



**EUFORIA**  
**EDITION NO. 33**  
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**GREETINGS FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Europe – How are you?**

Let me start by saying, I am proud of the European Region. Reports given from the State organization Presidents show excellent programs about leadership, education, culture, nature and environmental issues. On 6<sup>th</sup> March a new chapter was installed in Estonia. The International Vice President Dr. Sigrun-Klara Hannesdottir was assigned as International Representative, and attended the State meeting in Tallinn. She gave an excellent power point presentation about the Society and the History of Iceland. She encouraged the members to be visible and to do things that give visibility to the Society. Guests from Great Britain, Finland and Sweden attended the State meeting. Marianne Skardeus and Anne-Mari Asker Badersten presided gracefully at the installation ceremony. I, myself, very much appreciated the kind invitation from Anu Joon. The networking between the member countries has increased. At many state meetings guests from other states are appreciated participants. As I see it, networking is a vital instrument in the development of internationalism.

**My assignments**

This year I was assigned to visit Great Britain, Germany and Canada as an International Representative. As the volcanic eruption in Iceland was affecting all flights from Copenhagen to England, it was impossible for me to attend the meeting in Canterbury. I regret this. In Freudenstadt 16 members from Germany and 6 guests enjoyed a well organized meeting. I can assure you that the next Regional conference is in good hands. Kate York, GB, received appreciation for her report about “Schulausschluss”. My contribution was to guide the audience through “Proposed Revision of the Constitution and the Standing Rules”. I also had a place in the panel that followed Kate’s report. Last year I was assigned by the International President to go to two State conventions in the U.S.A. and these, together with Montreal in Canada this year, have increased my knowledge about the differences in our Society.

**News from the Administrative Board in Austin**

The Heritage number 3, (DVD and CD), is complete and ready for purchase. It is a terrific, comprehensive view of DKG through its history. There will be copies available in Spokane on from International HQ. The Administrative Board recommends the “Schools for Africa/UNICEF program” as an international project. If approved by the 2010 Executive Board, a workshop will be presented and it will be voted on at the International Convention. We all found the Afghan Project so fulfilling. This seems to have the same potential. Also in the works at International is

the “Wall of Roses”, a Planned Giving Program. This project would give members a way to donate to a particular Society fund and be remembered. A “wall of roses” will be permanently displayed at HQ. Every donation would be identified by a leaf in a certain colour. On the leaf would be the name of the fund and the name of the individual.

### **European Regional Breakfast in Spokane**

The breakfast is scheduled for Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 7.30.-10.a.m. in Room 203, Spokane Convention Center. The theme will be “From Vision to Action” and Barbara Brazington of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society will outline “The tremendous influence of European settlers in Washington”. My thanks to Diana Bell for helping with this contact. I remind the State Presidents to bring a gift of 2.5 Euros for a lottery/raffle.

### **European Regional Conference 2013 and 2015**

It is time for us to think about the site for our conferences in 2013 and 2015. A letter will be sent to the State Presidents asking if any of them would consider hosting the European conferences in 2013 or 2015. Invitation to host a conference would have to come from their executive board. The Presidents’ meeting will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 7.30.p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

In July my time as Europe Regional Director will come to its end.

My gratitude and appreciation to all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your Regional Director during this biennium.

A special thank you to the Steering Committee, Oslo for good collaboration, friendship and lots of fun. This “thank you” I also address to the European Forum committee.

**Birgit Svennson**

### **EUROPEAN FORUM REPORT**

I am delighted to report that Eija Paukkuri will be the next Chair of the European Forum. Eija and three other members of the committee are in their second biennium, which will help with continuity. Committee members will be introduced in Spokane, and then the new committee will meet in Germany this November.

### **European Forum Committee 2010 – 2012**

Denmark	Ruth Hjorth-Nielsen*	
Estonia	Gled-Airiin Saarso	
Finland	Eija Paukkuri* (Chair)	
Germany	Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser*	
Great Britain	Diane Billam	
Iceland	Ingibjörg Jonasdóttir	
Norway	Mette Heiberg	
Sweden	Catherine Bringselius Nilsson	
The Netherlands	Vivian Repko* (Treasurer)	* second biennium

There is plenty to do at our European Forum Meeting in Spokane. (The agenda is on our website and printed copies will be available in Spokane). Ria Bleeker has kindly agreed to be our speaker. She will give a presentation on, ‘*Diversity in Culture and Religion in Amsterdam Schools – connected with Quality in Education*’. This will be followed by a discussion on *Quality in Education*.

