



EUFORIA

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From the Regional Director

Happy New Year!

I wish you all a very good new year – personally and professionally.

May the New Year also be a good one for DKG with interesting meetings and exciting projects.

Because of my dear father's 90th birthday celebration I was not able to travel to Austin to be at the administrative board meeting in November, but thanks to technology I could attend and participate for some hours.

From our headquarters in Austin you have received the first issue of 2014 and you are in the know about the work that has been done.

The Nominations Committee announced its selection of new officers for the next biennium.

We can be proud of our members from Europe for their nominations:

Sjöfn Sigurbjörnsdóttir from Iceland - International Nominations Committee

Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt from Germany and

Kathrin Hodgson from Great Britain - International Finance Committee.

Congratulations!

The big DKG event this year is the international convention in Indianapolis, starting Monday, July 28 and ending Friday evening, August 1, with the banquet.

I do hope many members from Europe will register. All necessary information is in the DKG News and on the website now. A great week awaits us, carefully and enthusiastically planned by our international president Dr. Beverly Helms and administrators and staff at headquarters. Help meet the block and you may be the lucky one who wins a prize!

At this year's international convention the Constitution and the International Standing Rules are being discussed. I thought that the governing documents are more than sufficient but I had to learn that there are always changes necessary and so these rules are constantly subject to discussions that eventually lead to alterations. I submitted a proposal which derived from the discussion after the conference in Amsterdam: To allow young members to apply for support of their master's studies when they become members. To date one has to be a member for three years to be able to receive a scholarship. Please consider supporting this proposal.

I hope you are spreading the word about DKG and all there is to profit from. Maybe you are mentoring a new teacher and helping them adjust. Do you see the leadership potential in a new teacher or one that you are just getting to know? Invite them to visit our website, to attend a meeting or and to eventually join DKG.

You may remember that in the last issue of Euforia the outcome of the ERC in Amsterdam was

reported. Attendees were asked to go online and fill in a questionnaire. Only 16 members did so, therefore the result is not significant. So “going paperless” seems not to be accepted. As feedback after a conference is considered valuable, it was decided to hand out papers at the next conference.

After the conference I collected more ideas, opinions, especially from young(er) members. This paper was forwarded to the Forum and the Administrative Board. You find it in this newsletter. The paper might be worth discussing during a chapter meeting? Receiving any comments would be appreciated!

Deadlines!

Do not miss these important deadlines:

E.G. Last year seven projects of EU members were supported by the Educational Foundation (www.dkgef.net)

Marianne Skardéus, says:

*Please be aware that you can apply yourself for in-service training from the Cornetet Individual Professional Award Fund deadlines: September 1, **February 1** and May 1)*

If you have questions please contact Marianne Skardéus at marianne.skardeus@comhem.se .

*Have you visited the **Arts and Humanities** website? If not, please do. You will discover that a painting of our own Ank Janssonius is on display.*

I had the privilege to be hosted in Amsterdam by Ank during the meetings before the regional conference and she explained that particular painting to me. The young man is a refugee from Africa whose fate made it into the papers. She was so impressed by his expression that she painted him.

*In Europe we have so many talented artists, please do not miss the deadline for entries: **March 1, 2014!***

I look forward to meeting many of you at the state meetings this spring.

Marika

From the European Forum Chair

The European Forum Committee met in Rastede the first weekend in November. We were welcomed by the DKG chapter in Rastede and we thank Marika our Regional Director and Dagmar Ullman our German member in the committee for planning a superb venue for the meeting.



They, along with other members of their chapter, welcomed us and gave us inspiration to keep on working for the European Region. The committee discussed the Operational Guidelines, the SAP including finance, membership and communication. We started organizing our meeting 2014 in Indianapolis and talked about our future and the crossroads we are constantly facing. The discussions will carry on in the countries and on our website. The minutes are on the website.

http://dkgeurope.org/static/files/minutes/Minutes_Nov_2013.pdf

The European Website is our means of communication between meetings at conferences and conventions. We want to strengthen the bonds between our countries. The bonds are made with communication and information we gain from. How do we want to use it?



What do you want to know about DKG women in other countries?

What themes and/or projects is your chapter working on?

Do you need a new network for your ideas? Do you want to inform other women about what you are doing in DKG or professionally?

