

THE INNER WHEEL SPIRIT

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CHAPTER I

BEING INNER WHEEL TODAY

SUMMARY: 1. The Inner Wheel spirit. – 2. We at Inner Wheel want to be. – 3. Vision and Mission.
– 4. Principles of associative ethics.

1. The Inner Wheel spirit. – To stop and contemplate the *esprit*, the soul, the essence that characterizes and identifies our Association is not an easy task; a task that would require a lot more time and space, with historical and sociological references.

As all of us know, the International Inner Wheel is in terms of importance in the world, the second female Association. It is based on friendship and individual serving that connects all Associates belonging to the Clubs of different nations, helping universal understanding. In the world the Inner Wheel is a large, complex, composite reality. Fascinating.

It is the family relationships with the Rotary, the Inner Wheel and the Rotaract that give an Associate the right, the privilege to be a part of the Association.

The right to ‘belong’.

The Inner Wheel. It is not tied to any political formation, nor stems from the ‘feminist’ movement by virtue of which many female organizations of different kinds were founded. And it is not just an association with specific cultural or assistance intent. Nothing of the sort. Because the Inner Wheel, like the Rotary, belongs to the category of *Service Clubs*.

A *Service Club* is a formally organized group of people that deal in, on the basis of common values, relationships of friendship inside the club and at the same time they work together for the good of others; this work refers to humanitarian, social, health, cultural and educational aims. *Service clubs* have no political or religious goals; they are active beyond national borders and they underline the value and the meaning of international friendship.

Interesting is this ulterior definition that Jeffrey Charles ascribes to *Service Clubs* as “groups of individuals who meet for social exchange and professional networking, much like fraternal organizations, except that *Service Clubs* are also dedicated to charitable service or voluntarism of some kind. *Service Clubs* can be small, local, informal associations or can be multinational organizations, and their activities range from short-term projects in a single neighborhood to global campaigns to improve all civil society”.

Inner Wheel. The *esprit*, the soul, the essence of the Inner Wheel is held within the Aims, known to all of us, and written on page n. 1 of the Statute:

- Promote true friendship. ‘True’ friendship to be expressed with the effective availability to start and maintain positive and fruitful relations.
- Encourage ideals of individual service. Service to be offered to the Association and to others in society.
- Promote international understanding. International understanding aimed at favouring the spirit of friendship, knowledge of other cultures and traditions, and most of all peace.

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Aims that are none other than those principles and values on which any member has to base its way of being and operating, expression of complete humanism.

The Club is the associative and operative base, in which all Associates live and develop the objectives that are at the heart of our being and working in the Inner Wheel. The Club is at the centre of the Inner Wheel system. There can even be no Districts, no National Council or no National Association. But not the Club.

And any Associate is such only because she is part of a Club.

The minimum number of Active Members to form a Club is twelve and this is established by the Statute.

Membership to a Club confers identity. That feeling is in common with all the Associates of the entire international Inner Wheel, that recognize themselves in the ideals, the objectives, the values, and the regulations expressed in the Statute.

The membership fuels the inner life of the Club and all other bodies in the Inner Wheel, in some ways it generates it, because rules and values, behaviors and initiatives, produce those forms of identification necessary so that the Associates can recognize themselves in the actions of the Club (or the other organisms of the Inner Wheel) and develop an identity as a supra-individual unit.

In the Club the single Associates live together – with their characteristics, sentiments, thoughts, needs, abilities – and the collectiveness that works, produces, moves as one and identifies itself as a whole.

The membership, then, in fuelling the inner life of the Inner Wheel, leans towards that union that manifests itself in *being for*. Each Associate is *not part* of the Inner Wheel, but *is the* Inner Wheel, vicariously responsible for initiatives, projects and the realization of collective initiatives at various levels: *being to do*.

The ways are many, of various kind: from the promotion of International relationships to sustaining the service at a local, national and international level. From the closeness to the Rotary International to the action for the Internal Expansion, for the External Expansion.

And, in the background, a constant attention to Associative Ethics.

Belonging to the Inner Wheel is first of all, in fact, an undertaking of true friendship between Associates inspired by collective ethical tension. To adhere to a precise ethical code means sharing that group of principles whose observance is of fundamental importance in order to reach the social aims, for the regular fulfillment of activities, for the competence in the administration and the image of the Inner Wheel itself.

It is without doubt that being in the Inner Wheel brings moral rigour and behavioral correctness in the associative field. Coherence, which is fidelity of a person to his/her principles, the constant compliance to his/her words and actions, both in public and in private life.

International dimension and culture of internationality are untradeable values.

International understanding is the third aim of the Inner Wheel. An aim that includes all the activities undertaken by the Inner Wheel in order to favour the spirit of friendship, peace, the meeting of people from other countries, with their culture and traditions, through contacts and twinnings, participation in Conventions or other international events, exchange of correspondence, and also through the participation to projects of international service.

A correct internal expansion is indispensable for the future of every Club. The advantages that

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stem from this are multiple: the bringing of new ideas and new energies, the long term continuity of the Club and, thus, even of the Association. A more incisive presence in the community through service. The ability to form expert leaders, ready to take on other offices as well as the Club, because each new Associate is a potential leader at a District level, National Council and Board for the Inner Wheel of tomorrow.

It must be underlined that the history of the Inner Wheel contains in itself also the evolution of woman in history. Being an Associate of the Inner Wheel has undergone profound changes in connection with the evolution of gender, without compromising in any way the spirit of the Association, that has remained intact and pure. If anything the service initiatives have multiplied in an exponential manner at all levels.

Returning to the roots, the activity of the first Inner Wheel groups testifies to the pragmatism of the spouses of the Rotarians, capable of being active in war time to cooperate with their husbands in socially useful activities, in a tragic and devastating period which the First World War was, that caused a crisis in the sense of security that the Western World had thought it had firmly acquired.

Margarette Golding, the founder, born in a calm Welsh family, as Jay French makes us note in her book *Inner Wheel, a history*, after her studies became a nurse and entered service during the First World War. This painful experience brought her, after her marriage with Oliver Golding of the Manchester Club, to urge the wives of Rotarians of that Club to act personally through a group of Rotarian spouses to face emerging necessities.

For women the long war trauma certainly meant mourning, suffering and maternal anxiety, but undoubtedly caused also a fracture of the family and social order. The tasks in which women were frequently represented at the time of the Great War, were the traditional ones of the nurse and the charitable lady, which underline the typical feminine role of consoling and guardian angel, assistant and man's supplement.

Another aspect not to be undervalued and which the Inner Wheel members, belonging mainly to the middle class, also found through the Club the way of getting out of the family environment to dedicate themselves to socially useful and publicly recognized tasks.

After 86 years the Inner Wheel has reached a mature phase and is approaching a century.

And, in my opinion, it would be interesting to write a historical synthesis of our Association which took account in the investigation and in the reflection of the evolution of the Inner Wheel Clubs also through the evolution of women's history, our members. Even if, one must admit, any synthesis of our history from 1923 to today could not exhaust the complexity of our action, which expresses itself through the innumerable projects carried out, but also through example which we have given to other women, like models of reference and examples of good practice.

The presence of Inner Wheel is important in society (united to other female Associations), for 'the spirit' which inspires it, for the free effort and disinterested attitude, for the voluntary contributed to the common good, lived in friendship and without boundaries.

The spirit of Inner Wheel is also awareness that humanity needs us, that we can give help and support, that we can and know how to act on the basis of our ability and professionalism, in coherence with our principles. Propositive and alive. Vital. Active. Generous.

The strength of Inner Wheel is in the solidarity of its foundations, in fidelity to its inspiring principles, as well as in its renewal and improving a society in continuing and rapid evolution.

Many are the shining examples of commitment, passion, sacrifice, rigorous coherence.

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We are the heirs of a tradition of many Members who have preceded us in the commitment. For them and for us we must be credible, coherent, with a credibility obtained in the field, committing ourselves, giving evidence of our belief, our ethic, applying it actively. Developing the sense of belonging to our association, to win disaffection, gather the extraordinary wealth of human capital, the incredible potential of relationships of friendship and affection. Showing joy and pride linked to belonging. The depth of our faith and passion, awareness, the profuse commitment of many years now for an Organization, which, in my opinion, has great merits, also historical, and which has in itself great potential, not yet completely expressed and finalized.

I like to close this short note with a definition that well describes the 'spirit' of Inner Wheel. A definition of my friend Oluyemisi which reads as follows: "Inner Wheel, the Way to Be, Inner Wheel a Way of Life".

2. We at Inner Wheel want to be. – ¹"We at Inner Wheel want to be so utopian as to have the ability to develop great ideas and not be small in our daydreams.

We want to be so creative so as to not wait for everything to be suggested to us. Creative in the right way: not original at all costs, but ready for the risk, if risking means daring to give more and better.

We want to cultivate hope in vigilance, or the ability to read the signs of the times, to recognise those which are seeds of future gems, to sustain our Association and project it into this century until it develops a renewed awareness and an even stronger cutting edge.

And I add:

We want to re-invent an attitude which has fallen into disuse: patience, in our dealings with ourselves and with others, or that attitude which makes us accept the post where we are even in difficulties of understanding the difficult passages.

We want to live our role with commitment, whatever it is, but in the same way accept and respect that of others. Because on these attitudes dialogue is based, and also the possibility of it, the possibility of an active dialogue, one that is transforms, a dialectic.

The problems and difficulties? They are faced up to and they are overcome.

We want to live the Inner Wheel in the positive and patient patchwork of bonds which are inside and outside, in our changing opinions if necessary, in our being an active and hardworking Association within society.

We want to and must be an Association in movement, efficient and conscious of the commitment which we are called to invest today, but equally aware of the future; and even able to look into the distance, beyond, to gather the forces of change.

We must not be afraid of change.

An Association in movement, cultured, active, respectful of the statutory rules, ever more open to internationality, where pragmatism develops with sensitivity and ideals.

But intransigent in ethical principles.

Dynamic and not static.

¹ from ROTARY – MARCH 2006 – DOSSIER, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, THE INNER WHEEL, INTERVIEW BY ANDRE PERNICE WITH LUISA VINCIGUERRA, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, PAGES 38-46.

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But knowing how to wait, waiting for the narration to continue, which assumes new unexpected developments. Because living Inner Wheel is like undertaking a journey, it is telling a story, many stories, or better still, continuing a story already started in distant 1924.

At the basis of everything, to never be forgotten, is understanding. It is not about one winning over the other, or arriving at a total agreement. The ideal is calm communication, transparent, which permits bridge building and which generates trust, trustworthiness.

Some can even desire reaching communion, but this does not implicate that the goal which is sought is a uniform unit or a reduction of all the pluralistic variety to only one system, to only one tradition...

Living Inner Wheel is interpreting and adhering to the presidential theme, which, as is noted, connotes the Social Year.

Every Club, District, National Organ must constantly make reference on its journey, to inspiration within the Association for the good of the Association, through support to Clubs in difficulty, to tired and demotivated members. And inspiration outside of the Association through 'good practices' which become real in the services of each Inner Wheel year

Efficiency, energy of the intellectual faculty. Effectiveness. Or it can also be spiritual energy, capacity for moral resistance, especially faced with obstacles and adversity, courage, spirit, fervour, emotional intensity.

Living Inner Wheel means then being Members who are full of hope, open to others, and concreteness, having in one's heart the conviction that the road to be followed is long but the finishing line, in itself, is always reachable. It is enough to want it. Everone is called, no one is excluded. Unless we exclude ourselves".

3. Vision and Mission. – “²Again on the Inner Wheel, in order to reflect on the extent and implications of the Theme chosen by the President of the International Inner Wheel 2008-2009, Suzanne Hem Nielsen: *Realise your visions and make a difference.*

Such a Theme poses, as observed yesterday by our National Representative Vera Amici, “in the mould of the recent past: from ‘Communicate our vision’ to ‘Realise your visions’. From communication to realization, to concreteness, to putting into practice”.

The term *vision*, in my opinion, also encompasses the prospects over future scenarios, reflecting ideals, values, expectations, and inspiring action... *Vision* is then necessarily linked to the IW *mission*, that is IW’s ultimate aim and essential *raison d’être*, while distinguishing IW from all the other Associations.

Vision, *mission* and values hold a communicational function for the Association, strengthen its identity and the identification of each member, promote the harmonizing of single members’ and IW’s values and aims.

² From WOMEN FOR EUROPE – COMPARING WAYS OF LIFE AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS – THE ROLE OF INNER WHEEL, NOVEMBER 2008, LUISA VINCIGUERRA SPEECH, PAGES 69–88

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President Nielsen spurs us, however, this year to realize our ‘visions’. We must note the plural of the term, almost as if to underline how the passage from communication to realization carries a responsible commitment and awareness in diverse environments of intervention to serve, experience friendship and international understanding.

Idealism and pragmatism. Communication and putting things into practice. Diversification.

Says Joel Barker in ‘The Power of Vision’:

“Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is simply passing the time. Action with vision is making a positive difference. Vision with action can change the world.

The Power of Vision demonstrates that having a positive vision of the future is the most forceful motivator for change-for success-that companies, schools, communities, nations, and individuals possess.

Unforgettable and moving, The Power of Vision will inspire the people in your organization to think together, dream together, and act together to make a difference.

Having a positive vision of the future is what gives meaning to our present life”.

Associations like the Inner Wheel have been promoting for years international contacts and understanding between peoples, they can actively take an interest in the role of Women in the construction of the European identity. Through a positive vision of Women in Europe, the Inner Wheel can contribute to the well being and development of our societies as well as our different cultures, even in function of the process of European integration. From vision to action: realizable commitment, taking account of the Inner Wheel experience, of its philosophy. as well as its notable diffusion in Europe”.

4. Principles of associative ethics. – It is implicit that the Association requests its members moral rigour and behavioural correctness in the realm of association. As members of the Inner Wheel, the associates must strive to take into account in their associative and personal behaviour, and their consequences on the entire organization.

The associates take the burden of actively participating in the life of the Association and in contributing to its decisions with the spirit of total acceptance, having as prime objective the interest of the Association. Loyalty to the Association and of the associates in their mutual relations is a guiding principle.

Membership to the Inner Wheel is a pledge of true friendship among associates inspired by a collective ethical tension.

The Governing Bodies of the Association must promote the conditions to favour the most cordial relations between associates and must contain possible frictions within the field of an honest and serene dialectic. As much as possible all forms of personal and professional conflict and denigration must be discouraged and avoided.

The associates that undertake social commitments must undertake to:

- Exercise the function with the spirit of service towards the Association, the associates and the external world, without using them to further direct or indirect gains: to serve the Inner Wheel, not use the Inner Wheel;
- maintain a behaviour inspired by integrity, loyalty and a sense of respect towards

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other associates and the Institutions, immune from any conditioning;

- follow the directives of the Association, contributing to the discussions in relevant places, maintaining the unity of the Association towards the external world;
- use in a reserved manner the information which comes to their awareness by virtue of the offices which they hold;
- involve the decision-making organs of the Association for a participatory management which is open to different views;
- relinquish the mandate if for personal, professional or objective motives their continuation would damage the image of the Association;

All the associates, without exception, must dedicate, personal and professional capacities and knowledge to the building of a prestigious associative image and of great impact as far as service initiatives are concerned.

CHAPTER II HISTORY AND EVOLUTION

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SUMMARY: 1. Inner Wheel from the beginning. – 2. The historical Headquarters. – 2.1. *The Association Headquarters*. – 2.2. *The International Inner Wheel Headquarters*. – 2.3. *The Secretaries*. – 3. Short historical evolution Inner Wheel and important dates. – 4. Margarete Golding, the founder. – 4.1. *Margarete Golding Award*. – 4.2. *10th January: World Inner Wheel Day*. – 5. International Inner Wheel Themes. – 6. International Inner Wheel Presidents. – 7. Countries & geographical regions where there are Inner Wheel clubs. – 8. Evolution of the membership category. – 9. Places and dates of International Inner Wheel triennial Conventions. – 10. General motions approved during the Conventions. – 11. The social projects.

1. Inner Wheel from the beginning. – Inner Wheel was created when a group of ladies from the Rotary decided to *put themselves together* deliberately with a shared project to follow a common path of acquisition of awareness on objectives and ‘ethically-strong’ goals; they decided to come together because the individual and service activities would have contributed precious benefits to the community and to society in general. In order to create links, construct a network and to follow a part of the road together making of the association, sharing of problems and answers, a means of being useful in someway.

There exists a great deal of literature regarding this, literature which goes from authors such as *Touraine* to *Beck*, who have studied deeply the mechanisms of aggregation, putting at the centre of their analyses the influences which these have in the social processes and at the same time the limits that these can have in the realisation of the objectives which have been defined in advance.

The historical reconstruction of the formation of the Inner Wheel by Rotary is an exciting theme, known to many, but still to be deepened in some respects.

I wish to underline at this point – briefly – how the Committees of Rotarian Groups were already formed in the early years of life and of the expansion of the Rotary. In 1910, at the first *Convention* of the Chicago RI, some of the delegates made the first attempt to obtain recognition of the Committee entitled ‘*Women's Auxiliary*’. An attempt that was rejected unanimously. The same thing happened at the second *Convention* of the RI in Duluth in 1912. Official sanction was given to establish ‘*Women's Auxiliaries*’. Subsequently, there was a little progress, but in 1918 the Board of Directors decided that it would not recognise Auxiliary Groups.

