

EUFORIA

EDITION NO.46

October 2014



Dear state presidents and members of the DKG Europe Region,

After having had the honour and privilege to serve as RD, I have the feeling that I have gained very good friends throughout Europe. Once more, my motto "Friendship across borders" has come true for me and I hope for you, too.

Acting as Europe Regional Director during the past biennium, has been one of the great adventures in my life. As I represented the states of the Europe region, I was and am grateful for the numerous opportunities to meet, to get to know, and to work with so many of our members near and far. Visiting each of our states, during the past two years, but one, was a great experience and I enjoyed the different programs, which were all stimulating and educational.

Each of the European member countries has a different history, culture, language, and educational system, and we celebrated our diversity at the regional conference in Amsterdam.

Now that we know what happened, visiting with the Danish members should have had priority, but it was not possible. DKG is known for the friendship, the kindness, and the generosity of its membership, and we will not give up in our efforts to reincorporate our Danish friends into the Society. I still dream of gaining back the members we have lost and to become a striving organization well known throughout Europe, which women educators would wish to join. I still dream of more members who enthusiastically tell others about our Society.

Even though we have worked very hard at communication, there are still obstacles to understanding each other, because of our different cultures and languages, despite the fact that we have English as our lingua franca. We have our own thoughts and ways of doing things and we respect each other, but we have to find new ways to bridge the cultures. That goes much further than just saying something in English. It is the challenge of all international relationships in our world today. It is like diplomacy where world leaders sit together trying to find solutions, and this applies to DKG as well.

We do not come together only to enjoy each other's company, sharing good food and good times. Behind this, all of us are spending time together because we are professional educators and we have a purpose as professionals, which goes beyond fellowship. We never forget we are both learners and teachers. So whenever we get together we learn and teach. This is what we do especially at a conference like the ERC's and national and international conventions.

Teaching is a wonderful profession, I would say the most important one for all societies. Teachers have a huge impact on young lives and thus on the future. On the national and the European levels

we might do more to join in the effort to speak up and by doing so initiate the changes we always discuss when we meet. And - DKG Europe should grab any chance to be heard within Europe.

When we talk about membership, we often talk about the fact that our Society is aging and numbers are declining.

Iceland's president said about membership: "...Looking at our membership we realize that we need more, younger members in our organization. But what defines a young educator and an older one? Age is only a number and not a definition of ability. As in many member countries, the older ones often have fewer family responsibilities, they attend meetings and conferences, and they accept leadership as committee chairs and presidents. We have to respect the work of all of our members, young and old."

It was a wise decision to allow retired educators to join the Society, but young educators are our future, so I still dream of listening to them more closely, and learning about their ideas of a Society that meets their needs. Changes might be necessary and may lead to a more vibrant, stronger Society in the future that is more attractive to our young educators.

From Heidi Chatwick, my fellow RD, I received this link:

View the Young Educators Panel from Chi State Organization (California):

<http://chistateca.org/youngdkgmemberspanel.html>

Watch an engaging panel of young educators answer questions about their experiences in DKG, share ideas, and reveal their hopes for the future of The Society. Chapter members can learn ways to meet the needs of our young members by viewing this video and putting into practice many of the ideas presented.

Moderator: Carla Peterson **Panel Members:** Peggy Brewster, Mary Deems, Shannon Ramos, Rachelle Romander, Xylena Sanders, Cindi Trujillo

The panel is presented in black and white due to the low lighting in the room. Video downloads may take a few minutes. The YouTube video is best played with the Large Player to the left of the full screen icon.

It is a very interesting video. Please watch it, maybe at your next chapter meeting!

Thank you to all of you for giving me the chance to serve as regional director.

Thank you for the monetary support of all members that allowed me to visit our member countries.

Thank you for your help when needed, for the many good conversations, the friendship and the fun shared.

Thank you for the beautiful scarf given to me at the Europe breakfast in Indianapolis. It is very special to me and I will very often wear it and think of you all.

