

Minutes of EAY General Assembly 19 - 23 May 2004

Place: Suzdal, Russia

Theme: Spasibo! Thank you!

Participants: 160 participants from Member Movements and 23 Cooperating Movements were present.

Guests:

World Alliance of YMCAs	Caesar Molebatsi, President
The European and World YWCA	Emil Stricker, Executive Secretary
YMCA of the USA	Natalia Miklash
	Jerry Prado-Shaw
Y's Men International	Selma Saidi
	Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Danish Y's Men
Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs	Poul V. Thomsen, Danish Y's Men
Brazilian Federation of YMCA's	Oscar Escalada
Panama YMCA	Luiz Carlos Gonzaga
YMCA Indian Student Hostel, London	Lourdes Alvarez
HorYzon Switzerland	John Varughese
	Werner Stahl
Special guests	Terry Ratcliffe
Egon Slopianka	

Apologies: Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
Africa Alliance of YMCAs
Dölf Weder, former EAY Secretary General

Devotions The Devotions during the General Assembly and the Ecumenical Services were conducted by the Christian Orientation Group chaired by Bente Hjul Johansen, Denmark and assisted by people from different National Movements. The music was conducted by Øyvinn Sønnesyn, Norway.

1 Opening

Jan Nissén, President of the EAY and Chairperson of the General Assembly welcomed those present to the General Assembly. He held a short introduction where he mentioned some special events in 2003. He especially highlighted the YMCA Europe 2003. It was a success and a life-changing experience for those who participated. He also mentioned another success, the EAY Training Centre in Litomyšl. The support from the Czech government is generous. Together with the Danish Y's Men their contributions it has taken the project a long step further in 2003 and has made us coming a long way in fulfilling our obligations for the whole period.

The Executive Committee travel fund has been working for one year. The hope was that this would make it possible for movements from the eastern part of Europe to nominate people. Unfortunately there has been only one nomination from this part of Europe for the elections.

Jan Nissén stated that the Assembly had been called according to the §12 of the constitution. He also stated that, since 23 out of 32 Member Movements were present in person, the Assembly was in quorum according to §14 of the Constitution.

2 Introduction of Delegates, Guests, Staff and Apologies

Jan Nissén introduced all the Guests and Delegates in accordance with the list of participants and Staff. Apologies are as listed above.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

Decision: The proposed agenda was adopted.

4 Adoption of the General Assembly 2003 Minutes

Decision: The Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5 Greetings

The following participants gave greetings to the General Assembly:
YMCA of the USA, Jerry Prado-Shaw; Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs, Oscar Escalada; Natalia Miklas, The European and World YWCA; Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Danish Y's Men.

6 Secretary General Speech

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, EAY Secretary General, presented his report entitled "Spasibo bolsjoi! Thank you very much!". A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

7 Reports, Operational Plans and Decisions

7.1 Movement Development

Decision: The report was received.

7.2. Communication

Decision: The report was received.

7.3 Christian Community

Decision: The report was received.

7.4 European Programmes

Decision: The report was received.

7.5 World Alliance of YMCAs and Global Cooperation

Decision: The report was received.

7.6 European Representation

Decision: The report was received.

7.7 Finances

7.7.1 Report 2003

Peter Posner, Treasurer of the EAY, gave the report - guided the General Assembly through the financial documents included in the Assembly Working Documents. He stated that the finances of 2003 were as planned with a few exceptions. The currency fluctuation is still causing problems. There is a continuous work being done to reduce the loss. The travel fund for the Executive Committee travel fund was made up with a deficit. For 2005 it is proposed that the fund will cover the cost for two Executive Committee meetings, and not the General Assembly. He also mentioned that there had been stated a wish to support the Norwegian movement in covering the deficit of the YMCA Europe 2003. The accounts were made up with a deficit of 9,886 Euros.

Decision: The Financial Accounts for the year 2003 were unanimously approved.

7.7.2 Auditors' Report and Discharge of Executive Committee

The Auditors' Report was explained by Peter Posner.

Decision: The Report was unanimously approved.

Decision: The Discharge of the Executive Committee was unanimously approved.

7.7.3 Budget and National Contributions 2005 ff.

The Budget and the National Contributions 2005 ff. were explained by Peter Posner. He highlighted the challenges for the coming years. There was a question regarding the calculation of the national contributions.

Decision: The proposed budget and the national contributions 2005 were approved with one abstention.

7.8 Presentation of Operational Plans 2004/2005

The Danish YMCA wanted a short newsletter posted on the web page after the Executive Committee Meetings.

