

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JANUARY 2018

DRAE ExCo MEETING

The ExCo had its last full meeting in Neuendettelsau, in February 2017. There was also a brief meeting during the World Assembly in Chicago, July 2017.

To be followed up from the meeting in Neuendettelsau:

- Financial resources of DRAE are still diminishing which we have to be very aware of especially when we plan our Conferences; that we have to do fundraising.
- Reports: For a better contact to all members the actual address list should be on Drop box. For the written report, there should be a revised template.
- The term for the ExCo election: should it be from Assembly to Assembly, as now. Or should it change to for example from one Regional Conference to the next.
- Regional Jubilee Conference 2019 in Scotland
- For all of us to be active on our web-side and Facebook group
- Collecting DRAE archives and include them in the archives of WORLD

The ExCo in Chicago worked on issues concerning preparations for the Assembly.

STANDING COMMITTEE (SC)

The standing committee consists of the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Regional President. The committee mainly works and communicates through e-mails. It is a very efficient way of working and there is a lot of contact across borders and languages.

To secure the handover from the outgoing to the incoming secretary there was a special SC meeting in Berlin in October 2017. Besides going through all that was needed for the handover the SC worked on job descriptions, Constitution and Byelaws, the Regional Conference and Drop box.

DIAKONIA WORLD ExCo MEETING

The meeting for the World ExCo took place in Valparaiso, the city of the Lutheran Deaconess Association in the US, end of June 2017. In addition to the work on all the usual items on the agenda it was done a lot of preparations for the Assembly that took place right after the World ExCo.

- **Travel Fund**
The Travel Fund can no longer depend on General Fund for large subsidies. New criteria for the Travel Fund will be added to the Byelaws.
- **Registration of DIAKONIA World Federation and change of domicile**
It has been, and will be, a lot of work. The proposed change will be up for voting at the Assembly.

DIAKONIA World Assembly 2017

Chicago 28th June – 5th July 2017: Shaken by the wind. The venue was Loyola University. The main speakers were Dr Michel Kinnamon and Bishop Christopher Epting. Dr Dcc Gwen Saylor held the Bible Studies. We were all excited about the Assembly and the possibilities it gave for learning, exchange and fellowship.

- **New Presidents**
World President: Sandy Boyce (re-election)
Regional DAP: Meresiana Sadrata-Kuricava
Regional DOTAC: Jan Cherry
Regional DRAE: Marianne Uri Øverland (re-election)
- **DIAKONIA World Assembly 2021**
The assembly is invited to take place in Darwin in Australia.

ECUMENICAL MEETINGS

- **Eurodiaconia**
DRAE has signed a memorandum of understanding with Eurodiaconia. One of the items is to take part in the others general meeting e.g. Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Eurodiaconia and Regional Conference for DRAE. The AGM 2017 took place in Oslo 20th – 22th June. The theme of the meeting was: Precariousness and Polarisation – the Challenge for Diaconia. Marianne Uri Øverland participated from DRAE.
The AGM for 2018 will be in Wroclaw, Poland 13th – 15th June 2018.
- **World Council of Churches**
There has been no meeting involving DIAKONIA during 2017. A letter has been sent asking to get DIAKONIA back on the list of advisors to the WCC. The next meeting in the Central Committee takes place in Geneva June 2018.

OTHER CONTACT

During the year the main contact goes via e-mail. It is an easy way to communicate. Some of the correspondence will be from people more interested in being supported than to actually become members.

For 2017 there was no invitation from member organisations to visit them. But it has come an invitation for 2018. Straight after our meeting I will go to Tallinn to take part in the Pastor's Conference of the Lutheran Church in Estonia and give a workshop on diakonia.

On behalf of DIAKONIA I attended the funeral of Inga Bengtzon in Uppsala, Sweden 2nd June 2017. Inga Bengtzon was the president of DIAKONIA for 13 years, 1979 - 1992. She died at the age of 96 years.

I also attended the farewell of Dr. Christine-Ruth Müller and the welcome of pastor Christa Schrauf as new director of The Kaiserswerther Association in Berlin 27th September 2017.

PREPARING MEETING EDINBURGH

Our new secretary Gordon Pennykid has done the organisation for this meeting. A big thanks to him for the work he has done. He has cooperated with the standing committee and with the Scottish deacon's organisation.

Fredrikstad, January 2018
Marianne Uri Øverland