As we look to a new biennium, we see new horizons, and we dream new dreams....

Kudos to you, the state presidents and to all DKG members in Europe! My best wishes go to Marianne Skardeus, our new RD, for her biennium. With all best wishes and greetings to all members in Europe,

Yours in DKG,

Marika

Maria Katharina Heimbach, Delfshauser Straße 45, D 26180 Rastede

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Dear DKG members,

I feel so honoured to be your Europe Regional Director for this biennium 2014-2016. Thank you to Marika Heimbach for her great job and for giving me such a good start for my work.

The Convention in Indianapolis was great. In particular I enjoyed the speech and the singing at the opening session by our new members from Japan. They were excellent. The Indiana night gave us a big performance with music by a local band. The tour to the botanical garden was great and we were all invited for more music free of charge at an evening session.

The planning for the 2015 European Regional Conference has now started and I am meeting with the steering committee next Tuesday. Please mark **5-8 of August 2015** for the Regional Conference in Borås, 60 Kms from Gothenburg.



The theme chosen by our incoming International President Lyn Smid is ***“85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life”***. This is a great theme and Lyn wants us all to think out of the box. DKG needs change!

Coming up next is the celebration of the Sweden State founded 40 years ago. If you want to join please look at www.deltakappagamma.se. **The date is 4 October and the celebration will be held in Malmö.**

I have attended my first Administrative Board Meeting and here we decided about buying new chairs for the Annie Webb Blanton Room and about the fees for the regional conferences.

Regional conferences will be held

2015, July 8-11 in Baltimore, Maryland (NE)

2015 July 15-18 in Savannah, Georgia (SE)

2015 July 22-25 in Wichita, Kansas (SW)

2015 July 29-Aug 1, Regina, Saskatchewan (NW)

2015 Aug 5-8 Borås, Sweden (Europe).

The Planning meeting for the Regional Directors was followed by the training meeting of the committee chairs. I was happy and proud to meet Ingibjorg Jonasdottir as chair for the Membership Committee, Riet Smits as the chair of the Europe Forum and Bjorg Nakling as chair of the Leadership Development Committee.



We have many more of our European members serving on committees:

Monica Tengling, Sweden: Communications and Publicity Committee
Ardur Torfadottir, Iceland: Constitution Committee

Margarita Handschmidt, Estonia: Expansion Committee

Gisela von Engelhardt, Germany: Finance Committee

Kathrin Hodgson, Great Britain: Finance Committee

Sjofr Sigrudbjornsdottir, Iceland: Nomination Committee

Maria Katharina Heimbach, Germany: Non- Dues Committee

Gitta Franke-Zoellner, Germany: Educational Excellence Committee

Dagbjort Asgeirsdottir, Iceland: Educational Award

Janny Kastemann, The Netherlands: Golden Gift Fund Committee

Marianne Skardéus, Sweden: International Speakers Fund Committee

Sigrídur Sigurdardóttir, Iceland: Scholarships Committee

Eyglo Bjornsdottir, Iceland: World Fellowship Committee

Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, Sweden: Arts and 'Humanities Jury

Best wishes to them in their work for the benefit of our Society.

State presidents: Please be aware of the possibility to have an International Speaker at a state conference! Deadline: November 10.

Encourage your members to give workshops (break –out sessions) at the regional conference.

Shortly there will be an application form on the DKG web-site . Deadline is 10 January 2015.

The steering committee of the Europe Regional Conference in Borås is encouraging workshops that are interactive on the four topics /strands

Also encourage your members to apply for awards for projects from the Educational Foundation!
See www.dkgef.org **Marianne Skardeus, Europe Regional Director**

Forum meeting in Indianapolis /Membership

Educational changes were the topic of discussions during the European Forum meeting in Indianapolis in July. The conversation was inspired by a lecture from Ann-Katrin Sward from Sweden who informed us about the educational system in Sweden and compared changes in some countries



in Europe. This was a wonderful follow-up



to our conversation at the Regional Conference in Amsterdam last year where we had a pre-conference about the importance of education for everyone, and Gitta Franke-Zöllmer gave a lecture about Rethinking Education at the Forum meeting. This goes to show that all around Europe the conversation about education continues, and it is important for us to follow the discussion closely.

