



Denmark 15. november 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters throughout the world

My apologies that I've been that busy in private that I did not prioritize to send this newsletter in time - which had been on 31. October.

But now I got started - and it has actually been some busy 3 months for some of us because we've had a SGLD meeting as well as a Vice President meeting. Both meetings were held in a positive and constructive spirit.

Economy

Our dear Grand Treasurer br. Rolf Ström on personal level experienced a terrible event when his wife passed away. All our good thoughts goes to brother Rolf and we hope that you must deal with this event in such a way that you will come well out on the other side. You should at least know dear Br. Rolf that we all feel with you and your pain.

Because of these circumstances, there is currently no news to tell from the economic front.

World President

The president has the 8th October 2011 conducted the statutory meeting of IGLD with all vice-presidents of the member countries.

It was nice to see that all the VP actually showed up - except for Bob Steward, NZ, John Butler, AUS, which is understandable - when you consider the costs, but all had sent apologies and had sent a status of development in the country / region.

United States was not represented.

There were 6 major agenda items, which included how we (countries) together and individually work with the task of getting new members and hence new brothers - a task which is very difficult not at least because of cultural and linguistic differences.

Discussed was also where the next World Congress is to be held. Three countries are in the running (NZ, Iceland and England) - the final decision must be made when we gather in Copenhagen for the World Congress in May 2012.

The economy of IGLD were of course discussed at the meeting - but because of the previously described point it was not discussed as much in detail as planned. It was decided though to propose to raise the fee to 2 Euro pr year pr brother (now 1 Euro).

A proposal to clarify the wording in the law - so that all officers in IGLD (President, Grand treasurer and Grade Secretary) comes from the same country are not taken up - as there was consensus that the current wording is sufficient (all must come from the same region).

The minutes is sent to the meeting participants - and are also sent to the editor of the website - so I expect that this can be read on IGLD.org in a few days.

Australia

John Butler:

"Please accept my apology for not being present at the Executive Meeting this weekend.

The Druids Order in Australia continues to decline at a rapid rate:

- In New South Wales the Grand Lodge no longer meets, I think that there are two lodges that now meet in a social manner
- The same is true in Victoria
- In South Australia, we have three lodges that meet on a monthly basis
- In West Australia in the city of Bunbury Bro Foulds continues to energise his members and they are enrolling new members.

I hope you have a succesful meeting and I look forward to seeing you in May 2012"

Denmark

Things are going really bad in Denmark - and the trend is very worrying - we now have only 290 brothers - and have lost approx. 20% of the brothers during the past year - there are now only 10 lodges - and it is the development primarily in Copenhagen, which is worrying.

Therefore, Denmark is now starting to look at the entire organization - and look for ways of integrating the overall leadership.

England (Great Britain)

New Zealand

Bob Stewart:

Spring has arrived in NZ, with warmer temperatures, but unsettled weather. We call it 'teen-age weather' as it cannot make up its mind what to do.

Sadly, Sis. Helen Warner has inoperable Cancer, and the prognosis is not good. However, she is a 'battler' and will participate and attend Lodge meetings as long as she can.

IGLD NZ membership in both North and South Islands is falling as our members age, and no Initiations taking place to stabilise the membership. I do fear for the future.

As I mentioned previously, IGLD(NI)NZ are interested in Hosting the 2016 World Congress, but there are many obstacles.

Norway

VP Kay Hagby:

The number of brothers is now calculated at 2755 brothers - 950 is IGLD brothers - and new brothers are coming, but the trend is fairly stable - with a small plus.

35 brothers established in August a new lodge in Tønsberg - Lodge No. 55 in Norway - and the fourth lodge in this city.

The new management has decided to undertake a visit to all lodges - which is planned and being implemented with a very good result.

A work with the establishment of new lodges in new cities and areas is carried out.'

Schweiz

Schweden

Bjørn Cederberg:

In Sweden, we work hard to ensure that the order in Sweden is over 5000 brothers, but right now there are 4944 brothers - of whom 912 brothers are in IGLD.

We also work with recruitment - and the effort is targeted at cities and areas where there currently are no lodges.

Germany

Br. Dieter Hennecke:

During the last report-period there were three anniversaries of Druid Loges, all of them situated in southern Germany:

Established in May 2001 and thus 50 years of age:

- Lodge Zu den 3 Linden, Nürtingen, and
- Lodge Hohenstaufen, Göppingen

Regarding the distance of just 20 km between the towns it was a good chance for both of the lodges making a joint event of their special birthday.

- Founded in 1911 and thus 100 years old: Lodge Achalm, Reutlingen.

This event took place on Oct. 8th and it was a wonderful success. The number of visiting Druids from many German and several Swiss Lodges and even from Lodge Kronos in Helsinki/Finland was qualified to test the facilities of the Ritual Meeting and the Final Banquet! Obviously the members of the German presidency were present without exception.

The day before, on Oct. 7th, the German Druid Order has had a 7 degree's Meeting with a very good attendance including 6 "knights" of the Swiss Order. Seven German brothers who have served well within our order have been initiated into the highest degree the Druid Order has to offer.

The Advent season is the time of showing a visible evidence of friendship and brotherhood between Norwegian and German local lodges. Several of them – mainly in northern Germany - use to receive fir trees cut down in Norwegian forests and donated by Norwegian brothers in order to make them a present for the citizens of their home towns. These acts of peace and friendship not regarding borders have become very popular during a number of years:

In 2011: Wolfenbüttel = 49 years; Wilhelmshaven = 40 years; Kiel = 35 years.

The German Druid Order has created and established a new ritual for so called "Open Lodges", meetings in which persons are admitted who are not members of a Druid Order, such as on the occasion of anniversaries or meetings in order to recruit new members.

A brand new CD with special publications for recruiting and publicity to be used by the local lodges has been published by the presidency of our order a little while ago in august 2001.

Next great event will be the "Ordenstag" in April 2012 in Frankfurt. This meeting can be regarded as the Parliament of the German Druid Order where the leading members of all Lodges and Grand Lodges come together in order to discuss "druidic problems" or to decide about important items and – such as next year – to elect a new presidency.

USA

World congress 2012

I can inform everyone that everything is planned and goes according to plan - but only very few registrations has been seen yet, - but that is all normal

VPerne all promised to strike a blow for signing up to Congress - but there was agreement that the costs was very high. It is to be mentioned that there also is a good opportunity to obtain a cheaper accommodation by visiting Booking.com or hotels.com or hotelweb.dk

I must draw your attention to the fact that a series of events during the conference can be attended as single event - such as lodge meeting on Thursday, the ceremonial IGLD meeting and the bus tour. Enquiries about this can always be directed to Kurt Lykke Nielsen.

We are very pleased to show you, Denmark and Copenhagen - and look forward to seeing you

In Unity, Peace and Concord

Flemming Ib Pedersen
GS