



EUFORIA

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From your new Regional Director

After a 5 day stay in Austin in my new position I am ready for communicating with you via EuForia.

First of all I'd like to thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve you as your Regional Director. I consider it as a great privilege to have been able to enjoy the excellent training giving during these 4 days and to be prepared to serve you as best as I possibly can.

Our new International President Dr. Barbara Day had organised a very efficient 4 day orientation and planning meeting for newly elected Administrative Board members, and the chairmen of the International Committees and Forums. All this was made possible by the Eunah Temple Holden Leadership Fund Committee.

September 13-14 was especially training for the Regional Directors, Sept.14-15 the planning meeting for the Administrative Board members and from Friday evening till Saturday Sept.16 all of us present were involved.

This all took place in a very nice setting (although "under construction" to make it still more impressive) near Austin, the Lakeway Resort. The weather was beautiful, the days full of hard work –we started at 7 a.m. and finished at 9 or 10 in the evening. There was really a lot of information coming over us and a lot of decisions to be made. But there was also a lot of inspiration and fun and learning to know each other better, so the days didn't seem long to us at all. Headquarters Staff was present the 4 whole days and told us about their work, gave us instructions how to handle all kind of questions and told us that the whole department with all the employees (their pictures were in the employees' handbook) love their work and are doing all they can to help out every single member. But also we were told that the financial situation, the Available Fund, is rather critical so that everybody should be aware of that and take it in consideration.

As theme for the next biennium our new president has chosen: "Leading with Wisdom and Passion", and we as Regional Directors agreed on: "**Wisdom to Share • Passion to Care**", as theme for all the five Regional Conferences.

For Europe we had already a sub theme: "**Creativity through Diversity**", so you will find all the ingredients for interesting professional and educational workshops to give and to attend.

We changed the form for a workshop proposal, and did a lot of other things that you will hear later about, we listened to and participated in a dialogue panel in

the speech of Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall, author of the book “The Power to Transform; Leadership that brings Learning and Schooling to Life”. We were four from Europe, Bettina Kulsdom from Great Britain as chair of the Communications Committee, Marika Heimbach from Germany as chair of the Expansion Committee and from The Netherlands me and Ria Bleeker as chair of the European Forum.

From now on my work for this biennium has really started and I am excited about it . I'll do my best to be in contact with all of you, to answer your questions if you have some, and to meet you whenever it is possible.

Friday September 22 I'll go to London to meet with the Steering Committee for the Regional Conference, to see the beautiful location of St. Mary's at Strawberry Hill, where this event will take place, and to work further on the preparations for our Regional Conference from August 1-4 2007 .If you have not already done so mark it in your calendars right now!!!!!! In the beginning of November I'll meet with the members of the European Forum in Amsterdam and November 16 -18 is the date for the next Administrative Board meeting in Austin. Preceding this, on Nov 15-16 the meeting of the International Speakers Fund Committee consisting of four members: the Area Representatives from Canada and Latin America, the Europe Regional Director and the second Vice President of the Administrative Board

I do hope that many European members have considered to be an International Speaker !

The deadline is October 1. And for State Presidents: Requests for an International Speaker are due at Headquarters November 1.

You see the busy bee I am going to be. I hope to be able to do it all with “wisdom and passion.”

Trijny Schmitz du Moulin

European Forum

A presentation was made at the European Forum meeting in San Diego by Ria Bleeker on the subject of the “European Charter for Democratic Schools without Violence”. This charter contains the following points:

1. All members of the school community have the right to a safe and peaceful school. Everyone has the responsibility to contribute to creating a positive and inspiring environment for learning and personal development.
2. Everyone has the right to equal treatment and respect regardless of any personal difference. Everyone enjoys freedom of speech without risking discrimination or repression.
3. The school community ensures that everybody is aware of their rights and responsibilities.
4. Every democratic school has a democratically elected decision-making body composed of representatives of students, teachers, parents, and other members of the school community where appropriate. All members of this body have the right to vote.
5. In a democratic school, conflicts are resolved in a non-violent and constructive way in partnership with all members of the school community. Every school has staff and students trained to prevent and solve conflicts through counselling and mediation.

