

Euforia

Editie 48, October 2016

Dear friends,

Here is your autumn Euforia 2016. There are contributions from Marianne Scardeus- late RD, Erika Puusemp from Estonia, Kaija M. Teikari from Finland, Dagmar Ullman from Germany, Kathrin A Hodgson from Great Britain, Eygló Björnsdóttir from Iceland, Cor Wolff from The Netherlands, Anne Marie Solstad from Norway, Monica Tangling from Sweden and finally Patricia Pemberton from North Carolina. Enjoy reading!

Riet Smits, The Netherlands

Europe



Hi from the RD!

Dear All,

It has been an honor and a joy to serve as your Europe Regional Director 2014-2016. Thank you all Europe DKG members for these two years of inspiration and interesting meetings and sessions, thank you for all input and kind cooperation! I thank you for your trust, loyalty and confidence in me. You have made me so proud of Europe! Thank you!

When our International President Lyn Babb Schmid visited us during our Europe Regional Breakfast in Nashville she said that we were the spices in the DKG dish and this is to be understood as a complement even if we are not the biggest region we should keep in mind that “Big is not always beautiful”. But by being the spice in our Society we have contributed to changes! We are the spices of this Society, we are the salt, the pepper the chili, the nutmeg. We give the flavor!

I want to thank you for the wonderful scarf designed by the Finnish designer Marja Karika presented at the Regional Breakfast and also for the kind words. It warmed my heart.

Also lots of thanks for your contribution to the Emergency Fund. I wish you will never have to use it!!!

Today I have sent the documentation from the Breakfast to Eygló and I hope she will find a place for the lectures of the breakfast’s speakers on our Europe web. The contribution of the speakers will also be published in our new Publication Collegial Exchange.

A special thank you to our Norwegian singing birds! Let us keep those musical talents alive!

Marianne Skardéus Europe Regional Director 2014-2016



Estland



Hi from Estland!

You are very welcome at the



Europe Regional Conference 2017

26 - 29 July

Tallinn, Estonia

Nordic Hotel Forum

Pre-Conference activities

24 - 25 July

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Erika Puusemb
DKG State President Finland



Finland



Hi from Finland!

RECOLLECTIONS of NASHVILLE

When we stepped – or flew – ashore
in Opryland
and, after dancing hand in hand
learned more

Of rules and formal meetings
of leadership and art
of strategies smart
And, of course, accurate seatings!

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We, European sisters, thank you
for the peaceful shade of palm tree
for new systems and ICT
for friendly words and smiles, too!



BR Kaija M. Teikari
DKG State President Finland



Germany



Hi from Germany!

We are pleased to see that EUFORIA is appearing again, which means we can contribute towards promoting communication between the European member states.

DKG Germany can look back on an exciting 2015/2016: Our highlight in May: the German State Meeting in Worpswede.

This attractive village, which is still a centre for artists, was an isolated hamlet in the late 19th century in the middle of the moors near Bremen. In the early 1900s it became the permanent residence of a group of artists like Paula Modersohn-Becker, Heinrich Vogeler, Fritz Mackensen, Clara Rilke-Westhoff and Rainer Maria-Rilke who founded a unique artists' colony. We had wonderful weather for our meeting and enjoyed an interesting guided tour on the tracks of the Worpswede artists.



Marianne Skardeus' lecture on "Current

developments and perspectives in DKG International" was inspiring, as was Daniela von Essen's presentation which, based on an analysis of voluntary work management in sports clubs, sparked new ideas and strategies for attracting new members to the DKG.

We were particularly thrilled by the number of members from other European countries (The Netherlands, Finland, Sweden) attending the meeting in Worpswede. Their presence was a real asset.

Looking ahead to 2017, we would like draw the attention of members from abroad to the date and exceptionally beautiful venue for the next German Convention:

26th -28th May 2017, in Heidelberg

In view of more than 1 million refugees who arrived in Germany last year, we have increased efforts in our chapters to offer effective help. Our focus of attention is supporting women and children who have come to Germany seeking shelter.

