**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2017**

**DRAE MEETING**

The ExCo had its last meeting in Basel, January 2016

To be followed up from the meeting in Basel:

* ExCo had mutual discussions with GS Heather Roy from Eurodiaconia. This was followed up with a memorandum of understanding between DRAE and Eurodiaconia to be discussed at our meeting in Neuendettelsau.
* To do some revisions of the Bylaws to be handled in Neuendettelsau and taken further to the delegates meeting in Chicago.
* Before our meeting in Neuendettelsau: to investigate the DRAE website to check the site and all sub-sites for topicality, consistency and overall quality.
* Establish a DRAE Facebook group
* Collecting DRAE archives and include them in the archives of WORLD

**STANDING COMMITTEE**

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

**PREPARING MEETING NEUENDETTELSAU**

Mainly Ulrike Keller has done the planning for this meeting. She has cooperated with the standing committee and with sister Roshwita Buff at Diakonie Neuendettelsau. They have done a very good job and we are excited to be in Neuendettelsau for this meeting. We will also bring thanks to the CEO of Diakonie Neuedettelsau, Rektor D. Mathias Hartmann for hosting us and inviting us for a special dinner, and to Martin Neukamm one of the directors at Rummelsberger Diakonie for receiving us at his place.

**DIAKONIA WORLD MEETING**

The meeting took place in Chicago in the US. In addition to work on all the items in the meeting we were able to visit Loyola University the place of Word Assembly 2017 and Valparaiso, the city of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

Items from the meeting:

* **Constitution and Bylaws:**

The three Regional Presidents and the President are still working on getting all the Constitutions and Bylaws talking together. It is also an aim that the election procedures will be similar.

* **DIAKAID and Emergency Fund**

Applications have now started to come. For the future it is necessary to establish a clear process that includes the current guidelines for applications.

* **Registration of DIAKONIA World Federation**

To change the registration from the Netherlands to Germany is a more complicated task than what was anticipated.

* **DIAKONIA World Assembly 2017**

Chicago 28th June – 5th July 2017: Shaken by the wind. We are all excited about the assembly and the possibilities it gives for learning, exchange and fellowship.

**ECUMENICAL MEETINGS**

* **Eurodiaconia**

Elisabeth Meier and Marianne Uri Øverland joined the AGM of Eurodiaconia that was held 8th – 10th June in Utrecht. DRAE was also invited to have a workshop on the theme: Hospitable Communities. Not so many attended the workshop, but we had some interesting discussions both after the presentation and at the common presentation in plenary.

* **World Council of Churches**

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) met in Trondheim, Norway 22nd – 28th June 2016 with the theme: Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. Marianne Uri Øverland represented DIAKONIA for the opening sessions. DIAKONIA has for many years been part of the group of advisors to WCC.

* **ReDi**

The International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi) had its 6th Biennial Conference in Helsinki 15th – 17th September 2016. The theme of the Conference was “Diaconia in Dialogue – The challenges of diversifying contexts.” Marianne Uri Øverland attended the conference on behalf of WORLD.

**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 2016 there was no invitation from member organisations to visit them.

Oslo, January 2017

Marianne Uri Øverland