Our meetings are a venue for us to discuss, support, compare and inspire each other, but we also have to continue to keep these discussions alive between conferences as that will expand our experience.



Euforia has collected our news and been a keeper of our history for many years. For daily information our website should be an important means of communication and now we have Facebook as well. Using technology in this manner offers opportunities for connection and community.

I have enjoyed working with the European Forum for the past four years and thank all the members for their support and friendship. I have expanded my network and hope I will strengthen it further in my next assignment as chair of the international membership committee.

I believe that our main challenges will be to continue to strengthen and expand our chapters in the DKG society. In many countries in Europe we are experiencing difficulty and that is the case everywhere. Dr. Bevely Helms our past International President and Dr Lyn B. Schmid, International President introduced a program about strengthening chapters last biennium. The program includes a tool to help chapters move forward from their present situation. I encourage you to look at that tool. You can find some of the material on www.dkg.org/library *Strengthening Chapters*.

In Europe we have supported each other, exchanged ideas, and given and received inspiration. We have used our Region and Forum platform for finding ways to strengthen and support our members across countries. I wish the members in Europe a good year with inspiring programs, networking and fun. I also hope that the countries will be able to show how DKG women in Europe can strengthen their chapters and establish the sustainability and growth we need in our society. Think of what **you** can do? We know that each one of you has a unique contribution and I would like to encourage you to share your ideas.

In the beginning of October the international membership committee meets and sets its goals. Those will be published on [https://www.dkg.org/committees Membership](https://www.dkg.org/committees/Membership). In Euforia in January I look forward to sharing ideas for the DKG Society membership.

September 2014

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, European Forum Chair 2012-2014, Int. Membership Committee Chair 2014-16

DEAR FRIENDS,



For 2014 – 2016 I am the chair of the Europe Forum. It is a big honour for me and I will try to fulfil this job with hard work and humour. As a member of DKGSI I have already been inspired for years and it is so good to know that in so many places internationally, and specifically in Europe, so many women with the same passion are working in the field of education.

One of the most important women for us these days is Dr. Lynn Smith, our new international president. Her quote is: *“85 Years and Beyond; Advancing Key Women Educators for Life”*-. During the September Planning Meeting held recently in Austin, Dr. Lynn Smith showed us an inspiring leadership movie about Benjamin Zander, conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra; search Benjamin Zander on You Tube. In times of stress he likes to use ‘Rule Number 6’. This rule says: *do not take yourself so damn seriously*. If you ask him if he uses other rules, he denies it. This is what Lynn means too; work hard to realise the goals of the Society, but always use ‘Rule Number 6’ on the right moment.

All the members of the new Forum Team, Liilia Oberg from Estonia, Diana Bell from Great Britain, Heli Piikkilä from Finland, Dagmar Ullmann from Germany, Krístrún Ísaksdóttir from Iceland, Ingrid Christiansen from Norway, Ingrid Sternquist from Sweden and myself from The Netherlands, have a broad experience in working for DKG. We have all been active on different levels in the DKG organisation. It will be a pleasure to work with them.

The previous Europe Forum did with Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir as chair. Ingibjörg was very inspiring in the process of determining the goals into a SAP and developing this into action. I thank her for her leadership, but I would also like to thank her members by working together so well.

The previous Forum provided two suggestions for the future on which we will build. First of all, it is important to find time within the main body of the Regional Conference where members can meet, discuss and share experiences, as these differ so much from country to country. We will work on this one. Secondly, it is important to carry on interaction on the Forum website and to encourage members to send in material. The web committee already did a good job. Chapeau for them! And indeed one of the best ways to share knowledge is using the website. The new team will benefit from it.

The first Forum meeting in this biennium will be held on November 7/ 8/ 9 at Paterswolde/ Amsterdam in The Netherlands. You will hear from us.