Should we have a list of projects on Educational topics DKG women are working on? Send in material to the webmaster, some member of the Forum Committee or the Web Committee. We need your input and ideas.



Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir

European Forum Chair 2012-2014

ij@host.is

Great Britain



In Great Britain we are busy preparing for our State Conference, Friday 28th – Sunday 30th March 2014. It will be entitled, **Develop your Voice: Inspire Others**. We decided to return to The Friars, Aylesford, Kent. This amazing 13th century monastery setting is incredibly peaceful, yet it is only an hour from London. Prices (room and all meals for £140, with no registration fee for overseas members and guests), reflect the fact that rooms are basic but comfortable. Registration Forms are available on the website www.dkggb.org.uk.

Our keynote speaker will tell us about the importance of the teacher's voice in effective teaching and learning. She will describe the impact of the human voice on children's ability to process information and of her voice training programme, 'the5voices'.



Society news will be given to us by Dr Lace Marie Brogden, Northwest Regional Director.

Lace will also share perspectives on women and voice, and the ways in which we can raise our voices for ourselves, for others and for our idea(l)s.

We will also enjoy two lovely storytellers and a teacher-in-training telling us of his experiences, and much more. For the full programme please visit the website.



On the Sunday 30th March we will visit Rochester, a historical gem. The Castle, built circa 1127, towers above the River Medway. Close by and also dominating the skyline is Britain's second oldest cathedral, built about 604, (a place of Pilgrimage) the same year that the second oldest school in the world, the King's School, Rochester, was founded. We

will walk around and view many places of interest.

We have had some exciting and interesting topics for meetings this year. Before Christmas there were parties, the picture shows members of Alpha Chapter proudly holding the wreaths they made.

Our Membership Expansion Committee, chaired by Sheila Roberts, has been busy. We are trying to find ways of inviting young teachers to attend meetings in groups which we think will be less off-putting to them. We are also having an expansion meeting with two excellent speakers at the prestigious Institute of Education in London on the 17th May (guests most welcome).

I have booked my flight and accommodation for the International Convention in Indianapolis. Hope to see many of you there.

Diana Bell, State President

We in Great Britain have been working on a new song for DKG as was discussed at the regional in Amsterdam last summer. This is still a "work in progress" but we thought we would share the results of our efforts so far:

DKG Song.

(words by Rosalind Price, Gamma Chapter. GB State.)

2nd Draft

**Discovery, development, distinction
All begin with a 'D'
Kindness and Knowledge work together
K's importance is easy to see.
Guidance, a gift for generations
Completes our name with a 'g'
We are about empowering women
Our initials spell out DKG**

**Delta Kappa Gamma
Dee Kay Gee
Delta Kappa Gamma
It's all Greek to me!**

**We are women educators
With an international reach
Leading educational thinking
Best practice for those who teach
Conference resolutions
Discussion, work and play
Sharing thoughts and passions
Travelling together on the way**

Delta Kappa Gamma
Dee Kay Gee
Delta Kappa Gamma
The way for you and me

Germany

Like all of my fellow European Presidents, I have already been busy organising **Germany's State Conference for 28 – 31 May**. It is so late this year, because we always have it on the weekend of Ascension. This year my chapter, Gamma Chapter, in southern Germany has to plan it. It will take



place in the town of **Rastatt**, located near Baden–Baden, and very easily accessible as Karlsruhe airport is close by and it is served by Ryanair.

Rastatt Castle © Stadt Rastatt

Rastatt is quite well known in Germany for its Baroque Castle, built by the so-called “Türkenlouis” the Baden duke who defended the Turkish outside Vienna. In the castle there is a very interesting exposition of all the freedom movements in German history, which was established in 1974 at the suggestion of the then Federal President Gustav W. Heinemann. Apart from this, there are fine art museums and do not forget the good restaurants and pubs that create dishes of the well-known Baden cuisine, and, last but not least, serve the delicious Baden wines.

The venue and the hotels are already booked or reserved.



© Stadt Rastatt

But Rastatt will also have something very special to offer at this particular weekend, namely the

largest international street theatre festival in Germany.

The main theme of the conference will be “**gifted pupils**”. From a teacher of a grammar school in Rastatt, I learned that their school has been dedicated for many years to the gifted and also a "child - and youth academy "was founded with the support of interested parents. The president, a mother of three gifted children, will bring us closer to this issue. And our **International Representative, Barbara L. Whiting**, Member - at - Large 2012 – 2016, will join our discussion reporting on research and programs on this issue in the United States.