6. Every case of violence is investigated and dealt with promptly, and followed through whether students or any other members of the school community are involved.
7. School is a part of the local community. Co-operation and exchange of information with local partners are essential for preventing and solving problems.

Members took part in discussion groups following the presentation to examine to what extent this charter had been adopted in their countries. The results of these discussions were then reported at the European breakfast. The following points were then made at that time:

- All countries reported that students had places on school governing bodies. In most countries these were in a non-voting capacity.
- Sweden reported that it is required that students as well as teachers are involved in curriculum development at the secondary level and that the curriculum at all levels of education strongly emphasises democracy.
- Germany gave evidence of improvement both in student behaviour, and school and community relations, in certain schools. A more democratic approach to the organisation of student functions had been adopted, and students, parents and local residents were encouraged to be actively involved.
- In Great Britain a majority of schools at primary and secondary level have School Councils composed of pupils elected by their peers who meet regularly to discuss important matters relating to their school, liaise with staff and governors and may be involved in decision making issues such staff appointments. There are also schemes developing for “Extended Schools” where a school is the nucleus of a site which offers the local community additional services, e.g. nursery/crèche care, health clinics, adult education, meeting venues for sports, leisure and social clubs etc.

Overall, while it would appear that the education system in Europe is not meeting all the aims stated in the charter, all countries encourage a democratic approach to teaching and learning in a safe, peaceful environment and see their schools as an integral part of the wider community.

DECISIONS AT CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO 2006 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND INTERNATIONAL STANDING RULES OF OUR SOCIETY

At the convention in San Diego twelve amendments were proposed to our *Constitution* and twenty proposed amendments to the *International Standing Rules*. Two-thirds affirmative vote was needed to pass all of these proposals. Some passed without discussion, while others entertained great debate, including motions to extend time for discussions. Floor pages and counters worked diligently as many of the proposals required a standing vote.

Membership:

1. Three proposals were submitted, with only one passing. The new proposed classification of Associated Member was not passed, but membership now will

be open to women who **“have retired from an educational position no more than two years.”**

The rationale for this change was that women are retiring earlier and thus those “young retirees” would have more time to become actively involved in our organisation.

2. The fee for honorary membership was raised from \$35 US to \$50 US.

Committees:

At the International level, the Travel and Study committee was dissolved, as research from that committee found that “members are not taking advantage of the tours offered.”

Nominations:

Nominations for elected offices may be made from the floor and, probably for the first time in the history of our Society, this occurred at the Convention. Sandy Whitney was nominated, by Mexico, from the floor for the position of International President, in opposition to the Nominations Committee candidate Dr. Barbara Day. The State Presidents needed to consider how to handle the situation and how to vote. All the States had a weighted vote which contributes to the overall tally. The state presidents cast the secret ballot on behalf of their states. Dr Barbara Day was elected as the International President.

States:

1. The state of Kentucky has officially moved from the Northeast Region to the Southeast and the state chapter for Nova Scotia has been dissolved. San Luis Potosí, which was installed June 25, 2005, has been added as the newest state chapter to the Southwest Region.

2. A proposal for a new *Arts Committee* as part of the Program of Work was rejected.

Don't forget to review your national Standing Rules!

