



EUFORIA

EDITION NO.28

OCTOBER 2008

GREETINGS FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

This is my first greeting that I'll write to you as European Regional Director. As I said at the European Breakfast in Chicago when the gavel was given to me, it is a great honour. I feel excited and enthusiastic. Most of all I feel the responsibilities for the development of the European Region during my biennium.

The European Region isn't the same today as it was some years ago. We have increased in numbers, in strength and wisdom. For the first time one of our members, Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir, is in possession of the International Second Vice-Presidency. We are not any more like a shy little girl but a grown up woman. We know our visions, our goals, and sometimes we even know how we would like to reach them.

This is not a mission for one person. Some of us received a pin at our State President leadership training with the words "Hand in hand together we can". I believe in that. So therefore, for the coming two years I will work for good cooperation and communication between me and our member states. Together we have the responsibility for the European Region and "Hand in hand together we can".

Trijny Schmitz du Moulin served as our European Regional Director 2006-2008. I would like to take this opportunity to put our admiration for her in print. With enthusiasm, vitality, patience to listen to different opinions, friendship and an unfailing sense of humour, Trijny has been a leader with Wisdom and Passion. Trijny – thank you from all of us.

The Administrative Board Planning meeting took place in Traverse City, Michigan, 10th–13th September. For the first two days the regional directors worked together with the International President and the Headquarters Staff. Our visions for a successful conference as well as more practical issues were discussed. "Activate your Vision" is the theme for 2009 Regional Conferences. The workshops will be 60 minutes and the registration fee \$86 U.S.

The Administrative Board meeting started out from the theme for this biennium "From Vision to Action: Advancing the Society". The sections we dealt with were:

- Administrative Board responsibilities
- Creating the Vision
- Developing a Working Board
- Financial Responsibilities
- Planning for the Future
- Review of the 2006-2008 plan and accomplishments.

Dr. Jensi Souders was in charge of organising and coordination the creative group work, "Planning for the 2008-2010 biennium". Upcoming issues were:

- Eliminate accomplished items from the new plan
- Add new strategies

- What is the vision?
- How do we get there?

I can assure you that new winds are blowing.

The European Regional conference will be held in Oslo 5th-8th August 2009. Prior to that there will be Leadership Development sessions for state organisation presidents and executive secretaries 2009-11 from 3rd-5th August 2009.

I have just returned from meeting with the Steering Committee. This will be a conference you can't miss. The conference will be held at the University of Oslo which is situated in the city centre. Four hotels at different price ranges are available. All of them are situated close to the University. Please keep looking for further information on Norway's home page, www.deltakappagamma.no Information about pre- and post-conference tour opportunities can be found on www.fjordtours.com and www.visitoslo.com. State Presidents will also receive a letter with more details. We welcome you to an interesting conference and a beautiful country.

Birgit Svensson

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES 2008-2010

The following European members will be serving on international committees for the Society for the biennium 2008-2010. We wish them every success in their efforts to promote and develop the work of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society internationally.

Board of Trustees for the Educational Foundation for 2008-2014: Marianne Skardeus (Sweden)

Communications Committee: Riita-Liisa Arpiainen (Finland)

Constitution Committee: Birgitta Johansson (Sweden)

Educator's Award Committee: Ingrid Stjernquist (Sweden)

Expansion Committee: Anne-Marii Asker-Badersten (Sweden)

Golden Gift Fund Committee: Gloria Redston (Great Britain)

Leadership Development Committee: Drs. Trijny Schmitz du Moulin (Netherlands)

Membership Committee: Kate York (Great Britain)

Nominations Committee: Anna Handeland (Norway), Mary Wardrop (Great Britain)

Personal Growth and Services Committee: Evelyn Goodsell (Great Britain)

Professional Affairs Committee: Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney (Finland)

Program Committee: J. Van Klaveren-Oosterhoff (Netherlands)

Research Committee: Marianna Sunnari (Finland)

Scholarships Committee: Cor Wolff-Heins (The Netherlands)

World Fellowships Committee: Dr. Ulla Myhrman (Sweden)

GREAT BRITAIN

Leading with Wisdom and Passion was Dr Barbara Day's theme for her biennium and, in her presidency, she has certainly lived up to it. As she greeted her successor, Dr Carolyn Rants, in Chicago, I realised how far Barbara has taken our society forward, and how good she has been for Europe. I now look forward to hearing more from our new President who has taken *From Vision to Action: Advancing the Society* as her theme for the biennium.

With no school holiday constraints I had been looking forward to attending my first international convention and I was not disappointed. There were ten of us from the UK at Chicago. It's not often that you get to parade your country's flag in front of nearly two thousand women. It made me very proud to be a State President and to represent my country. My next job is to represent GB on the European Forum. I look forward to meeting the European representatives in November.

I am delighted that three GB members have been invited to join International Committees this biennium. It was also good to hear that the European members we proposed for various positions were voted in at Chicago.

Do consider joining us at the GB State Conference in Cambridge during the weekend of 4th & 5th April 2009, I can promise you an interesting occasion and you will be most welcome. (The closest airport is London-Stansted, home of cheaper flights!).

I am also looking forward to seeing many of you at the European Regional Conference in Oslo next summer.

Diana Bell, State President Great Britain

NORWAY

The great event this year took place abroad, not in this country. We are thinking of the Convention, this time in Chicago. The two of us had the honour of representing Norway but how we wished that more of our members had come along with us! Again, we were impressed by the smooth running of the Convention and we are very proud to see how professional our people are. As usual, the speakers were excellent and the choir gave huge enjoyment with their singing. Again: professional! Much interest was centred round the question of higher fees. The discussion was thorough, people came prepared and the result showed a clear majority, which is good.