B. L. Whiting

Furthermore, **Thi Finkemeyer**, our vice – president, agreed to present us her home country, **Myanmar**, which she visited last year. We can surely look forward to a very interesting lecture.

So I hope that many of our European sisters will join us on this last weekend of May 2014. The registration form will be available via our website up from March, together with travel and hotel information.

Another project has been keeping me busy the last months. As some of you might know from Amsterdam, we started a project called **“Tandem”** in my hometown Achern in order to improve integration of migrant children. Its aim is to bring together children and young people with a migratory background with German host families and individuals for two to three hours per week.

In cooperation with the administration of the town we have had flyers in several languages and posters printed and are cooperating with kindergartens and primary schools. Seven migrant children have already been placed in German families for some weeks now and we have got a very positive feedback from both sides up to now.

Hope to see you in Rastatt in May,

Best wishes

Monika Huber, State President Germany

Iceland

Highlights of Icelandic DKG in 2013

The State Conference of the Iceland State was held in early May at Hotel Hekla in the neighbourhood of one of the most famous volcanos in Iceland. The organizing chapter was Epsilon in the South. The theme of the Conference was linked to the geological realities of Iceland, namely its place on the Tectonic Plates in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The theme linked this geological fact to the Icelandic school system and focused on the transfers from one level of the school system to the next, i.e. from pre-school to elementary school, then from elementary to secondary education and then the transfer to college. The conference also looked at the relationship between formal schooling and institutes for life-long learning – and finally between active life and retirement. There is always danger that the plates overlap or there are big gaps between them. The six papers included research, case studies, enjoyable accounts and provocative thoughts on the issues.

The conference was also honored with two international guests; Margaret Trybus came as International Speaker and offered a seminar on leadership and school improvement which everybody enjoyed. Lyn B. Schmid, Second Vice President came as the International Representative and thrilled everybody with her lively attitude and style of presentation.

The conference and its program were so impressive that the Iota-chapter in the Western Fjords imported the conference as a whole to their area! All the Icelandic speakers flew to Isafjordur and the conference was repeated there - open to all teachers and educators in the Western Fjords. This

initiative caught attention in the media and there were interviews with the members of Iota-chapter who were responsible for this brilliant idea.

The 2014 DKG state conference will be held on 10th May in Isafjordur (West Coast). Iota chapter and the educational committee will plan the agenda about what is new in education in Iceland. Iota chapter is celebrating its tenth anniversary so it will be fun visiting them. The state organization emphasis is on connecting members and strengthening chapters by visiting each other. Some chapters connect with each other regularly. The chapters are trying to involve young women with different experiences of education. Our members use the website and Facebook to connect with each other, exchange ideas and share their experiences. There are over 300 DKG members in 12 chapters in Iceland. You are all welcome to our conference in May, hope to see you there.

Gudbjorg Sveinsdottir, State President.

Finland

Our Finland state society is small and we have six chapters, but two are resting and we are trying very hard to start up one of them – let us hope for the best. The four chapters which are functioning are really active.

Alpha in Helsinki and Gamma in Turku have mentoring projects for young teachers. Gamma also has a project for helping immigrant women to learn read, write and speak Finnish. The Alpha chapter has a very active book club. Zeta in Tampere took part in a candle concert with other associations. Alpha Chapter has a very active book club, where they share views and ideas both older and newly published books nearly every month.

All Finnish chapters are actively supporting Women's Bank, which gives micro loans for women starting a small business. Women's Bank was founded in May 2007 by Finn Church Aid and a group of influential women who had visited Liberia and were moved by the living conditions of women there. You can visit the net page at <http://www.naistenpankki.fi/en/> and find more information there.

We have also collected money by making UNICEF dolls for the Schools for Africa project. The Epsilon chapter in Joensuu is still in the process of this project.



All chapters participate in various events in their cities, visit schools and other institutions and societies, go to concerts and theatre together to see interesting plays and take care of each other. One of the aims is to promote physical and mental well-being as well as professional development. lectures, walks, outings and cultural events inspire us.