Riet Smits-Hoenderken

ESTONIA

"Touch of Time - Time for contact"

Was the theme of this year's Song and Dance Festival in Tallinn, Estonia, which is traditionally celebrated every 5 years.

The opening of the dance festival began Friday night with the arrival of all the dance groups on the lawn of a large stadium. This initially seemed to have no end, until finally the over 9000 dancers in their colourful costumes took up their position on the lawn. Then - like at the Olympics - a bicycle squadron carried a torch to the stadium which then was solemnly lit on a hill.



The representations are hard to describe in words - it was not simple folk dances, as some of us may remember from our own childhood - there were impressive formations and patterns performed



dancing on the lawn. I found the large number of boys' and girls' groups particularly amazing. For instance over 1200 second-and third-graders, "Karjapoissi", a "herd of boys" of some 1,000 contributors danced together, another dance was performed by 3100 boys and girls. I particularly enjoyed a performance of around 400 young girls - teenagers - all with plaits and in white dresses and long black scarves with which they represented flying birds. The choreographers and

teachers definitely deserve special respect!

On Saturday afternoon traditionally all actors - orchestra, dance groups and choirs from all parts of the country, as well as guest groups from Scandinavia, USA, Canada and Australia (where many Estonians immigrated) gather, singing and waving flags they march about 4 km from the city center to the festival ground.



My husband, my friend Ingrid and I joined the crowd and followed the procession. Our DKG - Girlfriends Anu Ariste and Anu Joon had already attuned us to it the day before. Anu A. herself took part with children of her school. Another Estonian friend, also a former choir member, led us through the Old Town of Tallinn.



The roots of the song festival lie in the Protestant church choirs in the middle of the 19th century. The joy of song spread in all three Baltic nations so in 1989/90 it came to the "singing revolution" in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This the Soviet ideology could not withstand: 300 000 Estonians attended and sang together (Estonia has a population of approximately 1.3 million)!

Today - 2014 - hundreds of choirs with 22 000 choristers and about 90 000 listeners participated. Well-known folk songs and challenging choral literature were on the program. Like the previous dance festival youth participation was amazing. 198 children's and youth' choirs with about 7,500 girls and boys sang together. The Estonians have managed to keep cheerful children's voices past the "voice break" time into the adult choirs - a remarkable school-based educational achievement across the entire country. After months of preparations and competitions, it's an honor for everyone to participate in the festival. What has become of house music and music in school in our country?

Of course, the Baltic nations also emotional side. from all sides for identification that singing, is very

When more than sing "Mu isamaa love, you can feel you can experience



singing tradition of the small has a special political and Those who have been oppressed centuries do need an cannot be extinguished. To ban difficult.

100 000 people, holding hands, on minu arm" - my Country is my their connectedness. In 5 years this emotional event again.

Teaching as a profession

As part of the ongoing national campaign "Study to be a teacher", which started in November 2013, aiming to raise awareness and add value to the teaching profession, the Pärnu Beta chapter members Katrin Saks and Reet Soosaar of the DKG Estonian State Organization, conducted research among the local graduates of Pärnu gymnasia to learn about the views and attitudes towards the teaching profession. There are several reasons for starting the research and campaign, which are:

- Due to the average age of teachers rising dramatically, and young people not showing an interest in the teaching profession is creating a gap in the future supply of teachers.
- The Pärnu City Government's department of education and culture initiated the study. Last autumn of 2013, an educational adviser participated at our chapter meeting to discuss possible co-operation. The study provided the Pärnu chapter a wonderful opportunity of contributing to the educational life of our home town. The research was carried out from October 2013 to February 2014, with the final results presented to school headmasters and at the annual DKG State Conference this spring.

