



EUFORIA
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Greetings from your Regional Director

This year from January to May I really have “done the Region”.

As International Representative I visited the State Conventions of Finland (January 27). Sweden (March 17 - 18) and Great Britain (March 31).

I was invited in Norway for their state convention in Kristiansand (April 21 – 22) and went to those of The Netherlands (May 12) in Amersfoort and Germany (May 17 – 20) in Meissen. It was a wonderful experience to meet so many members in different countries and to be a part of such interesting gatherings.

In Helsinki and Umea I found the snow that I had missed in the Netherlands this winter, in Norway, in Great Britain an early spring and in Meissen it was really summer.

And as different as were the climates I found, so too were the programs, which differed widely but all were exciting.

Finland organised their seminar “The Challenges of Change” together with the Academic Women of Espoo and Kauniainen, opening it to others too and receiving for that a stipend from the Lucile Cornetet Fund. The International Speaker Dr. Laurie Carlson Berg from Canada added with her topic “Wellness and the Professional Educator” to the interesting contributions of the other excellent speakers, and an evening at the theatre or opera ended that day. In **Sweden** the Delta chapter of Umeå had organised the convention around the theme “Equal Opportunities and Internationalisation” with a visit to the Norrlands Opera House and the Faculty of Design of Umeå University included. Ulrike Gottlob, state president of Germany, was one of the speakers, and 2 guests from Estonia were invited too. During the banquet and the birthday luncheon, prepared by the Delta members also in the nice building of the “Folksuniversitetet”, cultural musical and literary events took place that were very interesting even for non Swedish speaking members.

Great Britain gathered in St. Mary’s College in Strawberry Hill, where members and guests could already enjoy the atmosphere of the coming European conference. The keynote of the whole day, with exception of the Keynote speaker, was of course this coming event, with a working lunch for the steering committee and fundraising activities from all the members.

Norway will be hosting the 2009 Regional Conference and Dr. Barbara Day, the International President, was invited to bring information from Headquarters and to do some site visits. I was impressed by an art exhibition from members, containing jewellery, watercolours, cookery and poetry books and other handicrafts. And I loved the

music and singing of the students of the “Kulturskolen” and the members themselves. Seeing 3 parts of the country during this 5 day stay with different Norwegian friends, added for me to the joy of international friendship.

The members of **The Netherlands** in Amersfoort discussed with the speaker “Domestic Violence”, had guests from Germany and Great Britain and visited the Mondriaan Museum.

Germany, our former smallest state in Europe is always the most internationally oriented one.

Guests came from the USA (5) The Netherlands (5) GB (3) and Sweden (2). The program offered, next to the interesting speakers of course, a visit to the famous Meissen porcelain factory.

And then **Denmark**, number 8 of the European states, that we are so glad to welcome to our Society and that you will certainly read more about in this EuForia. I was unable to go there or to **Iceland**, but I hope to do better next year.

I wish to present my congratulations to all the newly elected board members in these states and to thank the preceding ones, hoping to see everyone in London in August.

The **Administrative Board** meeting (May 24 – 26) took place in Austin in a leaking HQ building with buckets every where. You really saw what you needed to do in approving a new roof. The preceding meeting of the 5 Regional Directors gave the opportunity to discuss all the upcoming questions for the organisation of the Regional Conferences and was very useful. It helped to see that we were all dealing with the same problems from which the late sending of the NEWS was the most important, so that closing dates had to be changed.

During the Admin. Board meeting we determined the status of our Strategic Action Plan that will be discussed at all the 5 Regional Conferences.

In London Jacky Cuppy will chair this meeting of the Task Force Committee, consisting of 1 member from each country so that every state can have his saying in the way the Society will move forward. All state representatives will hear personally from her. Let’s wait till then to tell you more about it.

What certainly will interest everyone, now that Sandra Bull had to resign due to family circumstances, is who will be our next Executive Coordinator. You will be pleased to hear that, on recommendation of the Personnel Committee, we interviewed 2 excellent candidates, that we both could give a position. Corlea Plowman, who is known by a great number of you as business services administrator, will take over Sandra’s job and Phyllis Hickey will be Corlea’s successor. We used our Wisdom and Passion also for discussing Change. What is the Change? What is the Wisdom guiding it? These were the recurring items on the agenda. We all gave our ideas and this will be worked out in small groups for the next meeting in November.

But first things first: LONDON. Among many other members from the USA, I heard, we will have from the Board not only the International President, but also the first and second vice presidents, Dr. Carolyn Rants and Dr. Nancy Noll and the Area Representative from Canada, Sheila MacKay, as well as 3 Past International Presidents. However exciting that may be, I would like to say, let us Europeans be the most in number. I invite you all to come to London in August, to this 10th anniversary of the Europe Region.