In the years immediately following this, however, these Committees (each one under the guide of the wife of the President of the Rotary Club) continued to be formed and operated liberally assuming also other names other than that of ‘*Women's Auxiliary*’, such as ‘*Wheels of Service*’. Or, as happened in the U.S.A. the strange phenomenon of the ‘*Rotary Annes*’. Very singular this movement, born in June 1914.

Historical sources tell that a large group of Rotarians make the long journey to Houston, TX, USA. Rotarian Henry Brunier of San Francisco and his wife ‘Ann’ boarded a special train for the convention. Since Ann was the only woman on the train for most of the trip, the other Rotarians began calling her ‘Rotary Ann’. In Houston the Bruniers met Guy and Ann Gundaker of Philadelphia. Soon the name ‘Rotary Ann’ belonged to Guy's wife as well. The term ‘Rotary Ann’ lasted until the late 1980's. Gundaker was RIP 1923–24.

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One of the purposes of a Rotary Ann Club is to bring into fellowship the families of the members of the Rotary club. Other objectives include assisting Rotarians in the execution of various club and community projects and uphold the purposes and aims of Rotary.

Rotary International's Board of Directors however refused to move from their 1918 position and objected, in addition, to the word 'Rotary' being used by the Chicago ladies. The name was soon expanded to its logical conclusion: 'The Women of the Rotary Club of Chicago'.

On the 13 June, 1921, at the RI *Convention* in Edinburgh a Procedure Manual was ban on female Clubs using the name of Rotary. However the title '*Ladies Auxiliary*' was presented, in which the prohibition on women being Rotary members was affirmed, as well as the allowed for the Rotary Club.

This was the climate which was already beginning to take shape in 1923 in the Manchester Inner Wheel. In fact it was the first Manchester Club to invite spouses to a meeting at the Herriot Turkish Baths on 15 November 1923 to propose the formation of a female Rotary Club. If the Rotarian premises gave their support, at the English and international level there was strong opposition and the idea was immediately abandoned. The RIBI (Rotary International in Britain and Ireland), however, still in 1923 considered – under pressure from other female groups such as that of Lady Astor – that possibility, but the conclusion was that 90% of the wives of the Rotarians did not have the qualifications to build a female Rotary Club.

Only on 10 January 1924 was the official constitution achieved of the first Inner Wheel Club at the *Social Club* in Lower Mosely Street. Margarete Oliver Golding was elected as President.

The Club announced that £11 had been raised from its first fundraiser. In addition, 80 woolly garments for babies had been sent to St. Mary's Hospital in time for Christmas. Membership subscriptions were set at £1,1s. (a pound and a shilling) per annum. The idea of a women's Rotary Club was dropped immediately. Local Rotarians gave willing support but internationally there was little encouragement.

The name chosen 'Inner Wheel', whilst respecting the requirements of the Rotary, wanted and wants to mean '*inner wheel*', inner wheel of the Rotary of which the 'ladies' intended (and still do) to share the *logo*, style of behavior, ethical values and objectives. The Inner Wheel thus established, from the very beginning, a deep and irreplaceable link with the Rotary, of which it continues to be proud.

Within less than a year the membership had doubled and many successful projects had been undertaken, and news of this club's achievements had spread, so that by 1927 five more clubs had been formed, one of which had previously been a ladies' Rotary Club.

This is a passage of the historical reconstruction written by the Club of Manchester:

"The 15th November 1923 found twenty-seven Rotarian wives in a Cooling Room (because it was free of charge) at Herriot's Turkish Baths, South Parade St Mary's Street Deansgate, owned by The Electro-Medical Treatment Company Limited, where they discussed the possibility of forming an independent ladies' group run on Rotary lines. This site was demolished in 1927 to build Arkwright House, the new Headquarters for English Sewing Cotton. A permanent meeting place was found in The Manchester Social Club 47 Lower Moseley Street and on the 10th January 1924 it was here that the now famous statement 'We shall call it Inner Wheel' was uttered".

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Another passage (by the Club of Manchester):

“In 1934 great excitement and encouragement was caused by the visit of Paul Harris (Founder of Rotary International in Chicago), who addressed a meeting of 360 Rotarians and their ladies. He left behind a most profound impression and a philosophical approach to life based on friendliness and usefulness. The Second World War brought many tests to which we were equal. Support activities were undertaken including parcels of books for the forces, War Savings groups, a rota of members staffing the YMCA hostel, a ‘Get you Home’ service for members of the Forces coming on leave, visitation of the wounded in our Manchester hospitals, writing letters to their families scattered afar and providing comfort whenever possible. The immediate post-war period showed a tremendous upsurge in the demand for membership which reached a peak close to 200 members. Four Seniors Clubs were formed, one of which is still operation in Ancoats. Disadvantaged children were given rides in light aircraft days at the seaside, pantomime shows, bonfire nights and all kinds of fun”.

A feeling gradually arose that there ought to be some sort of unification for existing clubs. The Rotary District 5 Conference was about to be held in Llandudno, and its Executive Committee was sympathetic to the request that a ladies’ meeting be conducted during the conference, to consider the possibility of forming a corresponding Inner Wheel District.

Mrs. Margarette Golding was the speaker and the first Inner Wheel District, which corresponded with a Rotary District, was formed.

It was then the turn of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) to permit a ladies’ meeting during their Harrogate conference, and it was from this point that Inner Wheel became a national organisation, called the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs, with a similar structure to Rotary, the main difference being that you had to be the wife of a Rotarian to qualify for membership.

Those of us who have read texts which document the historical reconstruction of the Inner Wheel in the first twenty years, years in which the development of the movement was notable in England, will be able to verify all that and understand how the Inner Wheel originated especially from the pragmatism of the spouses of the Rotarians; from their willingness to be operative even in times of war in order to make concrete the Rotarian ideals and to follow the social activities started by their husbands. And then, finding themselves together often, not only carrying forward what was started to their conclusion, but also programming them and realising others.

Relations with the Rotary, difficult at first, softened over time, so much that Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, in the book *‘This Rotarian Age’*, published in 1935, recognized the function and the value.

In a text of Millicent Gaskell on the History of Inner Wheel named *‘Home and Horizon’* is stated that Paul Harris, the Founder of the Rotary, was well disposed towards the concept of Inner Wheel as an International movement.

Even more. Jean Harris in 1946 was the first Honorary Member of the Edinburgh Inner Wheel. Jean accepted immediately the honour and said: *“I have been keeping in touch with Inner Wheel activities through the Rotary Service Magazine. Paul and I are amazed and thrilled at the magnitude of its benefactions. It seems miraculous after all you have been through. May God bless your*

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endeavour".

The Inner Wheel since then has made great strides forward, it has its own organisation and Statute, but there is no doubt that it has been manifestly and willingly inspired by Rotarian ideals, goals and objectives. And otherwise it could never be. Because the Inner Wheel was created inside the Rotary, within the Rotary, before establishing itself autonomously and placing itself next to Rotary.

Just as then the necessary requirement which gives the right of access to the Inner Wheel is the kinship (even if the idea of kinship has been widened from its beginnings) with a Rotarian. Just as then, it is the fabric of Rotarian values which defines Inner Wheel values.

2. The historical Headquarters. – 2.1. *The Association Headquarters.* – Kathleen Hovey, Association Historian, in an interesting article about 'The Association Headquarters' so writes.

"³51 Warwick Square in London is such a familiar address to members of Inner Wheel that it may come as a surprise that for the first 48 years of our existence we had no permanent abode. In the early days, the founder Hon. Secretary, Mrs Mabel Nixon, worked from her home, while her successor, Mrs Gladys Young, had the use of her husband's business premises. Miss Elizabeth Eaton, the first salaried Secretary, worked in rented accommodation, firstly at 1A Marylebone Road then afterwards at 43 Cadogan Square SW1 in part of the WVS Club. The next move was to 19 Grosvenor Place SW1 in 1955, then two years later, accommodation in Rotary House, Portman Square was offered and accepted. When this building was sold to become an embassy, fourth floor rooms in a former private house at 89/91 Newman Street, W1, became the inadequate and inconvenient office for the next six long years. In 1967 the move was made to rented rooms within the Berners Hotel, W1. However there was no security of tenure and in June 1972 the hotel owners asked Inner Wheel to make other arrangements within six months. This happened at a time when the London property market was in a very unsettled state and at the beginning of a new Inner Wheel year. What a nightmare it must have been for the incoming President Mrs Hylda Armstrong and her Executive Committee! Their courageous decision to recommend the purchase of the 97 years lease on 51 Warwick Square and the ensuing consequences are another story...But purchased it was and Inner Wheel moved into its new home under the supervision of Miss Jane Dobson, who had worked at both Newman Street and at the Berners Hotel. From all over the country there now flooded in pieces of good furniture, fine china, glassware and domestic necessities. Many of these items were given in memory of past members such as the clock presented by D14 to mark the Presidency in 1946 of Mrs H H Coote. The Presidential Chair in the Board Room was a gift from D13 in memory of Mrs W A Shakerley who succeeded Mrs Golding as Association President in 1936. Mrs Golding still looks down on proceedings from a large portrait in that same room. She would not recognise the technology in use in the adjoining offices but she would be familiar with the motivation of the Executive, the Association Committees, members of staff and the many volunteers who work long hours in order to keep our Inner Wheel turning smoothly".

³ (source: www.home.btconnect.com/associationofinnerwheelclubs)

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2.2. *The International Inner Wheel Headquarters.* – At the beginning International Inner Wheel was temporarily housed in the Great Britain and Ireland Association's Office in Berners Hotel. Rapidly, thanks to interest of a Rotarian connected with the British Optical Association, a large office in London, at 27 Three Kings Yard became the good location, after the consent and the following ratification by Board Members during the first Board Meeting in October 1967.

In January 1968 the office, light and functional, was occupied, and, because the office equipment was essential, Clubs and Districts offered many gifts.

In February 1978 the British Optical Association notified the Board that they wished to sell the premises with vacant possession and asked to surrender the under-lease.

The next office was rent at the St Olaf House.

In October 1990 International Inner Wheel Headquarters moved to a modern office in Station House, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Now, since 1996, Headquarters Office is in Stafford Court, Washway Road, Sale, Cheshire.

2.3. *The Secretaries.* –

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1969\72 | Mrs Adelaide Lack |
| 1972\77 | Mrs Frances Huntley |
| 1978\85 | Mrs Pamela Peatson |
| 1985\86 | Mrs Pamela Read |
| 1986\88 | Mrs Betty G. Selfe |
| 1988\89 | Mrs Freesia Dine |
| 1989\05 | Mrs Margaret Palmer |
| 2005 | Mrs Elaine Hathaway |

3. Short historical evolution Inner Wheel and important dates. – *In the Handbook of IIW we read:*

“⁴International Inner Wheel links together members in Clubs in countries from Europe to Africa, India, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada – to name but a few.

Members are able to communicate with one another through correspondence, exchange visits, and joining together in international projects. Presidential tours bring members close together as they learn of Inner Wheel activities in vastly different territories. Clubs give service in their own communities as well as looking beyond their national boundaries.

In order to appreciate fully the strength and traditions of Inner Wheel, one must of course, look back at the inspiration, devotion and vision of our Founder President and those who have given such fine leadership over the years.

The roots from which International Inner Wheel has grown were established in 1934 when the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland was formed with Mrs. Oliver Golding as the Founder President and Mrs. Nixon as Secretary, both being members of the

⁴ *Constitution & Handbook, IIW, 2009*

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Manchester Club which was formed in England in 1924. They realised that unity is strength and had the wisdom and foresight first, to group Clubs in Districts and then, later to bring the Districts together to form an Association”.

This happened, in fact, on the 6th May of 1934, at the RIB.I Conference, held in Douglas, Isle of Man, where Delegates approved and ratified the Constitution, the By-Laws, and the name of Association, aware that it was almost necessary to have a Governing Body capable of guiding the Club and Districts grown very much.

At an early stage in its existence Inner Wheel began to spread overseas, Ballarat (Australia, 1931), Napier (New Zealand, 1936), Winnipeg (Canada), and Port Elizabeth (South Africa, 1938), being among the first Clubs formed.

In 1947 the words ‘in Great Britain and Ireland’ were removed from the title and it became known as the ‘Association of Inner Wheel Clubs’. In fact, many Overseas’ Clubs, now, were affiliated to the Association and had adopted the Constitution.

In Europe: the first European Club outside Great Britain and Ireland was formed in Bergen in 1935, the second in Apeeldorn, Holland. In 1948 six Clubs in Holland formed the first District outside Great Britain and Ireland, District 26.

In 1950 Club Rules were translated into the European languages, and by July of that year every Member received a copy of the Association Magazine with the news of Overseas’ Clubs.

The first steps towards the creation of an International Governing Body were taken in 1962 during the Association Conference, held in Blackpool, England, where a resolution was approved, that included in the Governing Body representatives from Districts of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The resolution was put in place for the first time at Hoddesdon to the Annual Assembly for Officers. Welcomed by the President Joan Cheer, they worked together in a way excellent, promoting the comparison, the international understanding, the friendship.

Still from the Handbook:

“⁵In 1962 for the first time members from countries outside Great Britain and Ireland were invited to sit on the Governing Body, but it was not until 1967 when International Inner Wheel came into being that there was the opportunity for qualified members in any country to become Officers, for example, President”.

After five years of discussion and correspondence, and with the contribution of a Committee ‘*Ad Hoc*’ chaired by the Past President Maureen Darbyshire, and with the contribution of the Association Constitution Committees of the day, the basic rules of International Inner Wheel were agreed during the Association Conferences held in 1966 and 1967.

Finally, the formation of INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL became a reality in the Brighton Conference of the Association, chaired by the President Mabel Pointing.

On the 1st of July 1967 all became Members of International Inner Wheel. On 1st July, 1967, International Inner Wheel had in Mrs Lavender Weightman the Founder President of International Inner Wheel. In this year International Inner Wheel came into being that there was the opportunity for qualified members in any country to become Officers, for example, President.

⁵ *Constitution & Handbook, IIW, 2009*

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The first Board Meeting was held in Copenaghen on the 3rd,4th October 1967. One of the important tasks was to approve National By-Laws, so that the Countries, while remaining faithful to the Constitution, could interpret Inner Wheel with their own culture and traditions.

The need for information was very great and the publication in 1971 of the leaflet 'Introducing Inner Wheel' together with a handbook very useful to present the Charter, manage the Clubs and Districts, with some concept of protocol and courtesy, were welcomed with interest.

Another leaflet updated 'Introducing International Inner Wheel' included important information about the steps and the necessary procedures to form a Inner Wheel Club.

Both the leaflets, intentionally short, simple, to aid translation, was basilar, fundamental, especially for the newer Members, wishing to learn how Inner Wheel worked worldwide and enabled them to participate in the Club life more actively.

In these years the Governing Body of IIW had two different compositions.

In the first composition, until the year 1993, it was consisting of:

- a. the Executive Committee with the Officers: President, Vice President, Immediate Past President and Treasurer;
- b. the Board Members: a Representative from each Country, with the necessary statutory qualifications. Each Board Member had a number of votes equivalent to the number of Districts in her Country.

In 1993 it was agreed an important restructuration of the Governing Body with Officers and Board Directors, limiting the number of persons forming the Governing Body.

In this second composition the Governing Body is consisting of:

- a. the Executive Committee with the Officers: President, Vice President, Immediate Past President and Treasurer;
- b. 16 Board Directors. Each Board Director has one vote.

Finally, in 2006, the Chairman of the Constitution Committee was admitted as an appointed member in the International Inner Wheel Governing Body.

THE IMPORTANT DATES ARE:

1923 : Adoption of name INNER WHEEL by Clubs.

1924, 10 January: Foundation first CLUB in Manchester

1928: The first DISTRICT was formed.

1934 : The 79 Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland agreed to form the ASSOCIATION OF INNER WHEEL CLUBS GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. Mrs Margarett Golding was elected President.

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1936: It was decided to mark the formation of a Club with a Certificate of Membership, the Charter. The 79 Clubs formed prior to the Association had on the Charter, signed by the President Margarett Golding, the important words of 'Founder Club'.

1947: The title was shortened to the ASSOCIATION OF INNER WHEEL CLUBS to acknowledge overseas Clubs throughout the world.

1948: The first District outside Great Britain and Ireland, District 26, in Holland.

1962 :

- DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY and SWEDEN were given representation on the Council of the Association.
- For the first time members from countries outside Great Britain and Ireland were invited to sit on the Governing Body.

1967 :

- NATIONAL COUNCILS were recognised in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Great Britain and Ireland, India, The Netherlands, Norway, The Philippines and Sweden.
- The formation of INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL. On the 1st of July 1967 all became Members of International Inner Wheel. In this year International Inner Wheel came into being that there was the opportunity for qualified members in any country to become Officers, for example, President.

1970: First INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL Convention at The Hague.

1993: it was agreed to restructure the Governing Body with Officers and Board Directors limiting the number of persons forming the Governing Body.

2006: the Chairman of the Constitution Committee became an appointed member of the International Inner Wheel Governing Body.