Our aims: helping with

- learning the language (German as a second language),
- settling into the new culture
- promoting educational projects for child refugees
- and especially, promoting

intercultural contacts

Members of the Delta Chapter in Oldenburg have kick-started a special project, initiated by Helga Reinders: "Closlieu-Malort", based on Arno Stern: (A Place to Paint – Playing with Paints). A refugee himself, Arno Stern created the "Closlieu / Malort" in Paris after WWII and offered a secure place for painting without instruction, correction or evaluation. Last year Helga attended a special training course offered in Paris by Arno Stern to prepare herself for a new integration project. The project is a cooperation between the



Oldenburg School of Art, an officially supported facility, and Delta Chapter, and involves the idea that refugees, together with non-refugees, primarily women and children, discover anew within the sheltered ambience of the “Malort” their ability to paint – freely and spontaneously. People from diverse cultural backgrounds are offered an opportunity to express their individual needs and feelings, and to regain their sense of dignity and identity. They also get to know one another, have more possibilities to interact and overcome the language barriers. Delta members as well as voluntary interpreters are there to help, and to give support and practical information.

We look forward to a lively exchange of ideas with everyone, including of course those European members who have got experience in putting ideas into practice and setting up projects. Let’s create as many opportunities as possible to meet up and learn from one another!

*Dagmar Ullmann, DKG State President
and Jean Säfken*



Great Britain



Hi from Great Britain!

I was delighted, and not a little surprised, to find myself Chair of the European Forum for 2016-18. As luck would have it, three other members of the Forum were in Nashville with me this summer, and three of us were also together for the Leadership Management Seminar (also known as Golden Gift) in Austin at the end of July, so I feel already that I have known them all for ages, which will be of enormous help.

The full list of the members of the Forum for the next two years is:

- **Estonia** - Liilia Oberg
- **Finland** - Iida Hyvönen
- **Great Britain** – Kathrin Hodgson (Chair)
- **Germany** – Daniela von Essen
- **Iceland** - Kristín Jónsdóttir
- **The Netherlands** – Ria Logtenberg (Joint Treasurer)
- **Norway** – Anne Marie Solstad (Joint Treasurer)
- **Sweden** - Ann-Katrin Swärd

The first meeting of the Forum in this biennium will take place in Oslo during the 4th-6th November. We are fortunate to have been invited to stay in the home of our new Regional Director, Bjørg Nakling, for this meeting; she and I are both keen to create even closer links between the work of the Regional Director and State Presidents, and that of the European Forum. In fact two of us – Anne Marie and I – are also State Presidents, and therefore members of both groups, so there is already an overlap.

Our brilliant European webmaster, [Eygló Björnsdóttir](#), ensures that all of our documents are available and up-to-date on the website; if you wish to see the guidelines that govern the work that we do, please click on to the link ***European Forum Information*** and then select ***Forum Operational Guidelines***. Don’t do it yet, though – we are reviewing them. Changes will have been made by the beginning of November.

Your Forum representative will keep you up to date with our activities. Should you wish to contact me directly, my email address is kathrin13@btinternet.com .

Away from the Forum, Great Britain has some good, and some bad, news. Always begin with the bad, I was told – things can only get better! I have to announce, sadly, that our smallest chapter – Beta Chapter – has decided to close. Below a certain size, it becomes more difficult to sustain activities and meetings, and roles of responsibility fall to the same few people. They are also geographically a long way from our other

two chapters, and so it was not easy for them to take part in joint meetings, which we hold at least once a year. Now the good news – I promised there would be some! Two of the members of Beta Chapter have decided to remain as Reserve members with my chapter, Gamma.