The sample size was 275 students from all the 5 gymnasia of Pärnu, 47% boys and 53% girls with the average age of 18.1. The results revealed that the teaching profession is more popular among girls with 38% thinking of becoming a teacher. On the other hand, only 19% of the boys are considering teaching. The reasons mentioned for becoming a teacher are:

- A possibility to pass on one's knowledge and experience;
- They liked the job since childhood;
- They enjoy working with children;
- The teacher's job is interesting, varied and creative, etc.

196 (71%) of the respondents have never thought of becoming a teacher. The main reasons they gave were other interests; personal unsuitability; work full of stress and tension; low salary. In the survey students were asked to rate the status of teachers in the Estonian society on a scale of 1 to 5

(1 – very low status, 5 – very high status). The average was 3.14. The respondents were also asked to assess the reputation of pre-determined 12 jobs and rate them on a scale of 1 – 12 (1 – the most reputable and 12 – the least reputable). The teaching profession was rated 10th out of the 12, outperforming the shop assistant's and manicurist's job. The most reputable jobs were manager, doctor and lawyer.

We were interested to learn about the positive aspects of teaching, and asked the students to name three things that first come to mind. One third of the respondents mention the long vacation and school holidays; about one third think that demonstrating one's knowledge and competence as a specialist in some field, and that teaching and sharing one's wisdom were the most positive aspects; the same number feel that communicating with different people would make the profession interesting and good. They also mention working with young people as a positive aspect because it would keep the teacher young at heart. One fifth of the respondents liked the possibility to contribute to the future and education of young people in shaping the new generation. The same number of respondents considered flexible working time an essential advantage of the profession. Many of them described the teacher's work-days as short probably without considering planning lessons and correcting tests and assignments.

Following the positive aspects, we were interested in getting to know what were the most negative aspects of the teaching profession. As predicted almost half of the respondents mention a low salary considering that it does not correspond with the workload. Almost the same number of students thought that one of the most negative sides are problematic students with growing pains and bad manners. Nearly one third of the respondents considered the large workload characterized by long work-days and preparation for classes even during weekends as unfavourable. The respondents also found that preparing and checking the tests as unpleasant tasks, which means that a lot of work must be taken home. One third also considered the profession intense, stressful, involving a lot of responsibility.

As the study was carried out among school graduates, we were very interested in what kind of changes students would expect to take place to consider becoming a teacher. About half of them found that teachers should get more salary. About a tenth wanted to see a change in the students' value, judgements and attitude, to see more personal responsibility. They also found that teachers' workload should be smaller, better divided and organized. The students recognized the necessity to re-evaluate the overall view and attitude toward the teaching profession as something to be respected and valued by society at large. Some expressed an opinion that the Estonian educational system needs to be changed as a whole. The respondents considered students' self-development more important to focus on rather than fact-based cramming.

It was reassuring to read how students stressed the importance of the teaching profession and their respect for it. They said that the teacher's job was important and involved a lot of responsibility. Some of the comments included: "Some people are born to be teachers. Teaching involves much more than just passing on knowledge. The teacher's role in guiding the young person's future is enormous. A wonderful and praiseworthy profession. More recognition and a higher salary for the teachers is necessary because the teacher's job is actually one of the most important ones."

They also recognized the difficulty and challenges faced in the profession. "A difficult job which is taken for granted. One of the most difficult jobs in reality, full of responsibility, so much in your

future depends on a teacher. The teacher's job is extremely complicated and their contribution should be more valued and respected. Not many choose to become teachers because the job is stressful and the low salary does not compensate it. I respect teachers because I would never survive in this job myself. Respect for those teachers who put their soul and heart into their job, motivating them would help.

We all know that one of the preconditions of bringing joy into the school is a good-humoured, inspiring teacher who enjoys teaching. Students understand well that the responsibilities and the salary are not in balance. Notably much attention was given to the drawbacks in students' behaviour and upbringing at home. If a student has a positive experience with his/her teacher, he/she might be inspired in becoming a teacher. Students have a relatively adequate understanding of the teacher's profession, but realizing its difficulties and problems wouldn't inspire many of them to follow this path and want to become a teacher.

