

Finnilco Country Report

Finnilco, the Finnish National Association for the stomists, the reservoir operated and anal incontinence patients.

Finnilco consists of 18 local chapters and 2 national associations. One of the last mentioned is for J-pouch operated and the other for those who have difficulties in the anal incontinence. The total number of the person members of Finnilco is about 3200. The oldest local associations began their activities in 1972.

The Board has six members and they as also the chairman and the personal vice-members are elected for one year's period in the Autumn Annual Meeting. The board has five meetings a year and they take place in different cities of our country.

To **the Annual Meetings** (in April and in September) every member association can send two representatives. The travel and hotel expenses of the representatives are paid by Finnilco and the associations together.

The office is situated in Kerava near Helsinki, our capital. The whole-time secretary, takes care of all the routine matters of the organization.

The rehabilitation courses

During the year 2011 we have six courses: one course for the J-pouch operated, two courses for the stomists and similarly operated, three courses for the stomists and their nearby persons (wife, husband, sister, brother, daughter, son, etc.)

The length of the courses varied from two days to four days and the numbers of the participating persons were between 12 and 30. We got about 70 000 euros from the society for our course activities, so for the participants the courses were fully out of expenses. Even their travelling expenses were paid.

Naturally we in Finnilco are very proud and satisfied of our courses. We have really something valuable to give to our members and other Finnish stomists and so to help their lives as stomists.

7th education period of Et's in Finland

The seventh ET education period was organized in Finland in 2009. Then 17 new Ets were qualified in Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences. They work in different parts of Finland. At the moment we have the total of over 100 qualified active ETs, whose duties include to further educate the nursing staff in stomachare. Unfortunately however, they do not have all actual positions as ETs, but have to teach stomachare in addition to their own jobs in hospitals and health care centres.

Activities

Two National Annual General Meetings each year, 20 local chapters holding meetings and events to support members, contact with government.

We have produced new leaflets and Finnilco, our magazine, is published four times a year.