

Association of JCI



Senators in Europe

**PAST PRESIDENTS MEETING 2024 – Zaanstad, The Netherlands**

Friday, 23 August – Sunday, 25 August 2024

**Invitation**

Dear Past Presidents, dear friends,

With great pleasure Joanne and I would like to invite you to the Past Presidents Meeting in Zaanstad (NL).

It has been a long time since we had a Past Presidents reunion weekend due to unforeseen worldwide health issues. The 2024 Past Presidents Meeting will take place from Friday 23 August till Sunday 25 August.

We have organised a relaxed programme for you to make you feel welcome and to be able to enjoy and get a little taste of Holland. The programme leaves plenty of space for sharing memories and ideas with your Senator friends.

The city of Zaandam is where I was born and lived for a substantial time in my life. In 1974 the six villages around Zaandam were melted together to form the city of Zaanstad. Now 50 years later Zaanstad is the 14th city of the Netherlands with around 160.000 inhabitants.

In the medieval times inhabitants started to live in settlements along the river Zaan. With the rise of Amsterdam as centre of trade and Industrie the area around the river Zaan developed into a strong industrial area. In 1630 there were 53 wood saw mills working. At the end of the 17th century the region around the river Zaan counted over 900 windmills. This is the reason they call the Zaanstreek the oldest industrial area in Europe. The mills were making paint, paper, oil, grain, flower and cutting wood for houses and ships. The villages were active in ship building and in Waling. In 1687 Tsar Peter the Great came to Zaandam to study shipbuilding. Till today a lot of industries (mainly food related) are located in this area.

The city of Zaanstad is situated close to Amsterdam and has good connections from the airport Schiphol Amsterdam by train/taxi/car (aprox 20 minutes). For Senators driving to the meeting we will arrange proper directions.

We enclose the programme for the weekend to this invitation mail. We have made a block reservation in the Zaanhotel. The hotel is located next to the Zaandam Railway Station (less then 5 minute walk).





We start the weekend on Friday afternoon with a welcome drink in the bar of the Zaanhotel. After the relaxed bar meeting we continue with a nice buffet diner.

After the Saturday breakfast we will travel by bus to the fishing village of Volendam. The programme here will be a mixture of culture, culinary and history. A guide will take us through the village to introduce us to the life and traditions of the fisherman. During the guided tour we will have a little surprise for you all.

Afterwards we will have a lovely lunch at a harbour restaurant. We will continue the trip with a boat trip over het Ijsselmeer. This used to be the sea where the ships from Amsterdam sailed towards the East and West Indies for their trade trips.

After our boat trip we leave for Zaandam. With time permitting we will visit a special attraction on our way.

Returning in the afternoon we have some spare time to do some shopping or take a rest.

In the evening we will take a bus ride to the Zaanse Schans. An area where historic buildings are placed together. We will have the Presidential drink and Gala diner in the Whale Restaurant.

On the Sunday morning we conclude this Past Presidents Meeting weekend with a special Farewell breakfast.

We hope that this invitation and the programme are to your liking and will tickle your curiosity. You are all most welcome and we look forward spending a wonderful weekend together.

With kind regards,  
In Senate Friendship

Peter and Joanne den Bremer