4. Margarett Golding, the founder. – “⁶The Founder of Inner Wheel, Mrs. Oliver Golding, (nèe Margarett Owen), was of Welsh extraction. She was born in Hay-on-Wye, Brecon (now Powys), where her father worked as a gas engineer.

As a young woman, she trained as a nurse, becoming a sister at the London Hospital for Tropical Diseases. She also served as a nurse throughout the First World War.

⁶ (source: www.home.btconnect.com/associationofinnerwheelclubs)

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Margarette was also a shrewd business woman, joining the firm known as the 'Nurses Outfitting Association Ltd.' in Stockport, Cheshire, when the War was over. This was a company run by nurses for nurses. In 1919, Mrs. Golding took over as Managing Director of the company, a position she held until her death. In later years, the firm merged with others but remained in Stockport. Incorporated in its name is the word 'Danco', derived from 'Doctors And Nurses Complete Outfitters', the trade name of the old firm.

To breathe life into a new organisation, nurture it during its infancy, iron out its teething troubles, guide it through its formative stages and see it solidly established was what Margarette Golding did for Inner Wheel. She died in 1939 having seen the 100th Inner Wheel Club formed. On 19th April, 1940, a commemorative plaque was presented at the Stretford Memorial Hospital, where she died and donations in her honour were used to buy furniture for the nurses' quarters.

In 1975, a tribute commemorating the formation of the first Inner Wheel Club, in the form of a teak seat, bearing a descriptive plaque, was presented to the town of Hay-on-Wye, Mrs. Golding's birthplace, by members of District 5. It stands outside the town's Library".

4.1. Margarette Golding Award. – An award created in the name of Margarette Golding for highly commendable personal service through Inner Wheel or in the community.

In 2000 at the 11th Convention in Stockholm, the establishment of an award in the name of the founder of Inner Wheel, Margarette Golding, was recommended.

A Margarette Golding Award may be given for highly commendable service to the community, either personally or through Inner Wheel. It can be presented to a member of Inner Wheel or members of the public whose highly commendable contribution to the community an Inner Wheel Club or District wishes to recognise.

The award is not given for members who have filled a number of positions in Inner Wheel over many years. Members who have given long and valuable service to Inner Wheel but who do not qualify for a Margarette Golding Award, may be recognised with the award of Honoured Active Membership.

Applications for the Margarette Golding Award must be made on the original application form as required by International Inner Wheel. Guidelines and forms may be obtained by contacting the National Representative.

4.2. 10th January: World Inner Wheel Day. – 1924-2010: 86 years of Inner Wheel, 86 long years full of memories, friendship, service, relations and international understanding.

Inner Wheel is drawing, year after year, towards its first century of life.

If Margarette Golding could come back and be among us, certainly, she would be very pleased to see our Association alive, lively, active.

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Each year, the 10th January is celebrated as ‘World Inner Wheel Day’ to honor that day when Inner Wheel was officially christened back in 1924.

“⁷Why January 10th?

Inner Wheel Day is celebrated all over the world on January 10th as the anniversary of the day when Inner Wheel was first founded in 1924. Margarett Golding became the founder President and the name Inner Wheel was adopted on this day.

President *Helena Foster* (1969-1970) came up with the idea for a special day for a special organisation. She wrote a letter to all the Presidents around the world. Inner Wheel was truly the original and inspirational World Wide Web!

In her letter she wrote:

I would like to ask all members of Clubs throughout the world to link together in ACTION on January 10th. I have chosen this special day because it was on January 10th 1924 that the Mother Club Inner Wheel, the Manchester Club, England, first adopted the name Inner Wheel. It can be interpreted in any way you think fit – in group or as individuals – giving personal service to someone who needs you – planting a tree or flowers to beautify some corner of your land, or just the simple act of writing a letter. I am sure that there is inspiration and encouragement to be gained by the knowledge that your fellow members throughout the world are at that moment joined together to extend service and friendship.

‘The response to the first celebration of Inner Wheel Day was magnificent – we were filled with pride and happiness as the letters poured in, describing so vividly the infinite ways in which members had brought joy and comfort to so many’.

Editor Audrey Sargeant noted “⁸Hundreds of letters from Clubs all over the world testify to the success of Helena Foster’s challenge’.

It is now celebrated in many diverse ways, each of them reflecting the aims of Inner Wheel; friendship, service, and international understanding. Some Clubs have a social activity reflecting the friendship of members. Some members may help at a hospital or day centre or provide a tea party for the elderly or for needy children. Many clubs will light a Friendship Candle or contact other clubs abroad to wish them well”.

We all know the history about the origins of Inner Wheel. We all know the significant stages and the dates that marked its progress and its spread in the world. We all know Inner Wheel’s main objectives: to promote true friendship, to foster international understanding, to encourage the ideals of personal service. Wherever Inner Wheel Clubs are present, there are friends waiting and willing to help each other. And this friendship is real, universal and can be experienced by all who join.

Today it’s easier. The development of the computer technology had, generally, in the social tissue, and also in Inner Wheel, a notable impact. The net Internet, particularly, in the last years

⁷ (source: www.innerwheel.com)

⁸ (quoted from *International Inner Wheel The First 25 Years*).

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represented an extraordinary and innovative tool of communication destined to enter more and more the quotidian life of a great number of Members.

Internet gives the possibility to visit the websites of many countries that have Inner Wheel Clubs, send messages of e-mail, know people in the network, overcoming the spatial-temporal limits.

And Facebook is a new, other, interesting way to promote the objectives of Inner Wheel. Also to celebrate together this 86th Inner Wheel Day⁹!

Facebook is a big, international, phenomenon: friendships, relationships, contacts. Every day. A transversal phenomenon, which has no boundaries, barriers. Where the members, by now, write in English in order to reach all, even those who do not speak the language of origin. Africa, Asia, Europe: one IW!

The place, real or virtual, where the Inner Wheel Day celebration takes place, is not of importance, because, always, anywhere and in any case, Inner Wheel Day celebration has an intrinsic value. It leads us to reflection on the past, that is testimony and memory. Above all, it becomes a symbolic rendezvous with the purpose to continue, improve our commitment; confirm our faith and our confidence in the Association, for bridging the future with renewed enthusiasm. To redefine and vivify the identity. To underline the force and the greatness of Inner Wheel, consolidating more and more the meaning of our membership, always recognizable and credible.

Look at the 'casket of the time!'. I love much this expression, because in the "casket" we preserve our treasures. Inner Wheel has its treasures, values, memories: meetings, conventions, publications, pictures, documents, conversations, trips. A very precious heritage oral and written. A lot of cultural, social, educational, humanitarian services. Memories of generous commitment, of faith associative lived without reservations in Inner Wheel friendship.

My wish, our common wish, to Inner Wheel is to continue the luminous path started 86 years ago, where harmony and serenity were, are and will be the deserving background to serve noble and selfless of all the Members in all the Countries.

5. International Inner Wheel Themes. –

| | |
|--|-------------|
| SURVIVAL – BE INVOLVED | 1977 – 1978 |
| WORK FOR PEACE THROUGH LOVE | 1978 – 1979 |
| HELP CHILDREN SMILE | 1979 – 1980 |
| OPEN YOUR HEARTS | 1980 – 1981 |
| BE CONCERNED | 1981 – 1982 |
| UNDERSTAND AND PEACE | 1982 – 1983 |
| CONTINUING SEARCH FOR PEACE | 1983 – 1984 |
| COMMUNICATE | 1984 – 1985 |
| CO-OPERATE | 1985 – 1986 |
| IDENTIFY | 1986 – 1987 |
| HAVE PATIENCE | 1987 – 1988 |
| PROTECT CHILDREN – THEY ARE THE FUTURE | 1988 – 1989 |
| PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT | 1989 – 1990 |

⁹ This my not was published on Facebook on 10th January 2010 with the title 'Happy birthday Inner Wheel!'

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| | |
|---|-------------|
| GIVE OUR WORLD A FUTURE | 1990 – 1991 |
| TAKE TIME | 1991 – 1992 |
| UNDERSTANDING | 1992 – 1993 |
| EXPAND TO SERVE BETTER | 1993 – 1994 |
| WIDEN YOUR HORIZONS | 1994 – 1995 |
| OPEN YOUR HEART AND YOUR HOME | 1995 – 1996 |
| LOOK BEYOND YOURSELF BE INVOLVED | 1996 – 1997 |
| TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER | 1997 – 1998 |
| MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE | |
| Communicate and Educate | 1998 – 1999 |
| REACH OUT, Keep HOPE Alive | |
| ‘Turn Giving into Living’ | 1999 – 2000 |
| STRANGERS are FRIENDS | |
| we have not met | 2000 – 2001 |
| ENTHUSIASM CREATES ACTION | 2001 – 2002 |
| CARE for the FUTURE | 2002 – 2003 |
| MAKE THE FRIENDSHIP POSITIVE | 2003 – 2004 |
| WORK TOGETHER AND GIVE HOPE | 2004 – 2005 |
| SUPPORT GIVES STRENGTH | 2005 – 2006 |
| SHOW THAT YOU CARE through FRIENDSHIP and SERVICE | 2006 – 2007 |
| Communicate Our Vision | 2007 – 2008 |
| Realise your Visions | |
| and | |
| Make a Difference | 2008 – 2009 |
| HELP bring HOPE | 2009 – 2010 |
| Commit with | |
| convintion, compassion, consistency | 2010 – 2011 |

6. International Inner Wheel Presidents. – LAVENDER WEIGHTMAN, HELENA FOSTER, ELSEBETH BAGER, NANCY SHARP, BIRTE FANGEL, AGNES BULPITT, HYLDA ARMSTRONG, GWEN DAVIS, MARIE CLAIRE CRONSTEDT, KAY MARTIN, ELIZABETH BIER–REITSMA, JOAN PIKE, ANNE LEBAU, JENETTE PETIT, BRITT FJELLANDER, ESTHER VIBAL, RAGNHILD OGLAEND, DORIS BROWNE, MINNA. KAPUR, DORA BALEY, ALISON DOWSON, BRENDA TAYLOR, MARGARET SPENNING, ISABEL MCKNIGHT, G.R. BOWMAN, ANITA AGGARWAL, BARBARA BENNET, IDA DUBLEDAM–DE KLERK, B. MCNEIL, DR ELISABETH JONES, LOVISE RICHARDSON, LILLIA PETTIGREW, VIVIENNE BOLTON, CAROLE BUCHANAN, S. SVENSSON, EILEEN HARSANT, METJE HANEKAMP-VAN DE KAMP, ERNA FANDAL, JANET DAY, KAMALA RAMAKRISHNAN, SUZANNE HEM NIELSEN, ANN FRYER, PALLAVI SHAH.

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7. Countries & geographical regions where there are Inner Wheel clubs. – ALGERIA, ANDORRA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BENIN, BRAZIL, BOTSWANA, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAYMAN ISLANDS, COLOMBIA, CONGO, REPUBLIC OF, CROATIA, CYPRUS, DENMARK, DJIBUTI, EGYPT, ESTONIA, FAROE ISLANDS, FINLAND, FRANCE, FRENCH, GUIANA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREAT BRITAIN & I., GREECE, GUADELOUPE, GUINEA, GUYANA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, ISRAEL, ITALY, IVORY COAST, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENIA, LE REUNION, LEBANON, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MACEDONIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MARTINIQUE, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NEPAL, THE NETHERLANDS, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, NEW CALEDONIA, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PAPUA NEW, GUINEA, THE PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGUAL, RODRIQUES, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SERBIA, SINGAPORE, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH KOREA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SURINAME, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THAILAND, TAIWAIN, TOGO.

8. Evolution of the membership category. – For a long time in the Inner Wheel membership, limited to Rotarian spouses, was considered as if it were and should be a static one; and that it should remain as such, precisely restricted from the outside, in order to preserve almost a type of purity of the Association.

In the past few years, however, changes have been notable. The analysis of the evolution of membership is extremely interesting.

If we examine the last six editions of the Statute published after the 9th Sydney Convention of 1993, the 10th Berlin Convention of 1997, the 11th Stockholm Convention of 2000, the 12th Florence Convention of 2003, the 13th Christchurch Convention and the 14th Kota Kinabalu Convention, we understand well the process of extension of membership through the presentation and approval of norms aimed at its progressive enrichment.

Membership shows itself therefore as being in slow but constant dynamic movement.

Now let's return to the history.

1993 – Sydney Convention

In 1993, after the Sydney Convention, as we note from what is referred to below, there were four membership categories. They all rotated around the figure of the 'Rotarian Member', through whom the spouse acquired the right of membership of the Inner Wheel. This was a right which could not be revoked: it remains as such even if Rotarians resign from the Rotary, or die.

Also the widow of a Rotarian Member or a former Rotarian member enjoyed this right.

First of all, therefore, a spouse or a widow of a Rotarian or a former Rotarian could enter a Club and be part of the Inner Wheel. If, then however, the Rotarian Member was single or widower, the membership right could be exercised in the family context, as prescribed by section 'c', albeit a section with a difficult and limited application.

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The text (of the Statute) states:

- a. The wife of a Rotarian. Membership may be retained or taken up again notwithstanding the resignation or death of the Rotarian.
- b. The widow of a Rotarian.
- c. One member of the household of a bachelor or widower Rotarian who shall be the widowed mother OR the widowed or unmarried sister of a bachelor or widower Rotarian OR the widower or unmarried daughter over 18 years of age of a widower Rotarian.
- d. The wife or widow of a former Rotarian.

1997 – Berlin Convention

The membership norms were notably modified and simplified by the Delegates during the Convention's work sessions in 1997 in Berlin. Only two categories were made but, *de facto*, there was a notable extension of membership and many new points were introduced:

Membership was extended to the companion of the Rotarian Member. This removed the obstacle that family members admitted to the Inner Wheel (mother, sister, daughter over 18) should be single or in a widowed state. Also removed was the obstacle that access by family members of the Inner Wheel was open only if the Rotarian member was single or widower; therefore without a spouse.

The text (of the Statute) states:

- a. The wife or female partner of a male Rotarian. Membership may be retained or taken up again notwithstanding the resignation or death of the Rotarian.
- b. The wife\widow\mother\sister\daughter over 18 years of a Rotarian or Former Rotarian.

2000 – Stockholm Convention

In the year 2000, during the Stockholm Convention, there was a wide broadening. This is recent history which even the youngest members have seen. The details are:

1. The daughter-in-law and stepdaughter are to be considered as family members.
2. The branch of the Inner wheel was introduced in the categories.
3. Because from 1989 in the Rotary women had the right to become Members, the right of access was also extended to women who are or were Members of the Rotary.
4. The branch of Rotaract was introduced in the categories.

The text (of the Statute) states:

- a. The wife of a Rotarian

Membership may be retained or taken up again notwithstanding the resignation or death of the Rotarian

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- b. The widow of a Rotarian or a former Rotarian
- c. The wife\widow\mother\sister\daughter over 18 years of a Rotarian\stepdaughter over 18 years\ daughter in law over 18 years of any Rotarian or any Former Rotarian
- d. The mother\sister\daughter over 18 years of an Inner Wheel Member
- e. A female Rotarian or female former Rotarian
- f. Former female member of Rotaract or the wife of a member of Rotaract

2003 – Florence Convention

In 2003, Florence. The categories defined in the Stockholm Convention remained unchanged, but there was the first opening which was not of a Rotarian or inner Wheel stamp.

The opening consisted of the possibility of transforming an Honorary Member into an Active Member, after two years of membership of the Club and with the condition that the majority of the Club are in agreement.

This window which allows the inclusion as Active Members external to Rotary and the Inner Wheel is nevertheless limited in number, because in the whole life of the Club, beyond the number of Members which a Club can have, only 4 Honorary Members could become Active Members.

The text (of the Statute) states:

- a. The wife of a Rotarian
Membership may be retained or taken up again notwithstanding the resignation or death of the Rotarian
- b. The widow of a Rotarian or a former Rotarian
- c. The wife\mother\sister\daughter over 18 years of a Rotarian\stepdaughter over 18 years\ daughter-in-law over 18 years of any Rotarian or any Former Rotarian
- d. The mother\sister\daughter over 18 years of an Inner Wheel Member
- e. A female Rotarian or female former Rotarian
- f. Former female member of Rotaract or the wife of a member of Rotaract
- g. Honorary Members, having served for at least 2 years within a Club, may then be offered membership as Active Members of that Club, providing that a majority of the Club agrees. This category of membership must not exceed 4 at any given time. Members in this category who transfer to other Clubs will be admitted as Active Members of those Clubs.

One notes how, over the years, on the one hand we have seen the trend prevail towards an ever more marked opening a sort of liberalisation of membership; whilst on the other hand a trend towards wanting to safeguard in some way the ‘original’ link with the Rotarian’ relatives.

The possibility voted in the Florence Convention for Honorary Members, which after having served for at least two years in a Club, becoming Active Members of the Club, if the majority of the Club agrees, is a ‘limited’ but revolutionary innovation, in so far that for the first time the

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privileged link with the Rotary was interrupted.

The implications were and still are numerous, tied especially to interal expansion. This was an important window in enlarging membership. A correct use of it has already permitted the full participation in the Club of Members who are particularly qualified and motivated.

2006 – Christchurch Convention

Certainly, during the 2006 Christchurch Convention, there was a further and considerable enlarging of membership.

