Sweden and Germany are willing to step in.

## 9. **LCIF development projects & best practises** **Situation in various NSR countries**

**Finland:** PDG Ilkka Siissalo presented on behalf of MD LCIF coordinator PDG Marjo Kiviranta the progress of Finnish lions. Setting up the organization in all the 14 districts has happened and training has been done. In some zones zone LCIF coordinators have been established, but not all. The activity level of the district level LCIF coordinators varies quite a lot.

After the earthquake in Haiti a lot of positive attention was received and the money collections were very successful. Afterwards, after the Pakistani flooding a decision was made to focus the Finnish campaign totally to Pakistan. However, now recently this was reversed and the future target for spring 2011 is again Haiti.

A lot of Finnish "laymen" lions members do not have even the basic knowledge of the LCIF and often information disseminated by the LCIF coordinators do not reach the average members. Using photographs from the catastrophe areas is a very effective way of achieving results.

**Denmark** “has not been doing very much” in the LCIF area and they do not have any concrete projects right now. But now they are starting again, applying money for two eye clinics in Burkina Faso in Africa. Danish lions are planning a trip to Africa to start concrete planning. The North Sea Lions and the Danish state are supporting the project and they have asked for 200k USD from the LCIF.

In a separate application for an eye clinic in Madanga, Sierra Leone an application to LCIF was sent, but LCIF is asking for local lions to act in the project and local lions do not exist.

**Iceland:** Coordinators in zones and districts are in place and education has been offered. CSF II was very successful in Iceland, but since many clubs are still paying into the program, they are drained in cash. Therefore not many projects are started. However, Haiti got quite a lot of money and the Icelandic lions supported the Icelandic SAR team which was sent to Haiti right after the earthquake.

Iceland has had some grants from the LCIF, especially after the earthquake in southern Iceland, when LCIF supported the setup of a hospital. Vestmannaeyjar got a big amount of relief money when there was volcanic activity and that resulted in good positive PR, but that’s already fairly long time ago. Now the LCIF coordinators are pushing lions members into becoming support members of the fund.

**Norway:** In Norway the IR-DCs are also the LCIF coordinators. They have been at the district meetings giving presentations about the fund. Norway also has a separate catastrophe fund, which sent a lot of money via the LCIF to various catastrophe areas. Norwegian lions granted in 2009 500k NOK to the disaster area in Asia and the Pacific, 300k NOK to Indonesia, 100k to Samoa, 100k to Vietnam, Philippines and Taiwan. Haiti got 1,650 million NOK.

In Haiti a “Village Norway” is planned, in the same way that a village in Sri Lanka was built after the tsunami disaster. All clubs are paying 30 NOK/member to the LCIF, about 1M NOK in total. An increase this year to 45 NOK and a further increase the year after is planned.

**Sweden:** The LCIF coordinator was not present, but Swedish lions present knew about some applications. The tent project of Sweden was discussed, but currently LCIF does not want to pay for tents without knowing where they are going. But they have to be ordered beforehand. In the cases of the earthquake in China and Haiti LCIF however helped to fund the tents and there is now an attitude change happening and discussions in Oak Brook are foreseen.

## **10. Discussion**

Developing the communication and PR of the IR and matters related to LCIF was seen as a key area for development in the near future.

The NSR service project basket will be developed during the spring of 2011.

## Appendix 1.

NSR IR seminar 28.1.2011 Hyvinkää, participants list

MD/Distr.	Title	Name
107	IR-DC / PDG	Ilkka Siissalo
106	IRC	Ole Engedal
106	IRC / PDG	Bjarne Bloch
106	VDG / VDC	Knud Løkkegaard
104	VDG	Roar Eng
106	IRD / PCC	Fritz R. Frederiksen
106D	DG	Kim Larsen
111	IR / PDG	Kurt G. Jörgensen
104	VCC	Hilde Straumsheim
104	IRD / PCC	Marit Klokkehaug
104	PDG / PMD-IRC	Erik Ewang
104C	DG	Ulla Perry
109	PCC	Halldór Kristjánsson
104	PCC	Otto Brødholt
107	lion	Heikki Lankio
104	lion	Erik Sontum
101	PCC	Lennart Fridén
107	PDG	Otfried Blümchen
104	DG	Sven Senstad
101	CC	Sven-Arne Wennerberg
107	PID	Tapani Rahko
107A	ZC	Olof Bergroth
101U	DG	Berndt Fors
107E	PDG	Onni Grönlund
107E	lion	Sinikka Grönlund
120	PDG	Matti Klaar
101	PDG	Reino Wikström