Finnish chapters and members have active contacts to sisters in Estonia both on personal and institutional level. Members of several chapters have visited the sisters in Estonia and they also have hosted Estonian sisters in Finland. For example several members from Finnish chapters took part in the Hilda Taba Conference in December 2012 at the Music Academy in Tallinn. The conference was dealing with a theme which is very current for Finnish education at the moment – curriculum

development.

The Finland annual convention will be held in Tampere, on Saturday the 5th of April, 2014. The venue will be a local school, TYK-school, Hallituskatu 30, 33200 Tampere.

Tampere Arts-Oriented Senior Secondary School

We would like to welcome you all from all European states. As Society representative we welcome our European director Maria Katharina Heimbach to Finland. We look forward to hearing news from other European states.

Best Greetings

Anna-Kaisa and Eija Liisa

Anna-Kaisa Räsänen (State President)

Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney (Executive Secretary)

Estonia



Our three chapters - Alpha in Tallinn, Beta in Pärnu and Gamma in Tartu have been meeting regularly. The monthly meetings of the Beta chapter at a cosy local café are always full of inspirational discussions on educational and topical issues and meetings with interesting people. The Alpha chapter has organized a number of stimulating outings followed by lively discussions addressing educational issues and topics on personal and professional growth. Our youngest chapter, Gamma, has been looking into areas of focus for their chapter.

We have discussed the possibilities of how to be better integrated into the local teaching community and how we could contribute to the local educational life. Our members enjoyed the Christmas time with memorable and heartfelt get-togethers. December brought us all together two joint Christmas celebrations in Tallinn and Pärnu.

Celebrating the second Advent at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre



Chapters have been involved in different activities:

- To celebrate the Teachers' Day five members from Beta chapter participated in the local radio programme "Teacher's hour. Is the voice of teachers audible or not?" talking about the challenges our educational system is facing and the importance of teacher's role. It also gave us an excellent opportunity to promote the DKG organisation, talking about its purpose, history and current activities. Members of Alpha chapter are carrying on mentoring Novice Teachers' Club "Minerva" at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre.
- In cooperation with the local municipality Beta chapter is carrying out a research among the graduates of Pärnu to find out their views and attitude towards the teaching profession. The results will be presented at our state conference in spring 2014.

Our members have been working on different projects – Reeli Tänavsuu from the Beta Chapter has successfully promoted the Numberland idea (a German playful math concept) amongst preschool

educators and was also invited to the morning TV show to talk about it. The Numberland project has been introduced in the kindergartens of Tallinn, Pärnu, Tartu. A book "Lähme arvumaale" ("Let's go to Numberland") was published by Koolibri Publishing in 2013. There's also a Facebook account and blog about it (with reference to DKG). Our Alpha Chapter member Anu Joon worked as a volunteer in Ghana, Africa for four months developing the partnership projects between Ghana and Estonian schools. She also provided workshops to local teachers on teaching English phonics and getting ready to read and supported the schooling of 150 children with the help of donations from Estonia. Urve Läänemets (Alpha Chapter) participated in the project at Jaan Tonisson Institute and as a result an integrated study aid "Reader on Estonia" was published. It covers two compulsory courses of learning English (70 lessons) at gymnasium level and provides material on different aspects of Estonian culture.

The project "Compilation of Didactic and Methodical Materials for teaching art history in the Estonian Language in Russian schools" is completed. The project dealt with the process of integrating II generation Russian women into the society through creativity. The compilation of the workbook for teaching "Art History in the Estonian Language in Russian schools" was the significant result of the cooperation. Besides hard work on didactic and methodical materials we also had memorable activities with Russian women.

At the meeting of our Executive Board and Committee Chairs the action plan for the next two years was discussed. It was stressed that we should look after our current members. It is important to find ways to involve more members in the activities of the society and we should encourage chapter members to organize events for their chapter. The Educational Excellence Committee is planning to organize seminars to enhance the professional development of teachers in different areas.

Our State Conference addressing the topics on "Contribution of a small country to the common global educational heritage" will take place on April 12 in Tallinn at the Tallinn University of Technology. We welcome our Regional Director Marika Heimbach as the Society Representative.

A warm welcome to you all – the conference programme will soon be available on our website.

Anu Ariste, State President



The Educational Foundation

In 2014 The Educational Foundation is celebrating its 50th anniversary and of course it is an honour to be one of the Board of Trustees just this particular year.