The most significant modification consisted of the introduction of 'relative bond' with the Rotary and the Inner Wheel. We must note the importance of the approval of section (a), not only for the extension of relative status, but also because – for access to the Inner Wheel – it equals and places on the same level the rotarian branch with that of the Inner wheel.

The text (of the Statute) states:

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

- a. A female who is related to or was related to a Rotarian/ former Rotarian/ Inner Wheel member/ former Inner Wheel member.
- b. The female partner of a male Rotarian.
- c. Membership may be retained or taken up again notwithstanding the resignation or death of the Rotarian/Inner Wheel member.
- d. A female Rotarian or former female Rotarian.
- e. Former female member of Rotaract or the wife/mother of a member of Rotaract.
- f. Honorary Members, having served for at least 2 years within a Club, may then be offered membership as Active Members of that Club, providing that a majority of the Club agrees. This category of membership must not exceed 4 at any given time. Members in this category who transfer to other Clubs will be admitted as Active Members of those Clubs.

As has already been underlined, the most important innovation was in understanding and placing into one single category – that of the relative bond – a series of categories equally specified. However, in order to avoid the relative bond assuming different declinations from those of the civil code in force in each country of the International Inner Wheel, realising, *de facto*, an application of the Statute which was different between States (and this, in our opinion, goes against the character of universality which the international Statute must have especially when it defines who can be a part of the Inner Wheel) it was necessary to make an enquiry to Headquarters, so that the Constitution Chairman, making use of the consultation of the Lawyer who collaborates with the Inner Wheel in the solution of legal problems, gave a clear and unequivocal interpretation.

Enquiry to Headquarters: 'relative bonds'

“The Civil Code in use in each State of the International Inner Wheel defines the levels of

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relationship and distinguishes between consanguinity and relatives with an affinity. We must avoid the norms on membership, approved by the Voting Delegates at the Convention being applied in a different way State by State, because it would be in contrast with the character of universality which the Inner Wheel membership must have, as the Statute requires. For this reason we must request a clear answer from the Constitution Chairman which defines the limits of membership contained in the expression ‘*to be related*’”.

Reply from Headquarters:

The Lawyer has confirmed that the term ‘related to’ and ‘was related to’ should be defined as meaning ‘sharing by blood or marriage a relationship with...’ or ‘connected by blood or marriage’.

From the consultation of specialised Dictionaries, the conclusion is:

- a) whoever is ‘*related by blood*’ enters into the category of consanguinous relatives;
- b) whoever is ‘*related by marriage*’ enters into the category of in-laws (having an affinity).

Only time will allow us to evaluate the real impact of such a resolution in the expansion.

Another note about Honorary Members who become Active, who transfer to another Club. it was very important to establish their position in the new Club.

The approval of this proposal of amendment:

“Members belonging to this category who transfer to other Clubs will be admitted as Active Members of such Clubs” clarifies definitively that once a member has become an Active Member, she cannot be deprived of that title of membership if she transfers to another Club, nor will be modified the quota of Honorary Members who can become Active in the Club to which she transfers.

2009 – KOTA KINABALU CONVENTION

It is well known that Rotary maintains a strong connection to youth and young adults. Besides Youth Exchange, Rotary clubs sponsor youth service clubs such as Interact, Rotaract, and RYLA and offer career development and mentoring programs.

Each year, thousands participate in Rotary’s educational and youth programs directed to foster international understanding and friendship. Participants, who had chosen Rotary because of its commitment to world understanding, as *alumni*, they have an extended network of people who share a common bond and they’ll always be part of the family of Rotary.

The Inner Wheel, with the approval during the 14th Kota Kinabalu Convention of the norm which allows entry into the Association to a woman who, invited, has taken part in a programme of Rotary International such as Students Exchange Ambassadorial Scholarships and Group Study Exchange (GSE), certainly has enlarged the catchment area from which new Members can be added in order to guarantee Inner Wheel another channel for expansion.

The text (of the Statute) states:

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

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- a. A female who is or was related to a Rotarian/former Rotarian; Inner Wheel member/former Inner Wheel member.
- b. The female partner of a male Rotarian. Membership may be retained or taken up again despite the resignation or death of the Rotarian/Inner Wheel Member.
- c. A female Rotarian or former female Rotarian.
- d. Former female member of Rotaract or the wife/mother of a member of Rotaract.
- e. A female who has participated in a programme of Rotary International, such as Students Exchange
- f. Ambassadorial Scholarships and Group Study Exchange (GSE) – and who has been personally invited to join.

Active Membership should be taken up in the Inner Wheel Club most convenient for a qualified Inner Wheel member to attend.

9. Places and dates of International Inner Wheel triennial Conventions –

- 1st Convention 1970 The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2nd Convention 1973 Copenhagen, Denmark
- 3rd Convention 1976 Sydney, Australia
- 4th Convention 1979 Brighton, England
- 5th Convention 1982 Paris, France
- 6th Convention 1985 Orlando, Florida, USA
- 7th Convention 1988 Stavanger, Norway
- 8th Convention 1991 The Hague, The Netherlands
- 9th Convention 1993 Sydney, Australia
- 10th Convention 1997 Berlin, Germany
- 11th Convention 2000 Stockholm, Sweden
- 12th Convention 2003 Florence, Italy
- 13th Convention 2006 Christchurch, New Zealand
- 14th Convention 2009 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

10. General motions approved during the Conventions. –

Third Convention – Sydney, Australia, May 1976

The Executive Committee of District 39, Sweden, suggests that, bearing in mind the competent organisation and firmly established ideals which Inner Wheel stands for today, all Inner Wheel members adopt and participate in a theme on an International basis. The chosen theme will be decided by the Governing Body.

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Sixth Convention – Orlando, Florida, USA, May 1985

Conventions shall extend over 3 days, not counting the day of registration. Workshops shall be arranged and lectures shall be given on subjects important to mankind i.e. subjects that are essential to women all over the world, such as education, independence, equality etc.

Seventh Convention – Stavanger, Norway, May 1988

International Inner Wheel should study the question of child abuse in the pornographic industry and use every means at its disposal to condemn the practice and its perpetrators.

Eighth Convention – The Hague, The Netherlands, April 1991

It is proposed that a fund be set up to mark the 25th Jubilee year of International Inner Wheel, the monies arising therefrom to be used in the country in which they are raised. The charities to benefit from the fund will be the ‘Save the Children Fund’ and similar children’s organisations.

Ninth Convention – Sydney, Australia, October 1993

International Inner Wheel must confine its involvement with the United National (e.g. ECOSOC and UNICEF) to being an Observer on the Roster with consultative status.

Tenth Convention – Berlin, Germany, April, 1997

That International Inner Wheel make provision for a member of the Executive Committee, responsible for the organisation’s United Nations interests during the year of office which falls in the year of the World Conference of Women, to represent International Inner Wheel and be an official delegate to the Conference.

The President stated as the above proposal stood, it contravened the Affiliation clause, but as a General Motion it was not binding. There would be 2 Conventions held before the next World Conference of Women, which would allow members to submit either change to the Affiliation clause, or a rewording of the above General Motion.

Eleventh Convention – Stockholm, Sweden, May 2000

International Inner Wheel made provision for a member of the Executive Committee, responsible for the organisation’s United Nations interests during the year of office which falls in the year of the World Conference on Women, to be an observer for International Inner Wheel to the Conference.

Thirteenth Convention – Christchurch, New Zealand, May 2006

The Constitution Chairman was appointed as a member of the Governing Body of International Inner Wheel.

UNICEF Global Girls’ Education was named as the International Inner Wheel project for 2006–2009, in Madagascar.

Fourteenth Convention – Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, May 2009

UNICEF Global Girls’ Education was named as the International Inner Wheel project for 2009–2012, in Bolivia.

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11. The social projects. – The idea of a common Social project lasting three years was approved during the XI Convention in 2000. What was the plan?

At every International Convention, International Inner Wheel designates a social project which would be supported by Inner Wheel Clubs world wide.

Proposals for projects, to be forwarded from the National Representatives to the International Inner Wheel Governing Body. The Governing Body to choose the project by majority vote prior to the Convention. At each Convention, a collection will be taken at the Service of Faith. Proceeds to go towards the chosen international project.

So far three big projects have been adopted and shared by all Inner Wheel Clubs. They have been dedicated especially to sustaining UNICEF programmes linked to the world of women and to teaching reading and writing to children.

In the 2003 Convention held in our own Florence, the Programme chosen and active for three years is that of the ‘THE MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TETANUS ELIMINATION’, an initiative launched by UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA in 1999 considering it as an important objective linked to public health. From 1999 to 2008 the data confirms us that about 84.8 million women of childbearing age have been protected from tetanus.

In 2006, during the Christchurch Convention the Inner Wheel adhered to a programme launched by UNICEF in 2005 called ‘UNICEF’s GLOBAL GIRLS’ EDUCATION PROGRAM’, linked to the similar programme of the UN¹⁰, to promote the improvement of the *status* of women in gender equality as in education. With commitment – as Carol Bellamy asserts, UNICEF Executive Director – no girl should be left behind and should receive education both to find the right collocation and to promote the development of her country.

“It is our commitment that no girl will be left behind as her country attempts to move forward, and that every girl will be educated to assume her rightful place as an agent in her country’s development”.

Given the success of this project it was decided during the 2009 Convention in Kota Kinabalu to continue for another three years with ‘UNICEF’s GLOBAL GIRLS’ EDUCATION PROGRAM’ and sustain the educational campaign but this time in Bolivia. Moreover, always in collaboration with UNICEF, the Inner Wheel will commit itself to the education of children in Madagascar, more specifically in the District of Vangaindrano.

¹⁰ United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). The program was launched in 2000 to World Education Forum in Dakar by then General Secretary of Kofi Annan. The UNICEF is the main agency and it also holds the Secretariat. Together with its partners, UNICEF is working to reduce the gender gap in primary and secondary education.

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CHAPTER III

OBJECTS, MEMBERSHIP, STRUCTURE

SUMMARY: 1. International Inner Wheel, objects and membership. – 2. Structure of the Inner Wheel. – 2.1. *Club*. – 2.2. *District*. – 2.3. *National Bodies*. – 2.4. *National By-Laws*. – 2.5. *Board*. – 3. International Inner Wheel Conventions. – 3.1. *Business of the Convention*. – 3.2. *To amend the Constitution*. – 4. International Inner Wheel official Publications. – 4.1. *Publications*. – 4.2. *Constitution & Handbook*.

1. International Inner Wheel, objects and membership. – International Inner Wheel is the largest women's Voluntary Service Organisation in the world with around 100,000 members in 168 Districts with 3.691 Clubs spread over 103 countries and geographical locations around the world.

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According to our Constitution¹¹, the objects are: to promote true friendship, encourage the ideals of personal service, foster international understanding.

The Members meet regularly, work together, gather new friendships, spend moments of leisure, organize cultural activities.

The Inner Wheel year is from 1st July to 30th June. Inner Wheel is not sectarian or party political. The official language is English.

All Inner Wheel Clubs are part of International Inner Wheel. The minimum number of Active Members required to form a Club is 12. All Clubs must conform to their National Bye-Laws and the Governing Body of International Inner Wheel must be consulted when changes are contemplated in a National Constitution. A National Body is formed by of all Districts and Clubs within its boundaries. A District of all Clubs within its boundaries. The minimum number of Clubs required to form a District is 4.

The Governing Body of International Inner Wheel is to have jurisdiction over Non-Districted Clubs, where there is no National Body.

In a Club there are 3 Classes of membership: Active, Honoured Active and Honorary. Qualifications for membership to be universal.

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

- a. A female who is or was related to a Rotarian/former Rotarian; Inner Wheel member/former Inner Wheel member.
- b. The female partner of a male Rotarian. Membership may be retained or taken up again despite the resignation or death of the Rotarian/Inner Wheel Member.
- c. A female Rotarian or former female Rotarian.
- d. Former female member of Rotaract or the wife/mother of a member of Rotaract.
- e. A female who has participated in a programme of Rotary International, such as Students Exchange.
- f. Ambassadorial Scholarships and Group Study Exchange (GSE) – and who has been personally invited to join.

Active Membership should be taken up in the Inner Wheel Club most convenient for a qualified Inner Wheel member to attend.

A Club may confer Honoured Active Membership on an Active Member who has given outstanding service to Inner Wheel. Moreover, a Club may invite up to 4 female members whom they wish to honour to become Honorary Members.

Honorary Members have no vote and cannot hold office in a Club. Having served for at least 2 years within a Club, Honorary Members may be offered membership as Active Members providing the majority of the Club agrees. These members shall then have Active Members rights. This category of membership must not exceed 4 at any given time. Members who transfer to other Clubs will be admitted as Active Members of those Clubs.

In Inner Wheel exists also the *Membership at Large*. If an Active Member resides in an area of a country where there is no Inner Wheel Club, the National Governing Body of that country can grant

¹¹ *Constitution & Handbook, IIW, 2009*

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her Membership at Large *status*. Application must be made to that National Governing Body through her former Club or District where there is no former Club through disbandment. Payment of International Inner Wheel Capitation fees must be made to that Governing Body. Such a member cannot vote or hold office. In the Countries without a National Governing Body, the request will be forwarded to International Inner Wheel Headquarters through her former Club.

When an Inner Wheel Club has been formed out of more than one Rotary Club, the members of the new Club may decide on a geographically suitable name (The name shall normally be that of the corresponding Rotary Club).

Inner Wheel shall not affiliate with (i.e. become a member of) other organisations at National, District or Club level, as it cannot bind its members to a constitution nor to any decision over which it has no control.

2. Structure of the Inner Wheel. – The International Inner Wheel is composed of the Inner Wheel Clubs, organized and functioning in conformity to the *Constitution* and the Regulations.

2.1. Club. – The Club is the fundamental component of the system. Not without reason the Clubs are the members of the Association. The Club is the associative and operational base, in which the Associates live and reach the objectives and ideals that are at the heart of being and working in the Inner Wheel: Friendship, Service, International Understanding.

With regard to the structural and functional system, starting from the Clubs, it must first be stressed that in the Inner Wheel there are:

a) Clubs that are not organized in Districts (Non Districted Clubs)

And it is the Board that has jurisdiction over them, directly, because they have no National Body.

b) Clubs organized in Districts (Districted Clubs)

The Club is headed by the President, who uses the collaboration of the Executive Committee (which has no deliberative power). The Governing Body of the Club, in fact, is the Assembly of the Active and Honoured Active Members.

THE ORGANIZATION MODEL CHART OF EACH CLUB IS:

A. Officers

President

Vice President or Vice Presidents

Immediate Past President

Secretary

Treasurer

B. Other Members:

Correspondent

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International Service Organiser

Not more than 6 other Members

C. All the other Active Members and Honoured Active Members.

A+B are the Executive Committee of the Club.

2.2. District. – The District is a geographical area in which Clubs are grouped according to administrative duties of the International Inner Wheel. To form a District at least 4 Clubs are necessary. The District is headed by a Chairman, who is assisted by the collaboration of an Executive Committee.

The Governing Body of the District shall be the District Committee.

The Club Voting Delegates form with the Executive Committee of the District the 'District Committee' which is the Governing Body of the District.

THE ORGANIZATION MODEL CHART OF A DISTRICT COMMITTEE IS:

A.Officers:

Chairman

Vice Chairman or Vice Chairmen

Immediate Past Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

B.Ex Officio Members with power to vote:

Extension Chairman or Organiser, if elected

International Service Chairman or Organiser

Editor

C.Club Voting Delegates to District

A+B form the District Executive Committee

In the District there may be even permanent Committees and *ad hoc* Committees:

Between the permanent Committees we have:

A.Extension Committee (not more than four members)

B.International Service Committee (not more than four members)

Ad hoc Committees: The District Committees may elect other Committees as required.

2.3. National Bodies. – When there are Districts and Clubs and, even a single District, we may have a National Body. A National Body shall consist of all Districts and Clubs within its boundaries.

As the Districts and the Clubs relate themselves with the Headquarters?

The Clubs organized in Districts may express an institutional figure to get in touch with the Headquarters: the National Representative.

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Necessary condition is the following:

“A National Representative may be elected by any country with 1 or more Districts with 4 or more Clubs which have been functioning as a District for a minimum of 2 years”.

Therefore, in Inner Wheel, for the Clubs organized in Districts, we have two situations:

1. National Body without the National Representative.
2. National Body with the National Representative.

A National Body may, then, elect a National Governing Body .

In International Inner Wheel we distinguish between two forms of National Governing Body:

1. National Council.
2. Association.

In the Countries with the National Council or the Association there is always the President and the National Representative. In some Countries, the President of the National Council or Association and the National Representative are the same person; the charges coincide. In other, the positions are separated, for justified reasons, not least that of the language.

The Countries with National Governing Body can adopt National Bye-Laws.

2.4. National By-Laws. – The Countries with National Governing Body can establish their National By-Laws at the level of Club, District, National Council or Association, adopted and approved in the course of a National Conference.

The By-Laws, however, before coming into force, must be sent, translated in English, to Headquarters, to be submitted, for the examination and verification, to the Constitution Committee chaired by the Constitution Chairman, so that norms are not identified conflicting with the spirit and letter of the Constitution.

It may happen that changes or corrections should be made before the approval of the Executive Committee of International Inner Wheel.