The rapidly aging European population causes similar demographic problems in all member countries. Schools currently unaffected by this phenomenon, will be affected eventually by teachers aging and the shortage of young teachers.

If you feel the issues mentioned are also concerning your school, town or country, you are welcome to contact us to plan and carry out a comparative research on the vision of the European youth and their readiness of advancing educational life. If interested in discussing this matter further, please contact reet.soosaar@ut.ee, or katrin.saks.001@ut.ee

GREAT BRITAIN

85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life

Kenwood House



Visits to Kenwood House in North London with Alpha Chapter and Downe House, (home of Charles Darwin), just south of London with Gamma Chapter, were a wonderful start to the year for me after all my worries with Brian's ill health. Having to spend so much time in

Greek hospitals it was good to get home (Brian was air-ambulated to a London hospital and is now home) and back into the swing of things. A big thank you to all those who sent me cards and greetings from Indianapolis, they were all very much appreciated.



Downe House, Kent.

GB Members have told me what a wonderful time they had at the convention in Indianapolis, Apart from the excellent speakers and workshops on offer I gather that the hotel was terrific and that the banquet was 'the best ever'! Di Billam did the honours; she carried the Union Jack and attended all the meetings in my place. I am very grateful to her for this.

We welcome our new International State President, Dr Lyn Schmid, and I look forward to her biennium. We also welcome our new Europe Regional Director, Marianne Skardéus. Marianne is

known to many members in Great Britain and I am sure she will continue the excellent leadership of Marika Heimbach.

I am sad to report that Dr Pamela Irons, well known throughout the Society, passed away in July. Eight members attended her funeral. A truly lovely woman, Pam was instrumental in the formation of Great Britain State. (An appreciation of Pam's life and contribution to DKG by Dorothy Haley is given below.)

Following an e-mail request for help for their visit to London from DKG members, professors at Sam Houston State University, Texas, Joan Carroll hosted 35 student teachers at her school in June. I hear that both American students and British pupils and teachers had an excellent and enlightening time together.

I hope that many of you will come to our State Conference on the 28th March 2015 in Central London. (Details given below).

In November the members of the European Forum Committee will get together for our first meeting of the biennium. Amongst other things we will prepare for the European Forum meeting in Borås.

Diana Bell, State President.

Dr. Pamela Irons

We have just had to say farewell to Pam Irons, our first international leader, loved and respected in Britain, Europe and the Americas. It is impossible to recognize the strength of ΔΚΓ in Europe without realising that Pam was the founder of the idea that European women should be granted the creation of a European region.

Pam began her career by obtaining a degree at Liverpool University, followed by many years of teaching in Lancashire before she was appointed as a lecturer at the Teacher Training College in Eastbourne. There she met John. They were a wonderful couple, John with his world- wide travels for his bird watching enthusiasm, Pam with her passion for the growth and principles of ΔΚΓ and her vital interest in the Pestalozzi Movement. Pam rapidly became a well-known figure throughout ΔΚΓ – who could resist her charm, her elegance, her intellect and her devotion to ΔΚΓ ideals?

For many years Pam was greatly valued in the U.S.A. where she knew so many of the early leaders in the Society and had considerable influence. She gave many of us the confidence to serve on committees in the U.S. As the leader of both Great Britain and Europe, Pam endeavoured to persuade the Americans to create a European Region. She was appointed as the Area Representative for Europe on the Administrative Board, analysing the reasons for this development and presenting statements for Headquarters and also for general discussion. She felt the women of Europe would create a new source of ideas from the several European countries, which would develop a wider outlook within ΔΚΓ. She was supported by members in The Netherlands and Sweden.

We all in Europe owe Pam heartfelt thanks, not just for her work within ΔΚΓ, but also for the friendship she gave to each one of us – Pam was a friend indeed. We miss her care, her wisdom, her affection and her sympathetic understanding.