Trijny Schmitz du Moulin

EXPANSION INTO DENMARK

Hjoerring, Denmark, Friday, 23rd March, 2007 – a special day for the members of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – a very special day for me as I have the honour to chair the Expansion Committee of our society.

Expanding into Denmark actually started at the European Regional conference in Turku, Finland. Jackie Cuppy was then International President, Dr. Barbara Day and I were members of the Expansion Committee. The three of us met with Marianne Skardeus from Sweden and discussed the possibility of expanding into Denmark and a strategy for doing so. Marianne agreed to start the groundwork, which meant contacting women teachers in Denmark, and it turned out that her connections were most valuable. During the following year she made many telephone calls, organised meetings and visited with interested women in Denmark accompanied by Gudrun Nylander from Sweden, who volunteered to be our driver, even in the heaviest snowstorm, and supported the process from the beginning.

Our network worked: The President of the new state organisation, Elsebeth Gabel Austin, and her 18 colleagues were welcomed into the Society by greetings from all our member states, they were showered with congratulations and good wishes. Many international guests attended the ceremony and among them Lynne Leatherwood, State President of North Carolina, whose members provided the paraphernalia for the new state organisation. International President Dr. Barbara Day conducted the ceremony and each new member was given a beautiful red rose, gift from Alpha State, Texas.

Come to the Regional Conference in London this summer, take the opportunity to meet our new members from Denmark and learn more about expansion, one of the most important tasks for us in the near future.

Marika Heimbach

NEWS FROM NORWAY

Hello to all of you. We have had a wonderful spring in the southern part of Norway where we have our members. Tomorrow is the 17th May and the Norwegian national holiday. It is celebrated all over the country. All the school children march in a parade and the schools in Oslo all march to the King's castle where his whole family stand waving from the balcony for hours. The children carry Norwegian flags and many people wear their national dress. If you ever have a chance to visit Norway on this day you will have a memory for lifetime. You can stay with me to make the stay cheaper and we can get to know each other!

We arranged our state conference on the 21st April. Our new state president is Astrid Bie Skaaland and she is an Epsilon member from Kristiansand. We wish her good luck and know that she is a fantastic representative for us. She received the Golden Gift Fund last year and attended the conference in San Diego 2006. She works with refugees in Kristiansand.

In Kristiansand we also had the honor of having the International President, Dr. Barbara Day and the European director Trijny Schmitz du Moulin as our guests. I am sure they like to meet members all over Europe, but we certainly think the meeting was something special because they were there with the knowledge and inspiration that comes with them. The Epsilon chapter arranged the conference and we all had a wonderful time. Thanks to all who made this possible and thanks to all who attended. We were more than 50% of our members present!

Our chapter presidents are doing a fine job, their meetings are all so interesting, I wish I had time to attend them all. They are all working on increasing membership and they do! Some of them you will meet in London. We are all looking forward to seeing you there, the program looks fantastic and I know what a wonderful experience it always is to meet with you all and make new acquaintances.

See you!

Bjørg Nakling

NETHERLANDS

Dear Sisters, this time I would like to inform you about our convention. And I will invite you to come the next time.

It was a nice day, the day of our convention, 12th May, 2007. A lot of members came to Amersfoort, an old town in the centre of the country. The reason we chose that town was of course that it was easy to get there. Besides that, it is a town with a spectacularly kept historical centre. We also had guests from Great Britain, State President Kate York and from Germany Marika Heimbach, State President from Germany. We were very glad they came to our convention.

Kate York informed us about the ladies from Headquarters coming to the Regional Conference in London 1 – 4 August 2007. Kate had also a very interesting PowerPoint presentation of the initiation of Denmark and its members. We were very glad they came to our convention.

We had a very good speaker. Jacqueline Dingemans. Jacqueline has a degree in education and was a teacher too. Most recently she was for a long time the director of a safe house where women are supported after suffering domestic violence and her experiences there were the topic of her speech. Formerly it seemed that domestic violence did not exist, because nobody spoke about it. Fortunately nowadays there is a lot of interest for this problem, not only because it is a very unpleasant situation for both women and men, but especially for the children involved. In Amsterdam alone the police have been asked for assistance 7000 times in a year.

Following this very interesting speech, we had lunch and after that we held our general meeting.

Among other things we introduced our board. Riet Smits President, Yt de Vries vice president, Cor Wolff-Heins executive secretary, Coby van Klaveren secretary and Ria Steenbergen treasurer.

Then there was the opportunity to visit the house where Mondriaan, famous Dutch painter, lived.

We saw some works that are not usually seen because most of his works are now in the famous galleries of the world. At the end of the day we had an enjoyable dinner in an old restaurant.