The Educational Foundation has a particular position and is not a regular part of the DKG Society.

The budget for awards and stipends that are given away is totally separated from the budget of the DKG Society and the funding comes from bequests and donations. About \$200,000 US are supporting:

- Pedagogical projects
- Cornetet Seminar Awards
- Cornetet Individual Professional Awards
- The Seminar for Purposeful Living (2014 held in Fort Wayne, Indiana).

To celebrate the 50th anniversary an extra funding of around 50 stipends, each of \$1000 US, will be donated to good projects.

The Trustees nominated and selected at the Convention will be on the Board for six years. This might seem to be a long time but the work is so rewarding and the ladies on the Board so professional, that it is a joy. At least it has been so for me.

Reading and evaluating all applications gives a good knowledge of needs in schools but also the devotion and concern from teachers. The Educational Foundation funds projects within the borders of member countries as well as in other countries in need. Many applications have come for projects in countries in Africa and Latin America.

The Educational Foundation also supports projects run by non DKG members. An important thing to point out as funding these may attract new members.

The Board consists of a range of members, which guarantees that the applications are evaluated in an objective way. Participating in the Educational Foundation are the international President, The First Vice-President, Immediate Past President, The Administrative Director and six DKG members, who are exchanged in pairs every biennium.

Marianne Skardéus

Vice chair of the Educational Foundation, Board of Trustees

The Seminar for Purposeful Living is one of the projects for members that The Educational



Foundation sponsors. If you are planning to attend the International Convention consider the benefits of including this seminar in your visit.

Communication and Publicity Committee 2012–2014

Since autumn 2012 I have been serving on the International Committee, Communication and Publicity.



Photo 1: The Communication and Publicity Committee 2012–2014.

It was not without hesitation I decided to apply to serve on this committee because I did not really know what I was jumping into. I had not previously served on an International Committee and didn't know what might be expected. But there was no reason to fear, this work has been very inspiring and interesting.

And what does that committee do, you might ask ☺. As it says on our International website:

"The International Communications & Publicity Committee stresses the international scope of the Society, supports and reviews

state organization and chapter websites, encourages professional content on state and chapter websites, assists with editor and webmaster training at regional conferences and emphasizes the importance of public and member relations at all levels through the development of a public relations plan".



Photo 2: Eygló Björnsdóttir in front of the Society Headquarters in Austin Texas.

The committee has met twice in the Society Headquarters in Austin Texas and has also had an online meeting. It is a long way from Iceland to Texas but the travelling and the meetings were a comfortable experience. I have been in touch with all the webmasters in Europe getting to know them better than I did before and it was a pleasure to meet many of them in Amsterdam last summer. Through this work I have also gained some new friends, both in Europe and in the USA and a lot of experience and understanding of how our organization works. I sure can recommend other European members to apply to serve on an International committee next spring when we are asked to submit our names for the next biennium, because our voice is both welcomed and need to be heard at the International level. **Eygló Björnsdóttir Beta Chapter, Iceland.**

Golden Gift Fund Committee

I have represented Europe in the Golden Gift Fund Committee during this biennium. This has been a good and enjoyable experience.

The Golden Gift Fund was established in 1979 to commemorate the Society's 50th anniversary. When money is available, interest from investments and contributions are used to finance the Leadership Management Seminar.

The Golden Gift Fund Committee administers the fund income after Executive Board approval of recommended projects. The Golden Gift Fund Committee determines guidelines for use, recommends projects to the Executive Board and determines criteria for selection of Leadership Management Seminar participants.



Beverly Helms International President, Gudný Helgadóttir, Corlea Plowman Executive Director, Marilyn Riddle, Vicki Tigert Davis Chair, Rhonda Anderson and Donna Myers

The Golden Gift Fund Committee meets twice at DKG's headquarter in Austin, Texas. First for one and a half day during the first half of January to prepare the application form, rating scheme, content of the seminar, information etc. for the coming Management Leadership Seminar. The second meeting is one year later and this time for two days and a half. Before this meeting each member has rated the applications and sent its ratings to the headquarters. This takes some time in December. However, it is interesting and one learns a lot from this work. At the meeting the committee discusses the results, goes through all the applications and selects 30 participants plus 3 alternates. At this meeting the committee revises different documents and prepares a report on its work to the international convention. At the second meeting the committee met representatives from the University of Texas who are responsible for the seminar and representatives from the local DKG who takes care of participants in July. Two committee members will be present and take care of the two-weeks seminar in July at the University of Texas. The European representative as other representatives has the responsibility to inform about the Gold Gift Fund Committee and the seminar at the regional conference with an info fair and in some cases a workshop.

