



EUFORIA
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Regional Director's Report

Dear European Members

Life has been very busy since my last report. I flew to Karlsruhe-Baden airpark in Germany towards the end of October for a few days of preparation with Brigitte Wichmann, the State President and Chair of the Steering Committee for the Regional Conference in Baden-Baden. We visited the main conference venue, the site for the Banquet and the venue for the Night on the Town meal.

On the morning of Saturday, 29th October, we had a 5-hour non-stop drive (and I do mean non-stop) from Kippenheim to Fulda for the meeting of the Steering Committee. This was the point at which I was exceedingly grateful for the training sessions in Spokane and Little Rock, because I actually felt as if I (almost) knew what I was talking about. It really did help to have been a member of the steering committee for the 2007 European Regional. I had managed to prepare a 'job diagram' and 'job descriptions' for the majority of tasks involved in planning and running a regional conference and these turned out to be useful. I flew home on Monday 1st November, to return to Germany on Friday the 5th for the meeting of the European Forum Committee.

This meeting was very hardworking, and was chaired positively by Eija Paukkuri. Plans were made for the Forum Workshop at Baden-Baden, which will take place on Tuesday 2 August. We addressed all the tasks on the agenda and had very valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and opinions. The minutes of the meeting are on the European website, so that you can see what was accomplished.

Returning home on 7th November, I prepared to set off for Austin on the following Saturday. This visit had a three-fold purpose (well, four if you count a few days relaxation afterwards). We began on Sunday 14th with meetings for Regional Directors, which continued on Monday until lunchtime. The next timetabled event was the start of the Administrative Board meeting. We achieved a phenomenal amount in sessions which took place until Wednesday afternoon. On Thursday 18th, I attended a meeting of the International Speakers Fund Committee. We matched up requests with speakers, then launched into a major overhaul of ways to promote and develop the role and benefits of the ISF – watch out for more news soon. When the other committee members left on Thursday afternoon, I joined Corlea for a discussion about aspects of

the European Regional which didn't need to include the rest of the Board or the Regional Directors.

After supper that evening, I joined a friend for a few days of relaxation before coming home. Amongst other things, we achieved a visit to the phenomenal Catherine Davis in Fredericksburg, who has made an almost unbelievable recovery from a stroke early in July. We also went on a river cruise organised by 'Vanishing Texas', during which some previously injured birds of prey were returned to the wild – a fabulous experience. On Monday 22nd, I will admit to visiting *Chico's* rather successfully, before returning to Headquarters to complete business unfinished from the previous Thursday, involving exchange rates and block bookings for hotels.

The members of the Steering Committee have worked very hard on preparations for Baden-Baden. An innovation for the 2011 Regionals is a new feature on the Society website at www.dkg.org, which has pictures, news, and forms for each of the five conferences. Currently the call is for workshop proposals, so that we can offer the widest possible selection of high quality education-based sessions. If you have been thinking about offering a workshop, please make sure that your form reaches me by the deadline of 15 February. Forms for the InfoFair and the Market Place are also available on the same website and the deadline is also 15 February.

During December a great deal of work was done so that Headquarters could have detailed information about the tours, accommodation, conference programme and special events to add to the new website regional feature. New this year will be a day for two delegates from each country to attend a Strategic Action Planning (SAP) day; Jensi Souders has written to all the State Presidents about the benefits this opportunity will offer.

If you have been to a Regional conference before, you will know how much you gain from every aspect of the conference, both formal and informal. If you have never been before, I can assure you that it is an opportunity not to miss – it opens up the international dimension of DKG which is one of the great benefits of membership. A special meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 3 August will give 'First Timers' an opportunity to find out how to get the most out of the conference. If you tick the special box on the Registration form, we will be in contact with you before you arrive in Baden-Baden.

In the next few months, I will be going as an International Representative to the State Conferences in Estonia, Sweden, Indiana and Germany. I am looking forward to these opportunities to meet members personally and to see the variety of ways in which different states hold their conferences.

Until my next letter, I wish all members good health and enjoyment of the unique opportunities offered by membership of DKG.

Kate York



Meeting Catherine Davis in Fredericksburg, Texas



Di Billam in an informal moment at the European Forum meeting, with representatives from Iceland, Denmark and Sweden.

