Think Ahead - Aim High

Istanbul Convention

Photo features:

The Board

The Auditorium

Turkish Dancers
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Dear friends,

The 15th Convention is over and was very successful for the future of IIW, as Proposal 17, General Motion A, and many different Proposals and Resolutions were carried. It is the start, I hope, of the Renaissance of IIW in many of our countries. Now we need to work hard to rediscover the good years of our expansion, during former decades. Now we need to reach out and strengthen our leadership of women’s service clubs, dedicated to the good of others.

Now is the time to galvanize all clubs to move forward. We have no other choice. The way forward is clearly marked; we must follow it without hesitation, and succeed in meeting the challenge of being a model for service clubs throughout the world. Now we need to build on good fellowship, and we need to emphasise our care for all humankind. We know where we want to go.

Now we have to build a bridge towards the future, showing that we have understood, during the Convention, some of the important messages connected to the conscious development of our organisation.

We know what steps we must take to ensure the growth of IIW. We must become the messengers, in our clubs, districts and countries, of all the positive decisions taken during those three days.

Now we need to attract new members, to strengthen our clubs, and show the world that we are working for the future with significant projects.

Now we need to welcome our future members, and this is only the beginning of our mission; we should find ways to turn those new members into committed Inner Wheel members. All of us, the next generation members, as well as the older members, must dedicate our skills and knowledge to the building of a prestigious image for International Inner Wheel worldwide.

The Winning Wheel of the world ...

Thank you my dearest friends for achieving our Convention goals. Now let us grow, reach out and expand. IIW will always be what we make of it. Always Think Ahead and Aim High, with flexibility, tolerance and commitment.

Catherine Refabert
IIW President 2011- 2012
15th International Inner Wheel Convention Istanbul 2012

Friendship, Fellowship, Commitment, inspiring speeches and seminars, impressive opening ceremony with all national flags displayed in the auditorium, successful business sessions, with the most important proposal the 17th, proposed and seconded by Australia, carried with a very strong majority. That was our 15th International Inner Wheel Convention ...

Now IIW can proceed to increase membership and charter new clubs; it will help IIW to flourish, ensuring a positive future for our organisation.

The “Song for Peace”

For the IIW Convention, the Committee of Dalyan IIW Club prepared the project: “Childrens’ Song for Peace.”

An announcement of the contest was circulated to all music schools in Istanbul to create a “Song for Peace.”

A contest jury was organised, composed of music performers and academicians. The winning “Song for Peace” was performed by a chorus of children during the opening ceremony of the convention.

The “Song for Peace” shall be presented to all Rotary, Rotaract, Interact Clubs and to all volunteers, media and people working for world peace.

Song for Peace

A piece of chocolate makes me smile
A piece of cake makes me stop cry
A piece of toy makes me have fun

But these are all just for one
And it won’t do much for everyone ...

A piece of peace! A piece of peace!
A piece of peace is enough for us ...
A piece of peace! ... A piece of peace! ...
A piece of peace ...

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Testimonials from our members

“Taking part in this outstanding experience involving feelings of friendship, solidarity, and dedication to help others reminded me of why I am involved.”

Annick Caillaud

“What struck me first was to hear so many languages spoken in one spot and see the enthusiasm of all the IIW members from around the world meeting their friends again. The seminars and work sessions showed brilliant and determined women capable of a world vision for our movement. Not the wives of, but women working for women and children throughout the world. In summary, it was one of the most thrilling and energizing moments of my life.”

Virginie Chidiac

“Seeing all these women together ready to make changes in their countries, to improve conditions for women and children, with such an enthusiasm was for me, a revelation.”

Laurence Gadiou

“When I arrived, I was a bit lost, so many unknown women, such a smooth noise with so many languages but after a few minutes I was in. It was so nice to meet women from very different cultures and origins and see we were all there with one target: to work on the future of IIW.”

Isabelle Cheval

“Thank you for very good and constructive days in Istanbul! This Convention became the Tulip Revolution and not the War of the Roses, which it could easily have become, as I wrote to Ulku. I know that India, especially, made sacrifices concerning No. 17, but sacrifices show both friendship and solidarity and that is what it is all about if we think ahead and aim high in order to win our victories!”

Sissel Michelsen

Our 2015 IIW Convention

The International Governing Body (executive officers and Board Directors) after studying the five bids submitted earlier in the year, voted during the Board meeting held in Istanbul on April 17th, in favour of:

Copenhagen, Denmark

This is where our 16th IIW Convention will take place from 5th to 9th May 2015.

