

SWEDEN

AMI Montessori Alumni Sweden

Highlights

- 10 documented Board Meetings
- One Annual Board Meeting open to all members in Sweden
- AGM and Affiliate Meetings in Amsterdam
- Spring Conference with international AMI Trainers and other lecturers
- Fall Conference with national AMI Trainers and other lecturers
- Four Publications were sent out to our members

Events & Activities

Our Annual Meeting and International Conference were held at Albatross Montessori School on the island of Lidingö outside Stockholm in March. The Conference was open to all Montessori teachers, and lectures were given in English. The conference was titled “Montessori – A Contemporary Education” and featured Steve Hughes who spoke on “What children need in terms of activities and material –neuroscientific findings”, and Elina Rautasalo, “Are technical aids necessary, appropriate and helpful in a Montessori environment for children in the first plane of development?” and lastly Jenny Marie Höglund on “What the children need to reach their full potential in Elementary school and Farm School”.

Our National Conference was held in October in the city of Helsingborg. The conference was open to all Montessori teachers and addressed the important topics such as “Montessori activities help the development of the child’s brain”; “The importance of movement for healthy brain development in the foetus and new born child”; “What is happening in the unborn child’s brain”; “How Montessori helps brain development through motor skills” and lastly, “Guidelines for a genuine Montessori school and the importance of the Farm School”.

Lecturers present were: Ulrica Ådén MD, Ph.D. at the Karolinska Institute Department of Women and Children’s Health; Lesley Ann Patrick AMI 6-12 and Lennart Höglund from The Farm School in Sättila, Sweden.

AGM and Affiliate Meetings. Our society considers it very important to remain abreast of and connected with what is happening in the Montessori movement globally. In line with this we make a point of sending delegates to attend the AGM and Affiliate meetings in Amsterdam each year. In April 2015, as in the past, we sent two of our board members as delegates.

Collaborations and Partnerships

We co-operate closely with MMI and Ulla Wikefeldt, which is of the utmost importance in order to promote Training and courses within AMI.

In addition, a member of our board visited Mongolia in order to establish collaboration with the AMI Affiliated Society there; a report about this trip was published in the AMI Alumni Sweden newsletter.

Publications & Media

Four publications have been sent out to our AMI members and support members.

Membership Development

We work actively on recruiting new members. As of December 2015 we have 82 members (including 20 supporting members). Our Society handles group membership on behalf of AMI and distribution of the e-Bulletin and other Communications. We continue to be responsive to the views and observations of all our members through Conference Evaluations.

After our meeting representatives from AMI, we have continued to offer a supporting membership to anyone not holding an AMI diploma. Supporting Members also receive our quarterly newsletter and membership discounts on conferences. Supporting Members are not, however, able to vote at the Annual Meeting. We hope to inspire Supporting Members to continue with AMI Training. The amount of Supporting Members has increased in 2015.

Board & Committees

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Chair of the Board | Christina Wahlgren Ek |
| Treasurer | Barbra Waller |
| Secretary | Vivi Öhman |
| Board Member | Nina Lillo |
| Board Member | Annika Wall Nyqvist |
| Sub. Board Member | Christel Zapka |

Our Society sees as its main objective to be a forum for AMI Montessori teachers and to offer further high quality training in the form of lectures and discussion groups. We also wish to offer open conferences where all interested parties are welcome in order to reach teachers with other training, administrators and parents. In this way we hope to help form a positive opinion on the high quality of training that AMI emphasises.

We continue to maintain our international contacts by attending the AGM in Amsterdam, also by visiting and keeping in touch with other Montessori schools and AMI affiliates worldwide. Moreover, we host a conference in English each year, with internationally acclaimed lecturers, and we hope to attract more participants for the upcoming event.

Christina Walghren Ek
Chair