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Helsinki, Finland

It Is Good To Go, But It Is Always Good To Come Home
by *Joy Donelson, Anchorage Club, North Western Region, SIA*

Good Morning Everyone.

I'm home after a month. Had a wonderful time at the Convention. It was an inspiration. Meeting fifty or sixty people from the Chat Line certainly added a wonderful dimension.

Heidi's Open Door dinner was great with many more people than she could handle. We had a great speaker from the International Red Cross who inspired us all. That is where the money from our quilt will be going. We have many quilt squares spread all over the world. If you do not have one and want to be represented in our quilt let me know and I will get one to you. You should be very proud of Jane Zimmerman. She is going to be a great president, as was Hilary, each with their own style. She is our first Cyberfriend to be president.

Many people went to Russia and will be there for the second St. Petersburg charter. It should be an experience both for the Russians and for them.

We raised double our commitment to SIAM so there will be a large trust fund to continue the project scholarships, the VC's work in the villages, and the loan fund. Give yourself a pat on the back and know that the money will be well spent for many years to come.

The Finns did an outstanding job. Just consider that in the whole country there are only 1500 Soroptimists. They made it so personal. The socks were a wonderful touch. The night they entertained us in small groups was outstanding. Everyone I talked to thought her host was the best. The costumes they wore throughout the meeting were just terrific. They certainly showed their country off to good advantage. Even the weather was good.

We heard much of our involvement at the UN. I am clearer on just how important that work is. We are pushing forward on the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the 1995 Fourth World Conference in Beijing. We will be very involved in the Beijing Plus 5 meeting in New York early next year.

So much happened in five days. I can't begin to cover it. But I did want to give you some of my impressions. It is good to go but it is always good to come home. Will be very busy next week before going to my family reunion the following week. While away we will be buying a new home in Albuquerque, NM and then will be coming home to sell the one we have. So we will be very busy. The Chat Line will help to keep me sane. Cecelia did a great job while I was away. Got most of the painting done. Several garage sales. Ready for some additional repairs all in addition to her regular work.

Thats all for now.