Exchange of banners

A moment of real friendship, with known or unknown friends ...
A moment of joy, happiness, To meet new ones, to find old ones ...
It is magic ...
The Van Project

It was decided that the best way to thank the Turkish IIW members involved in the organisation of the 15th International Inner Wheel Convention was to help them rebuild an orphanage in Van, destroyed during last year’s earthquake.

Some donations were made before the Convention but during the Convention several projects were organised to raise funds.

A painting contest was organised with the theme “Bridging two continents, East and West.” 37 paintings were given by IIW members from all over the world and exhibited during the Convention. Four were auctioned during the gala dinner.

The remaining paintings will be sold in a gallery and during Inner Wheel and Rotary events.

IIW France thanked Isabelle Cheval and Michele Estrade and all the friends who sent in recipes from around the world. This created an EBook with 150 recipes, illustrated by Catherine Auzoux, a talented artist from District 69.

More than 1000 USB keys with the recipe EBook, were sold, and can still be ordered in France.

There were also strong sales of the pins, magnets, convention bags and silk scarves.

Altogether, €25000 will be given for the construction of a library, a classroom and playground and our commitment to the Van earthquake will be completed.

The Next International Social Project

It was agreed during our first governing body meeting this year that the emphasis of the international social project will be changed to encompass a theme that all clubs, districts and countries could use in their practical projects and fund raising, rather than collecting money for a specific common charity as was done before.

We will now work under our own umbrella; each country will be able to choose its international social project but on a common theme:

Giving children a better life

To help you promote your project and the image of Inner Wheel, we have prepared a logo and have registered the domains www.happierfutures.org and www.happierfutures.com

You can see below how we can integrate it with our logo in an IIW document.

Please use it as an International Inner Wheel symbol for your children projects.

This logo is your property. Use it as much as possible, all over the world, for all your future projects which aim to give children a better life.
The Way Forward:  
A Constitution Council?

As a result of General Motion A being carried at the Convention, we are now working on a format to establish a Constitution Council to deal with all Proposals and Amendments from Convention 2018 onwards. We are considering introducing a Convention in two parts:

Part One
The Constitution Council meeting to take place when all voting delegates would discuss and vote on proposals and amendments.
Any non-voting delegates would be welcome to attend, as observers.

Part Two
The object of changing the system is to streamline the business sessions to make them more efficient. This could be achieved by reducing the number of voting delegates. To do this, a proposal will have to be tabled for Convention 2015 and Clubs will be asked to vote and decide on the proposed changes.

Who would be Voting Delegates?
The Chairman - IIW President or (Standing order 1) 1 vote 1
The IIW Executive Committee 1 vote each 5
The Board Directors 1 vote each 16
Past IIW Presidents 1 vote each 16
National Governing Body Voting Delegate 1 vote each 15
National Representatives (proxy vote holders) 1 Vote each 29
District Voting Delegates (proxy vote holders) 1 Vote each 168
Rough total number of Voting Delegates attending 250

Every Club will still be entitled to one vote, but through the District voting delegate/proxy vote holder, who will be able to hold proxy votes equal to the number of Clubs in her District. The appointed International Official Proxy Vote Holder would hold proxy votes for Non Districted Clubs or any other members who wished to name her. National Governing Body Representatives, National Governing Body voting delegates and District voting delegates could appoint deputies.

Submitting Proposals
Many proposals are submitted which are not acceptable. Proposals are never rejected because the Constitution Committee do not like or agree with them.

It is proposed that if Clubs wish to submit a proposal, they should present it at a District meeting where it could be discussed and voted on. This should reduce the number of incorrect or unacceptable proposals. A proposal will need to be tabled for 2015 to introduce this procedure.

Many Clubs complain too much time is spent at Conventions dealing with all the proposals and amendments. They, no doubt, would prefer just to attend the Constitution Council meeting when they wished.

Other members feel every Club must be given the opportunity to be a voting delegate and attend the Constitution meeting. This is the present situation but only a minority of Clubs use their right to attend Conventions as voting delegates.
In 2006 in Christchurch only 9 per cent of the possible number of club voting delegates attended. In Kota Kinabalu only 3 per cent and in Istanbul almost 11 per cent attended.

Where were all the Clubs who wanted to attend as voting delegates?
You may ask, if there are so few Clubs sending voting delegates, why change? Because reducing the number of voting delegates would enable us to have more efficient meetings.
Whatever happens with the Proposals in 2015, we could still make a change to a Constitution Council meeting in 2018. The efficiency of that Council will depend on whether we reduce the number of voting delegates.
This is a work in progress and suggestions are welcome.