And the even better news: Alpha Chapter has just initiated a young teacher at the beginning of her career; hopefully she will remain a member for years to come, benefiting from all DKG has to offer. So look out Finland and Estonia – we have young members too!

If any European members fancy a trip to London in the springtime, enjoying the wonderful flowers that grow in our parks in abundance, then you are welcome to join the **Great Britain State Conference on 1st April, 2017 at the De Vere Devonport Hotel, Greenwich, London, SE10 9JW**. We will send details and registration forms to your State Presidents in the New Year. It is a one day conference, but the hotel has accommodation available, should you wish to make it a weekend break.

Best wishes, Kathrin Hodgson, DKG State President

A Day with the Voice Care Network

Last March I attended a one day workshop run by the Voice Care Network, an organisation which promotes voice care, skills and vocal health to educational and training systems. Most of us, as teachers, have experienced difficulties with keeping our voices in good order at some point in our career. Today, many teaching hours are lost through loss of voice. Too often teachers have had to be referred by their GP to voice clinics and speech and language therapists. A recent survey of voice issues indicates that 73,000 working days were lost in British primary schools in one year alone, with an estimated annual cost to those schools of 15 million pounds.

The Voice Care Network takes workshops directly into schools to teachers and support staff trainee teachers, NQTs and staff in primary, secondary and tertiary education, offering strategies to prevent voice problems and avoiding voice loss. Since 1980 the Network has provided voice workshops to over 60 local authorities. All members of VCN are qualified voice trainers and/or speech and language therapists. Those of us who attended this day were there to take part in training to learn how the workshops were presented for teachers and support staff.

The morning session was led by Yvonne Morley, voice teacher, vocal coach and VCN Tutor, who was herself the embodiment of the good presentation skills she was imparting to us. She introduced us to examples of how to communicate interactive, practicable workshops to boost vocal capability and clarity in the classroom; how to prepare the body and breathe for sustained voice use to minimize voice strain. Examples also included practical exercises on the following:

- How to use the voice in a positive and calm manner to help manage pupil behaviour; warming up of the voice; building resonance (instead of shouting); building energy and vitality in delivery; understanding the impact of vocal tone on listeners – for example - the experience of a child in having their name said with force or indifference when a register is called. Many of us remembered the impact this had on us as children.
- In the afternoon we had practical experience and guidance from Claudette Brown, a pioneering senior mentor in education. Her leadership in adult and family learning opportunities made her an ideal communicator in strategies and ideas for supporting learners. She gave us practical puzzles to solve in assembling and ordering of words and shapes which we all enjoyed – enabling us to experience some of many helpful ways to impart enthusiasm, engage interest, and make learning fun and stimulating.
- In exploring, and remembering how children learn, we recognised that Claudette's exercises had invited the child in us to come to the fore, and we could make a link with our experience and the way a body of teachers could be approached with imagination and creativity. This was an interesting and enjoyable day. In addition, wearing two membership hats of DKG and VCN leads me to think about the possibilities of making a connection between the two organisations.

Jess Curtis (Beta Chapter)



Iceland



Hi from Iceland!

It has been a pleasure to look back at my first year as the president of the Iceland State of DKG. This has been an eventful year and I am both happy and grateful to belong to such a wonderful group of talented women as we have in DKG. The first big event of the year was the celebration of the 40th anniversary of DKG in Iceland, 7th November. The day started with a forum where the theme was: “*The young woman of the 21st century*”. Three young women told us what it is like to be a young woman today. They told us about their lives, their education and how they manage both their careers as well as taking care of their children and family. Very interesting presentations. After that there was a reception at the Minister's Residence where our Minister of Education, Science and Culture welcomed us. In the evening there was a banquet, where we had wonderful meal and some entertainment. Our European Regional President, Marianne Skardéus, visited us and so did Anne Marie Solstad, the Norway State president and Astrid Bie Skaaland, a member of the administrative board in Norway. It was such a pleasure to have them all with us. The Iceland State also got many warm greetings from DKG members all over. We have [photos from the event](#) for you to look at on our website.