Further information about the Golden Gift Fund Committee is at www.dkg.org

Gudný Helgadóttir European representative on Gold Gift Fund Committee,
Gamma Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma, Iceland

Excellence in Education Committee

The committee's goals are to advance excellence in education, to empower women and increase global awareness. Its two international projects are: Schools for Africa and Supporting Early Educators.

The committee consists of 2 representatives from each region and the International President and Membership Services Administrator. Cathy Daugherty is the chair.

Our first task was to find persons to work as state EEC chairs and assist them in their tasks. Later we also found state UN liaisons.

In our first meeting in Austin we started working on the training manual to be used in the preconference training in regional conferences. We continued the work in several GoToMeetings. We worked on the powerpoint presentations for the training and the workshop offered in the conference. We also prepared material for the Infofair. At the conference we were responsible for the training, the workshop and the Infofair.

In our second meeting in Austin we started working on the workshops that we are offering in Indianapolis.

The first two EEC newsletters are out and there are more to come out.



Ingrid at the workshop in Amsterdam

Working in this committee has been most rewarding. It has been great to work with such dedicated DKG sisters under the guidance of a hardworking chair.

We urge you to make yourselves available for one of the international committees and why not the Excellence in Education Committee.

Tuula Penttilä and Ingrid Sternquist

Non-Dues Revenue Committee

The Non-Dues Revenue Committee is not a typical group but similar to other international committees, we represent the 5 Regions in DKG. Ann-Charlotte from Sweden, my immediate predecessor was the first member from Europe. However, the original committee had been formed as long ago as 1969. I was appointed in 2012 by Dr Beverly Helms, the international president, as the second member from Europe.

Joining our first meeting of the NDR in October of that year was a totally different experience, most unlike any of those I had served on previously: Educators Award (2 years) Constitution (2 years) Nominations (4 years). As we soon learned, increasing non-dues revenue is an alternative to raising membership dues (subscriptions) and is beneficial for all levels of the Society – Chapter, State and International.

Learning that our most valuable contribution was to find sponsors for the international Convention in Indianapolis in 2014, I soon realized that the members from the USA would be able to research sponsorship from Insurance companies, the application of sales from OneCause, and medical bracelets recording individual health information for emergencies. Unfortunately, none of these were available in Europe. My role was to produce relative information for a possible 8 sponsors, with their worldwide connections and publicity for their companies online and send the information on to Phyllis Hickey, Operation Service Manager (ie Finance) at Headquarters.

As a result, each member of the NDR committee organised workshops at the Regional Conferences, demonstrated possibilities and shared ideas useful to all strata of our Society. I was greatly encouraged by Phyllis both in Austin and when she attended our European workshop, where she took a photo of the group and highlighted a folder at our second Committee Meeting with the appropriate photograph for each of us.

Our European Workshop gave participants an opportunity for discussion, sharing ideas and useful, successful, personal experiences as we suggested raising funds for Chapters and State meetings in our own countries. We circulated lists of these to each other. Subsequently, suggestions were added to the combined "**Fund Raising Ideas you can take to the Bank**" now available on the HQ website under the Committees section - Non Dues Revenue. You will have received DKG News Jan/Feb recently where there is an article entitled "Engines ignite in INDY pole position" written by Connie Hoag from Illinois. Do visit our exhibition in the Market Place at the Indianapolis Convention in July 2014 and give us more ideas.

Mary Wardrop Great Britain

DKG Membership - Topic: Young Members

A collection of thoughts, opinions and ideas

In her speech at the banquet during the ERC in Amsterdam international president Dr. Beverly Helms stated:

*"The top three issues facing chapters include (one) **membership** – (which included aging members, dissolving chapters, recruiting younger members and keeping those who are members.) Secondly, **leadership** – getting members to accept leadership roles. And thirdly, it was **finding value for all members, meeting the needs of members.**"*

Among these challenges "meeting the needs of members" has always been a very important issue which led me to focus on the younger generation respectively our young members.