Norma Friar - Constitution Chairman

“The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones.” J.M Keynes
Rising Africa

This year, whilst visiting several African countries, I felt that African women were ready to join IIW and involve themselves in our organisation. This is especially true if we can establish a constant communication and training in French and English languages.

In West Africa, District 909 (seven countries) thanks to the commitment and the energy of the district chairman Marie Paule GUIBIDI, the members told me that this year was a “year of renaissance”. This is for several reasons:

It was the first visit of a French speaking International President and this made discussions and training easy to do. This was followed by the presence at the District General Assembly of Nathalie Brun, the French President of FAMAT Association (France-Algeria-Morocco-Andorra-Tunisia) who said she could visit some of their social projects and spoke of the important financial help given by the National Committee.

The training used videos, which improved communication, especially between the chairman and the clubs, and enabled a better knowledge of the functioning of IIW.

The result was increased participation as they could follow all the business sessions thanks to the simultaneous translation. In this way, they could feel the internationality of IIW.
Increasing membership was one of the main discussion points and a major result was the ten new young members who joined the club of Dakar Taranga on the day of the visit of President Catherine.

The main social projects of all these clubs is education and women’s health; all the clubs are helping women with fistulas due either to early marriages or excision, by building small hospitals or financing surgeries.

In January, a new district was created in this part of Africa, District 915 including Congo-Cameroun-Gabon. This was created, thanks to the involvement of the Rotary Chairmen we met at the Rotary Convention last year in New Orleans. The new district is very enthusiastic and had its first meeting in April 2012 in Kinshasa.

IIW came to Nigeria in 1967. Clubs and Districts focused more on giving personal service. They help orphans, vulnerable children and widows, taught new skills, empowerment, micro-credit and computer literacy for students awaiting admission to university. They have built a Vocational Centre with a crèche, a home for lost and found children and Primary Health Centres in slums and settlements. In the process they became friendlier with each other, and they relate like sisters. They support each other in personal events and members are happy to be in the company of each other. Recently they have improved international understanding, by attending various international events in good numbers in many countries. The future is bright for IIW in Nigeria, especially with the opening up of membership. With the global economic recession, a good number of highly qualified young Nigerians are returning home. Female returnees will be more than willing to join IIW, being an international organisation. Nigeria being a nation with a high percentage of young people, IW is expected to be rejuvenated and expanded. They will need to work on bye-laws to help streamline the ladies to be invited, so they don’t lose the quality, class and the high pedestal on which IIW stands in Nigeria.

In Maghreb (Tunisia-Algeria-Morocco) the clubs are still part of FAMAT ASSOCIATION (France-Algeria-Morocco-Andorra-Tunisia). Morocco is working to create either its own district (they now have a new next generation club “La rose Blanche” created this month in Casablanca and are working to create clubs in Marrakech, Tanager and Rabat) or create a big district with the two other countries - but this will take more time.

One of the tasks of our future international Presidents could be to visit the English speaking African countries where we have clubs, which need encouragement and more communication. This should be possible thanks to our new database.

Catherine Refabert
Six women from all around the globe epitomizing the spirit of Inner Wheel were invited to present their varied perspectives of Inner Wheel and its impact on their lives at the 15th IIW Convention in Istanbul. More than 2,200 people were mesmerized and touched by the presenters.

Poised, filled with verve, enthusiasm and dedication, these New Generation Club members inspired hope in the future of our organization. From professions as diverse as engineering, publishing, tourism, architecture, education, marketing, and law, one common bond unites these individuals: a joint belief in the role of friendship, personal service, and fostering international understanding. In these tumultuous times we live in, it is truly an inspiration to realize that, even though we come from different corners of the world, we are all firmly united in our dreams and goals.

If you did not have the chance to attend our 15th Convention, I would like to introduce you to these six young members hailing from Italy, India, Turkey, Nigeria, Bulgaria, and Sri Lanka. In spite of their age differences and diverse backgrounds they all share a unique bond and understanding of the importance of the work IIW does across the world.