Dorothy Haley

Great Britain State Conference 2015

Our conference in 2015 will be held on Saturday 28th March in central London. This will be a full day conference based at the very pleasant Columbia Hotel, Lancaster Gate and a stimulating programme is being planned. Unlike former conferences we are not planning our usual formal group activities for the evenings or Sunday but as the hotel is offering us very competitive, discounted rates, we feel that members may wish to spend a weekend in London and take advantage of the many attractions our capital has to offer before and/or after conference events. The rates per room per night are as follows and include full English breakfast:

Single Room: - £77.00

Twin/Double Room: - £100.00

Triple Room: - £128.00

Quadruple Room: - £150.00 (room includes roll away bed and sleeps 5)

Booking can be made direct to Columbia Hotel, 95-99 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NS

Telephone 0044 (0)20 7402 0021

Email: columbiahotel@btconnect.com

Conference registration forms will be available in December. We look forward to welcoming you.

THE NETHERLANDS

On May 24 we held our State meeting in Muiderberg. There was a guest from Headquarters, Carolyn Pittman and Mary Wardrop from Great Britain. We had two excellent speakers who both informed us about the ideas of Robert Marzano by giving a lecture and doing a workshop. In the afternoon we went on a canal cruise in Naarden Vesting.

Just a few pictures as a small impression. Thanks to Ank Janssonius, who made these photos.





What else?

A thank you note from Carolyn Pittman.

Trijny writes about "The 25th Seminar in Purposeful Living".

Carola tells us about her experiences as a lucky Golden Girl.

Cor invites us already to be prepared for the International Convention in Nashville.

The latest news is that we got five new members in September!

May 26, 2014

Cor and DKG members of The Netherlands,

Your state organization meeting this week was among the best I've attended. Your commitment to DKG and to each other is something for you to cherish. You are strong professional women who are living the vision of Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.

Thank you for "genuine spiritual fellowship." You made me feel comfortable and welcome—as though we have known each other and been fond friends for a long time. I treasure that spirit of sisterhood. The beautiful gifts of the book of The Netherlands and the Delft tulip vase are lovely mementos that will stir lovely memories years from now—and I must not fail to mention that I won cookies in the lottery! The boat tour and dinner and your warm and generous hospitality glow within my heart.

The two speakers Rianne and Beja were very good and provided information about using cooperative learning. They taught and modeled techniques that we can use in all the groups to which we belong as well as in classrooms.

I appreciate your individual and collective involvement with Delta Kappa Gamma.

Fondly,

Carolyn Pittman, First Vice President 2012-2014

A short impression of :

The 25th SEMINAR IN PURPOSEFUL LIVING - A GOLDEN DREAM IN 2014

July 23–26, 2014, Fort Wayne , Indiana

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation supports and encourages intercultural understanding and educational excellence. www.dkgef.org 2014 is the 50th Anniversary of the Educational Foundation and the trustees in the planning committee did a wonderful job in planning this event!

The Seminar in Purposeful Living has half this age, but during the sessions we celebrated "Golden Opportunities to Educate the World", through 5 decades, from the 1960s till the 2000's and beyond. The program of the seminar offered besides this very interesting lectures about, and tours in, Indiana. For me as a European I find this always very interesting. I hope it helps me to get a better knowledge of life in the different states of the USA.

Just to give a short impression: At the reception and dinner on **Wednesday** evening, July 23 in the Classic Embassy Theatre Lobby, Music by the West Country Jazz Quartet.

On **Thursday**, a Tour of the Amish Country to Grabill (Ind.), with lunch at the NOLT HAUS and exploration of the Amish community.

On **Friday**, Mini-Presentations of History and Artifacts of Fort Wayne and Stories with a children's author. In the afternoon the choice of 5 Tours and in the evening the possibility to see a baseball game, also very interesting for a European.

On **Saturday**, Indiana Barn Painting, a lecture of the artist Gwen Gutwein, who wants to save by her paintings the historic Indiana barns which are disappearing fast .

At 1:00 p.m. Coach for Indianapolis, an easy way to be largely in time for the International DKG Convention in that town.