Needless to say, we enjoyed meeting old friends. But it was extra special to meet three brand new friends: the president from Denmark, and the president and a member from Estonia. We are very much looking forward to meeting them again!

Did we see Chicago? Well, a little: Michigan Avenue, where we went shopping (Astrid did not find that special white bag – too many specifications on the part of the buyer, if you ask me) and had nice meals, and the Sears Tower offered wonderful views of the city.

We have to mail this just before a very important meeting, so we have nothing to report from our European Regional Director, Birgit's, meeting with the main committee for the next European Regional Conference. Are you all planning to come?

Greetings from Astrid and Anna

ICELAND

Here in Iceland we have enjoyed a wonderful and unusually warm summer. Now the autumn is around the corner and so is the work in our chapters. August 30th we had our annual executive board meeting in the Reykjavik area with representatives from all 10 chapters. We hope the meeting was both beneficial and practical for our new chapter presidents and the new chapter boards as well as they prepare for the biennium ahead.

A group of eight members went to the International Convention in Chicago in July. In our opinion the conference was very well planned and the lectures and workshops of high interest. Half of our group, or 4 members, gave workshops including our member in the Personal Growth and Services Committee who participated in a very innovative and interesting presentation on the Committee's behalf. The meeting of the European Forum was good and useful. We are looking forward to working with our new European Regional Director and wish her all the best in her work this new biennium. We were very proud to present President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, former President of Iceland, as a *Woman of Wisdom and Passion*, on behalf of the European Region. We were not less proud when Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, a member of the Alpha Chapter in Reykjavik, and our former European Regional Director, was installed as the Society's 2nd vice president. She is the first European member to be chosen as a member of the International Administrative Board. We all wish her the very best in the work ahead.

In May we held our one day Spring Conference where we focused on Multicultural Issues in Iceland. Up to 60 members from all chapters participated. The opening act was very impressive, as a multicultural children's choir sang and acted in a symbolic way indicating cross cultural bounds. The audience not less impressed when immigrant children read Icelandic poems, partly their own writings, and demonstrated how amazingly well they master the Icelandic language.

This coming winter we will keep working on expansion of members and every chapter is responsible for its own growth. We are getting close to 300 members and hope to get there soon! The Expansion Committee is investigating the possibility of installing the 11th chapter. Our theme for our State Conference next spring will be "The New Teacher" and some of the chapter plan to work with the theme this coming winter.

Our web site is progressing quite well. It is now almost 1½ year since it opened and we are gradually

using it more and more. Our web master has made life easier for us, as she has put up special links to the international page, to all the forms and applications, AKT News, Euforia and the Bulletin, not to mention the link to the Norwegian web.

The Icelandic Group of Eight sends all our European sisters who were in Chicago last summer their very best regards and thanks for a wonderful time.

Our very best regards from Iceland.

Anna Þóra Baldursdóttir, Iceland State President.

FINLAND

It was a great pleasure to meet all you European sisters at the Chicago convention. The programme was inspiring and quite tight for presidents with all the rehearsals and official meetings. But we survived because of our enthusiasm and commitment.

We are very proud here in Finland that the first ever European representative, Dr. Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir from Iceland, will serve the next biennium as the Second International Vice President. I still remember those days in Columbus, Ohio, 1996, when we had many meetings in order to have our own European region. I felt the same kind of unity this time in Chicago - maybe because of the expansion of the Society with Denmark and Estonia here in Europe.

We had our first state board meeting last week. We discussed a lot and are very concerned about the new fees of our Society. Chapters are encouraged to invite new and younger members also here in Finland but it is quite challenging, even difficult, to explain that most of the funds go to the Society headquarters. It also means that, especially this year, we have to rethink our state policy. I am glad that our newer members are active and eager to participate by applying for International Speakers Fund and other possibilities. This is one way to develop their skills and international opportunities and to benefit personally and also financially from Delta Kappa Gamma membership. I wish that many states would consider their presentations when applying for the international speaker to their conventions.

Heli Piikkilä

SWEDEN

From my horizon, the Chicago Convention was THE event of my biennium as State president! It was an impressive combination of highly qualified speeches and structured organisation of events, tours, genuine Illinois entertainment and women's choirs. It was precision and joy and lots of social exchange!

At the European Forum all nine member countries were represented. We had a nice meeting with presentations from incoming Forum representatives. Business and policy questions were dealt with, things that can be studied if you read the minutes from this Forum, 25th July, 2008. Before the meeting closed, Elsebeth Gabel-Austin made her presentation on the Danish Educational system. She was referring to the Danish school reform of 2005 and the obstacles it meant for the ordinary young people in Denmark. Since 2005 teenagers have to make their choice for the future at the age of 15, instead of trying their skills in a broader field of study programmes as they did before 2005. Unfortunately the Forum time schedule did not allow for further discussion on this interesting matter. This is one reason why we suggest a European website as a meeting-point for members of all chapters to discuss pedagogical matters. This would enable us all to make the Forum a way of exchanging experiences and add competence!

This last weekend we had our Swedish state conference in Gothenburg. We presented the first copy of an electronic directory. We think that this way, it is easier to update information and distribute it faster to chapter members. The main programme was the educational programme for newly elected chapter presidents. Another new matter is our membership in the Swedish Women's Lobby – an organization within the European Women's Lobby –EWL. Its main objective is to fight for equality between women and men, ensuring the integration of a gender equality perspective in all EU policies.

Of course the Swedish conference also had to deal with the membership fee. The question will be discussed and decisions taken during our State Convention in March 2009.

Ann-Charlotte Berglund, Sweden State

Thank you for all your contributions. The deadline for anything you wish to be included in the next edition of EuForia is 21st January 2009.

Joan Carroll, Editor