Our European Website [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org) is going really well, and is being made informative and interesting by Eygló Björnsdóttir, (Iceland), our first European Webmaster. State Webmasters are asked to please send Eygló pictures, key dates and information. The website contains past copies of EuForia, and the European Forum minutes, also the Committee’s minutes. (We are still

hoping someone will find copies of the missing ones, including: November 2005, July/August 2004, and November 2003).

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has helped me during my biennium, especially the members of the European Forum Committee, who have been a great team. I would also like to thank those members who have contributed towards setting up the European Website.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Spokane and next year at the Regional Conference in Baden Baden. **Diana Bell, Chair of the European Forum 2008-2010** [dbell\\_is@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dbell_is@yahoo.co.uk)

## **The proposed revised CONSTITUTION**

### **– An opportunity to make your vote count!**

The Proposed Constitution(C) and International Standing Rules (ISR) now have a modernised language and have been reorganised in a logical order. Both C and ISR will make our Governing documents easier to use. The structure is based on Roberts Rules of Order. The DKG *NEWS of the March/April 2010* issue contains a detailed list of the proposed changes of the governing documents. I will point out some changes (line numbers in brackets).

- Article II        A vision statement has been added to Mission and Purposes (52).
- Article III      Professional educators could be initiated directly after their graduation - earlier 3 years of service in teaching was required - (81) and as long as 5 years after retirement (82)
- Article IV      All statements concerning Dues, Fees, Payment of Dues and Fees and Financial Accounting are collected in this Article. Article IV also gives a brief description of Funds. More information about Funds is available in ISR (141 and forward).
- Article V        Contains a description of the three decisive levels of the organisation: Chapter, State and International. Please observe that Region and Forum are components of the International level.
- Article VI      A proposal has been made that the first vice president (341) should be replaced by a president-elect – meaning that this person is predetermined as international president during the following biennium. In addition should also be a vice-president. The duties of the regional directors have been elucidated (429-434).
- Article VIII    From the numbers of proposals and amendments it is clear that our different committees have been a hot topic. In this revised version the purposes of the committees are more distinctly described.

A new structure of the committees, Society Business (757) as well as Society Mission and Purposes Committees (872) should make it somewhat easier to have an overview. The purposes of some committees are to administrate different funds like scholarships etc.

Two new committees have been suggested: A Non-Dues Revenue Committee (864) and an Educational Excellence Committee (873). Three former committees have been suggested to be cancelled: Professional Affairs, Personal Growth and Service and Research.

Article XIII Awards – this article is new and describes the different awards for members and non-members (1297).

Article XIX Rules for the dissolution of a chapter, a state or the international society have been added (1538).

In ISR is suggested that each individual member make the decision as to how to wear the Society jewelry (25). Information on current membership dues and how increases in dues will be decided in the future can be found on line 82-87.

In this presentation I have chosen to highlight changes that I have found to be of most interest. When you once start to read an article or section it is easy to move on in the proposed revision of the Constitution.

You will find a useful summary of the proposed changes on one of the first pages in NEWS March/April 2010. The decisions made in Spokane will go into effect at the close of the 2010 Convention and then be incorporated in the State Byelaws.

**Birgitta Johansson, Sigma, Sweden**

**Member of International Constitution Committee 2008-2010**

## **GERMANY**

I'm writing this on our annual Whitsun holiday in the South of France - no wonder our state conference in Freudenstadt seems so far away, though it took place only just over a week ago – it actually is... a good thousand kilometres! ☺

We were very pleased and relieved that our guests (and speakers!) from Sweden and GB, as well as one friendly couple from across 'the pond', made it – despite the volcanic ash clouds from Iceland that had airports either side close right before and after their stay with us. Those from NL had announced that they were coming by car together with Delta members from Northern Germany. Though St. Peter wasn't really cooperative, the weather got better by the day, the programme could go as planned, and guests were able to enjoy the good air( that people from all over Germany come for to Freudenstadt / Black Forest) during the AGM on Saturday and the steering committee meeting on Sunday morning, both of which were held in German for faster progress.

Our international representative, Regional Director Birgit Svensson, read greetings from International President Dr. Carolyn Rants to us, informed us about the work of the International Administrative board and drew our attention to important paragraphs of the proposed changes to the Constitution.

Kate York made the introduction to our theme "Exclusion – and then?" by giving us a resumé of Dr. Parson's findings of his 16 years' research into this topic; then we heard a German speaker on her "Garagen-Projekt" in Lahr (so called because it all began in a garage but has been moved and much enlarged since) as one possible solution to this big problem. After that, Regional Director Birgit Svensson shed some light on the respective situation in Sweden, Gitta Franke-Zöllmer gave an overview of the German situation, and Kate York rounded it up by citing the second part of Dr. Parson's research confirming basically / scientifically what the German speaker Mrs. Houennou had concluded with: The only thing that really helps those unfortunate students is one person at least who believes in them and never fails to encourage and support them.