Marianne Skardéus, Sweden State President

International Committees

The European representatives on International Committees for the 2006-2008 biennium are as follows:

European Regional Director	-Trijny Schmitz du Moulin	/The Netherlands
Chairman European Forum	-Ria Bleeker	/The Netherlands
Constitution Committee	-Gloria Redston	/Great Britain
Expansion Committee	-Marika Heimbach (chair)	/Germany
Leadership Development	-Marja Leena Leskinen	/Finland
Membership Committee	-Liisa Peltomaa	/Finland
Nominations Committee	-Gudrun Nylander	/Sweden
	-Mary Wardrop	/Great Britain
Personal Growth and Services	-Sigridur Jonsdottir	/Iceland
Professional Affairs Comm.	-Coby van Klaveren	/The Netherlands
Research Committee	-Ebba Anna Marie Gamsted	/Sweden
Communications Committee	-Bettina Kulsdom(chair)	/Great Britain
Educators Award Committee	-Kitty Kruyswijk	/The Netherlands
Golden Gift Fund Committee	-Birgit Swensson	/Sweden
International Speakers Fund	-Trijny Schmitz du Moulin	/The Netherlands
Scholarships Committee	-Ingrid Stjernquist	/Sweden
World Fellowships Committee	-Kerstin Straby	/Sweden

International Finance Committee

Dear members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society in Europe!

According to our Constitution, Article VII, The International Finance Committee has a very important task in preparing, revising and following up the Available Fund budget. [The Constitution Article VII states that the Finance Committee is to:](#)

- a) Establish guidelines for the corporate secretary with respect to the investment of all funds
- b) Prepare the Available Fund budget for adoption by the International Executive Board and
- c) Provide for the annual audit.
- d) The budget shall be submitted to the Administrative Board for review.

How to create a balanced budget?

The first important item, that I would like to emphasize, is the number of members in our Society, the second item of great importance is an efficient use of modern technology, like websites, e-mails etc. and the third item of importance is that we have to handle things correctly from the very start.

Our decrease of members must now come to end and we do have to make every single member in every part of our Society aware of this. We have to make them understand that everyone of us has a responsibility in recruiting new members. This is of great importance especially for us in Europe. We need new members and have to convince them that our purposes in order to [support women educators](#) are just as important today as 75 years ago.

How to become more efficient in our use of modern technology?

We, in the International Finance Committee, have suggested that our publications should be published via the Internet instead of being printed and sent out by ordinary mail. This could be one possible way to become more cost effective. Could payments to a larger extent be handled via Internet? Would not reporting of new members or alterations of members have many advantages, especially for members outside the United States? Making things right from the start and keeping deadlines is an additional way in keeping costs down. Let us all contribute to meaningful training within our [organisation](#) as well as simplified routines on all levels.

Special praise to Germany

I would like to give a special praise to Germany, the only European state that sent in Form 16 before the 1st of September. All the reports are important documents for our European states to prove what is specific for the activities that are carried out. Form 39 and Form 40 were thoroughly studied for the planning of the workshops at the Convention and for the planning of the leadership training at the regional conferences.

Important communication

In order to motivate and identify needs the personal contacts between IFC and the state treasurers are of great importance. I would here like to underline the important contribution to our Society by the state treasurers.

Though not a part of IFC any longer, I am more than willing to help you out!

Birgitta Johansson, Sweden

Member of the International Finance Committee 2002-2006 and Chair 2004-2006 E-mail: birgitta.joh@telia.com

The Netherlands

We will now inform you about Delta Kappa Gamma in the Netherlands. We have 5 chapters and 73 members at present and we have had a good year. The chapters held interesting meetings with topics such as: Modelling, a lecture on leadership and inspiration, several concerts in the Royal Music Hall in Amsterdam, Chinese art and a film reflection of National Education day

We had two projects:

In Uganda we supported schoolchildren by buying 400 school uniforms, this enabled the children to go to school.

We contacted a place named Nederland in U.S.A which had suffered damage in hurricane Katrina and supported them by sending money.

We now have good plans for two more chapters in the northern part of the Netherlands.

In November we held our annual meeting, with the organisation "Reading and Writing" as our special guests. They informed us about the problems which exist when you are not able to read or write well. Illiteracy affects 1.5 million people in the Netherlands, 10% of the population.

Delta Kappa Gamma Nederland celebrated its **30 years anniversary** on 20 May 2006 in Amersfoort. A large number of members came together. We had guests from Great Britain and Germany. We gave special attention to founder members Anneke Bolle-Wulff and Elly Dobber . We honored them with a special pin and flowers. We also gave special attention to 25 year members with a pin. We sang together: "Building Bridges", with Coby van Klaveren playing the keyboard.