Germany invites you cordially to the Europe Regional Conference 2011

I can't believe how time has flown – only a few months left of my time as state organization president – and then just a few more weeks to the BIG EVENT: the Regional Conference in Baden-Baden/Steinbach!

We are and have been working very hard (especially as we are so few) to make it a most interesting and worthwhile conference, together with Regional Director Kate York – ever there when you need her, never seeming to tire – a big heartfelt 'thank you' to her! The Steinbach sports college will be all ours for the duration of the conference – but only for that (Sunday July 31 noon through to Sunday August 7, 10 a.m.), so members who plan to go on post conference tours are advised to book into one of the nearby small and very welcoming family hotels. The college itself has only 144 beds, mostly double rooms, designed for the needs of students sharing a room, with twin beds, desk etc., simple but all en suite, in four different houses, the ones added most recently have refinements like wifi, but are further away from the main building. The college is situated in the middle of vineyards, all peace and quiet, on the outskirts of Steinbach, which used to be a small independent village before it was incorporated into Baden-Baden. Buses into the town centre run every 20 minutes, the bus stop is only a few steps away. As it is a sports college it has many facilities like in- and outdoor pool, gym and the like which we will be able to use (a young German member / sports teacher has offered to run morning exercises).

We plan to give the whole conference a local touch: On Black Forest Night a cold buffet will acquaint you with some of our local specialities; you will sample local wines, listen to and watch a local costume group dance and sing, and show you some of the typical (soon to die out, I'm afraid) crafts like strawshoe-making (still much in use for the carnival fools and as farmers' house shoes) or distilling our world famous 'Kirschwasser' (= cherry water – but by no way water!).

Another highlight will be the 'Night on the Town' supper at the famous Kurhaus Restaurant after the reception by Baden-Baden's mayor at the town hall and guided tours of this world famous spa town in the afternoon – plus time for exploring it on your own, of course!

Well known keynote speakers Professor Parsons and Professor Pfeiffer guarantee professional 'input', the latter is looking forward to a lively discussion with you, following his speech about mass media and their influence on school achievement. Keynote speaker and workshop presenter Barbara Schindelbauer, director of a regional institute for preschool learning will present their approach / open program and book 'Numberland' to develop children's interest in mathematics (we all know how important the very first contacts with this subject are!).

In the February 2007 edition Ria Bleeker, then chair of the European Forum, wrote in her 'suggestions for the future' as her last point: "encourage states to focus on the theme of democracy and European citizenship". We will pick this up by taking you to the European Parliament in Strasbourg – unfortunately we won't be able to see / watch "the heart of Europe

beat”, as parliamentarians will be on holiday (which, like our conference dates, cannot be changed), but we thought it nevertheless worth our while to see where they work, and have a guided tour by one of the parliamentarians. She will talk to us about the role of women in European politics.

Our state meeting this year, on June 4, will take place at the sports college, too, so that all German members will be familiar with the site. We asked for R. D. Kate York as international representative as – apart from our elections – we will concentrate on preparing the big event only few weeks later. Therefore we won’t be able to offer an international programme this time.

We are looking forward very much to seeing many of you in August and encourage you to visit our website www.dkggermany.org regularly for updated information!

Brigitte Wichmann State Organization President and Steering Committee Chair

GREAT BRITAIN

It has been a busy time since I returned from the very successful International Convention in Spokane 2010. My sights are now set on what is happening this year. The Great Britain State Conference is to be held at the Soroptimists Club, London on 9th April when Corlea Plowman will be joining us as International Representative and we will also be welcoming sisters from Europe including Birgit Svennson, who was unable to attend our 2010 Conference because of the Icelandic volcano eruption. The theme is “Promoting Learning” and the main event of the day will be a symposium with a panel of educators examining aspects of the theme followed by opportunities for discussion and questions from delegates. What promises to be a very challenging but stimulating day will be followed by the opportunity to relax over dinner at a nearby Italian restaurant.