Dr. Helms said in her speech:

".....the younger generation wants the opportunity to learn, the opportunity to lead and the opportunity to make a difference.

Where better can they do this than in DKG?

*Some of us who are older may feel that the younger generation is a little selfish when they ask, "What is in it for me?" I think if we look at it from their perspective and realize that they are really asking, **what is the return on my investment if I join your group, then we could embrace their question and share with them all the benefits of belonging to DKG.***

*My generation was more concerned with what we could give back. The younger generation is concerned about how they, too, may contribute, but they are also more open about asking if there is a return on their investment. Part of the reason is that **many of them may have grown up in a time when that was a major consideration and many of their parents** experienced poor returns on their life long savings or, as we say in the states, were upside down in the housing market. Let's embrace the younger generation because we need them and they could find value with us."*

In my opinion the young members have any right and are entitled to ask questions. Along with the

tremendous changes in everyday life, the young generation nowadays faces challenges which are quite different from the ones of their parents.

Which role could DKG play in their lives? What do they think about our Society in general? What were their experiences during the conference? What are their future expectations?

These were the questions I asked some of our young members. Their answers may serve as basic ideas for a fruitful discussion.

“DKG should offer young women more than some wise advice of elder ladies and social events. Establishing and using international and inter-cultural networking as well as a forum focusing on questions which are generation specific – amongst those inter-generational equity and life under unsure conditions which a lot of young first-time job entrants face – these are the things DKG should do.”

“Actually the young generation does not have any problems making international contacts. A society like DKG is not needed here. But what DKG could offer is a regularity of such contacts; this is worth striving for. But this would only make sense when there are enough young members who gather to discuss their problems, which are completely different from the experiences the elder or retired member encountered. If such a forum was established, DKG would have to allow room for changes.”

“My impression is, and I do not mean to appear disrespectful, that DKG is an international society for elder women who offer each other friendship and support. This really is of importance and bears a relevant function, but does DKG need young members? If so, how far is the Society willing to change in this era of globalization and invest time, money and energy in that process.”

“If the Society wants to be open to young educators it needs to be ready to give them room, render the capacity to take an active role in new developments: gather in their own sessions and meetings, and set up their own rules and programmes. Inter-generational contacts are enriching, but it would not be like “you are invited to join us,” rather it would be like being autonomous for creating something new. Such an autonomy implies abandonment of claims of power and control. In that sense DKG will have a future, an organization also for young women and maybe even men. Otherwise I consider DKG a fine organization for elder ladies who support each other and function as role models. That’s my view. I explicitly hold the membership in high regard, I have met and come to cherish a lot of members who welcomed me enthusiastically and I am grateful for a super forum.”

“DKG is an honorable and honoring society but should open recommendations for membership to a realistic degree. Interested women should always be welcome, which obviously does not happen everywhere. Most probably new ideas and energy would follow.”

“Rituals should be discussed. I have the impression, especially concerning American membership, that things have been done in a certain way and these are written in cement.”

“During the conference I had the impression that the few young women present, almost functioned as décor, not as full members.”

“At the conference we should have been introduced individually. We should have been recognized more personally. There should have been an opportunity to get to know each other better. “

“I see the value of such conferences, but attending an international conference entails enormous costs, too much for young teachers. If DKG wants young members, there should be ways developed to make attendance possible. This should be a priority in the near future.”

“Some rules are not comprehensible. Why is it possible for non-members to apply for monetary support to go to a conference, when young DKG members cannot attend an important event because of the high costs?”

“In order to apply for the scholarship for master studies, you have to be a member for three years. That means I should have become a member as soon as I left high school!”

“The most important part of this society is network and people in it. I would like to start a foundation for members to go to different events and gatherings to really get benefit out of DKG. So I am planning to use my skills to make people happy and capable at the same time – that means to connect charity work and business. This is what other young people would be interested in – to find a network and share their talents at the same time.”

This is a comment of an elder member, young at heart: *“DKG will not grow and expand if it is hidebound with rules and regulations. Policy is important for the smooth administration of any organization, but flexibility is just as important.*

Most of the groups that I belong to have very few young active members. They have a different style, and they like spontaneity, and also the communications with social media and technology. It's a different world. Conference calls, Webinars, Facebook, all of those things work well for "the young and the restless".