On Sunday morning the Steering Committee was very busy brainstorming on all aspects of the next Regional Conference in 2011. Members viewed samples of conference bags, t-shirts and other possible conference materials - they compared and discussed, always well aware of the fact that decisions couldn't be taken before the election of the next Regional Director in Spokane. On the other hand provisional reservations of possible sites for the conference venue itself in Baden-Baden Steinbach, as well as for the banquet and the night on the town had to be made to ensure

they would be available, not to forget possible hotels in the vicinity as the venue itself has only 140 beds.

Co-Chair Monika Huber had also contacted possible keynote speakers, the Mayor of Baden-Baden about a possible reception at the town hall, the European Parliament in Strasbourg for a possible guided tour (despite the members being on vacation at that time) and ..... and ...

The next steering committee meeting at the end of October will take place in Fulda, a central meeting point for the members from Northern and Southern Germany as well as for those from the Berlin and Frankfurt area, as will the following one in January. The last one will take place in the context of the next German State Meeting on the first weekend in June 2011, which will be held on the site of the Regional Conference, so that all German members will become familiar with it in order to be good hostesses.

We are looking forward very much to seeing as many of you as possible at "our" Regional Conference, but before that of course at the International Convention in Spokane!

***Brigitte Wichmann, German State Org. President and Steering Committee Chair***

### **GREAT BRITAIN**

From 16-18 April we held our GB Annual Conference at the Chaucer Hotel, Canterbury. Unfortunately Birgit Svensson had not been able to join us, with the ban on flights following the Icelandic volcanic eruption. We organised an exhibition of arts and crafts, and it was good to see the range of skills and talents shown by our members: paintings, sketches, mosaics, knitting, poetry, cross-stitch, and others. We realised it had been ten years since we had had such a display, but I am sure it will become a feature of future conferences.

Canterbury, where I live, is a small city, but it has 3 Universities, so excellent speakers are there to find. The theme of the Conference was `Nurture and Inspire`, which I believe are important parts of the education process. Our first speaker, from Christ Church Canterbury University, spoke about school exclusions, where our record in Great Britain is very poor by comparison with other European countries. Professor Parsons clearly cared very much about the fate of such children, and has spent a large part of his professional career trying to find solutions. The second speaker, Snezana Lawrence, currently at the University of Bath in the West Country, spoke about `Newton`s Ladies`. The mystifying title became clear when she explained, with some wonderful illustrations, that the first translations of Isaac Newton`s `Principia` into both French and Italian had been made by women (or rather ladies), both with very interesting personal lives. They are still apparently the main texts used in these countries for such translations. What amazing ladies!

The third speaker, Dr Becky Parker, is an inspiration to the students she teaches at Simon Langton Boys` Grammar School, where there are both boys and girls in the Sixth Form (final two years of schooling, 16-18 years). Her title was `The Langton Star Centre: how Physics can come alive for Young People`. Her students go each year to CERN and undertake research: they have developed a particle detector which is being used across England, and will shortly be spread to mainland Europe. She has also met the Director of NASA, and the detectors may ultimately be used in the USA. The school specialises in the sciences: I am very proud to be a Governor there, and shall watch with interest while we build a new Science Block and Planetarium this summer (having had to borrow the necessary funds from Kent County Council!). We are persevering with trying to get a fourth Chapter going in Cambridge. In the meantime, our 3 existing chapters have an interesting range of meetings and excursions during the summer. Greetings from all of us to all of you!

**Diane Billam State President**

### **SWEDEN**

Last weekend, May 8-9, I presided over my first board meeting at a National Conference. It turned out very well. Being well prepared gives you the best opportunity to succeed. Some

important decisions were made, but most paragraphs concerned information issues. I believe it is very important to keep the chapter presidents well informed. My intention is to promote transparency in the organisation. I believe it is a way to get members more interested and motivated to participate in organisation matters. Chapter Omicron, host of the conference, presented a great program for the participants. At the opening lecture we learned about the outstanding biosphere area surrounding Kristianstad. It was very inspiring and those who wanted could positively follow in the footsteps of an experienced biologist. Alternative programs were a visit to the Film Museum or a visit to a silversmithy from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and meeting with a silversmith at work. Pedagogic lectures were also on the agenda and a special lecture, "Handling Time in the Teaching Profession", focused on new research about teachers' conditions. As the conference closing program we had the pleasure of listening to four girls in their younger teen age years playing Swedish and Irish folk tunes on the harp. I have also had the pleasure this spring to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of chapter TAU in Kalmar. It was also a great meeting with a high-class program. I assume that you, my sister presidents, are as privileged as I, being a president of talented and deeply committed members of the DKG in your country. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Convention in Spokane this summer. The Convention is another exceptional event waiting for us after the fantastic days and the inaugural ceremony as state presidents in Oslo last year. **Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, DKG Sweden State President**