They also stated the importance of seeing the Global Operating Plan as part of the EAY's plans.

Decision: The Operational Plans 2004/2005 as formulated by the Executive Committee were unanimously received.

8 Elections

Merita Goldi presented the candidates.

Jan Nissén presented the way the elections will take place. There will be a secret ballot where there are more than one candidate for a position.

Decision: The following people were elected

Executive Committee and Auditors

For 4 years

Peter Posner	President	England
Beate Breithaup	Vice President	Germany
Ed Eggink	Treasurer	The Netherlands
Kåre Dag Mangersnes	Recording Secretary	Norway

For 2 years

Alexander Brunier	Assessor	Switzerland
Tom Cusens	Assessor	Malta
Sabine Ponater	Assessor	Ireland
Villö Denke	Assessor	Hungary
Lisa Gregoriadou	Assessor	Greece
Per Anders Aglert	Auditor	Sweden
Bob Copleton	Auditor	Scotland
Patricia Walt	Substitute Auditor	Switzerland

Nominations Committee - for 2 years

Anja Ezendam	The Netherlands
Merita Göldi	Switzerland
Tina Larionova	Russia
Maria Nordberg	Finland
Stefano Tomarelli	Italy

Decision: Maria Nordberg was appointed as Chairperson of the committee.

The Norwegian movement made a remark that the new Nominations Committee should work to present more candidates for the elections in two years.

The outgoing members of the Executive Committee was thanked for their contribution by the new President Peter Posner.

The Swedish Movement, through its President Karin Hammar, gave special thanks to the outgoing President Jan Nissén.

9 General Assembly 2005-2006

The venue for the General Assembly 2005 is not yet decided. The Executive Committee will inform the member movements about the venue as soon as the decision is taken.

The German Movement proposed that the General Assembly should be held regularly in Litomyšl, maybe every second year. The Scottish Movement seconded the proposal.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 EAY award for long and outstanding service

The following people were presented the first pieces of the new EAY Award for Long and Outstanding Service to The EAY:

Egon Slopianka

Terry Ratcliffe

Jan Nissén

10.2 Evaluation of YMCA Europe 2003

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik presented a summary of the evaluation. He went through the main points, highlighting the fact that the festival was a success, and mentioned the many difficulties that the festival met. He explained the decision of the Executive Committee to plan for a new festival in Prague in 2007.

Chris Roles, chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Festival, gave a briefing of the evaluation and the financial result. A lot of different groups participated in the evaluation, and they also used the comments from the comment box used by participants during the festival. The short version of the evaluation is available. A thorough evaluation report has been made and will be presented for the group in charge of planning for a possible new festival.

Helga Haugland Byfuglien, Secretary General of the Norwegian YMCA/YWCA, gave remarks regarding the financial result. They were assured during the festival that the finances were ok, with a break even of 6400 participants and they were told there were over 7000. They want an audited account, and would run through the financial work to find out what went wrong.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik answered that the Norwegian YWCA/YMCA was given all relevant information, good or bad, before and during the Festival and participated in all major decisions. An audit of the accounts was already agreed with the Norwegian movement and will be organised.

There were raised questions about the Executive Committee's decision to have a new festival in Prague in 2007, and how final it was. Jan Nissén explained the decision of the Executive Committee. He stated that there must be support from the National Movements in order to see it happen. If there are strong signals for other wishes, this will of course be taken into consideration.

10.3 Resolution on Follow up on the World Alliance of the YMCA's Council 2002

Cees Bremmer, Secretary General of YMCA of the Netherlands, presented the proposed resolution on follow up of the resolution concerning the Middle East adopted on the World Alliance of YMCAs World Council 2002.

Decision: The resolution was adopted with one abstention.

10.4 Resolution on the establishment of a Youth Platform

The resolution about the establishment of a Youth Platform on European level was presented by Tim Sweeting, YMCA of England. He stated that the young people want a group of young people to further work with the proposal and come up with a suggestion that can be considered by the Executive Committee.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik commented on the work that has been done in this field for the last years.

The Danish movement hoped that a meeting like this could be a way to facilitate a bigger interaction in the General Assembly.

Decision: The resolution was adopted.

11 Thanks and Closing Remarks

Terry Ratcliff thanked on behalf of the Participants the Russian Movement, the EAY and all other involved for making the General Assembly such a succesful event.

Jan Nissén thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the General Assembly.

Suzdal, Russia
May 2004



Kåre Dag Mangersnes
Recording Secretary



Jan Nissén
President