



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
**LIONS CLUBS**

Lions of Scandinavia – Nordic Lions Cooperation

MD 101 Sweden • MD 104 Norway • MD 106 Denmark • MD 017 Finland • MD 019 Iceland



8 October 2016

## Report about the Convention in Fukuoka to the NSR Council meeting

### Conclusion:

After a long preparation starting in the autumn and going on nearly until departure for Fukuoka with some challenges due to language problems, we ended up with some very good events. It was well organized and prepared by the hotels I have been in contact with. The parade was carried out successfully with a first prize (shared), and the social events were bringing the Scandinavian participants closer to each other. In the following I will comment the different events in order to draw out essential remarks. My recommendation is to continue more or less as we did this year.

### Parade instruction and CC Meeting:

As the designated hotel demanded a huge amount for the coffee and water and also would charge for technical equipment, even it was told them, that we didn't want to use this, I decided to move the meeting to the Conference Center. Here could we have a meeting room free of charge. It was a rather small room, but it fulfilled its goal, and we saved the amount in the budget.

### Get together Party:

This was my biggest challenge in the preparation. When I asked in east they answered in west, and my attempt to get an intermediary in the loop was refused by the manager. After several mails it ended up with a proposal for food, which I accepted with my fingers crossed. As soon as I arrived in Fukuoka I visited the hotel, and got a much better impression. It was one of the hotels for DG'es. And for that meeting the manager had brought a person, who was able to communicate better in English. It ended up with a very good party. There was a buffet - and my only appeal against this is, that the participants believed that they had to take everything at once, so that some of the last persons at the buffet did not have the large selection. Learning is to make clear that you take a little at a time.

The entertainment from delegations was excellent and not too long. Thanks to everybody for participation in this event and for the entertainment. But if using pc with sound, it would be nice to know it in advance.

Here we also had the possibility to introduce the candidate for 2VP Gudrun and her family.

### Hospitality:

As we this year have a candidate for 2VP I have issued invitations for 1000 persons (500 cards) instead of our normal 800. I had a long mail correspondence with the hotel as they in their first offer had offered a buffet with roughly the same content as the year before in Hawaii at a price of € 65,000. After having a long correspondence to reach a level as the previous year, which was € 20,000. The final offer was € 22,000. The budget was unfortunately based as in Toronto and only

set as € 12,000. I had to ask the CC group on acceptance of the overrun of the budget, which was accepted.

The party was very successful and we had visit of several PIP as well as other members of the board, and Lions from all over the world.

Learning from this event is, that if we not - as in Toronto - have the possibility to have the party in more private environment, we must have a budget on the level as it ended up here.

**Parade:**

This year we were in the last end of the parade and had to wait a long time before taking off. It was maybe lucky because the rain stopped when it was our time to leave.

There had been some wishes from Finland this year about their participation in the parade, but we solved this by letting the banners be in country rows instead of mixed as we normally do, and letting the finish participants walking as a separate group in the end of our delegation. I have taken into my notes, that this was a one off.

A special part of the parade this year was the banner with our candidate for 2VP Gudrun Bjort Yngvadottir, and after talking with Gudrun about this it was set up with one from each country to carry this. Thanks to Kiddi (Kristinn Hanneson) for also taking part in this.

Thanks for help from CC's and other voluntaries helping to keep the parade "on top" the whole way. We succeeded in getting first price and all our flags were so dry, that we could packed them immediately. The transport to Chicago was I so happy to make an agreement with LCI, so they took it with their very large shipping without cost for us. So it helped a little bit at the budget. On the other hand it was also told me, that we could not expect this in the future.

**Thank you for all help:**

I would like to thank you all that helped me in my work with the arrangements in Fukuoka and a special thanks to my wife Ingrid for all her assistants with the planning and during the Convention in Fukuoka.

Bent Jespersen

Scandinavian Convention Coordinator 2015-2017

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