Alessia Dellerba, a graduate student in law school, works in her family’s engineering firm,
from IWC Torino Europea, D204 Italy: likes tennis, skiing, mountain hiking and singing in a classical music chorus. Rohini Vyas, an engineer from IWC Anand, D306 India: loves Indian classical dancing, making friends and helping people in need. İrem Şirin, a marketing consultant from IWC Beyazıt, D242 Turkey: likes ballet, choreography, fencing, photography, writing poetry and painting. Nike Bamisaye, an engineer and architect, from IWC Garki, D913 Nigeria: likes playing chess, travelling, reading and event planning. Nelly Bratoeva, a travel agent from IWC Varna, D248 Bulgaria: likes sailing, travelling, connecting with friends around the world and devoting her free time to Inner Wheel extension. Norosha Gunatilleke, a Paul Harris Fellow, a Montessori teacher and graduate student in education from IWC Colombo West, D322 Sri Lanka: likes music and singing and is an active member of the Sri Lankan Animal Welfare and Protection Society.

All of these inspiring women were asked the same four questions. Here are their summarised answers.

What can I offer to Inner Wheel?
My dream of a better world, developing and implementing projects, donating and giving of ourselves, innovative ideas, modern skills, new technology, dynamism, cultural enrichment, enthusiasm, energy, time commitment, motivation, recruitment of new members, mobilization of resources, bridging generations, fun, joy and laughter.

What do I expect from Inner Wheel?
Making a difference to people’s lives, fulfilling my dream of not having lived in vain, space for hope, contributions to others, sharing our talents, learning from each other, increasing global interaction, local and international recognition, solving social issues, changing the world into a better place, sisterly love, guidance and care, cooperation and team work, the opportunity to work at grass-root levels, generosity, service opportunities, open mindedness, flexibility of rules.

In essence, what many of us felt after listening to these young ladies was that we all share a common bond, a sense of belonging to one large international family across borders, nationalities, languages, ethnicities, religions, cultures, and that we all smile in the same language, the language of our beloved Inner Wheel.

Ashandelle Hilmy/Mortalgy
Past chairman-past national representative
Past district editor-webmaster
District 95 Egypt and Jordan
Implementing the new Membership Rules

(Following the overwhelming acceptance of Proposal 17)

Existing Club

If an established Club wishes to invite women with no connection to Inner Wheel or Rotary, a simple majority of existing Club members should agree to this. The new rule is as follows:-

Active membership may be retained or taken up by the following, provided they are over 18 years:

a. Women related to Rotarians/former Rotarians
b. Women related to Inner Wheel members/former Inner Wheel members
c. Women who have been invited to join – provided that a majority of the Club members agree

Starting a new Club

When starting a new Club, as there are no existing Club members, a Club can be started from any or all three of the categories a, b and c, with a slight restriction on c, that the majority of the Club members agree, does not apply.

Therefore a new Club can be started by any of the following:

a. Women related to Rotarians/former Rotarians
b. Women related to Inner Wheel members/former Inner Wheel members
c. Women who have been invited to join

Procedure when a possible new member is from Category C

If anyone hears (Club members or District Officers) that someone is interested in joining Inner Wheel, then the Club President/Secretary or District Extension Organiser should be informed and they should arrange to meet that person to discuss the possibility of them either joining an existing Club or starting a new Inner Wheel Club.

As soon as those new members join, they become full active members and can vote and hold office, and participate in all aspects of the Club. It would therefore be advisable to have a small welcoming committee, who could explain the objects of Inner Wheel and how the Club functions.

In the case of starting a new Club, which can be formed and sponsored either by a Rotary Club or by an Inner Wheel Club, the District Officers should be involved to explain the objects of Inner Wheel and how Clubs and Districts function. If no District exists, then the sponsoring Inner Wheel Club should take on that responsibility and they should keep IIW informed of the possible formation.

From July 1st, Clubs can invite women with no connection to Inner Wheel or Rotary, so they should be thinking about who they could invite to become members. This is a wonderful opportunity to increase membership and inject new life into Clubs which have been struggling to attract new members under the present rules. The possibilities for encouraging new members from category c to join are immense and it is up to all Clubs to look for those potential members.

Posters could be placed in surgeries, libraries and public places about Inner Wheel, displaying our new international social project, ‘Happier Futures’ Inner Wheel helping children around the world and asking the question ‘Would you be interested in becoming a member?’
The Role of Inner Wheel: From women for Europe to IIW women for the world

The cultural, international, multi-year project “Women For Europe, the Role of Inner Wheel – comparing ways of Life and National Economic Systems”, fits well into the new ways of influence which characterize Inner Wheel action in the XXI century.