Vivian Repko

SWEDEN

The Oasis of Siwa and Chi Chapter, Sweden State

In west Egypt far out in the Libyan Desert you can find the fascinating Oasis of Siwa surrounded by sand dunes, table mountains, salt and fresh water lakes and run through by murmuring streams. The history of Siwa leads you back to Pharaonic eras, to ancient Greeks and Romans and to Alexander the Great himself, who is said to have visited to consult a celebrated oracle.

In the many gardens date palms crowd together with citrus and olive trees. The houses have an ancient patina and the most important transport vehicles of the Siwa villagers are still little donkey-drawn wooden carts. Those are sometimes equipped with wooden benches and covered with cloth sunscreens and are thus turned into taxis. The contrast to the modern air-conditioned tourist buses, coming in an ever increasing number, is enormous.

In Chi chapter we have got to know Siwa through our member Christina Rinaldo, who ended up there ten years ago in her search of ancient weaving techniques, when she was reconstructing Tutankhamun's more than 4000-year-old clothes. What modern machines couldn't manage, was still traditional among the Bedouin women in the desert outside Siwa. The outstanding embroidery on the tunics was made by the women in the oasis. The result in the end was to become the exhibition "Tutankhamun's Wardrobe" which, after its tour around the world, ended up in Alexandria, Egypt and then this autumn returned home to Borås, Sweden.

It is easy to lose one's heart in Siwa and this is what Christina has done to the extent that she is planning to move there permanently. Her "mates in the desert", as she is calling them, have seen aid projects being realised, one after the other, thanks to her amazing energy. The military doctors for example didn't know so much about women and children and they did not always survive the 350 km-long transport to Marsa Matrou where help was available. The School of Health Sciences

at the University College of Borås has now started a fruitful project in collaboration with the University of Cairo. Is the water in the oasis healthy? Another bilateral project is investigating. The opportunity to continue education for young women after compulsory school is in no way evident. In Siwa there is a "Training Centre" where the girls are trained in traditional handicraft techniques, like weaving, embroidery, basketry etc. Improving the quality of the material and the design is necessary to be competitive in the market and here Christina is assisting again with her expertise and her contacts. An aid and development project where "Fair Trade" and "Fair Transport" are the catchwords and where there are no costly middlemen is now under progress.

At the Chi chapter Christmas party we sold Christmas cards with the heading "Friends of Siwa – traditional direct aid" and the result amounted to 10,000 Swedish crowns. When the money reached Siwa it had increased to 30,000 through contributions from the Historic Textile Institute in Sweden and from the Governor of Marsa Matrou, the capital of the Siwa region. The money went directly to the families in need to buy clothes and food. "Fair trade – no middle men!"

Chi chapter, as well, is nowadays involved in what we call "direct aid". In Siwa there are a couple of hundred families, who are poor to the extent that they cannot pay the school fees for their children. These children, however, still go to school, sponsored by the other families and the schools, a fact which in the end cuts down on the schoolbooks and school materials as well as the wages of the teachers; in short the quality of the education.

Up till now the profit from our lotteries has gone to this purpose. We have also started a production of shirts and bags with the DKG-logotype to sell among members. The profit from this will go directly to the school children of Siwa.

Hopefully our engagement will also in the future make life easier for the "mates in the desert" and moreover give the work within Delta Kappa Gamma another valuable dimension

Ingela Högberg; Chi chapter

- who had the advantage of visiting the Oasis of Siwa and meet the "mates in the desert" together with Christina Rinaldo in November 2006.

GERMANY

State - Meetings – National or International Events?

Sweden always attracted people to its lovely countryside: the Cistercians, the Franciscans and many others visited some 500 years ago. I was fascinated to be shown their traces in the lovely countryside, to look at beautiful nature, get around by plane, train and car. The main attraction to me, however, was ... this year's Sweden State Meeting in Umea. It was interesting to meet the Swedish members and guests from different member and non-member countries. It was most important to me to listen to interesting lectures, the singing, to experience the atmosphere. And last I enjoyed the possibility to talk and raise awareness for the SOLidarity with WOMen in DIstress - Projects.

I then experienced the installation of the Denmark State Organization. This was an international event also. I believe that the possibility to exchange ideas between eight European countries now will add very much to the Society being attractive for members and prospective members:

- Exciting possibilities for networking
- more and new possibilities for the experience of cultural richness

Good communication is the special key to enjoy this.

"Diversity in Communication" was the motto of the German State-Meeting. Regarding this ΔKΓ Meeting – there definitely were very positive aspects: many members and guests – national and international – attended. The conference language was German. English often came in handy. This way there could be a lot of communication between friends from USA, Sweden, Great Britain, The Netherlands and Germany.

I do appreciate the international aspect.

