

World President Svend Andersen's
Report Atlanta June 12th, 2017

Firstly, I would like to thank you on behalf of Carina and myself for the kindness and hospitality we have received on our visits to the section and squadron meetings. We have enjoyed meeting so many engaged members and their families.

After the convention last year in Seoul, we had our fly out based in Berlin. The event was superbly planned and managed by Gerhard Wrede and his small effective team. With our base in Berlin we had great day tours with both planes and bus and lots of fellowship.

In August Carina and I joined the Scandinavian fly in at Bodo, north of the Arctic circle.

In September, we joined a one-day event organized by Giuseppe Berardo and his team in Castel Nuovo Don Bosco, Italy

November brought us to LA. Peter More arranged a lunch fly in at Santa Monica airport which he sponsored since it was soon to be his birthday.

In December, we joined the traditional UK Annual Christmas lunch at the Royal Air Force Club in London, really a treat!

In January, I was back in LA, and was able to join the first Squadron meeting in the airport of El Monte, west LA. It was put together by Penelope Cornwall. Never have I felt more presidential; IFFR including my name was in lights, on the billboard, flashing as was our meeting announced with 3 feet high letters in the arrival hall. Great job Penelope.

In April, we had the first European section meeting in Schwabish Hall in Germany. A great and traditional fly-in with good attendance, lots of time for fellowship and catching up after the long winter.

In May, we joined the Benelux fly-in at the Oostende seaside in Belgium. We hit the first summer day in Europe having a great time.

Most of the ongoing IFFR business has been to deal with the many motions which were approved at the Berlin AGM. Most was straight forward, others proved to be somewhat more complicated and tedious.

1) The money back to the sections was carried out sending back 30,000 US\$, less the dues for 2016 which was subtracted to save the cost of bank transfers. Sounds easy but turned out to require lots of work for our secretary.

We are still building up funds in the World accounts, so the executive committee has made suggestions which will help us reduce and balance the holdings in the reserve and operational accounts within a relevant level of 25-35,000 US\$

2) The motion to safeguard our reserve funds with a double approval turned out to be a difficult thing to implement without changing Bank. We use Bank of America and it turned out that this bank does not have an electronic system in place for this. The result was that the executive committee suggested to the board that we kept the double approval so that all withdrawals from the reserve accounts has to be suggested by the world treasurer and approved by the World President in writing. This method was approved by the board and is now reflected in the guidelines.

3) Gentle revision has been done to the bylaws, bringing it up to date with the latest approved motions. New policies from Rotary International regarding Eligibility strongly challenge our by-laws. Thus, a Committee of wise old IFFR members has been given the task of drafting a revised set of By-laws which should bring us in compliance with the RI policies, and adjust the paragraphs accordingly. Draft should be available for a hearing at board level in November to be put before the AGM in Toronto next year. The committee consists of PWP Angus Clark, VP and WPN George Chaffey chaired by VP Ian Jenner.

4) Member Manager has crashed; Ian Kerr has been working hard to replace it and during the last three weeks a new system has emerged. Membermojo is the new system and Ian Jenner will report on this in a moment.

5) The guidelines have been updated with the motions approved at the last AGM in Berlin.

One of my aims has been to focus on the membership. Not only increasing the number of members but also getting some of the dormant members activated. The squadron idea implemented in the Americas now, is a great way of bringing IFFR to the local areas. Especially when the sections cover a large geographical area. The local lunch meetings are more attractive for a lot of members to meet up and spend an afternoon or morning together. I am sure this will activate a great number of members who we otherwise do not see.

I do think that our future and justification comes from the generation of local activities and involving members in a fun way. But it also depends on creating awareness of our great fellowship outside our midst. Do use your network within rotary to spread the word about the fellowships in general and IFFR in particular.

The numbers are up. That is great. We are now approaching about 1400 members in total which is the largest increase in years. Han's report which is tabled, gives the details in the numbers as of a few days ago.

This year's fly-out has been put together by Dale Read and his very small team. It has been a lot of work setting up all the destinations, striking deals with the hotels and the events along the route. I do think we should acknowledge all the work and effort which has gone into this project, and I am personally looking forward to less work and more play as we leave on Thursday 15th.

With this I would like to end my report by thanking all members of the Executive board who have been very helpful and patient with the Scandinavian type of leadership.

A special thanks to Ian Kerr for being my trusted spellchecker and hard working secretary, Lynn Miller for always being there, helping with the administrative complicated world of RI convention, US banking etc. To George Chaffey and Angus Clark for lending an ear to my challenges and offering good advice. Bo Johnsson for keeping the web site in the air and assisting with the new member system. John Bowden for being my "consigliere" and editor of the bylaw and guidelines revisions.

Finally, a great and warm thanks to my lovely wife Carina for her great support and gentle well thought advice.

Svend Andersen

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