I wonder how we will re-invent DKG to keep it relevant and appealing for the next generation.“

In our last issue of EuForia an article regarding new ideas was published:

I attended the European DKG conference in Amsterdam this summer. I was a first-timer at the regional conference and held my first workshop for teachers J

In Amsterdam, I finally had the opportunity to meet other young professionals working in the field of education in other countries and make new connections. Yippee!-----

Here are some of alternative ideas:

- There are a lot of ceremonies for events related to the society, such as initiation and death of a member. As a European member, I would like these ceremonies look more personal, to fit the local culture of a State or a chapter. Nevertheless, it is good to have some universal aspects of these ceremonies.*
- Create a sub-society called yDKG (young DKG) for under 40 year-old women educators.*

“yDKG” - an idea to fill with life!

Let us discuss and start working on new perspectives.

To quote Beverly Helms:

“Membership in DKG is a Commodity that we should share with the younger educators.”

Much food for thought and for discussion, don't you agree?

What do the members in our chapters think?

I would appreciate responses to these ideas.

Marika Heimbach

Global Awareness Committee

Dear European Sisters

I am writing to let you know about a new committee that Texas approved at our convention in June 2013. It is called the **Global Awareness Committee**. Our President (Nancy Newton) is committed to creating an awareness of our world. One of her goals during the 2013-2015 biennium is "Cultivate member participation in Delta Kappa Gamma's global mission". This new committee has been busy finding ways for our members to connect globally with our sisters in member countries. While there are many ways that individual members can participate in global activities, the committee selected as one of its projects to establish a way for individual members to connect with a member from another country through email communication. In our most recent Lone Star News, we fully explained this and provided a means for our members to sign up to be part of it. This has only been a few weeks now, but our Texas members are signing up; we now need sisters in the member countries to connect with them.

If you are interest in having a Texas DKG epal, please send me your name, email address and your country. I already have many Texas sisters who want to connect with a member from another country. I have had two specific requests for Germany. The others stated they had no preference, but wanted a DKG International Sister as an epal. We believe it will be a wonderful way to share personal, professional and DKG stories and experiences, thus enabling the bond of friendship to extend beyond our borders.

I am keeping a log and will let you know when your information has been given to a Texas member. I hope that you will be as interested and excited as we are about this new opportunity to increase our global awareness. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email or call. My information is below. Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Always a sister,

Barbara.

Dr. Barbara Baethe, Chair

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Footnote

This edition of EuForia is a long one and its focus is really about a very important aspect of membership – connection. The English author E.M. Forster's novel "Only Connect" has the value of connection between human beings as its main theme. In EuForia no. 44 the importance of members

linking with one another to support and develop the work of the Society internationally, to offer professional development to educators and to be the means of connecting them in life long – and maybe life changing – friendship networks is what makes DKG so important to us all.

I would like to give one personal example of this. In 1997 at the N.E. Regional conference in Stockholm I met a member from New York State. We chatted, found we had much in common and agreed to stay in touch. Over the years the connection has remained strong meeting, chiefly at our European Regionals, and communicating by email. At one point my friend started talking about a very challenging pupil in her grade 5/year 5 class and how she was trying to meet the needs of this child with Asperger's Syndrome in a mainstream school. She sought advice from every source available and asked me about specialist teaching methods in Europe. I suggested sources and educators and at one point in her research she said: "When I have time I'm going to write a book about this!" I know this is something many of us say about an important experience or time in our lives, but life and teaching get in the way. Not for my friend.

In January this year a package dropped through my letterbox – her book. An account – a diary or blog – about her experience; its frustrations and failures, its joys and successes. The title is "Me and that Asperger's Kid" by A Teacher (Jean Fontana). It is available through Amazon, the Kindle version is \$4.99, £3.28; Paperback \$12.99, £8.04 and Delta Kappa Gamma as a Society and individual members of it are acknowledged by Jean for their help and support in her work. I am proud that I was able to make a small contribution to Jean's achievement. Our connection as DKG members made this possible.

Only Connect – communication, friendship, support, help for others, professional development, all these and more are what Delta Kappa Gamma offers. Let us spread the word and the work.

Joan Carroll

Thank you to all the contributors to this first edition of EuForia for 2014. The deadline date for contributions for inclusion in the summer edition is 23rd May 2014

Joan Carroll Editor