We also presented the new chapter committees. The theme of the conference was "**Infusing Multicultural Education into your curriculum**". We were so glad to have a guest speaker from Kentucky (USA), **Sandra Broderick**. She gave an international feeling to this conference. After her interesting speech and power point presentation Ria Bosman, a member of Epsilon chapter, lead the discussion. **Guzel Akhmedshina** from **Tatarstan** told us about her life before and after she came to the Netherlands, her own multicultural situation and how she became a marvellous singer. After this we had a walk through the old town of Amersfoort and had a delicious dinner in a restaurant called: (in translation) Little Lady.

We wish you all a good and peaceful year, a year full of friendship, help, development and possibilities.

Vivian Repko State President of the Netherlands

Great Britain

I hope you have all enjoyed a good summer.

The European and International conferences I have attended this year have were both exciting and inspiring. I attended the conferences in The Netherlands and Germany as a guest and I was struck by the way that global topics emphasised the worldwide outlook of our members. Can I thank all the members who made guests so welcome and for looking after us so well.

The International Convention in San Diego more than lived up to my expectations. The setting was on the edge of the bay, visits included the chance to cross the border into Mexico for a day, and the main speakers were all excellent. We heard from UNESCO Representative, Meg Gardinier, on the topic

'Creating a Stronger Afghanistan for Children: Profiles of Progress'. Dr Bonnie Dunbar, an American astronaut who wants to 'pay back' her own success by inspiring young people to study Engineering, was initiated as an International Honorary Member and gave an inspiring talk about the role of her parents and teachers in encouraging her to pursue the career of her choice.

During the conference, two new scholarships were announced following a bequest from a former member of the Society. We also celebrated the launch of 'Educator Edge', a new website (funded from the Cornetet Bequest) which will help all involved in education to find opportunities for further professional development. The website is at www.EducatorEdge.org and it is available to members and non-members alike. Whether it is at Chapter, State, or International level, our Society has so much to offer to all women educators and, in some instances, scholarships are available to non-members regardless of their gender!

I would like to remind all European members about the European Regional Conference which will be held at St Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill in August next year. Members of the Steering Committee are working incredibly hard to plan and organise a conference not to be missed. Please put the dates in your diaries **now - 1st to 4th August 2007** - and make a firm resolution to attend.

Kate York **Great Britain State President**

Sweden State - Agenda 2006-2007

It is wonderful with young and brave new chapters! The two youngest Swedish chapters, Chi and Omega, have at the age of three, taken pride in hosting meetings of Sweden State!

In May this year 2006 Chi-chapter (Borås) arranged an interesting and well organised State meeting including the Executive Board Meeting with excellent key note speakers and interesting work-shops. The theme of the conference was Equal Opportunities and Internationalisation.

The other three year old chapter, OMEGA, will host the next Sweden State meeting taking place 23-24 September 2006. Omega has prepared a wonderful programme on the same theme as in Borås in the spectacular historic setting of the naval town Karlskrona, now a part of the World Cultural Heritage.

In Karlskrona this September 2006 the new Swedish chapter Presidents and chapter Treasurers will have an eight hours training in order prepare them for their service as presidents and treasurers.

During this training the purposes of our Society will be discussed and the administrative procedures and rules will be run through. With an organisation of 20 chapters it is necessary to have clear rules and routines for handling all formal documents and passing information to all persons and levels involved. Doing things right from the beginning is time saving and should give the chapter boards more space for the members and chapter activities. The training will include leadership, membership and programme training. We hope this training will give the new chapter stability and thus help them strive for excellence.

At the Executive Board Meeting we hope to find a consensus for the future distribution of our INFO (Information paper) and membership role via the Internet - e-mail and our website www.deltakappagamma.se. At this meeting

some alteration of our by-laws will be made in accordance to what was decided at the Convention in San Diego.