After approval the National By-Laws may enter into force.

These Bye-Laws enable members to enjoy their membership according to the customs and traditions of their own country.

2.5. Board. – Finally, also at international level there is a Governing Body, called Board, chaired by International President. She works with the collaboration of an Executive Committee. Of the Board are part, in addition, 16 Board Directors, and the Constitution Chairman.

THE ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE BOARD IS:

A. Officers

President

Vice President

Immediate Past President

Treasurer

B. 16 Board Directors

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C. Constitution Chairman

MEETINGS

One Governing Body Meeting to be held annually, except in a Convention year when a second meeting will be scheduled the day prior to the Convention.

The Governing Body may pass a resolution on urgent matters between Governing Body meetings. A copy of the resolution in writing must be sent to each member of the Governing Body whose acceptance or rejection must be sent in writing to the Administrator of International Inner Wheel. The decision must be by a 75% majority. The procedure is to be instigated by the Executive Committee.

COMMITTEES

The Committees are three: the Executive Committee, the Constitution Committee and that for the Convention.

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Immediate Past President and Treasurer.

Duties of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will have the overall management of the day to day affairs and funds of International Inner Wheel on behalf of the Governing Body.

2. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The Constitution Committee will consist of the Constitution Chairman, the President and Vice President of International Inner Wheel.

3. CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The Convention Committee is to consist of a Chairman herein to be called the Convention Co-ordinator, to be appointed by the Governing Body from members nominated by the host country at the time of submitting the application to host the Convention, the International Inner Wheel Vice President and Treasurer *ex officio*, and other members appointed according to the Convention blueprint. In addition the International Inner Wheel President of the Convention year shall be a member of the Committee during that year.

3. International Inner Wheel Conventions. – International Conventions shall be held at intervals of not less than 3 years in a place to which the Board reasonably believes Voting Delegates from any country having Inner Wheel have free access. The meeting place for the Convention shall be decided by the Board.

3.1. Business of the Convention. – As stated in our Constitution, Business of the Convention are: the official Report and audited Statement of Accounts shall be presented by the Board; the Capitation fee for International Inner Wheel shall be fixed; alterations in, or additions to, the International Constitution shall be considered and appropriate action taken; alterations in, or

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additions to, the Standard District Rules and the Standard Club Rules shall be considered and appropriate action taken; matters of Inner Wheel interest shall be discussed.

Each Club, each District Committee and each National Governing Body is entitled to send 1 Voting Delegate and to appoint a deputy in the event of a vacancy. Each International Inner Wheel Officer, each Board Director, the Constitution Chairman, each National Representative and each Past President of International Inner Wheel is to be a Voting Delegate. All of the above if not represented may designate as proxy a National Representative, a Past National Representative, a past Board Director, a District Committee Voting Delegate or the International Inner Wheel Official Proxy Vote-holder. The International Inner Wheel Official Proxy Vote-holder must follow strictly the directives given, but other proxies may be given discretion as to how to vote. Any Voting Delegate other than the International Inner Wheel Official Proxy Vote-holder, must not hold more than 70 proxy votes. Any Inner Wheel member may attend as an observer but the business must be conducted only by the Voting Delegates.

Each motion submitted to amend the Constitution must be carried by a majority of 2/3rds of those voting in person or by proxy. All other motions shall be decided by a simple majority.

The President, the Vice President, or, if circumstances necessitate, an International Inner Wheel Past President shall preside at the Convention as proposed by the Executive Committee of International Inner Wheel and ratified by a simple majority at the meeting of the Governing Body immediately prior to the Convention.

All business must be conducted by Voting Delegates. On each proposal to amend the Constitution a majority of 2/3rds is necessary. All other proposals shall be decided by a simple majority. In the event of the votes being equal, the President shall have the casting vote.

3.2. To amend the Constitution. – Important and interesting is the procedure to amend the Constitution. As stated in our Constitution, the International Inner Wheel Governing Body, National Governing Bodies, District Committees and Clubs may submit proposals to amend the Constitution. Such proposals from National Governing Bodies, District Committees and Non-Districted Clubs shall be sent direct to International Inner Wheel Headquarters. Districted Clubs shall submit such proposals to the District Committee for consideration and may then send them to International Inner Wheel Headquarters. Amendments to be put for Clubs and Districts where there is no National Governing Body will only be accepted from those Clubs and Districts and from International Inner Wheel Governing Body. Only those Clubs and Districts where there is no National Governing Body will vote on these proposals. Any proposals to amend the Constitution shall be received at International Inner Wheel Headquarters not later than 18 months prior to the Convention. Amendments to these proposals shall be received at International Inner Wheel Headquarters not later than 6 months prior to the Convention.

In a case of urgency and provided that not less than 30 days notice in writing has been given, this Constitution may be amended at a meeting of the International Board attended by all members in person by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than 75% of those entitled to vote in person or by proxy.

Such amendment shall be subject to ratification by an International Convention within 2 years of the meeting of the International Board at which such resolution is passed, but shall become immediately and temporarily effective for a period not exceeding 2 years until it shall be ratified or rejected by such International Convention or failing this shall lapse.

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If 30 days notice in writing cannot be given this Constitution may be amended at a meeting of the International Board attended by all members in person by a resolution passed by an individual vote of not less than 75% of those present, provided that such an amendment shall only be valid until the next following meeting of the International Board.

Any proposal containing similar subject matter to one presented and defeated at 2 consecutive Conventions will not be accepted for the following Convention, with the exception of proposed changes to membership. In the event of a dispute the Chairman of the Constitution Committee will make the final decision.

4. International Inner Wheel official Publications. – 4.1. Publications. – The Official publications of International Inner Wheel are:

1. Combined International Inner Wheel Constitution and Handbook.
2. Annual Directory.
3. International Inner Wheel Newsletter published as desired by the Governing Body.
4. Introducing Inner Wheel leaflet.

The International Inner Wheel website is available for additional information including ‘News on the Web’ etc. www.innerwheel.com

4.2. Constitution & Handbook. – Between the official publications, the most important is undoubtedly the Constitution & Handbook of International Inner Wheel, in a single volume, which binds all Members together worldwide. All Members must observe the rules of IIW, except where they conflict with the laws and customs of their country.

To formulate a Constitution for an International Organisation as Inner Wheel and keep it simple was a difficult task for the legislators.

One of the most important aims was to give clear and easy rules to apply and follow at world level, leaving, then, as much autonomy as possible to all member countries. In fact, each National Governing Body – National Council or Association – can have its own By-Laws, approved by the IIW Board, conforming with the Constitution.

This autonomy has been a great advantage for many Countries.

Non-districted Clubs and Districts without a National Governing Body adopted the Standard Rules, approved by International Inner Wheel

If we compare the 1967 Constitution with the current edition, that has undergone changes and additions during fourteen Conventions, we understand that a long way has been made; but, after almost a century, certainly a revision would be required.

In the Constitution we find the information necessary to understand the organisation of IIW.

It consists of the following parts:

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of International Inner Wheel is binding on all members and covers the emblem, objects, qualifications for membership, election of International Officers and Board Directors.

Arguments: Basic Rules, Objects, Membership, Governing Body, Election of Governing Body, Committees, Editor, Finance, Trustees, National Representatives, Affiliation, Convention, Standing Orders, Amendments to the Constitution.

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The official language is English.

The primary criteria for Active Membership is defined as sharing ‘by blood or marriage’ a relationship with a Rotarian/former Rotarian, Inner Wheel member/former Inner Wheel member (see page 3 of the Constitution *a) Active Membership*).

All Charters are granted by International Inner Wheel and signed by the International Inner Wheel President.

Where a Club is part of an Association, National Council or a Districted country represented by a National Representative, the Charter should be signed by the National Representative. The Charter will not be sent until the Capitation Fees have been paid.

STANDARD RULES

Clubs and Districts with no Governing Body will have from Headquarters the text of STANTARD RULES.

They were and are essential to ensure in every corner of the world the principles and basic rules for the proper and homogeneous management, in any time and in any way, of a Club and District, the use of the nomenclature IW.

During the Convention 2006 in Christchurch was established that “¹²Amendments to be put for Clubs and Districts where there is no National Governing Body will only be accepted from those Clubs and Districts and from International Inner Wheel Governing Body. Only those Clubs and Districts where there is no National Governing Body will vote on these proposals”.

Up to 2006, instead, all had the right to intervene in this area. These regulations are divided into two main chapters:

- STANDARD RULES FOR CLUBS WITH NO GOVERNING BODY
- STANDARD RULES FOR DISTRICTS WITH NO GOVERNING BODY

HANDBOOK

The Handbook is a text complementary to the Standard Rules, very useful in helping to deepen the procedure for implementing the norms through more detailed information.

Arguments: General Information, What is Inner Wheel, Facts you should know, The Constitution, National Bye-Laws, Club Meetings, Welcome to new Members, Club Anniversaires, Interclub Visits, Visitors, Transfer, Finance-Clubs, Extension, Badges, Publications, District Meetings, Correspondence, Elections, Miscellaneous.

¹² *Constitution & Handbook*, IIW, 2009

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CHAPTER IV TRAINING

SUMMARY: 1. Training and updating. – 1.1. *The Sources*. – 1.2. *Technical Meetings or Workshops*.

1. Training and updating. – Training and updating are a right/duty of each Inner Wheel associate. Knowing the Inner Wheel in depth, maturing specific abilities to serve the Club and elsewhere, understanding and living the philosophy of the Association with generosity are a path of each associate, no one can be exempted from.

The Inner Wheel qualification of the associates is fundamental, even the leadership training. Such an aspect is particularly important when one desires to confront with harmony and uniqueness of vision the alternation of duties.

The objective of each year is to transform the majority of the associates into prepared associates, so that with joy and enthusiasm they will give the Clubs, Districts, National Council and Board, the professionalism, the portfolio of human skills and a part of their time, to fulfill actions of service.

Having Inner Wheel associates that are motivated and prepared also promotes the continuity of the Inner Wheel action; this will contribute in giving stability, and will help in the strengthening the spirit of unity and belonging, to promote leadership.

A close attention to the 'TRAINING' topic is thus necessary if we wish to build the Inner Wheel of the future. It is unquestionable that training needs exist: different training needs which depend

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on the level in which an active Associate participates and carries out a certain role.

Analysing these needs it is possible, in our opinion to distinguish at least two primary trajectories of evolution of the training offer of the Inner Wheel:

1. From the transmission of knowledge to forming abilities.

Knowledge is a fundamental resource, of paramount importance for the proper functioning of the Inner Wheel. But, caution: knowledge is a resource in the measure in which it can be transformed into ideas, actions, projects, correct administration. From this point of view, the Clubs, the Districts and even the National Council must be interested foremost in having Members with knowledge in general; secondly in having Members that know how to make their knowledge into an instrument for the creation of values.

In brief what is important is not simply *know-how* but also practical *know-how*, not separated from the ability to communicate.

2. From multidiscipline training to multidiscipline influence.

The division of roles is a fundamental aspect of the Inner wheel, as is the non-invasion of the roles of others. However, covering a specific role does not imply that an associate is estranged from a global vision of the Organization and the eventual possibility of having to cope with situations and problems that require a multidiscipline approach.

3. From flexibility of the offer to the differentiation of training routes.

The Inner wheel must be capable of adapting its training offer to changes in scenario in action, through an adequate evolution of the organization of training routes.

However, flexibility of the offer means also a differentiation of the levels between training routes, seminars and inner-member courses reserved for the leadership.

For example, in our opinion, it would be of great interest to reunite either at the beginning of July or at the end of August, the members of the various Executive Committees of the District for a training course lasting 5/6 days. The alternating of full sessions with specific workshops, according to us, would improve the quality of the Inner Wheel year, in every District.

But, now, it is very important to define the terms 'training' and 'updating'.

Training:

- a) the result, that is the total of knowledge and culture acquired in an identified specific sector;
- b) professional preparation and for specific functions on the basis of principles, values and knowledge.

Updating:

Updating and keeping oneself updated. With extensive use, modernising, adapting to new requirements or criteria.

The basis is training; following, updating. Both are strictly connected.

Organising training and updating meetings permits, therefore, the development of knowledge, ability and competences to improve knowledge of the structure of the Inner Wheel, to promote knowledge of constitutional texts (Statute, Rules for the Club, District, National Council), as well as performance relating to each role. The variations which happen over a period of time.

It is the duty of the Club President to develop in the Club knowledge of the Statute and the Rules and related updating, and it is the duty of the Chairman of a District to organise the training and updating meetings.

The first training takes place in the Club by the President, who must be concerned not only with

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the social life of the Club, but also with the organisation of meetings aimed at knowledge of the Statute and Rules, complete with the updating sessions which follow a Convention or a National Conference.

The President, in my opinion, must look after the training of the Members of her Club beginning with the analysis phase of the level of knowledge of the Statute and Rules which Members have developed, up to the concrete realisation of *ad hoc* meetings, also at different levels, if necessary.

She must take into account also Members who have recently joined the Inner Wheel and arrange appropriate meetings for them, in which a basic knowledge can be provided for a quick and complete orientation to the Association.

More than ever in the Club, which is the basic cell of the Inner Wheel, one must develop and apply the expression 'Permanent Training', where the continuity in training is an indispensable and constant factor in the annual programme which the Club develops and carries out.

Every Club is called, then, to amend with proposals both the Statute and the Rules. The higher the level of awareness and knowledge reached, the easier the task will be of identifying the proposals aimed at improving the constitutional texts and therefore the Inner Wheel. To carry this delicate and important task out, the Club usually nominates a suitable "Commission", formed by interested and expert Members who want to fully commit themselves.

The task delegated to the Districts is different and more complex concerning training and updating. The Chairman with the Executive Committee of the District has the duty of dealing with this.

Also in the light of what has been organised in some Districts in the last few years, a distinction is necessary. The distinction between Forums, Study Days, and Meetings empowered to deal with themes concerning History, the Inner Wheel Culture in a broad sense and more technical Meetings, true and proper Workshops, – often called 'Information Days' – empowered to deepen and discuss the contents of constitutional texts, procedures, protocols, 'cases'. or to examine the proposals inserted in the Convention Agenda and the National Conference Agenda.

Certainly the Chairman with the Executive Committee of the District has the duty of presiding over the whole training process of Members of its District. In that sense it leads the enquiry into needs analysis, programmes with the Executive Committee and lays out the training plan, plans and carries out the internal initiatives; finally, it monitors the results of training/updating activities and evaluates their effectiveness.

1.1. The Sources. – A comment on 'Sources'.

It is important to consult the 'Sources' every time one wishes to tackle a series matter, both that which deals with constitutional texts and official documents, and also historical texts or with the Inner Wheel culture.

Within 'Sources', it is necessary to distinguish the typology.

In first place *Constitutional Documents*.

The most important 'Source' is the official text in English of the *Constitution and Handbook* in force. As one can see it is divided into three parts: Statute, Standard Rules for Club and District without National Body, and Manual. When, after a Convention, the text of the Statute is amended, when published by the International Inner Wheel, in its turn it takes force. The preceding text becomes obsolete. It will become a part however of the 'History' of the Inner Wheel, of that family

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of the Inner Wheel History which can be reconstructed and written through the statutory modifications.

The other very important constitutional ‘Source’ for the countries which have a National Governing Body (National Council or Association) is given from the *National Rules* for the Club, the District, and the National Governing Body.

Amongst the ‘Sources’ to be quoted are important texts, such as *Guide Lines* available at the Headquarters, concerning the Formation of a Club, the Division of a Club, the Closing of a Club, the Formation of a District, the Division of a District, the Formation of a National Council or of an Association.

Therefore the *Minutes*, which come under the series of *Official Documents*, indispensable for the reconstruction of the evolution of the Association at all levels: the Board Minutes, the Minutes of the National Council, of District Assemblies and of Club Assemblies. The Minutes of related Executive Committees. To be remembered are the *Reports* of the Inner Wheel Officers which are usually attached to the Minutes, which, without doubt, make an important contribution to the thinking and programme in the year in which they exercise leadership.

Still in the series of Official Documents is the ‘*Correspondence*’, which is a precious ‘Source’. Here it is important to have archives which are in order, organised, possibly collected in one place, consultable when one must prepare reports or deal with local, national or international historical reconstructions.

Another precious ‘Source’ is given from the *Newsletters* at the international level and from *Bulletins* edited by the National Council, by Districts, by Clubs, in which a part of the Social History of the Inner Wheel is recorded.

To be underlined is also the importance of the *Acts of Conventions*, District or National, aimed at the treatment of aspects of the Inner Wheel Culture in the broadest sense, in which are often contained reconstructions, analyses, advance notice of notable interest.

The consultation of the ‘Sources’ is fundamental for the correct studying and editing of Documents. The full citation is equally important both of the Texts and of the Documents when they form part of them, and of the Authors, when they add signed reports to extrapolate and share thoughts, or even to disagree.

1.2. Technical Meetings or Workshops. – Organising in a District Workshops aimed at ‘Training and Updating’ is the ‘duty’ of every Chairman. That implies a correct and deepened preparation of the Chairman. Preparation which requires study and time.

A leader must be the point of reference of the District, secure, capable of leading not only the members of the Executive Committee, but also of resolving enquiries with authority.

