



EUFORIA

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Greetings from your Regional Director

Transition to the Future

It says that if you close one door another will open. You have to use the right words for action, wrong words keep the door closed.

Recently we closed the door of 2009 and opened the door for 2010. When entering a new door you have new expectations, new wishes, and new visions for yourself, your family, for your professional work and for the world you are living in. We create plans for the Future.

Some months ago presidents, professors, ministers from the whole world were gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark for an Environment Conference. They came well-prepared with lots of suggestion for “How to save our Planet”. We have to hurry on, it’s 5 minutes to 12, that agreement was quite clear. But, what they did not agree on, was *how* to do it. Lots of good intentions- but that’s not enough. Outdoors demonstrators shouted “Action!”

When you open a new door you may bring a heavy rucksack filled with “Good things to save”. What a relief if we could leave the rucksack and enter the new door upright.

The future comes very fast and we are walking to what we have not yet seen.

I said, we create plans for the future. What kind of plans do we create for DKG? Lots have been done, we all know that, but how are we to continue?

How can we develop DKG to be an up-to-date Society, fulfilling the needs of professionals’ development involved in today’s and tomorrow’s education at all levels?

DKG has everything – we have the tools what we now need is Action for without action nothing will happen.

We used to speak about the Chapters as the most important link in the chain. The chapter is where the society starts and ends. It’s time for the chapters to implement the visions and the plans – to be the makers.

I began by giving you a glimpse from the conference in Copenhagen. Some participants left the conference rather disappointed.

We have ahead of us the Convention in Spokane where the suggestions for changes of the constitution will be on the Agenda.

I do hope that the participants do not bring a heavy rucksack, but a big empty bag to fill with “Actions for the Future of the Society”.

Administrative Board Meeting in Austin Jan 14-16

Visions

The board was asked to give “Visions for the Society of 2020”. I’d like to share some of the visions brought up with you.

- My vision for 2020 is a membership of 200,000 women impacting education worldwide through a Society known throughout the globe.
- An organization of women educators in 50 democratic countries around the world influential in creating educational policies.

- A worldwide organization for women educators that promotes fellowship, training and leadership opportunities and educational service for all.

What's your vision?

Constitution and International Standing Rules Revision

The revision Team has done a good piece of work. Dr Carolyn Rants gave us a report and every suggestion from the Team was discussed. In the coming volume of DKG News the revisions will be published. I advise you to read it through carefully and take your standpoints. At the International Conventions in Spokane next summer every participant has a vote. Special time for information will be given at the convention. Next time we have the same possibility is in 2014.

Communication Services Administrator

Linda Eller, the new CSA, participated in the Administrative Board for the first time. Her knowledge concerning computer programs and how to develop the electronic communication methods were impressive. More information will come to you. Many international committees have been holding numerous meetings using electronic technology such as "Go to Meeting".

Nominations

I will take the opportunity to congratulate Kate York, GB, nominated for Europe Regional Director, and Monica A.K. Tengling, Sweden who is a nominee for a 4 year term on the Finance committee. Kate and Monica have both a lot of experience of work at national and international level. Kate has already shown a great interest in the European member countries and we all remember her serving as a member of the Steering Committee in Great Britain 2007.

International Convention

As usual there will be a European Regional Breakfast in Spokane. I would like the state organization presidents to bring a gift of a 2.5€ value for a lottery.

Many Europeans have emigrated to the area around Spokane. What do you say about a "causerie" at the breakfast dealing with this subject? Do you have a good name? Please, let me know.

My best wishes to all of you. I hope to meet you at some National Conferences and in Spokane.

Birgit E. Svensson

European Forum Committee Report

The European Forum Committee met in Amsterdam in early November 2009. Travel costs were kept down; Ria Bleeker and Vivien Repko kindly provided accommodation.

Committee members discussed a number of issues, such as membership age limit, money for the Regional Director's travel, Aims and Goals for 2008 – 2010 and how we are doing.

Regional Director, Birgit Svensson, will take our concerns about difficulties with the European Conference dates, (the present schedule prevents some members attending) to Headquarters.