Sweden State Board Meeting will be held 17-18 March, 2007, in Umeå. We invite you all to join us in Umeå situated in the north of Sweden. Come and share some lovely winter days with us as well enjoying some excellent speakers!

Marianne Skardéus State President

Germany

Reflections - After the hot and sunny Californian weather I waited for some rainy days to write these lines for EuForia. The deadline is coming up and the weather is still enjoyable in Berlin. Certainly I could not take home the blue sky. But I did take home inspiring thoughts, experiences and memories of meaningful moments.

I learned several things:

- Poppies grow in California not only in the landscape. They look lovely on screens, bags and aprons.
- San Diego is situated on the coast. Marines are all over the place, on boats ...Some of them did not dream of the special task concerning DKG when they signed up for their job: to lead the DKG state presidents into the banquet hall. What a surprise!
- After all the meetings, discussions, voting and elections there were these "Reflections of Excellence" browsing through my head. At the fantastic convention hotel there were many fantastic figures around –besides the DKG members- attending a Comic Conference. Suddenly the enchanting soundtrack of a famous movie filled the Hall. Luke Skywalker walked in and went up all the way to the stage. He helped in a very adequate way with the changing of the "Force" to the new International President.

The stars could go on shining peacefully, twinkling, inspiring.

I am thankful to all those who have made this convention a special one.

Ulrike Gottlob, President Germany State

Finland

It was great meeting so many of you in San Diego and I am sure the 9 Finnish delegates brought along a lot of nice memories from the conference and other activities around the conference. The Californian ladies had done a marvellous job. The teddy bear that I adopted is now one of my grandson's favourite toys.

We have had an exceptionally warm summer, which is still going on with 20C daytime temperature here in southern Finland. We are back to work and all the chapters have started their activities.

The National Council of Women in Finland has put together an exhibition called '100 years of women's voices and action' in the beautiful Jugend hall in Helsinki from 6 September to 15 October. Delta Kappa Gamma/Finland is a member of this federation, which has some 59 member organisations. Every member organisation was offered the chance to be in charge of the exhibition for one day. Alpha chapter in Helsinki chose the first Sunday and we were lucky with our choice. The weather was good and people on their Sunday promenades dropped in to see the exhibition, which celebrated the 100 years of the common right to vote. Alpha had a big table, where we had information on our organisation and about 400 visitors had the chance of getting acquainted with Delta Kappa Gamma. There were even some foreign visitors and I especially

remember a young couple from Israel. She was a university teacher and told us that Delta Kappa Gamma would be needed in her country. According to her female university teachers do not have equal salaries with male teachers. This did not seem to be their only problem in equal rights. Another person that I would like to mention was a 93 years old lady with walking sticks, who had participated in women's gymnastics show in the 20's. She was having her Sunday stroll all alone and spent a long time examining the exhibition and talking with us. It was a long day for us, but it certainly was worth while. Delta Kappa Gamma got a lot of publicity and Alpha probably gained one new member.

We are having our annual seminar and AGM on 27 January, 2007 with the theme 'Challenges of Change'. We are organising this seminar in cooperation with the Association of Academic Women in Espoo. You are all welcome to our seminar, although the language will be mostly Finnish.

Tuula Penttilä, State President

It's time to say thanks...

It's time to say BIG THANKS to all of you, dear European members for the past biennium that we worked together. It was a privilege and great pleasure to walk this two-year path together with you state presidents, chapter presidents and all individual members. Thank you for your fine cooperation, help and support and willingness to respond – sometimes at a very short notice! We can be proud of our Europe region and continue to develop it together.

Marja-Leena Leskinen

Europe Regional Director 2004-2006

My apologies for sending you such a long edition this time but, as you can see, there is a great deal of information that it is important for all members to know at the start of a new biennium. The Spring edition of EuForia will be published in the first week of February 2007. The deadline for articles for this edition will be 20th January 2007. My thanks for your support

Joan Carroll, Editor