The next big event was our Iceland State Spring Conference which was held 30th April in Hafnarfjörður with 85 participants. The theme of the conference was: “*Multiculturalism and the power of cooperation*”. The issues of refugees and multiculturalism are a hot topic in the world today and the number of immigrants has increased significantly both in Iceland as well as all over Western Europe in the last years. This means that we need to learn to live in a society that is constantly changing and also learn to be able to look at things from different points of view. To discuss this topic we had many presenters that have studied this topic and they shared with us their knowledge. One of them was Anh-Dao Thran, a DKG member in Gamma Chapter in Iceland. She told us about her research on students of immigrant background in Icelandic Upper Secondary Schools. [Here is a link to her Ph.D thesis](#) on this topic.



We also had visitors from abroad: Donna Faye Madhosingh, Canada Area Representative brought us greetings from the International President and Carol Kraus, International Speakers Fund presenter, told us about the project: *Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World*. At the end of the conference there was a reception at the Hafnarfjörður Municipality office in Hafnarborg. [Photos from the conference](#) are on our website.



These two events were the highlights of the year but I also had the pleasure of visiting some of our chapters and participate in their meetings and to experience all our chapters and their members activity was even more enjoyable. How amazing!

Last weekend we had our Executive Board meeting and all our State chapters are planning their winter schedule and many of them have already had their first meeting. We look forward to this coming winter with inspiring meetings and projects, networking and fun. Beta and Mu chapters are e. g. planning a **dialogue meeting for all teachers in Akureyri on the World Teachers' Day, 5th October with the title: "The Beginning Teacher at Work"**. I hope it will be a success.

We are also looking forward to our State Convention which will be held 6th and 7th May in Akureyri. We have started the planning and we heartily welcome all of you to this coming event 😊.

Akureyri, 17th September 2016,
Eygló Björnsdóttir, Iceland State President



The Netherlands



Hi from The Netherlands!

40 years DKG Nederland

We celebrated this special event in the Bilderberg hotel "Wientjes" in Zwolle on May 27-29, 2016. But before this Ria Bleeker and I went to Anneke Bolle, who is our last Dutch founder. She is not able to travel and therefore we went to her to bring a nice bouquet of flowers and a certificate for 40 years membership.

On Friday night we started with a dinner in the city. Saturday was the big day. We welcomed except our members, guests from Germany, Sweden, Norway, former members and other guests. Every convention visitor got a beautiful souvenir of this occasion. Ank Janssonius made for each of us a porcelain pendant with a red and gold rose. It is her own design. Great!

In the morning we had a very inspiring workshop about the "Skills of the 21st century" by Beja Koops. We all had to work hard to perform our instructions in time. After lunch we had our business meeting with a very good speech of Rahma El Mouden. At the age of 16 she came from Morocco to Amsterdam. She was pregnant, did not speak one word Dutch. Learned Dutch and as soon as possible and started working as a cleaning lady. And now a few years later she runs her own company with more than several hundred workers.

After the business meeting we went to an old 17th century patrician house. There we became informed about the history. The name is now "Vrouwenhuis". In the past it was meant for old ladies who received outdoor relief. But times have changed and the building now available for female music students who have a room there.



Tired from all the impressions we went back to the hotel to have a drink and a wonderful meal. During which several speeches were held and presents were hand over. A crystal vase from Norway, a diary and money from Sweden, a box with 88 chocolates from Germany and congratulations of Estonia.

For the most of our guests was this the end of a wonderful weekend.

The only thing I had to do was to thank everybody who made this National Convention and the celebration of our 40th birthday an unforgettable happening.

THANK YOU ALL!

The die hearts stayed and went the next morning on a boat trip through the canals of the fortifications of the city of Zwolle.

Cor Wolff, State President of The Netherlands



Norway



Hi from Norway!