We looked at the evaluation from Oslo and were pleased to see members thought that the Forum was one of the best we've had. We agreed that 'Regional Rules' will be put in one document, and that the European Achievement Award Pin, at €300 Euros (€25 annually for each state) for a 'one-off' special symbolic piece of jewellery, was reasonable. We had some first thoughts about a European Project and the possibility of applying for an Education Award.

We also discussed who can/should be members of the European Forum Committee and decided to minute all the points made. For Spokane 2010, we agreed that our speaker will talk about '*Quality in Education*', leading to an open discussion. Financial matters were examined and an out-turn Statement for 1st July 2008 – 30th June 2009 was provided. The Budget 2009 – 2010 was tabled for agreement with minor amendments.

Start-up costs for the development of our European Website were agreed; these will be funded from the Forum budget. Some website rules, thanks to Gloria Redston's (GB) paper, were agreed and have now been passed on to state webmasters, editors, Oslo meeting attendees, and state

presidents for their agreement. We are seeking permission from presidents and webmasters to link all state sites, and asking state webmasters to include a paragraph in English on their sites.

I am delighted to report that Eygló Björnsdóttir, (Iceland), our first European Webmaster, is making excellent progress with the site.

A reminder that all state nominations for Forum Committee Members should be sent to me by 1st March 2010. The new chair should be nominated and agreed in May.

The full minutes will soon be available at www.deltakappagamma.org/GB.

Diana Bell, Chair of the European Forum 2008-2010

GERMANY

The big DKG event for us in Germany since the last edition of EuForia was the Regional Conference handover meeting on the weekend of Oct. 17 in Lahr / Black Forest. We were thrilled that 6 members of the Norwegian Steering Committee took the trouble to come to Germany. They generously shared their knowledge in organizing the 2009 European Regional Conference in Oslo which was a real treat. Comparing their experiences with those our British friends encountered with their 2007 conference in London (which they had passed on to us at our spring Steering Committee Meeting on the occasion of our State Conference) made us see which problems are common to all regionals and which ones might just be specific (e.g. to the location).

The location for our handover meeting proved ideal (my husband's school - last chance to make use of it as he'll retire at the end of this school year). We didn't lose any time at all as we spent the whole day in one and the same room - the cafeteria, from breakfast together over lunch and coffee - we just had to change tables in order to work all together or in (bi-national) teams. The late afternoon was dedicated to detailed work within our own steering committee while our Norwegian friends visited Freiburg, the capitol of Southern Black Forest.

On Sunday morning after breakfast for everybody in the cafeteria our guests paid a visit to Lahr town centre covered with chrysanthemums of all kinds and colours for 4 weeks on the occasion of the "Chrysanthema", the annual crowd-puller. We used this opportunity of being together for an administrative board meeting. After a typical Alsatian lunch in Obernai we experienced a bit of local colour / culture through a traditional costume parade and market, followed by a trip to Strasbourg and a tour round the famous cathedral and historical Tanners' Quarter. The day was concluded in a typical "auberge" with rustic charm in a small village.

So this weekend, though all too short, on top of reassuring us in our planning for the big event, was able at the same time to give our guests a little taste of what the location of the 2011 Regional Conference will have to offer.

Now for our annual State Conference: It is traditionally held in May on the Saturday after Ascension Day (always a Thursday), which is a holiday in most of our provinces, so it is often turned into a long weekend by adding the Friday. This year this will be May 13-16. The 4 chapters hosting it in turn try to find a new location to explore every time, this year it will be in Freudenstadt / Black Forest. Regional Director Birgit Svensson has been assigned to be our International Representative. Details and invitations will be sent to the State Presidents. It's never possible to find a convention date to suit everybody. The GB State Conference that I so love to attend is unfortunately outside the Easter holidays for all of us in Germany this year. Spokane on the contrary is a good date for us as only two of the 16 provinces will still be in school - I do hope it's as convenient for the other European countries and look forward very much to seeing many of you there again!

Brigitte Wichmann, State Organisation President and Steering Committee Chair

ICELAND

This has been a very mild, snowless and pleasant winter and everyday more beautiful than the day before.

Our theme this year is **Good Things Happen**. We are focusing on the good things around us as well as emphasizing positive thinking, joy, health, good lifestyle and healthy living. We are also encouraging our sisters to get to know each other better.