Trijny Schmitz du Moulin – Dijkema

The DKG Golden Gift Leadership Seminar 2014

This year, I had the honour to be part of the Golden Gift Leadership Seminar together with 29 members of DKG from all over the world. I was the only European member this year, and I represented our region the best I could.

To me, it was a dream come true to participate in this Seminar. I thought about it for a long time, and the members in my chapter encouraged me to apply.

The class of 2014 consisted of inspiring and passionate women who love education. We had so much in common and we will be friends for life.

The professors who taught us liked teaching us so much they even came on their day off. We had classes every day, except for Saturday and Sunday. Every day we wrote a reflection for that day. Donna Myers and Vicki Davis would gather all the reflections, type them out on the computer and send them to us. That was great. In a journal I wrote about every day and that journal really is a keepsake now. I also made a picture book of the Seminar.

This is such a unique opportunity and I encourage all of you to apply for this seminar too. You will learn so much that you can use for DKG, for yourself and for your work situation.

It really is one of the best things that I ever experienced in my life (after my husband and my daughter of course, ;-)) Thanks Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, for this once in a life time opportunity, and thanks Golden Gift Class of 2014 for making this so extra special.



Carola van Zanen/van Rijn

The International Convention in Indianapolis.

For me it was a renewed acquaintance with Indianapolis. The first time was in 1986. The city has totally changed since then. Now sky high buildings and huge hotels.

There were about 1200 participants. For me it started on Sunday evening at 18.00 hours with information about the Credentials Committee. And then the flag rehearsal for the flag presentation at the opening session on Monday. The day ended with a meeting with all state presidents.

Monday. Today the first Executive Board meeting until 15.00 hours. Beside this there is a programme for all other participants. In the evening the first General meeting with the flag

presentation of all the member states followed by the Indiana Night with the most famous jazz band of Indiana.

Tuesday. What are the obligations of the Credentials Committee? The members of the committee are positioned at the entrance of the meeting room and check whether or not each member is wearing her nametag. If not they have to go back to their room to fetch it. In the afternoon there were workshops and the computer lab was open. Carola and I joined the chorus and started practising.

Wednesday. First the second general meeting followed by the meeting of the Europe Forum. A good, well organized meeting with, as highlight, the presentation of the Delta Kappa Gamma song, written and composed by Anniken Soyland and Kirsten Sodalans sung the members of Norway. In the afternoon the workshops.

Thursday. The day started with the Regional breakfast. The tables were nicely decorated. The theme was PEACE. The state presidents were asked to tell what peace meant for them personally. This could be done by reading a poem, telling a memory. I handed out to each member a drawing of a child expressing what peace meant to her or him. We ended the day with ten of us in an Italian restaurant. There we found out that Ann-Katrin from Sweden had her birthday. We wished her a happy birthday in English, German, Dutch and Spanish. Tomorrow the last day already.

Friday. This morning started with the Remembrance service commemorating all the members who passed away these two last years. The chorus sang a beautiful song. Afterwards the last General meeting. In the afternoon we had the reception with snacks and drinks, followed by the Banquet. During the banquet the chorus had its performance, the Installation Ceremony of the members of the International Administrative Board, the presentation of the state organization presidents, 'thank you' speeches and more.

Who after reading all this is thinking "Never in my life to an International Convention!" is wrong. There is much more; meeting old friends, making new friends and the atmosphere. All these things make it worthwhile to do it at least once in your life.

See you in two years in Nashville.

Cor Wolff-Heins



I make myself feel peaceful by riding my horse Christopher and taking my dog with me.

Vanessa Vannelle

I hope that you enjoyed reading the small articles. Until the next EuForia.

Cor Wolff-Heins, The Netherlands.

My thanks to all officers in DKG Europe who have now completed their biennium in office for their contributions to and support of EuForia and my very best wishes to all officers who are now starting their biennium. I look forward to receiving your contributions to our regional online newsletter, the deadline for the next edition of which will be 26th January, 1915.

Joan Carroll, Editor