What Workshops should be organised? How? There are many models, all valid. It is important to achieve the objective and, specially make Members active participants of the meetings.

If an official reading and commentary of the Constitutional Texts has not been done in a District, I believe that the first objective is to bring it to attention – and also the interactive debate.

Another argument of great current importance is the preparation of the Voting Delegates at a Convention. In the absence of the Voting Delegate, the Club is still responsible for the vote indications to be entrusted to the Proxy Vote Holder on the basis of each proposal of the Convention Agenda.

Every District, if the Chairman deems it necessary, can always count on some charismatic figure

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to whom reference can be made, to draw on their experience and collaboration in training activity.

I maintain that it is equally important to draw members close to the Executive Committee of the District to make them co-protagonists in study meetings. The idea has been taken up by other Chairmen, with the intention of promoting the involvement of each component of the Executive Committee of the District.

Above all, in general, when the argument relates to 'Figures' who operate on the Executive Committee (Club, District, National Council from Requirements to adhere to tasks to the duties of the Officers or Members, I would advise highlighting especially what is required by the Rules (possibly with some extra comments) – which is intended as 'law' – if one can call it this – and separate it from other indications, which are instead – practice – or better concern a more complete and more detailed explanation of the role and the tasks connected with the same role.

In the Standard Regulations for Club and District the headings 'training and updating' do not appear. Only in the Manual, on page 40, we find something in the 'Expansion' chapter.

It states that:

“¹³No member has any authority to speak on behalf of International Inner Wheel without prior consultation with International Inner Wheel Headquarters. Every member finds opportunities to talk about Inner Wheel especially when meeting prospective new members. In order to give correct information, she should be familiar with the Constitution and the history of this worldwide organization”.

The need for a greater awareness is evident on the part of Members on the Inner Wheel in general and on constitutional documents in particular, to make them 'Active' both in the performance of their tasks and in the study of modifications which are cyclically called every three years.

The outcomes will be positive in so far as they give an accurate preparation, in so far as whoever is called to 'train' must be expert of the material – and not only – in order to transmit it with precision and safety.

Concluding this paragraph, I return to underline it will be the task of every Chairman to study with her Executive Committee the type of Workshop which is most useful and functional, taking into account the requirements of the current year and of the District, of the training interventions carried out in the last few years, as well as utilising the 'human' resources most likely to offer a highly qualified contribution based on the programmed contents.

¹³ *Constitution & Handbook, IIW, 2009*

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CHAPTER V

INNER WHEEL AND UNO

SUMMARY: 1. Inner Wheel and UNO. – 1.1. *About ECOSOC Status.* – 1.2. *The IIW Vice President as Co-Ordinator for the UN Representatives.* – 3. Relations between UN and EU. – 4. The Rotary position in UN. – 5. About the Foundations.

1. Inner Wheel and UNO. – The International Inner Wheel is an NGO, inserted in the ECOSOC Roster. It has six Representatives at the UN. The Representatives of the Inner Wheel at the UN are usually coordinated every year by the current International Vice President.

The original suggestion that IIW should apply to the United Nations for consultative status came in 1970 from a Board Member for the Philippines, Mrs. Legarda. Two years later the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations) confirmed the admittance of Inner Wheel on the Roster of Organisation section.

A long discussion took place in many Board Meetings to search the best way for the participation of IIW, but, because the limitation of financial resources, could not ensure the presence of Members to special Conferences.

It was felt that progress might be made through the Government Departments of each Country.

Considering however that IW was widespread in Europe and the USA, the representation and the presence of IW became a real possibility, thanks to the availability of some Members.

In fact, now, we have six IW Members accredited at the United Nation Offices in Geneva, Vienna, New York.

During the NINTH CONVENTION – Sydney, Australia, October 1993 – has been approved this General Motion:

“International Inner Wheel must confine its involvement with the United National (e.g. ECOSOC and UNICEF) to being an *Observer on the Roster with consultative status*”.

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1.1. About ECOSOC Status. – ¹⁴The first time that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) took a role in formal UN deliberations was through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946.

There are 138 organizations in general consultative *status*, 2,166 in special consultative status and 983 on the Roster.

Article 71 of the UN Charter opened the door for suitable arrangements for consultation with NGOs. This relationship with ECOSOC is governed today by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. International, regional and national NGOs, *non-profit* public or voluntary organizations are eligible to obtain consultative *status*. There are three categories of *status*: General, special and roster consultative *status*. In addition to the Consultative *Status* with ECOSOC, NGOs might have obtained other accreditations in the economic and social area.

General consultative *status* is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach.

Special consultative *status* is granted to NGOs which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC. These NGOs tend to be smaller and more recently established.

Organizations that apply for consultative *status* but do not fit in any of the other categories are usually included in the Roster. These NGOs tend to have a rather narrow and/or technical focus. NGOs that have formal status with other UN bodies or specialized agencies (FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO and others), can be included on the ECOSOC Roster. The roster lists NGOs that ECOSOC or the UN Secretary-General considers can make *occasional and useful contributions to the work of the Council or its subsidiary bodies*.

Consultative Status with ECOSOC

| | |
|---|-------|
| All Organizations with Consultative <i>Status</i> | 3.413 |
| General | 141 |
| Special | 2.281 |
| <i>Roster</i> | 991”. |

1.2. The IIW Vice President as Co-Ordinator for the UN Representatives. – One of the most important tasks of the International Inner Wheel Vice President is to liaise with Inner Wheel’s Representatives at the United Nations. We have IIW Representatives in Vienna, New York and Geneva. These Representatives are our link with UNO. They report the happenings & discussions at the UN to all in Inner Wheel and in turn report to UNO on what we do in Inner Wheel. The UN reports of our service activities, which are sent by all the Clubs, are compiled by Districts and finally are all compiled together by International Inner Wheel and sent to the UN via our IIW Representatives.

The Representatives have the obligation to follow and assist the work sessions of the

¹⁴ (source: <http://esango.un.org/paperless>)

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commissions regarding important themes (Human Rights, Rights of the Child, conditions of Woman, the Family, the Elderly, Drugs). They may be invited to sign written reports. They may be heard by commissions or subsidiary Organizations on recommendation of the Secretary General of the UN and when asked by The Commissions or another subsidiary body.

They also have the task of reading documents – numerous and constantly updated – produced by UN on these themes, before drawing up their periodic reports, which are sent to the Vice President of the International Inner Wheel. However, overall, our UN Representatives inform the Vice President of the International Inner Wheel on the activities of the Committees, Conferences, its Reports.

In its turn, the Vice President refers to Board or Executive Committees of the Board.

The Minutes of autumnal Board Meetings are received by the Club Inner Wheel, where space and priority is given to the Vice President's report, which is the synthesis of all the reports which she constantly receives by the Inner Wheel Representatives at UN.

Subsequent integrations and updating are included in the Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board. These Minutes, however, are received exclusively by the National Representatives (remember that in the Inner Wheel the National Representative is the institutional figure who connects a National Body with the Board and with Headquarters). It is their task, moreover, to participate and to transmit the most significant and useful points to the Club.

These documents are therefore of great value, not only because they are means of information on UN activities in this sector, but also because the Clubs can direct their services. Copies of the reports of the National Representatives are sent to our Representatives at UN, to keep them informed about the work of our Members.

For many years now Inner Wheel has emphasised the importance of the big UN themes and has promoted not only their sensitisation but also their implementation.

Indeed, I can affirm with some certainty on the basis of documents consulted, that everything which concerns globally Human Rights in general, and the health of the Child and Women in particular, as well as the protection of the Family, forms a part of the most frequently occurring themes. Numerous and constant over the years have been the initiatives of service in this sector at the national level.

3. Relations between UN and EU. – Another point to which I would like to attract your attention is the link – stronger in my opinion than is perceived in European area Clubs – of the Inner Wheel with UN. As well as emphasising the relationship of collaboration between the EU and UN, Women and Children are always themes which are especially dear to us Inner Wheel members.

In this way, the Commission on the Status of Women (hereafter referred to as 'CSW' or 'the Commission') is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

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On the occasion of United Nations Day, and in light of the growing partnership between the United Nations and the European Union, the European Commission (EC) has made available the third annual report on the extensive cooperation between the European Commission and UN, entitled 'IMPROVING LIVES'. Special emphasis in 2008 year has been allocated to EC-UN cooperation in upholding human rights, in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It also presents the other vital areas where the EC and the UN work together to make a difference: from development policy and peace-building, to humanitarian assistance, environment, culture, through the world.

Equality between women and men is one of the fundamental principles of Community law. The European Union's (EU) objectives on gender equality are to ensure equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women and to combat any form of discrimination on the grounds of gender. The EU has adopted a two-pronged approach to this issue, combining specific measures with *gender mainstreaming*. The issue also has a strong international dimension with regard to the fight against poverty, access to education and health services, taking part in the economy and in the decision-making process, women's rights and human rights.

4. The Rotary position in UN. – If we want to compare the position, then, of the Rotary within the UN it is definitely more important, empowering the Rotary to use consultative power (*General Consultative Status*).

We must remember that the relationships between the International Rotary and the United Nations goes back to 1945, when 49 Rotarians participated in the San Francisco conference which approved the founding charter of the Organisation. In the subsequent ten years, the Rotary actively participated in its growth, regularly sending observers to the most important meetings and promoting the cause in their own publications.

From the birth of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and of the Cultural, Scientific and Educational Organisation of UNESCO, taking place respectively in 1945 and 1946, the Rotary has maintained relations with both agencies, expanding them in more recent years thanks to a specific network of Representatives.

The International Rotary is the Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) with the greatest consultative power within the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which supervises the works of various specialised agencies. Rotary participates additionally in the summit meetings of CONGO, the congress of the NGOs with consultative power at the United Nations.

The Rotary Representatives at UN and at other International Organisations have the task of promoting knowledge of the Rotarian activities and programmes within the international community and they deal with:

1. Discussing parallel questions and possible collaborative relationships;
2. Informing the Organisations about Rotarian programmes;
3. Gathering information on organisational developments and opportunities of cooperation at a local level.

Certainly the Rotary and the Inner wheel, also together with other Non Governmental Organisations, precisely because they are private institutions of a meta-national character carrying out some essential functions in the humanitarian field, substituting or integrating the activities of Government and of International Intergovernmental Organisations. The essential foundations are, it

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is evident, service and private funding. They constitute the embodiment of ethical sentiments of disinterested help for the suffering, proclaimed by some great religions and theorized by Kant.

5. About the Foundations. – Not to be overlooked are such things as the Foundations – not only the big ones – which can be important actors on this global stage. The extra value which they bring is given especially from the ability to have dialogue with different people – public, private, no profit – from different sectors – from research to culture, to health – in the countries in which they have headquarters and on the international level.

Besides this there is the ability to work with other Foundations in supra-national networks, useful both for increasing the impact of the interventions and for exchanging information and experience on the best practices.

Some planetarian tragedies see the Foundations in the front line: from illnesses such as Aids and malaria in developing countries to disasters like *tsunami* and earthquakes. But this is true also for problems such as migration flows, children's rights, the protection of the environment, Illiteracy,

Awareness of having before us 'only one world' pushes the Foundations 'to think and act globally. It is important that the public institutions and opinions, including the Inner Wheel, are aware of the role of these new social protagonists.

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CHAPTER VI

INNER WHEEL AND ROTARY

SUMMARY: 1. Inner Wheel and Rotary. – 2. The Inner Wheel in the Rotarian family. – 3. Inner Wheel and Rotary officially partners?. – 4. Inner Wheel and Rotary united in values. – 4.1. *Service*. – 4.2. *Friendship*. – 4.3. *Diversity and Pluralism*. – 4.4. *Integrity*. – 4.5. *Leadership*. – 5. Remarks.

1. Inner Wheel and Rotary. – The links between our Associations have for years been at the centre of my personal reflections and many other times, especially in Rotarian sites, I have been able to express my convictions and my thoughts regarding the matter, thanks to the privileged position I have had being the spouse of a Governor and not just as a Officer of the Inner Wheel actively working for years. A Governor, I like very much to ALWAYS remember and testify this, that has given a lot of space to the Inner Wheel – 10 years ago – when it was rare and difficult obtaining from the Rotary a convinced and enduring involvement.

In examining articles and documents of this ‘recent’ past I am convinced that reflections on shared interest in the basic values which Inner Wheel and Rotary express, on the meaning of belonging, but also on planning the future, they are full of meaning and implications, worth knowing and for understanding oneself, for further improving relationships and cooperation.

2. The Inner Wheel in the Rotarian family. – This reflection of mine on the Inner Wheel inside the Rotarian Family willingly begins from far away. From the first ‘Rotarian Family’. I am referring to a very significant page of the book by Paul Harris ‘My Road towards the Rotary’. It is the one of chapter n. 42, the last chapter of the book entitled ‘The end of the journey’. A domestic page. Which seems to tell the ancient ritual of tea time in any borgeois household. But instead it writes the convinced and complete sharing between Jean and Paul of the rotarian experience.

“Nothing is more pleasant for my wife then filling the cup full of tea. Many are the cups of tea she has served to friends visiting from Great Britain and from other countries and it is truely a custom that invites friendship and cordiality”.

A little later:

“Around our fireplace many scores of friends from all over the world made us happy. They came to me after I had planted a tree in 1905. The first Rotary Club is this little tree, which then grew

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and became an imposing tree in the shade of which it is pleasant to dwell”.

We have passed by five years the first centenary of Rotary. The tree has become a forest.

The role of woman in society and in the Rotary has profoundly changed, also because Rotary has changed.

Also in Jean's image, apparently so simple and sweet – but in fact strong and determined – are contained attitudes and behaviour which make *woman* an important element also of the rotarian life, of the Rotarian Family.

One can say that the icon of the ‘first’ Rotarian Family could be to recognise ourselves in this first couple who had ‘adopted the Rotary’, who had welcomed dozens of Rotarians coming from all over the world, who lived the privilege of ‘entering into the life’ – always the words of Paul Harris – ‘of so many people from many different countries’.

Above all who lived the founding values of the Rotary: service, friendship, tolerance.

Jean was important for the man Paul Harris, but also important for the Rotary imagined and created by Paul Harris.

But the role of Jean and of many other marital partners which followed hers in the course of these decades, went on enriching.

It was noted by everyone, as for a long time the involvement of partners in rotarian activity was greatly admired and not only the participation of partners, but of the whole family in rotarian commitment.

It is obvious how the role of woman first, and then of the family, acquired in Rotary ever increasing weight and space. It follows that rotarian commitment can only derive great rejuvenation if the couple, family, share a dynamic and reciprocal relationship which is complementary to Rotarian values. The equal exchange of the qualities which each possesses and the commitment to an emotional and ‘confluent’ working investment in the Rotary, capable of becoming an aggregating element of the couples' life and close friends, can improve greatly the activities of a Club at all levels.

The family is a Rotarian island.

Another meaning which one attributes to the expression ‘Rotarian Family’ – if one can say so – ‘emotional’, by virtue of belonging to Rotary. It expresses the sense of friendship and of brotherhood which unites members, all Members together.

There are no boundaries neither in the Club nor the District.

One perceives this very clearly when one goes out from the Club and when one attends district meetings.

Even more when one attends the international meetings. I am referring the Institutes, to Presidential Conferences, to International Congress.

And finally. the last meaning which is nevertheless interesting. That which indicates the Rotarian Family as the Family of the Associations within the Rotary or near to the Rotary.

Within the Rotary are the Rotaract and the Interact, whose aims and objectives have been fixed by the Central Council of RI

They are Associations from the Rotary helped and regulated by Rotary with appropriate Representatives, which give support dedicated to service, to international service in an international spirit. Programmes and activities follow.

Close to Rotary is to be added Inner Wheel. Because in the Rotarian Family enters fully, also Inner Wheel, which is the prime female Association of the Rotarian Family, autonomous and complementary at one time, a fundamental part of a huge global design, the only one of its kind.

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Eighty six years have passed from the foundation of Inner Wheel, and the relationship between Rotary and Inner Wheel, now, finally, have started a path for the mutual recognition in the service cooperation.

It's interesting to note in the Rotary a process of big internal changes, aimed at a growing involvement of family in the life of Clubs and Districts. Rotary has Women Members. Women joining Rotary as Members is an increasing practice, made possible from 1st of July 1989, after several years of standstill due to scepticism in accepting female members.

The involvement of married couples in Rotarian activities and the participation not only of married couples, but of the whole family, to the Rotarian commitment is defined in the Manual of Procedure.

One can see the evolution in this Manual of Procedure of the Rotary. I refer to that of 1995, of 1998, of 2001 and the last, of 2007. In the paragraph – Relatives of Rotarians – contained in the point 'Enthusiasm', page 10 of Chapter 1, one learns how forms of associations or organisations of relatives were formed (partners, close friends), who offer their collaboration and their support in projects and in other activities conducted by the Clubs, aimed at implementing objectives of service.