Ulrike Gottlob President Germany State

ICELAND

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has operated in Iceland since 1975 when one chapter, Alpha in Reykjavík, was formed. Iceland State was established in 1977 and we are thus celebrating our 30th anniversary this year with many activities. Two chapters were also formed in 1977, Gamma in Reykjavik and Beta in Akureyri, and they are also celebrating this year. In a celebration meeting on March 28th, the day Iceland State was established, a new chapter in Reykjavík, Kappa, was formed and has now 28 members. During the first weekend in May, we held our State Convention at the historic site of Reykholt in Southwest of Iceland with 85 members partaking. The State Convention is the main celebration of the year. At the meeting we had speakers looking back on the development of women's rights and education in this country, reviewing the situation today and looking forward. Our former European Director, Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, with the help of our former State Presidents, reviewed the history of Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland during the past 30 years by recollecting memorable happenings and developments. Our International guest at the meeting was Dr. Beverly Helms from Florida, USA. At the meeting we honoured two distinguished ladies for their remarkable work with education and children in this country. One was Dr. Thurídur Kristjánsdóttir, professor emeritus at the Iceland University of Education, also the first Chapter President of Alpha Chapter and our first State President. The other was Guðrún Helgadóttir, our best known writer of books for children, a former member of the Althingi (the Icelandic Parliament) who also served as the President of Althingi. She has published many books, some of which have been filmed and translated into many languages.

One of the highlights of celebrating our 30th anniversary is that at the State Convention a new book, published by Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland, was introduced. 30 Icelandic Delta Kappa Gamma members wrote articles, poems and reflections in the book, which we call *Knowledge, Training and Self-realization*. We are very proud of this accomplishment and thankful to our members who made this possible, by writing and/or doing all the editing and publishing work.

Another highlight at the Reykholt Convention was the unveiling of the Iceland State Flag of Delta Kappa Gamma, and thus a very old dream came true.

The Icelandic members are now approximately 280 in ten chapters around the country. Still another highlight of the past two years is the establishment of a new chapter, Iota, in the Western Fjords where 21 women joined the Society. And also we celebrated the revival of our smallest chapter, Zeta, located on the East Coast, when 15 new women joined our ranks. These two events are particularly remarkable since we are talking about the most sparsely populated areas of Iceland with towns of a few hundred people situated in narrow fjords surrounded by high mountains. We are very proud of our Iceland State and hope it will make a difference in the European and International Society.

With greetings from Iceland.

Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir State President

FINLAND

Birds are singing and it is warm outside - summer is finally here in Finland. We have had an interesting spring because of the parliamentary elections.

When elections were held in the spring of 1907, 100 years ago, Finnish women became the first in the world to exercise full political rights, including the right to stand for election. Nineteen women were returned as MPs. A few weeks ago our new parliament started its work with 84 women as MPs. Furthermore Finland made history again when 12 of its 20 cabinet positions went to women, making Finland the world's first female-dominated government in this European Year of Equal Opportunities.

Delta Kappa Gamma in Finland had its AGM and a successful seminar in January. The theme 'Challenges of Change' was very current indeed. According to our tradition Zeta chapter from Tampere region took the main responsibility of the executive board for the state organisation. We

will work hard on increasing members in all our chapters. I am looking forward to an interesting and challenging 2007-2009 biennium with you and our Finnish members. See you all in London.

Heli Piikkalä State President

GREAT BRITAIN

Well! Only a few weeks to go now before we all meet at Strawberry Hill. We are all getting very excited and nervous, looking forward to seeing all our old friends, meeting new ones and hoping you will find the conference we have organised both stimulating and fun! If you have not yet decided about coming, look on the GB website www.deltakappagamma.org/GB and just see the range of events and experiences both educational and social that we are offering. It will be a great opportunity for your professional development as an educator – and a great holiday too. So come and join us. Two notices that the Steering Committee have asked me to bring to your attention are:

PRE-CONFERENCE IT SEMINAR (organised by the European Forum)

Places on this seminar are limited. Each country has been offered 3 places, which the state president will allocate. If you wish to apply for a place please contact your state president immediately, she has all the details.

CALLING ALL SINGERS

If you like singing, join the Conference Chorus while you are at Strawberry Hill. This group will get together to prepare a short programme of musical entertainment to present on the last day of the conference. Nothing too difficult but certainly enjoyable so contact Barbara Kern (bjk@kemb.fsnet.co.uk) and add your voice to the Chorus.

If you have any questions about anything to do with the Conference I am the conference administrator so just email me and I will make sure your query is dealt with promptly by the right person. See you in London 1st – 4th August!

Joan Carroll

Thank you to all of you who have sent in such interesting articles and reports to this edition of EuForia. Please note that the deadline for contributions to Edition No. 25 is 21st September.

Joan Carroll, Editor