Promoted in 2008 by the IWC of Naples Luisa Bruni, the project has introduced to our organisation an interactive strategy, enabling members to work together and confront cultural differences in different countries on the “Status of Women”, with a double mission:

1) What policies has Europe activated for women?

2) How IIW women can promote, through our female organisation, the knowledge of and the implementation of these policies.

The project, still in progress, has generated four main events: Naples (Italy) Girne (North Cyprus) Tuusula (Finland) and Turin (Italy) generating in the 14 European countries involved, a transverse movement of study and reflection, capable of assigning to Inner Wheel, an active role in society, attentive to all women’s issues.

Taking inspiration from the motto “Think Ahead- Aim High” proposed by the President of International Inner Wheel Catherine Refabert and using her excellent contribution and experience of the project, not only will WfE continue in Europe, but it will be accompanied by a second similar project that was explained and officially announced by President Catherine, during the closing Ceremony of the XVI Convention in Istanbul.

In the table of IIW values we have the Status of Women, the Rights of the Child and Human Rights uppermost in our minds. Through our representatives at the UN we closely follow the progress made to implement policies and promote these values across the world. Each area has its own specificity and its own path in the application of these principles.

The project that started in Naples in 2008, has covered Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, Asia, America and Oceania and others, because the path of achieving equality for women is still long and tiring. Inner Wheel women should therefore meet and actively hold discussions in their own regions on these issues. They must be protagonists in the debate, connecting with other institutions and demonstrating that Inner Wheel is engaged on this front, working to promote women’s rights. The liaison with UN Women is significant, as is the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Director General Michelle Bachelet’s letter to President Catherine and other UN Partners reminded us all that her motto is “The Time Is Now”.

We IIW Women have the right project to act and invite countries to organize conferences and workshops, using the interactive models tested in WfE.

IIW Women For The World

The next forum will take place in Nigeria in November 2012 on the theme “Women For Africa – the Role of Inner Wheel to 2020”.

Seminars will be on the following topics:-
Violence against Women, A Peaceful World, Microcredit projects, Creating Awareness on major female diseases and Women and Environmental Protection.

After Nigeria it is hoped that there will be events in Australasia, the Philippines, Malaysia, USA and other places.
A Glimpse of My Visits

Germany:
My first visit, long and fruitful discussions, as IIW Germany will vote very soon to have a National Representative.

Sri Lanka:
So efficient for IIW: impressive activities with a lot of medical camps, a breast cancer walk, an important area to help soldiers severely wounded during the North conflict and children’s education.
India:
A very positive year. Thanks to the Association President Dr. Bina Vyas, I could assist at the first national conference for PDC’s on: Inner Wheel: Vision 2020 in Ahmadebad.
I visited two adopted villages near Anand. One of Bina’s missions this year was that each club should adopt a village for a period of three years giving (medical, educational, environmental help, adult and senior education, youth and women’s development) the result: 758 adopted villages.
New clubs in every district were recommended: 85 new clubs created and 2926 new members joined IIW this year.
The most emotional moment of my two week visit was the unveiling of a plaque in the village of Serudhur, commemorating the reconstruction of the village after the tsunami, thanks to the financial help of IIW France.

Africa D 909:
One of the most important moments was in Cotonou, Benin where I could lay down the foundation of a centre inside the hospital for women coming to have fistula surgery, a huge problem in some parts of Africa with some women totally rejected by society.
It was also decided by France to give a Braille computer to the only school in this region, in Bobo Dioulasso for blind children.
Italy:
The Torino Women for Europe was an important event which brought together members from 14 countries. The celebration of the Inner Wheel Day in Roma was a good way for all the clubs of District 208 to meet and have discussions. Benevento and Matera showed me how Italy is involved in the preservation and the promotion of the cultural heritage of this country.

Austria and Morocco:
Allow me to introduce two clubs called our “next generation” members. The first in Graz, Austria, a second club in this city thanks to the commitment of Gabi Schruempf and in Casablanca the 4th club in this city thanks to Kawtar Lahlou, the young daughter of one of the founder members of Casa Californie club.

Great Britain:
The Association President Phyllis Charter, told me that the 20,000 members of GB1 have taken the theme of the year to their heart. They have walked, run, cooked, eaten and abseiled off buildings to raise funds for a number of charities. I could see this during the annual conference in Bournemouth thanks to inspirational speakers from the Sue Ryder Foundation in Ireland which helps so many with end of life and long term conditions and Winston’s Wish which is a charity that cares for bereaved children.

We had a beach meeting there to create this incredible photo, the “friendship circle” of IIW.