Text cited, the latest version of 2007:

“¹⁵PROCEDURAL MANUAL 2007 page 12

Close Relatives of Rotarians

All Rotary clubs and Rotarians should take into account the spouses and families of Rotary club members when planning activities. These individuals contribute to the service objectives and fellowship that derive from association with a Rotary club. (89–139)

Many clubs are privileged to have committees or other associations composed of relatives of Rotarians cooperating with and supporting them in service and other Rotary club activities. Clubs are encouraged to sponsor groups of spouses or families of Rotarians within the following guidelines:

- 1) The auxiliary group, committee, or organization should be associated and maintain regular communication with the local Rotary club of which their spouses or family members are members.
- 2) The group's objectives should include the support of Rotary club service activities, the encouragement of friendship among the members, and the promotion of the general ideals of Rotary.
- 3) The group's activities, projects, and programs should be principally in support of or complementary to the objectives of the local Rotary club.

It is intended that auxiliary type groups or organizations be only informally associated with the local club. (RCP 6.020.1.) These groups should review the restrictions on the use of the Rotary Marks (see chapter 17)”.

However, it is interesting, this Rotarian document that I report here in full and that included, in some official versions published on the website of Rotary, in fact, the Inner Wheel in the Rotarian Family alongside the other groups of spouses.

¹⁵ *Close Relatives of Rotarians, PROCEDURAL MANUAL, RI, 2007*

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“The *Family of Rotary Resource Group* encourages clubs to care for fellow Rotarians and their families; expand their Rotary families to include youth involved in Rotary programs and other community service partners; and extend membership opportunities to members of the Family of Rotary.

The Family of Rotary Resource Group provides guidance to Rotary clubs and districts, and encourages them to promote projects and activities to enhance every family of Rotary member’s experience. In addition, the resource group encourages every Rotarian to celebrate December as a Family Month. By boosting membership and participation in Rotary clubs, a healthy, global family of Rotary will help to ensure Rotary’s continued presence as a vital instrument of service in the century ahead.

Specifically, the family of Rotary consists of:

- Rotarians’ family members
- Our neighbours in other clubs and districts around the world
- Rotary Foundation alumni
- Group Study Exchange members
- Rotary Youth Exchange students
- Rotaractors
- Interactors
- RYLA participants
- **Inner Wheel** and other spouse groups
- Global Networking Groups (Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups)

Supporting the family of Rotary is of critical importance because it:

- Builds lifelong friendships
- Enhances our personal families’ relationships
- Builds world understanding and peace
- Improves international solidarity and tolerance
- Contributes to membership growth
- Contributes to diversity of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, and profession in clubs’ membership
- Improves Rotary’s public image
- Strengthens clubs and their commitment to service

Learn more about how to support the Family of Rotary by visiting us on the RI Web site. To find us, visit www.rotary.org, and under the ‘About Rotary’ section, click on the ‘RI President’ link, where you can find a complete list of this year’s resource groups.

If you have any questions, contact your District or zone Family of Rotary Resource Group coordinator. If you do not know who your local coordinator is, contact an RI Staff member at programs@rotary.org for assistance”.

I remember interesting quotations made about Inner Wheel in articles, interviews by some International Presidents especially near to the Inner Wheel by virtue of their partners who were members. From *ROTARIAN* – March 2002 edition 2002, page 5 – the monthly letter of the International President Richard King: "Rotary offers a series of marvelous opportunities for partners through organisations such as International Inner Wheel".

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I remember the *FOR* programme: the President of Rotary International 2003–04 Jonathan B. Mjiyagbe had set up a Task Force for the Rotarian year called *Family Of Rotary (FOR)*, in order to guarantee Districts and Clubs information and support, to foster and develop relationships of friendship among Members, and involve them in service activities.

Moreover, the *FOR* Task Force should lead Clubs to look after their own Members and the Members of Rotary's extended family (spouses and children), together with the relatives of late Rotarians. Such a programme, mainly aimed at turning Rotary into a life project and a lifestyle involving the whole family, encountered a great success and had been confirmed for some consecutive Rotarian years.

And also Bill Boyd in an interview on Rotary Word in July 2006, that I quote: "*Rotary's success depends on the support of every Rotarian and everyone in the family of Rotary. In a family, no one is any more or less important than anyone else.*

Everyone is equally valued and equally a part of the family. That is also true in the Family of Rotary. W.B. (Bill) Boyd, RI President 2006-07".

3. Inner Wheel and Rotary officially partners? – In various Councils of Legislation – I have especially followed the last five starting from 1989 – amendment proposals have been presented developed by Rotary Club which concerned different forms of recognition of the Inner Wheel (or other married groups) by Rotary. They were designed to offer Inner Wheel or recognition of partner in service (see the constant commitment of Inner Wheel especially in the programme *Polio Plus*). Indeed it was proposed instead that Inner Wheel became a *Rotarian Programme*. Clearly rejected.

Something has really changed in the last Council of Legislation which took place in Chicago from 26 to 30 April 2010.

While in the Council of 2007, three proposals from the Commission were admitted regarding generically the 'Spouses Committees' and two specifically the Inner Wheel; this year the proposals presented regarding the Inner Wheel, although similar, were two. It is interesting to reveal how the first of these was presented in the 2007 Council from Districts 1140¹⁶ (Great Britain) and 1950¹⁷ (Germany).

The same Districts reposed the same identical formulation:

“PROPOSED RESOLUTION 10–102

To request the RI Board to consider recognizing Inner Wheel as a valuable working partner of Rotary

Proposed by the Council of District 1140, Chertsey, Surrey, England, July 2008

Proposed by the Conference of District 1950, Eichstätt, Germany, June 2008

WHEREAS, a considerable number of Rotary clubs worldwide have Inner Wheel clubs that are an association of female relatives of Rotarians (past and present), and WHEREAS, Inner Wheel clubs have become indispensable and devoted allies of their respective Rotary clubs because they perform on their own or in tandem with the Rotary clubs numerous commendable and outstanding

¹⁶ District 1140 brings together the 48 Rotary Clubs in six Greater London Boroughs and neighbouring parts of Surrey and Hampshire. Inner Wheel, District 14, is in the Official website.

¹⁷ District 1950 is one of the 14 Rotary Districts of Germany and currently comprises a total of 62 clubs with 2,600 members.

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service projects, and WHEREAS, the success of combined efforts of both organizations is not only definitely superior but also intensifies personal ties

IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary International consider recognizing Inner Wheel as a valuable working partner of Rotary.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

This resolution requests the RI Board to consider recognizing Inner Wheel as a valuable working partner of Rotary”.

Vote: 303 votes in favour, 210 unfavourable

Certainly, there's no point in denying it, it is a 'historic' moment which seals with a favorable vote, officially, a proposal coming democratically from the base. Democratically approved by the majority of representatives of the Rotarian Districts.

An historic, important moment, which will be a watershed between the first and the last.

Now we must wait to see how the Central Council will make this proposal operative, also on the basis of the meaning of the verb 'to request': is it a decision which asks us to execute? Or it is an instance, a petition, an invitation, a prayer to consider...

For completeness of information I like to remember that through my Club 'Torino Europea' I had prepared a proposal for the last Inner Wheel Convention of Kota Kinabalu (inserted in the Agenda at No 31 to confer the Rotary the role of privileged partner of the Inner Wheel. Not approved:

“Cooperation with Rotary International

Inner Wheel will encourage Clubs, Districts and National Bodies to consider Rotary International as a privileged partner in projects, programmes and schemes aimed to improve international solidarity and cultural relationships, and promote worldwide peace and understanding. All this, in keeping with their respective rights to selfdetermination.

Motivation

Inner Wheel with its own specific organisation and Constitution, is inspired by the Rotarian ideals and aims, and this is even displayed in its symbol, the wheel. The “Inner Wheel” recalls our Rotarian origins, the same shared feelings in acting and serving, and this should make us feel as part of the same family”.

The official position of International Inner Wheel is clear, first and foremost as far as the safeguarding of its self-determination and independence is concerned.

Inner Wheel will always enjoy its own autonomous and vital space. On the other hand, I must say that extension of Inner Wheel is closely related with Rotary, therefore the two associations have to maintain a fertile and co-operative relationship.

A privileged partnership between the two associations has been already agreed upon by many Members Inner Wheel and Rotarians.

BUT:

The 2010–11 RI Board held its first meeting on 25–26 June 2010 in Montreal, Canada.

THE RI BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAD DECLINED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION

4. Inner Wheel and Rotary united in values. – The values represent the main base of the Inner

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Wheel and Rotarian culture, guiding priorities and members' actions. They are an ever more important component in the strategic planning of the life of a Club and of other IW and Rotarian organisms.

I have spoken of 'Strategic Planning' not by chance. As we read on the official pages of Rotary, it helps the organisations to develop a long-term vision and to establish the goals to be achieved. It is a matter of a process in continuing evolution, regularly monitored by the appropriate Commission and by the Central Council.

The Central Council of RI in 2007-2008 adopted five fundamental values within the strategic plan. They are:

SERVICE, FRIENDSHIP, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM, INTEGRITY, LEADERSHIP

In turn, the essence of the Inner Wheel is enclosed in its aims, known to everyone of us, and written on Page 1 of the Statute:

1. Promote TRUE FRIENDSHIP. 'True' friendship is expressed with emotional availability to develop and maintain positive and fruitful relationships.
2. Encourage the ideals of PERSONAL SERVICE. Service to offer to the Association and to your neighbour in society.
3. Promote INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. International comprehension aimed at promoting the spirit of friendship, knowledge with other cultures and traditions, especially peace.

But the *esprit*, the soul, the essence of the inner Wheel can only lead us to thinking, to the rotarian philosophy, on which Rotary has built a vast literature. Although ideals, aims and objectives pursued are those of the Rotary, Inner Wheel has got its own structure and Constitution. Even in the emblem, the wheel, a special relation with Rotary is stressed, and the name itself, 'Inner Wheel', marks this Rotarian kinship, which is evident in the common action and service, fashioned and styled in the Rotarian way, and otherwise impossible due to the essential requirement to join Inner Wheel, which is the kinship with a Rotarian.

Shared ideals, aims, objectives and action.

'Serve above self' well emphasises the Rotarian creed, which is essential, and deep. An imperative fulfilled through friendship, service, international understanding, attention to the problems of humankind. But friendship – true friendship – service and international understanding are also Inner Wheel's goals, explained on page 1 of its Constitution.

4.1. Service. – 'Service' is a common fundamental element to the Inner Wheel and Rotarian *mission*. In the Inner Wheel Statute members are invited, as we have already noted, to 'ENCOURAGE THE IDEALS OF PERSONAL SERVICE'. The motto of Rotary, 'SERVE ABOVE SELF' exemplifies the humanitarian spirit which animates the Association.

In the Rotary, however, when we look at the merits of the argument, we understand how its most complex organisational structure is characterised by a variety of programmes which are not present in the Inner Wheel,

The Rotary Foundation of RI helps the Rotarians to promote peace, international understanding through the improvement of sanitary conditions, the support for education and the fight against poverty. Let us think of the great project *POLIOPUS* (sustained over many years also by Inner Wheel), the Humanitarian and Educational Programmes. We think of the Rotary International

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Programmes: the *Rotary Fellowship* (90), *Interact*, *Rotaract*, and *Rotary Community Corps* (Rotarian Community Groups), Groups of non-Rotarians, sponsored by Clubs which work for the improvement of the living conditions in local communities; there are more than 6,800 in 78 countries. We think of the *Exchanges of Rotarian friendship*, a programme which promotes the exchange of visits between Rotarians aiming at promoting direct knowledge of the respective cultures. We think of *Rotary Volunteers* which offers Rotarians and other professionals the opportunity of putting their abilities at the service of humanitarian projects at the local and international level. We think also of *Youth Exchanges*, for which the Clubs and the Districts sent and host students between the ages of 15 and 19 (about 9,000 every year) who go abroad for cultural exchanges of variable lengths, from a week up to a year. Also RYLA (*Rotary Youth Leadership Awards*), which see seminars sponsored by Rotarian Clubs and Districts, with the intention of identifying and developing the gifts of leadership of young people between 14 and 30 years of age.

The Rotarians have set up a lot of organisations dedicated to humanitarian causes including *ShelterBox*, *HungerPlus*, *Gift of Life* and *Rotary Doctor Bank*.

Rotary representatives collaborate with different international organisations, including the *United Nations* and many of its agencies, the *Organisation of American States*, the *Council of Europe* and the *African Union*.

Inner Wheel has also plays its part notably. Many activities are in service at all levels. At the Club and multi-Club level and also District and multi-District level, national and beyond. I like and I think it my duty to recall the ¹⁸*Social Projects*, which last three years, and are launched in the midst of every Convention and which are shared with the global Inner Wheel. I have previously mentioned about them.

4.2. Friendship. – Both in the Inner Wheel and in the Rotary there is a wide literature dedicated to articles on friendship. Rivers of words have been written. There is a broad documentation on the subject.

Promoting TRUE FRIENDSHIP is one of the statutory aims of the Inner Wheel. ‘True’ friendship which expresses itself with emotional availability and creating and maintaining positive and fruitful relationships.

However, the term FRIENDSHIP, in a Rotarian sense, merits a deeper examination, in so far as with this term we translate the term FELLOWSHIP which in English means ‘company, collegiality, camaraderie’, and yet again, whilst FRIENDSHIP in a strict sense in English is the same as the Italian word *amicizia*.

In our language there are many words to illustrate the shades of meaning linked to a concept, but often the precision which characterises the English language is missing.

Often I have read in authoritative articles on the argument that Rotarian friendship does not necessarily yield a ‘strong’ relationship on a personal level; instead it is characterised by the sense of belonging, of common intent, of constructive cordiality which allows more than one person to operate conjointly in order to implement service projects, conferring a value of flavour which is targeted and functional.

¹⁸ See Chapter II, no. 11

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Joining forces allows us to multiply resources, widen our perspective and enrich our lives, friendship leads to tolerance and goes beyond the limits of race or nationality.

When these relations are joined with the presence of a strong personal friendship, certainly the action will acquire much in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, as well as pleasure in performing it.

Personally, friendship needs, after intuition/emotion, to be developed in a rich environment, that is experience and relationships, where human qualities and personal availability transform themselves gradually from the simple knowledge or sympathy that existed before.

Meeting friendship, living it, appreciating it, is an inestimable gift of existence. Once lost ... also ... it is, on the contrary, a pain.

4.3. Diversity and Pluralism. – Inner Wheel and Rotary join together globally all the people of the world through the ideal of service.

In the Rotary every Club reflects its community with a feeling which represents the professions present, that is the diversity of professional knowledge. And although Inner Wheel is not based like Rotary on the professions, internationality and the underlying philosophy of being and acting, they lead the Inner Wheel and the Rotary to respect for the diversity between cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of reciprocal and international trust and understanding which is reflected both in the personal activities and in the action projects.

They have characters which transcend nations and perform some functions which are essential in the humanitarian field, they substitute or integrate the activities of Governments and of International Governmental Organisations. The awareness of having before them ‘one world’ pushes them to ‘think and act globally’, beyond the differences of culture, race and religion.

Cultural diversity is a common cultural heritage of the Inner Wheel and the Rotary, with a broad and varied range of presences. The acceleration of our mobility and the use of various forms of communication, including social networks, leads to the unstoppable growth of contacts and confrontations between these cultures, diverse in their life styles and traditions. Dialogue is facilitated, interesting and more frequent and permits the experimentation of values which are essential, above ethnicity, around which our two Associations interact and participate in the exchanges.

Cultural diversity and also cultural pluralism. Pluralism which promotes and values diversity. In our ever more differentiated societies it is essential to guarantee a harmonious interaction and a willingness to live together individually and in groups with identities which are multi-cultural, varied and dynamic. The policies for inclusion and participation of all citizens are a guarantee of social cohesion, of society's civil vitality and of peace.

4.4. Integrity. – Belonging to the Inner Wheel is above all a commitment to true friendship between members inspired by collective ethical tension. Following a precise Ethical Code means sharing the totality of principles whose observance is of fundamental importance for following social objectives, for the regular carrying out of activities, for reliability of management and the image of the Inner Wheel itself.

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It is without doubt that the Inner Wheel being involves moral rigour and correctness in behaviour in the context of the association. Coherence, or fidelity of a person to their principles, constant conformity between their words and actions, both in public and in private.

The ethic of transparency, the desire for transparency, moral duty, coherence with values and principles which are the basis of action. To these moral values, common to the two Associations, which are the main place of a voluntary, free and convinced commitment – the free gift, continuity of commitment – in the Rotary another important aspect is added concerning the ethic of professions.

The mission remains almost equal, with a slight modification, from 'promoting high ethical standards' to 'promoting integrity', using a term which is more relevant to today's world.

From Officers and Members maximum respect and sense of responsibility is expected, both in the results and in the means of achieving objectives, acting with equity and respect in relationships with others and in managing responsibly the resources which are entrusted.

Rotary and Inner Wheel constitute a high and consolidated expression of associating. In Rotary the ethic of work is the basis of the primary value which is attributed to the profession and to its achievement at levels of excellence, so much that the professional achievements would have value only if realized within this rigorous ethic.

This marriage between professional excellence and moral integrity constitutes one of the strong points of Rotary, promoting: the development of interpersonal relationships as opportunities for service; high moral principles in the pursuit of professional activities and in work relations; recognition of the importance and value of all useful activities; the meaning of work for each Rotarian as opportunity to serve society; the application of the Rotarian ideal in the personal, professional and social context; understanding, willingness and peace between peoples via an international network of professionals and entrepreneurs of both sexes, joined together by the ideal of serving, anticipating by almost a century the reflections which today animate the sociological debate (for example on *non-profit* organisations).