Zeta, Norway 25th anniversary

Zeta had a celebration on the 5th of September at Granavolden Gjestgiveri with a delicious dinner, a lot of greetings and a speaker. Mette Heiberg, our mother Zeta, had a short summary of DKGs history in Norway and how we became the 6th chapter of Norway.

The Norwegian state DKG was as you know founded in 1970 and Alpha in Oslo was the first chapter. Later we got four other chapters in Bærum, Bergen, Stavanger and Kristiansand. In 1991 DKG Norway had their state meeting at a hotel in our region. Mette Heiberg, who was a member of Alpha chapter and worked as a teacher in our region, suggested that DKG should establish a new chapter at Hadeland, but many were sceptical: A chapter in the countryside – No! Chapters in DKG must be in the cities.

However, after some consideration the members said yes, let`s try. Then at the 29th of August in 1991 10 women were gathered at our local library and Zeta was established, and Anne Lise Jorstad became our first president.

Today we are 33 members, the biggest chapter in Norway today, and we hope to increase and get more new members ☺ our «Zetamother», Mette Heiberg was thanked and got a necklace with a beautiful key from our chapterpresident Kari Lette Høgghaug Pollestad as a token of our gratitude for what she had done for our chapter and the society.



Kari Lette and MetteBarbro Sommerset, Liv Karin Wien and me who had been members since the beginning told what DKG had meant for us and specially the intenational aspect and all the wonderful key women educators we had met at the European Conferences and Conventions in USA who have given us friends from all the 17 member countries.



Our speaker was Astrid Liberg and she held a wonderful lecture about Margrethe Munthe (1860-1931) who was educated as a teacher and worked as a teacher for many years. In Norway she is known as an author who wrote a large number of song texts to folk melodies and psalm melodies, many of them are still popular today. Many of her children songs were moralistic and in the 1960s and 1970s these songs were heavily criticized, but from the 1990s they were again accepted, as relics from a strange and ancient world.



Astrid Liberg also told us about her brother Gerhard Munthe who is a famous painter. He is represented. Margrethe and Gerhard were two of 13 siblings. Thanks to Astrid for her lecture.

This is seven of our members who has been members from the beginning in 1991. From the left Kari Ballangrud, Barbro Sommerset, Mette Heiberg, Anne Lise Jorstad, Anne Lise Stokkerud, Liv Karin Wien and me. After the lecture we could look at a montage of pictures from our 25 years of history. That was funny. We look different today. ☺

At the end of the celebration the state president greeted from the State Board and gave chocolates to the chapter president which she must share with the members at their next meeting.

Zeta chapter had a wonderful celebration of their 25th anniversary.

Most of our chapter presidents during our 25 years as Zeta chapter

Anne Marie Solstad, State President Norway

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Sweden



Hi from Sweden!



Some impressions from the DKG Convention in Nashville 2016

The DKG Convention July 5-9 2016 was arranged in the Music City of Nashville, Tennessee. The Convention Hotel was a very special resort, Gaylord Opryland Hotel, with more than 2000 rooms and a glass roof covering all the walkways and water fountains etc between the buildings. Because of the size of the hotel it was easy to get lost.



The Convention was organized in about the same way as the previous conventions I have attended in Spokane, New York and Indianapolis. As a total more than 2 000 people registered this time but only a few Europeans and only 5 from Sweden. This is quite understandable as the flight tickets from Europe are very expensive during the summer.



European ladies taking a break

The General Sessions included four Featured Speakers. The opening night a classical violinist and innovative composer, Kai Kight, used his music to inspire us all. He holds an engineering degree from Stanford but today he composes his own music using an innovative style. You can listen to his music and also read more about him on his website kaikight.com. Tennessee Night followed the opening session and featured a band with talented studio musicians. The evening ended with “That

Old Time Rock and Roll”. So we did get a taste of “The Music City” from the start of the Convention.