This autumn we started a **Walking group** where we go for good walks once a month. We meet at a certain place in the middle of town and any sister from whatever chapter can join in. We have Margrét Jónsdóttir a Physical Director from Gamma Chapter leading the group. This gives us an opportunity to meet sisters from other chapters and also do something good for our health. Those who have joined have always gone home with joy and happiness in their hearts.

So you know, too, if you happen to be in Iceland the first Tuesday of a month – you can join us at the Perlan, at 17:30 hours and walk with us for an hour.

I have been privileged to attend a few meetings of various chapters this autumn. At most of them, new sisters have been installed. I am looking forward to hear the numbers of the Icelandic society now at the end of the month because we seem to be growing a lot. Our expansion committee is also looking into starting a new chapter or two during next year. We find women very eager to join our society.

Our **State Conference** will be held on **17th of April in Reykjavik**. We are looking into Developments in Education with our theme: “Good Things Happen”. We are very pleased to have an International guest from the United States, Dr. Helen Popovich. She will hold a Leadership Seminar for us in connection with our Conference, on the 16th of April. In the afternoon of the 16th, we have a meeting of all our past presidents along with the present chapter presidents and the state board.

This Leadership seminar is going to be a good start for us towards holding a **Leadership course** in the autumn. We have been awarded a grant from Lucille Cornetet Seminar Award towards holding this course. I will hopefully be able to tell you all about that at the next Euforia.

I am very much enjoying my time as President - it is a privilege to get to know all these women in my own country and also DKG women in other parts of the world. One of the most important parts of being a member of the DKG Society is the network one is experiencing.

I am looking forward to meeting so many of you in Spokane this summer.

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, Iceland State President

GREAT BRITAIN

Plans are well advanced for our next Great Britain Conference, to be held at the Chaucer Hotel, Canterbury, on Saturday, 17 April 2010. I hope that many of our European sisters will make a weekend of it, and join us from Friday afternoon until Sunday lunchtime. The registration form is available via our website, together with information about the excellent speakers and the various activities that are planned during the weekend. The Chaucer Hotel is opposite the City Wall in Canterbury, for those who have visited before, and is very comfortable and well appointed.

The theme of the conference is ‘Nurture and Inspire’, which I believe is one of the primary purposes of teaching students. Each of our speakers will contribute to the theme in various ways. The first is Professor Carl Parsons, Professor of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University and Visiting Professor at the University of Greenwich, who has chosen the title: ‘Excluding children from school in England: killing (some of) our children slowly’. It seems that in the UK we exclude children younger than in any other European country. Our second

speaker is Dr Snezana Lawrence, a Lecturer in Mathematics Education at Bath Spa University, who until September 2009 taught mathematics and was the Director of the Langton Institute of Young Mathematicians in Canterbury. The title of her talk is `Newton for Ladies`, on which she spoke at the Royal Society in London in October. Our third speaker is Dr Becky Parker, Head of Physics and Director of the Langton Star Centre: she will certainly be an inspiration, and will talk about `The Langton Star Centre: how physics can come alive for young people`. Birgit Svensson, our Regional Director, will fortunately again be with us, and will give us an update on Society matters. There will be an exhibition of art, craft, photographs etc by members. We have not forgotten the social side of our conference. There will be a quiz night on Friday evening to sharpen our wits ready for the work of the conference on Saturday and on Sunday, to reward ourselves after all our hard work we have arranged a variety of options, including a guided walking tour of Canterbury, boat trips through the city on the river Stour and the opportunity to attend a service in Canterbury cathedral. We look forward to seeing you. We were very pleased to welcome Panama to DKG in November. We are also working hard to add another GB chapter in Cambridge, by holding meetings attended by both existing members and those whom we hope will join us. Wish us luck

Diane Billam, State President

THE NETHERLANDS

The members of the Netherlands wish you a fruitful second half of this association year, with a lot of good practical inspiration, with a lot of fun and many new members.