I attended the European Forum meeting in Freudenstadt, Germany in November. As we are an English language organisation I thought it only fair that I should offer to take the minutes, along with my colleague from Estonia, as English is my first language, compared with its being the second, third, fourth or even fifth of some of the others! Kate York was also present as European Regional Director, together with Diana Bell, who attended as outgoing European Form Chair. We decided who should receive the European Achievement Award, which will be announced at the Regional Conference, discussed the budget and decided to set up GoToMeeting, with help from DKG HQ. This system proves online anytime electronic meetings to allow the conduct of business in a seamless web-based environment. It was agreed it would help us plan the Forum’s contribution to the Regional Conference. Virtual meetings help save costs, extend meeting times for better convenience and assist groups in completing tasks efficiently.

I am happy to report that our chapters continue to be very active with regular talks and presentations on a wide range of educational and related issues, visits to the Royal Society in London, Lanhydrock in Cornwall and Glyndebourne opera in Sussex, and social events – our most recent being our very enjoyable chapter Christmas parties. So the last few months have been busy, with the next few promising to be even more so. That’s what it means to be part of a thriving organisation like Delta Kappa Gamma.

I look forward to seeing you at our Regional Conference in August.

Diane Billam, State President

NORWAY

Norway State wishes all good friends in the European region a prosperous new year and we hope to see many of you at our 2011 State Convention. The Convention will be held on Saturday May 7 and Sunday May 8 - one hour by train north of Oslo. The convention hotel is placed right in the middle of beautiful and historically interesting countryside. We are honoured to welcome our International President Jensi Souders to the Convention. In addition to holding a workshop, she will address us on important issues of the Society. WELCOME TO NORWAY JENSI! We have also been fortunate to welcome a distinguished guest speaker. Anne I.H. Borge is professor in psychology at the University of Oslo and will share with us some very interesting findings concerning the classroom environment. Welcome to Anne and welcome to all of you to join us. During the month of February, you will find the details of the programme on our web site. See you there!

Best regards from,

Mette Heiberg, State President Norway

SWEDEN

Ethics and aesthetics - theme on the DKG Sweden State Conference in April

The Sweden State conference will take place in my home town *Växjö*. It is situated in southern Sweden in the region known as *the Kingdom of Crystal*. The program of the DKG Sweden State Conference is planned by ETA chapter in *Växjö*. The workshops are among other things reflecting *art* in glass and clothes design. The lecturers will focus on ethics and literature. There will be an English version of the invitation to the conference on our European website.

The Linné University is of considerable importance to the conference. The university is named after the respected Swedish botanist and explorer Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). He was ennobled in 1757, and given the name of *Carl von Linné*.

Carl von Linné is a son of this part of Sweden. He was born at a little place called *Råshult* south of *Växjö*. Carl is associated with *Växjö* from his school-years 1714-1727. Carl avoided the schoolroom, the bullying and the hard discipline. He wanted to spend his days in the countryside, enjoying nature and fresh air. From a very early age Carl showed a deep love of plants. Though his father was a devoted gardener, along with his profession as a vicar, his parents despaired about the future of the son. A boy being interested in plants, what would that lead to? We know Carl ended up as a giant among scientists, a botanist and explorer, whose system for naming, ranking, and classifying organisms is still in wide use. His scientific works, manuscripts, herbarium and collections are preserved by *London's Linnaean Society*. The symbol of the Linné University is one of the paintings of the young student Linné while in *Växjö*.



Catherine at Linne University

It is interesting to over time take part of the thinking about *gender* and *interests* of young people. When Linné got interested in flowers; it was not considered a masculine matter. How high is, for example, our acceptance of boys dancing ballet, sewing, reading poetry etc today? At the Regional Conference in Baden-Baden we will pay attention to the matter of reading and gender in some workshops. Studies in Sweden recently showed that girls are more focused on doing good work at school than boys, who seem to think “being smart” is the way to handle their school work. Even if this is a generalization, the investigation indicates a tendency. Best wishes for another inspiring year for DKG members,
Catherine Bringselius Nilsson Sweden State President

