



2018 First Quarter Report: International Skål Councillor

In January, I assumed the position of International Skål Councillor and begin my two-year term representing Skål International USA to the World Clubs. Cyndi Golden, my predecessor, provided information and guidance as what to expect and I will be eternally grateful. This took place during the Winter Executive Committee Meeting in Raleigh, NC.

After turning over the Chain of Office of the Skål USA President to Burcin Turkkan, I immediately introduced myself to the International Councilors and became work. I was asked by ISC JF Cote of Canada to sit on a committee to look at how we could streamline the ISC and make sure the members were participating. It was an honor to be asked to be a member of such a prestigious and important committee.

As overseer of the Florimond Volckaert Fund (FVF) in the United States, I contacted the FVF Trustees to advise I was taking over and then wrote to all US members to build awareness and advise that in 2018 and 2019 clubs would donate to a new Membership Development Fund (MDF in place of the FVF or both.

With great pleasure I installed the officers of the newest Skål Club in the United States in Southwest Florida that I help establish. It was one of my fondest accomplishments as Skål USA President.

Continued to serve on the NASC committee and worked hard to try and simplify the booking process for our members along with Skål Canada. Researched a new Skål USA shirt to be used at NASC and the world congress.

Introduced Turkish Air to the World Congress committee in Kenya, Miami and NASC Mexico and Hawaii in the hope of being able to negotiate a great group rate for delegates.

In February, participated in the Skål USA EC meeting.

Clarification of the new Membership Development Fund was disused with ISC committee and will be placed on the Skål International website.

Participated in a conference call with VP Membership, Dave Ryan and Katie from Phoenix to discuss how to open new clubs. New club development is the future of Skål in the USA.

Continued to work with Mexico and Canada to make bookings for NASC simpler but unfortunately every booking needed attention. I placed personal calls to club Presidents who has yet had not booked for NASC and urged them to register and consider sending new members who have yet to attend congress.

Arranged travel to the ISC meeting which was to be held in Malaga, Spain but moved to Kremen, Germany by the SI Executive Committee. Spain was voted upon and ratified during the World Congress and ISC members were upset at the change because of the increased cost.

On March 2, I departed for Berlin during what turned out to be a horrific winter storm and it took me the better part of two days to get to Berlin because of delays. Three days later I was back on a plane returning to the US. Delegates again expressed their distain the meeting had been moved and SI President Susanna Sarri said it was her decision and that the meetings going forward would in fact be held in Spain to save money and will be held in May. ISC meeting minutes are attached. I participated in the Skål USA EC meeting via internet webinar from Germany.

NASC booking problems continued and seemed to take a great deal of my time but it was important to make sure the delegates were booked correctly.

Wrote By-law and Statutes changes to be presented during NASC and asked Tom White of Orlando and Carlos Banks of FLL/Palm Beaches for assistance in making sure they were written properly. They are posted on the Skål USA website.

Followed up with club Presidents and Skål USA Representatives urging them not to wait to book NASC as room were being released and the resort was a very popular location and booked up fast. I also urged members attending to purchase the new Skål USA Shirt.

Last year when I was President, I went to Washington DC to meet with the largest NGO's which resulted in our being given registrations for IPW last year and this and also invited us to participate in Destination Capitol Hill where we would team with US Senators and Congressmen to discuss important topics that relate to tourism. This year a delegation led by our President Burcin, myself and Steve Richer registered. Unfortunately, because of a death in our family I was unable to attend but the delegation joined with other Skål members and represented us well.

April is upon us and NASC is a few weeks away and we have a great delegation representing the US. I participated in the Skål USA EC meeting in April. And continued to air members trying to book NASC.

FVF/MDF is monitored weekly and I write a personal letter to each club that makes a donation to thank them for their support. I have attached the most current list of contributions which totals \$1,653.08 and only represents 7 clubs.

It is my pleasure to have been selected by the membership to serve in this important role and pledge that I will represent the US wisely going forward.