



AGM – NSID Committee Candidates



Anna Helgadóttir for Chairwoman

- Dancing since 2007 in Oslo.
- Want to keep the good vibe going.
- Love attending the Nordic Feis, and others too, enjoy classes and workshops.

Hanne Yli-Parkas for Chairwoman



Hi! My name is Hanne Yli-Parkas. I'm a 35-year old journalist from Turku, Finland. I started doing Irish dancing fairly late in my life, so I've been dancing only for the past four years. But already after my first dance class I was hooked.

When I'm not trying to improve my steps, I'm either taking care of my carnivorous plants, cooking with my husband, shooting with my longbow, playing rugby or planning my next trip to Ireland. I suppose I could visit some other countries too, but somehow I always find myself at the Dublin airport...

Katrin Lindberg for Treasurer



I first tried out Irish dancing while living in Dublin in the late 90s. When I later moved to Stockholm I thought I should find a hobby since I didn't know many living here. That's how I found Kulturama and signed up for classes.

In 2004 the group I was dancing in decided to participate at the Feis in Stockholm and we formed Irish Connection. Since then we have been dancing and performing together although the members have changed over the years. Myself I am no longer an active dancer after having my second child, but I like to stay in the dance community.

I work as an accountant at Nordea.



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Anna Charlotte (Lotte) Amdal Neumayer for Information Coordinator

I have always been a huge fan of Irish dancing and music, and started dancing at Sound Irish Dance Factory in 2004. Since then, I've had three children, but kept on dancing all time has allowed. I've loved contributing to, and participating at, the Nordic Feises.

The work NSID - and its committee - does, is crucial for the Irish dancing community in the Nordic countries. I've previously worked as a communication adviser, and run for election as information coordinator in the NSID committee wishing to contribute to this important work.

Catherine Zweidorff Aarkvisla for Member



My name is Catherine Zweidorff Aarkvisla. I started Irish dancing in 2002, after years of jumping around in my bedroom listening to Riverdance (pretending to know the steps). I decided to be an Irish dancer at the age of 7 after seeing Riverdance at the Eurovision, but since I lived outside of Oslo I had to wait until I got older. I joined the NSID before I started dancing, after searching the web for information about Irish dancing for an essay I wrote.

Since then I've been a member, and I've participated at all the feisanna and NSID workshops that has been held (though most times as injured "audience", helping out). I helped organize the Nordic feis in Oslo in 2009. I lived in Galway for two years teaching and attending classes with the Hession school of Irish dancing and the McDonagh Byrne school. While I was there, I also helped organize and worked on several feiseannas. I've been performing with Taranis and Sound-Irish Dance Company since 2002, and I now teach and dance with Sound-Irish Dance Factory, and worked with the choreography and layout on "Titanic" the musical when it had Norwegian premier here in Norway.

When I'm not dancing I work as a nurse, in a psychiatric unit, where I skip around doing the trebles when nobody's watching. I also work as a photographer. My motto is: "jig like nobody is watching, reel like you mean it!"



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Katja Mattila for Member

My name is Katja Mattila. I live in Jyväskylä, Finland, and Irish dancing has taken me over. Totally.

I have been dancing approx. 3 years now, more or less intensively and just love it. I can't put it words what it is that "thing" that keeps me dancing, but I'm far beyond the point where I could stop.

Now I wish to take a deeper dive into a world of Irish dancing, and I believe that being a member of the committee I can do that.



Åse Kristine Waglen for Member

I am a 29 year old physiotherapy student from Oslo, Norway. My first meeting with Irish dancing was in a local Theater production where we learnt Irish dancing; it was love at first hop 123. 4 years later I moved to Oslo and I have since then been dancing at Sound Irish Dance Factory with Hilde Juul. I've been teaching children and adults since 2006, and I give workshops around Oslo and perform with Sound Irish Dance Company. I became a member of The Nordic Society of Irish Dancers in 2005 when I attended my first Feis and since then

I have competed and done my grades at the Nordic Feis. I have also organized and co organized several for the Nordic feiseannas and have been both member and chair woman of the NSID committee. My further goal is to get my TCRG, some day.

To me NSID and the Nordic Feis is very important to keep the Irish dancing community alive and strong. It is my firm believe that all the dancers and the schools in the Nordic Countries are dependent on each other for survival as I believe that we need to pull together to keep promoting Irish dancing successfully. Irish dancing promotes Irish dancing in it self and so the more the better, and a strong and vivid Irish dancing community gives support and inspiration to everybody involved. This is especially important now that **An Coimisiún** is urging us to get involved and "serious" (read: produce TCRG's) if we want to keep the Feis. I do hope that we will be able to "get serious" in a not so distant future. Both to keep the Feis, which I think is our most important sours of inspiration fore both old and new, "serious" and "semi serious" dancers and fore the benefit of advancing our own dancing. But I think that to get there we need inspiration and support form each other as it is hard work to get the TCRG and it can get quite lonely been the only teacher in your area. This is why I think that NSID is such an important organization and I want to give my contribution.



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Noora Karjalainen for Election Committee



My name is Noora Karjalainen and I live in Vaasa, Finland. I started Irish dancing in 2001 when I found out that the local sports organisation near my home village was arranging Irish dance lessons. Since then I've danced whenever possible, though sadly I've rarely had the chance to attend regular classes. I really started to work on my dancing from 2006 onwards, practicing on my own and participating workshops and intensive courses arranged here in Finland.

I love all the different forms of Irish dancing, solo, céilí, figure, show, sean nós, and would like to get better in all of them, though as a solitary dancer my resources are often rather limited. I'm hoping that one day I'll have a teacher and could maybe participate in performances and things like that. I always thought that I'm not a competitive person and for a long time I was convinced that I'd never want to compete in Irish dancing. Then in 2011 I went to my very first feis in Stockholm to do grade exams, and I suppose I got into the spirit of things because next year in Tampere I competed for the very first time and liked it! I would like to compete more often than just once a year at the Nordic Feis and at the moment I'm finding out about different possibilities.

In my opinion and experience NSID is important in bringing the Irish dancers in the Nordic countries together, encouraging cooperation and making Irish dance more visible as a hobby.

When I'm not dancing I'm studying for my PhD dissertation, working as a part-time interpreter and translator, looking for work, and playing Irish music on harp and fiddle.