The next Featured Speaker was Mike Figliuolo. He has founded *thoughtLEADERS* and he wants “to help leaders define who they are and what their personal leadership philosophy is”. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. You can read more about him at his website thoughtleadersllc.com. You can also listen to his speech from the Convention if you click on the Rotator at dkg.org.

The third Featured Speaker was 85-year old Judith Viorst. She is a newspaper journalist and has written several books both for children and adults. She is a very fascinating lady. Google on her name and read more about her on internet.

The representative from the US Girl Scouts was not able to attend, so Nataklye Paquin who leads the GSUSA Office of Strategy and Advancement gave a short speech. Young representatives from the Girl Scouts followed each state’s flag as they were carried out of the Hall by the State Presidents.

Wednesday and Friday you could choose between almost 100 Breakout Sessions. It was not easy to choose the most interesting one as about 15 sessions were offered at the same time. The International Committees gave 1-4 presentations. Yvonne Gatley, Wyoming, and I from the Communication and Publicity Committee gave a presentation “How to Make Your Chapter THE Place to Be”. The room could take more than 100 people and it was really packed. We talked about “Why does a member attend chapter meetings? How can the culture of communication be used in meetings to meet each member’s personal and professional needs.” We also talked about why members drop out. We had a very interested audience. If you are interested in the slides from the presentation you are welcome to contact me.



Yvonne Gatley and Monica Tengling

Another BO-session which was very interesting was TED Talks. On internet you can find more than 1600 talks you can use at school or in your chapter. Have a look at ted.com and search for different topic areas.

The BO-session presenting the Expansion Committee was by invitation only. But Ingrid Stjernqvist and I went to the session after having asked Nita Scott. A *Lattice of Sustainability Procedure for Non-US State Organisations* was presented for the two of us attending the session. It’s interesting to know that if the annual membership growth is 20 % or 40 % the state can get 1 or 2 registration fees to an international event. The Expansion Committee is evidently not dealing with expansion to other countries any more. The Committee is mostly encouraging expansion within each state.

The *European Forum* meeting was well attended. It was interesting to listen to Gitta Franke-Zöllmer from Germany talking about “*Education 2030 – ensure inclusive and equitable education*” You can read more about the EF and Gitta’s speech on the website dkgeurope.org.



Ingrid Stjernqvist, Chair of the European Forum 2015-2016

The theme Marianne Skardéus, our Regional Director 2014-2016, had chosen for the *European Breakfast* was “*From the Old to the New World*”. Especially interesting was Margarita Hanschmidt’s story about her grandchildren and her wish to be able to speak Estonian to them.



Marianne Skardéus



Marika and Margarita

New activities at this Convention were the *Cyber Area* and *Hot Topics*. In the Cyber Area members of the Communication & Publicity Committee demonstrated for small groups for example *How to create your member profile*, *How to use the DKG App*, *Weebly – troubleshooting* and *How to blog using Wordpress*. It was a nice way to *Get Connected* – to meet new friends.

Next to the Market Place 20 tables were set up for *Hot Topics*. The topics were introduced and discussed only for 30 minutes. Then the bell told you to move to another table and to another Hot Topic. You could choose between 50 topics during the 3 sessions. This activity was very noisy. The tables were too close together and too many people were talking at the same time.

“Be the Change” Luncheon is a nice place for meeting new friends. The food was very tasty. The recipient of this year’s International Achievement Award was Cathy Daugherty, International First Vice President 2014-2016. Cathy was also attending the European Regional Conference in Borås last year.

The “Passages” Banquet was just as grand as you could expect and the Gavel was passed from Lyn Babb Schmid to Carolyn Pittman the new International President 2016-2018.



Carolyn Pittman



Two Nordic ladies at the banquet

Instead of going to the terribly expensive activity at the Wild Horse Saloon, four of us Europeans went to Margaretville on Broadway to eat and to listen to different types of Country Music. We had a very nice evening out.