We have been very active. As I told before we were planning to hand over our archive to the institute for women's history some time in November 2009. On that special day we learned more about all the other archives stored at the institute; both personal and organizational. We also heard about the personal archives from several interesting women from the late 1800s and early 1900s and the efforts they made to maintain themselves upright in an anti-feminine society. We learned how they helped other women stand up for their rights. It was also amazing to hear that at the beginning of the Second World War all of the forbidden archives in the Netherlands, and these women's archives were apparently among those forbidden, were taken to Germany and later to Russia. As a result, the official archive started only in 1945. For years we thought that the older archives had disappeared or had been destroyed. Only in 1975 a journalist from a well known Dutch newspaper found in an archive in Moscow thousands of boxes with unknown contents. They all were meticulously numbered and well kept. About a hundred of them contained our early women's archives. Of course they were given back.

In December the meeting of the European forum was held in Amsterdam. Our Dutch members that were involved were very content with the meeting and the results. The development of the European website during the last month is has been quite successful. All the efforts that had been made have resulted in a very professional result. I would very much like to thank everyone that has contributed.

In addition to our national interaction we also enjoy our contacts with members abroad. It is one of the pleasant aspects of being a DKG member. During Christmas we had our traditional gathering in Oldenburg together with the German members and in April some Dutch members will visit a chapter in Sweden.

The Dutch convention will be held on May 29 in the Apollo hotel in Lelystad. Lelystad, close to Amsterdam, is a relatively young city built on the bottom of the former Zuiderzee. When you come you will find out how the Dutch accomplished this feat.

The topic of our main lecture will be:

Education and evolutionary developmental psychology

subtitle 1 Does the current way of education fit in with how we evolved?

subtitle 2 Does the current education connect to the development of children's brains?

The lecture will be held by Dr. Annemie Ploeger, who used to teach in Los Angeles. Our international president Carolyn Rants is attending and will give a small lecture as well. For the foreign guests we have English hand-outs. As usual, foreign guests are staying with our members

For a long time we had dreamed about starting a new chapter in the North of Holland and now the dream finally becomes reality. The unofficial start is in April and the official one in May.

You all know that dreams make life pleasant. But you also know that if you want your dreams to come true, do not sleep. And we hardly did.

Warm greetings,

Riet Smits, state president 2008 - 2010

SWEDEN

I am impressed with the Delta Kappa Gamma organization. More than 80 years since *Annie Webb Blanton* founded the DKG, it is a dynamic organization full of energy and competence. Innovative and passionate women have made the DKG a prospering organization active in 17 countries. Women educators are united in fulfilling the aims of DKG. I am proud of being elected state president along with my worthy colleagues in Europe, who I had the pleasure to meet in Oslo. We had a great time in Norway with inspiring preparation for our new mission, thanks to our excellent teachers and to the steering committee for the conference. Now I am looking forward to our American adventure, going to the Convention in Spokane and to see many of my DKG sisters.

I have been through a time of difficulties for a couple of years, surgery for breast cancer and reconstruction. I am feeling fine now and I am very grateful for the good care I have received. However the diagnosis was like a wake up call for me. Many thoughts have come to mind about what is important in life. I think I am more present in what I am doing and I am also clearer on my priorities in life. You don't have to live through a crisis to enjoy life, but the necessity to slow down and increase your awareness comes with a critical situation in your life. The positive effect is that I am feeling more content in my professional work as a teacher. Being busy is not a quality itself; you might miss the best meetings of your life.

The chapters have started their meetings for the New Year. It is gratifying how well the programs of the chapters reflect the aims of DKG on a qualitative high level. On May 8th-9th we will have a state board meeting in Kristianstad (southern Sweden) and a program on the theme of the relation between city and nature (staden möter naturen). For more information: www.deltakappagamma.se. Welcome to Sweden in May!

I also must say I am very fond of the idea of an European website and that the work on constructing the site is going on. I also appreciate the operative team inviting us to bring ideas to the site and to have an open dialogue about the content. It stimulates our creativity and our field of thought about applications for the website. I think the website will increase our wish to learn more about pedagogical and educational issues from a European point of view. This website is another example of DKG as an organization in progress.

Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, DKG Sweden State president

My thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition. Please note that the deadline for contributions to the Summer edition of EuForia is 20th May 2010.

Joan Carroll, Editor