THE NETHERLANDS

Time flies. The holidays have just ended and we wanted to rest for a while. But no way, we had a new festivity to work on. What we had wanted for a long time eventually happened in January. We established a new chapter in the northern part of the Netherlands, called **Zeta** Friesland/Drenthe. Zeta starts with eight members, 5 came from other chapters and 3 were new. Especially for this event Kate York, our regional director came over from Great Britain, brought in the international flavour and carried out the official installation. After that, the newly appointed vice president could fulfil her new task, namely to replace the chapter president who was unable to attend this festivity. The vice installed the new members. After that we sang with pleasure our Delta Kappa Gamma song. Luckily Kate’s husband Tony was there as well and being a good photographer, he made a beautiful photo of the group. There was a large turnout of members and interested people. There were also a lot of new potential members, but they wanted ‘to look the cat out of the tree’. This is a Dutch saying that means not to step too early into a new situation, to play the waiting game. I suppose you all know this saying and you will probably sit as cats in other situations. But it fits well with the nature of the Dutch people. Now we are doing our utmost to win them over as members.

Another nice event is coming up. Last year some of our members went to Sweden for a wonderful exchange with some Swedish members. Not only the Swedish women gave a warm welcome, but they also organised a program that fitted the professional background of our individual members. We look forward to their return visit to Holland that that is scheduled for April.

And then we are looking at another big festivity: The European Conference 2011 in Germany. Some of our members will definitely go there and hope to be able to give some workshops. We have always enjoyed the European conferences and know it is fun, but also a big job to organise. This time we will look carefully because in the summer of 2013 the European Conference will be held in the Netherlands. In view of its organisation, we have renewed our website. It has been adjusted in order to easily provide all of the necessary information. You can find the website through the international site. Of course, pictures of the installation of the new Zeta chapter can be found there too.

I wish you all fun with your own celebrations, but for now a good spring.

Riet Smits, State President of the Netherlands

Greetings from Iceland



Managing Director of UNICEF in Iceland, Stefán Ingi Stefánsson, Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir and Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir.

Happy New Year to you all dear members.

All the European countries are busy at the moment planning their State Conventions and the European Conference in Germany in August.

Our conference this year in Iceland is **6th - 8th of May** in Reykjanesbær, a town near the Keflavik International Airport. Theta Chapter is hosting the Convention and we know they will do a fantastic job. We will start with an informal evening on the 6th and an Executive Board meeting and workshops for chapter presidents, treasurers, secretaries and webmasters. On Saturday the 7th we have a full Conference day with interesting, progressive, professional good things that are going on around the country and a banquet dinner in the evening. On Sunday we have our Annual Meeting and end with an informal lunch while the Executive Board has a short meeting again with the new incoming State Board. Our international guest is Carolyn Rants Immediate, past International President, and we hope Kate York, our Regional Director will come as well. Of course more sisters from Europe are certainly welcome. Please let us know us if you are planning on attending, so we can translate some of our material. The programme will be on the website soon.

As I told you in the autumn EuForia, we celebrated 35 years of Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland on the 13th of November 2010. Alpha Chapter planned this anniversary and our honorary member Vigdís Finnbogadóttir former president of the Republic of Iceland, was our honorary guest along with most of the founders of the Alpha Chapter. About 50 other women of the Society took part in this celebration.

In the autumn we also had our first DKG Leadership course with Barbara Whiting from Minnesota and we gave our first donation to UNICEF for the Schools for Africa Project around Christmas time. We are planning to collect more around our Convention in May. <http://unicef.is/frettir> **2011 DKG**

Eta Chapter is going to organise a fun evening on the 18th of March, planning a dinner out with some activities. We have been encouraging activities where sisters from different chapters come together. The “walking group” is still active, where DKG women walk together once a month and we are planning a meeting in the [The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages](#), which is a research institute working within the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Iceland.

We established a new chapter, Lambda in the autumn with 23 new DKG sisters we are so proud of. A very vibrant group, young in age and spirit. Another chapter will be established in the spring or early summer in the north part of the country.

Right now our committees are working hard looking through our laws, changing and adjusting where needed. Also our handbook committee is refreshing our handbook. Looking at the programs the chapters are producing I am certainly very proud of being a part of this society. All the best, dear DKG members in Europe. Let me know if you are planning a trip to Iceland in May, we are also looking forward seeing you in Baden Baden.

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir State President Iceland.

Thank you all for the very interesting contributions to this Spring edition of EuForia. The deadline for items for inclusion in the Summer edition is 31st May 2011.

Joan Carroll, Editor