“Building bridges across the borders” are very important especially for us in Europe. But also in the US more people want to build bridges across borders. In Nashville we received a note from the ***Texas Global Awareness Committee*** inviting European members to become ***ePALS*** with Texas

DKG Members. For more information go to dkgtexas.com or contact Dr. Karen M. Duke, member of this committee in Texas, email: km_duke@hotmail.com.
Build bridges with Texas and come to the Convention in Austin 2018!



Young girl on Broadway, Nashville

*Monica Tengling
President Chi Chapter Sweden 2014-2016*

Eta State North Carolina



Hello from Delta Rho Chapter!

A Bridge *Not* Too Far

It was with heightened interest that I read the article titled, “Europe builds bridges across borders,” in the May/June issue of DKG News. My reading that Epsilon Chapter in the Netherlands has strong bonds with the Delta Chapter in Germany aroused memories of conversations with my grandson, Specialist Jonathan Pemberton, who is in the U.S. Army’s 82nd Airborne Division. In 2014 he and his unit jumped into Holland on a mission to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden. Jonathan spoke of how, in 1944, the U.S. Army and its allies were trying to secure key bridges in Holland. Americans reached most of their objectives quickly. The 82nd Airborne secured the bridge over the Mass River at Grave, the Lock-Bridge at Heumen, and others; then, at Arnhem, there was “A Bridge Too Far,” which was taken by German forces. It was all about Holland’s bridges, he shared.

My mind raced forward as I thought about the International Update in the DKG newsletter. Could I be instrumental in building a bridge of communication between my Delta Rho Chapter in Eta State North Carolina and the Epsilon Chapter in the Netherlands, I wondered. While searching, I found the name of the Europe Regional Director, Marianne Skardeus from Sweden. I set about to communicate with her requesting information about the Epsilon Chapter in the Netherlands. The DKG News article related that the Netherlands was celebrating its 40th anniversary in May. Since my Delta Rho Chapter plans a 20th anniversary celebration this year, it struck me that we could share stories.

Marianne Skardeus responded to my communication by saying that she was at that moment on her way to the Netherlands for their convention and 40th anniversary celebration. She said she was glad I liked the article she wrote. Since no author’s name was given in the DKG News, I felt it special that we had connected. When I asked Marianne if she would be in attendance at the DKG International Convention in Nashville, she responded that she would. I, too, was going to Nashville, so we planned to meet while there.

It was with elevated excitement that I connected with Europe’s Regional Director at the DKG International Convention where almost 2,000 key women educators were gathered. Marianne and I meet an hour before one of the general sessions sharing information and developing friendship as we sat face to face in chairs in the huge meeting room. Lost to awareness of those moving around us, we built that bridge of communication from North Carolina to Europe in a span of 45 minutes.

Marianne, then, as the meeting was convening, took me to the spot in the convention hall where the delegation from Europe sat. There I met Marie-Antoinette Hubers from the Netherlands! Separated by the meeting’s agendas, I did not see Marie-Antoinette again until, by chance, we waited at the same location for a shuttle to the Nashville Airport for our departures home. During a half hour wait and as seat-mates on the shuttle, we shared conversation. She promised to send me a copy of the program from the 40th anniversary celebration. It was not by chance that a bridge of communication from North Carolina to the Netherlands was actually under construction; this time, “A Bridge *Not* Too Far!



The opening paragraph in the May/June DKG News (written by Marianne Skardeus, Europe Regional Director) is no small statement. It reads, “The possibilities of international contacts and exchanges are a rewarding aspect of Society membership.” So now, an international bridge of communication spans the Atlantic Ocean from the shores of America to the shores of Europe, connects DKG friends, and offers endless possibilities for our futures.

Written by Patricia Pemberton,
President of Delta Rho Chapter in Eta State North Carolina

If you want to know more about us, read the Eta State News – North Carolina