4.5. Leadership. – Integrity and leadership are strictly related concepts in Rotary. The Rotary has gathered the concept of *leader* within its universe of values, this meaning a person who emerges by virtue of his or her personal characteristics (exceptional individuality of the person) and who knows how to express their professional potentiality and, even more so, human to the level of excellence.

The Rotarians are constantly in search of ways of developing their abilities and increasing their knowledge to become better leaders through training.

Rotary does a lot for training through specific training seminars, through the help offered to members and also through resources in the *Rotary E-Learning Center*.

Also in the Inner Wheel in the past ten years the need of preparing and forming effective teams at all levels has been felt, in order to promote managerial continuity, developing future leaders and creating consensus for the decisions to be taken. Every duty involves a deepened knowledge of the Inner Wheel system, constant training, awareness and responsibility, in so far as it is necessary in running a Club, a District, the National Council and it enters into the "system of competences", indispensable to the functioning of every organism, understood as a dynamic unity in which ability and quality are united.

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Training¹⁹ and updating are, therefore, a right/duty of every Inner Wheel member. The objective is to transform the majority of Members in to prepared Members, so that they can make available with joy and enthusiasm to the Clubs, Districts, National Council, Board, the professionalism, the background of human qualities and a part of their own time, to perform actions of service.

Having motivated and prepared Inner Wheel members promotes also the continuity of Inner Wheel actions; this will contribute to the provision of stability; to the improvement of the spirit of cohesion and belonging, and to promoting leadership.

The qualification of Inner Wheel Members is fundamental, also leadership training.

5. Remarks. – It is the scope, the objectives, I would say the ideals (the strength of ideals cannot be calculated, as Albert Schweitzer said), that unite in the name of the Rotary and the Inner Wheel the different visions of the world, of philosophy, of religion and of politics.

The true capital of the Rotary and of the Inner Wheel is in the Members, in their intelligence and in their ability of guiding the perception, the will and the action towards such ideals with dedication and generosity which are uncommon.

And, without the Rotarian family, we maybe could not give so much of ourselves, organise so many and diverse programmes in our homeland and internationally, reach so many people in the remotest angles of the world.

The cooperation within the Rotarian Family is thus a duty; and it is a possibility to upgrade the 'reach' of the service and render it more effective. Because the "service" – King has said – "is our product and the Members are our most precious resource".

Each Rotary Club should have non just the corresponding Interact and the Rotaract. It should also have a corresponding Inner Wheel Club with which to install, during the course of the year, at least a common project.

The Inner Wheel in the Rotarian Family.

The feeling that brings us to create associations and to offer our availability is the same that underlines the Rotarian actions: a sentiment that is inspired by the ideals of service and friendship, of international understanding.

Thus the starting point is the same: trying to multiply personal availability to create effects that go much further than the single individual's capabilities.

Rotary and Inner Wheel have their, unique, own style of life.

Such a style has permitted the Rotarians to distinguish themselves in the sector of their profession and to be an example for others.

And that has permitted their spouses, those who have chosen the Inner Wheel, a further possibility to be present and to act in the name of the same values. Another possibility to give life the flavour of good things, with the certainty of evolving through defined and sure steps.

These are moral values that can and must embrace all family members, they are universal values that the Rotary and the Inner Wheel, the wheel within the wheel, sustain and promote with great coherence and determination.

Cooperation between our Associations is increasingly important. The role of Inner Wheel and Rotary in society, in the background of great world scenarios and of its innumerable problems, has an important weight. Not only does it sow ferments and affront year after year themes of great

¹⁹ See also the IV Chapter.

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importance, but it is active in a concrete way in local and international areas with projects which write the effectiveness of the association and demonstrate how the great ethical values of the philosophy of service, build concrete action, which is one of the objectives of the Association.

Sentiments of friendship, self-effacing love, the empathetic sharing of misfortune, the formation of moral values, solid participation in the destiny of others, are forms of human experience at the centre of the human vision welcomed by Rotary and Inner Wheel and they filter concretely in the projects in which our Associations have worked for a century.

Friendship and service, two basic values, experiences which are part of the phenomenology of love.

Rotarian and Inner Wheel members have always been involved in this human and ethical effort which is so involving. To live with joy and enthusiasm distinguishes the identity and belonging of Rotary and Inner Wheel.

Two wheels, that of Rotary and the inner one of Inner Wheel, which turn, often in synchrony, and which feed those ideals, objectives, purposes and ends which are their own.

CHAPTER VII

NEW FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

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SUMMARY: 1. Internet. – 1.1. *International Inner Wheel Official Website*. – 1.2. *Develop Computer Technology*. – 1.3. *A good use of Internet in IW: for an Open Government*. – 2. The social networking. – 2.1. *Facebook*. – 2.2. *Facebook and Inner Wheel*. – 3. Rotary International official social networking pages.

1. Internet. – 1.1. *International Inner Wheel Official Website*. – All Clubs and Districts are encouraged to keep in touch regularly with the International Inner Wheel website www.innerwheel.com and to inform their members to do so.

Forms, leaflets and newsletters may be downloaded for duplication etc.

‘News on the Web’ is regularly updated by the Editor.

Information on International Projects is available.

Convention updates and Proposals for Convention.

Websites of Inner Wheel countries around the world may be viewed. They give a detailed scenery of the commitment, work, activities, help that members render to their community.

1.2. *Develop Computer Technology*. – The development of the computer technology had, generally, in the social tissue, and also in IW, a notable impact. The net Internet, particularly, in the last years represented an extraordinary and innovative tool of communication destined to always enter the quotidian life of a great number of Members.

Internet today gives the possibility to visit the websites of many countries that have Club IW, send messages of e-mail, know people in the network, overcoming the spatial-temporal limits.

Beyond the different perceptions of the change, it is clear that Internet is a true place of global communication, where many Members IW, daily, exchange messages personal and public, consult and generate information, they enter in touch.

We must, however, always consider that these technologies will be able to improve the quality of individual and social life only if will be used consciously, exploring the potential of communication and interaction that they will provide.

1.3. *A good use of Internet in IW: for an Open Government*. – I believe it is time to have leanings to a new possible vision of IW (Realise your visions). And the *open government*, right to paraphrase a political doctrine that seems to find more and more consensus – of course, if properly developed – has important and basic principles, as the participation, communication, transparency.

It is true that In IW computer literacy is still slow, but it is also true that a certain turnover generational is taking place and that, who will follow us, will be increasingly multitasking.

To reconsider the interaction between Members and Management and between Members and Members, also using the paradigm of the interactions and the modes of self-organisation active in social networks as Facebook, it is advisable, in my opinion. Because the Leadership should not neglect this evolution of communication, however, already a reality act. Indeed the Leadership could exploit and optimize positively. On Facebook many groups Inner Wheel are already active. I entered too, in national and international groups.

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Then, would not be better to be open to dialogue and listening? Without any fear, if all we want only the good of IW?

Achieve a vision is like to say transform an idea into reality. Routes can be many, from the most simple to the more complex. All pass through a constructive comparison to choose the best solutions, more appropriate not only to our 'current historical moment', but also to the effective promotion of our Association inside and outside, referring with other Club Service and other NGOs near the IW for objectives and purposes.

Participation, transparency, communication must necessarily combine both with the knowledge of the Rules underlying any area you wish to use, both, *in primis*, always and however, with ethical principles that accompany a person. Even more these principles must be our custom when we share an Association like ours. To make the difference. Be an example.

2. The social networking. – 2.1. Facebook. – Facebook is the boom of the moment.

The Social Network born in Harvard broke out in the world. Also in IW. A fashion or a sign of change?

For now, we have many opinions and possible scenarios on the social utility of the instrument. But, undoubtedly, Facebook is also useful to exchange information, to socialize or meet friends, with a particular attention, therefore, to the human relationships.

A famous slogan says 'Time is what you make of it' fit very well the reality of Facebook, the social network, which so many seem today have lovers.

Considering the different age groups represented, with a light juvenile predominance in dissolution, and the professional profile, Facebook is a phenomenon very transversal.

The substantial novelty of the phenomenon is the arrival on the bases of social networking of a lot of people, never affiliate before to similar services, in wide part to fast of blog and Web 2.0.

An intergenerational diffusion that has sparked a virtuous circle, poking the interest of the media, have already been affected by the numbers of Facebook, overall the network has more than many million of members. Facebook is the ideal place in which anyone can resume contact away over time, replicate its social network, to connect with the groups or organizations of which, eventually, is part.

Some statistical data:

- ²⁰More than 500 million active users
- 50% of active users log on to Facebook in any given day
- Average user has 130 friends
- People spend over 700 billion minutes per month on Facebook
- There are over 900 million objects that people interact with (pages, groups, events and community pages)
- Average user is connected to 80 community pages, groups and events
- Average user creates 90 pieces of content each month

²⁰ (source: www.facebook.com/press/info.statistics)

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- More than 30 billion pieces of content (web links, news stories, blog posts, notes, photo albums, *etc.*) shared each month.

Nothing to do with the virtual worlds and the social isolation, presumed, of which Internet would be responsible: to draw its greatest benefits, Facebook invites users to sign up with its true name, reducing the anonymity and its effects to percentages irrelevant. Certainly the border between public and private becomes elusive and a conscious use is necessary.

Exceeded the initial phase of enthusiasm, takes form a second phase of bedding, (there are also some cases of rejection of the instrument), for the excessive reminders to which the user is submitted and, in other cases, for the dispersion time that the management of the contacts can cause.

The friendship is also a contact from the value changeable: some added to its network only those who have already known personally, others are opened to any opportunity for new knowledge, without asking any problem of confidentiality.

Which the most correct approach? Probably the answer changes with a change of the use of the instrument: who takes it seriously, publishing sensitive data, will accept only strong bonds, unlike those who prefer a non binding presence on the personnel.

What is most important is to keep the control of what is public, without repent when it is already too late.

Different, however, is the approach to FB by members of Associations. As it is verified more diffusely in the Rotary, some less in IW.

2.2. Facebook and Inner Wheel. – IW arrived on FB and is propagating more and more. Single Members, Clubs, Districts, Groups.

Many groups IW (even more numerous are those linked to Rotary) are spontaneously born and active. Many of us have acceded to these groups. Personally I am entered a lot of IW groups.

If we read the messages or the notes posted (also) from us, it is clear the goodness, the property and the correctness of these contents, all in respect of the values that IW lays down in our Constitution. The Members have the sense of Institution and behave with great responsibility in this place also.

Indeed, I would say, that our members IW are making a beautiful demonstration of how we can really live friendship in a context truly international, with politeness, simplicity and authenticity.

FB is a way to promote the objectives of IW. FB is a phenomenon that may not be comprised, nor controlled. Friendships, relationships, contacts. Every day.

FB is a phenomenon transversal, which has no boundaries, barriers. Often the members write in English in order to reach all, even those who do not speak the language of origin.

Africa, Asia, Europe: one IW

FB is therefore a great resource. As such this instrument should be enhanced and must be able to express.

3. Rotary International official social networking pages. – As you can read in official website of the Rotary, it invites to visit and attend Rotary International's official social networking pages

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and join the conversation, because “Rotarians help provide service through fellowship, and social networking is one of the many ways Rotarians are connecting online”.

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, have thousands of fans on RI's official pages, with links for the news stories, photos and videos of RI, as well as comments and discussions.

Moreover, “Rotary International has its own channel on YouTube that offers video content to those interested in Rotary. The YouTube channel supplements video on Rotary's website by providing Rotarians the means of embedding video onto their own sites. Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors are encouraged to select from a growing collection of pieces from *RVM: The Rotarian Video Magazine* and from *Humanity in Motion* public service announcements. In addition, the YouTube channel allows you to be notified about new videos, and viewers can comment on the videos”.

It's plain that these social networking sites are not owned by Rotary International, and RI is not responsible for the comments of others on these sites. To participate, a member must join each of the social networks individually. On social networking sites, there are several pages titled ‘Rotary’ that are not affiliated with Rotary International. Only the pages or groups in which RI officially participates are listed in the official website of RI.

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ABOUT MYSELF:

Luisa Vinciguerra is married to Sergio Vinciguerra, Lawyer and Professor of Criminal Law, past Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Turin.

Member of the *Accademia Ligure* of Science and Literature.

Member of Rotary Club North Turin from 1973 to 2002. From 1 July 2002 she has been a member of the Rotary Club *Torino Polaris*, for which she has been special Representative of the Governor.

Governor of the District 2030 RI in the year 1999-2000.

President of the Galileo Galilei Foundation of the Italian Rotary from 1999 to 2005.

She has two children: Elena and Giulio, both Lawyers.

Luisa Vinciguerra graduated in Pedagogy (*Facoltà di Magistero* of the University of Turin).

She has worked in primary schools as a teacher and Didactic Director Vicarious, from 1965 to 1993, when she retired from School.

She obtained her teaching qualification at the *Istituti Magistrali Statali*. On behalf of IRRSAE Piedmont she has been coordinator and trainer of groups of teachers for Italian and Psycholinguistics.

Before her involvement in Inner Wheel, she has adhered to the Consultation Board of Bioethics in the study group "Bioethics and minors".

A member of Inner Wheel since 1993. Founding member of the Club *Torino 45° Parallelo*, that she has chaired as President in year 1995-1996, after the offices of Club Corrispondent and District Delegate.

In the District 204 she has been District Secretary and Extension Chairman.

In the Italian Inner Wheel National Council she was Secretary in the years 2002-2004;

Vice-President of the National Council in 2004-2005. President of the National Council in 2005-2006. She was part of the *Regulations Committee of the National Council* from 2002 to 2007, contributing in an important way to the drawing up of the National Regulations and the relative Handbook.

She was Voting Delegate at the Assisi National Conference in 2001 and that of Sorrento in 2004, and at the 2007 National Conference at Aquila she voted as member of the National Council being Immediate Past President.

She was Voting Delegate at the 2003 Florence Convention.

She has founded four Inner Wheel Clubs in the 204 District.

Currently she is the Responsible of International Relations in the long-term International Project (2008/2013) *Women for Europe – The Role of Inner Wheel* of the Luisa Bruni Naples Club (District 210), editing also the Acts of the Convention of the same name in November 2008.

Luisa Vinciguerra is part of the European Study Group, born in a room in the Town Hall of Tours (France) on 14 September 2007, where took place, organised by Catherine Refabert, the first Meeting. The Second Meeting took place in Cologne (Germany) from 30 September to 1 October 2008. The Third at Tampere (Finland) from 28 to 30 August 2009. The Fourth in Montreux (Switzerland) on 17 September 2010.

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Informal, but extremely interesting meetings, aimed at comparing things on a series of IW statutory questions, to understand the common orientation and to promote such orientation when aimed at identifying, collectively, possible improvements to the Statute, supporting change in respect of the tradition.

She founded in 2006, and now is its President (Curators Titti Baima Bollone and Novella Salza), the *Inner Wheel European Literary Prize of Prose and Poetry* (female prize for IW members, Rotarians, Rotarian Spouses) which totals 13 editions.

Another Prize has been launched in collaboration with the University of Turin and dedicated to the university students of the City. The second, in course of production, has been programmed in collaboration with the Laurea University of Applied Sciences (Finland).

For the work done in the Literary Prize, on a proposal of Rotary Club Torino 45° Parallelo, she received the Paul Harris Fellow (2001) and in 2009 this award was assigned to the IIW Literary Prize Europe on the proposal of Rotary Club Torino.

For Inner Wheel she was the reporter in the following Conventions: *Woman, Europe, Inner Wheel*, (Venice, 29 November 2003); *Knowledge of an Organisation: Ideals And Ends*, (Milan, 13 March 2003); *Inner Wheel and Rotary. Knowing to Be and to Act*, (Mira, 6 November 2004); *The Inner Wheel meets the Rotary*, (Milan, 10 January 2006); *Literacy, a Great Objective for Common Ends*, (Verona, 12 January 2006); *Inner Wheel in our Time – Voices from Europe : National Councils Compared*, (Turin, 1 April 2006, with the participation of the President of the IIW Erna Fandal); *The Inner Wheel for Women and Children in the Mediterranean Countries*, (Trapani, 3 May 2007, with the participation of the President of the IIW Janet Day); *Inner Wheel and International Understanding*, (Turin, 29 March 2008, with the participation of the President of the IIW Kamala Ramakrishnan); *Women for Europe - The Role of the Inner Wheel*, (Naples, 29-30 November 2008, with the participation of the President of the IIW Suzanne Hem Nielsen).

For Rotary she was the reporter in the following Meetings: *District Assembly 2030 R.I.*, (Genoa, May 1999); *Forum District 2100 RI* on the Rotarian Family, (Gizzeria Lido, April 2000; published in n. 7 - July 2000 - of the "Rotary"); *District Assembly 2030 RI*, (Savona, May 2001); *District Assembly 2030 RI*, (Turin, May 2002); *District Congress 2030 RI*, (Turin, June 2002); *District Assembly 2030 RI*, (Novara, May 2004).

In 2009 Luisa Vinciguerra was invited to become a member of the Rotary Global History Fellowship and she has been given the task of updating news about the Inner Wheel. A space, in fact, is reserved by the RGHF in the section Women of Rotary.