## **FINLAND**

Finland state is helping immigrants and women in developing countries

We had our state convention on April 10 in Jyväskylä. It took place in a garden centre, which served as an inspiring neighbourhood for our ideas plus providing good facilities for a meeting with a delicious buffet lunch. Our theme was 'Changing times – immigration as part of our everyday life'. Immigration and refugees in Finland are a much more recent phenomenon than in many other European countries. We heard a talk on the latest multicultural curriculum in the local schools. It emphasised the importance of the teacher's skills in interaction and non-verbal communication when facing pupils from other cultures. A project worker from the local multicultural centre explained to us what different possibilities there were for us to do voluntary work to help the immigrants to 'find their feet' in Finnish society. DKG members from Gamma/Turku have served as voluntary teachers of Finnish to immigrants in Turku and one teacher from Jyväskylä told her personal experiences of teaching Finnish to an African immigrant housewife. A Beta member stressed the education of the Romani children in Finland and challenged all chapters to read at least one book about the topic.

Alpha chapter, Helsinki has been active in the Women's Bank project. Women's Bank is a community and a fund for supporting women's sustainable entrepreneurship and livelihood in developing countries. Women's Bank was founded in May 2007 by Finn Church Aid and a group of influential women who had visited Liberia and were moved by the living conditions of women there. You become a member of Women's Bank by buying a 750€ share. By now there are 791 shareholders. Women's Bank founds small village banks – 177 in all by now. It has projects in countries like Nepal, Peru, Liberia, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Uganda. Alpha members have become 'spread the word' agents and taken part in fund raising campaigns for Women's Bank.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International started in Finland in 1974, so Alpha and Beta celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversaries last year. This year it was Gamma's turn. I had the pleasure to attend the celebration in Turku on May 4. Two founder members were present: Liisa Peltomaa and Eva Hakkarainen, who reminisced about the first years of the chapter. Two new members were installed. Gamma expands all the time and is a very active chapter attracting new members without the least difficulty. The venue of the meeting was an interesting school unit for both 'normal' and autistic children. The head of the school took us round the school rooms and demonstrated the smart ways of creating contacts with the autistic children and making them express themselves.

Finland State wishes Heli Piikkilä a wonderful time in the Leadership Management seminar in Austin this coming summer. Heli will also serve as the official representative for Finland State in Spokane.

**Marja-Leena Leskinen**

### **ICELAND**

Summer is approaching. We celebrated the first day of summer 22<sup>nd</sup> of April and officially spring is there then. We say that if summer and winter freeze together we will have good summer. We hope it will be true. With the volcanoes erupting we need some good things to look forward to. The people near the volcano have had a very difficult time with some centimeters of ash covering their fields and not seeing the sun at all for days. Our thoughts are with them. In Reykjavik there has been very little ash. The occasional closure of Reykjavik Airport and Keflavik International Airport due to high altitude ash is the only interfering factor reminding us of the eruptions, as the rest of Europe is experiencing.

Our Spring Conference, with the theme **Good Things Happen**, was very successful. Over 70 women attended the conference and were very pleased with the speakers and the setting of the conference. It was held in a new primary school in the outskirts of Reykjavik.



The discussions were about projects in development at all levels of the educational system. *Outdoor teaching in the primary and preschool sector, how we blend the secondary schools and the high schools and how we reach the drop outs from further education.* Toward the end of the Conference the Dean of the School of Education from the University of Iceland, Dr. Jon Torfi Jonasson gave us things to think about talking *about how important it is to guarantee that good things live.*





Dr. Helen Popovich, our guest from the International Society, gave a Leadership workshop, *Leadership the Key Issue*, the day before the conference, which 26 women attended. It was very pleasant, indeed, to have Dr. Helen with us. It gave the conference a touch of the international flavor we need and also her workshop was an interesting contribution to our discussions.



The chapters in Iceland have been very active and almost all have increased their membership in the last two years during the office of the present Chapter presidents.



I have visited most of the chapters this year and this has been very interesting. The chapters differ a lot which gives the society the variety it needs. Some chapters meet in private homes a few times over the winter, some in each other's workplaces and sometimes they visit the speaker's workplace. Most chapters also have one or two meetings visiting an exhibition and/or a museum.



The chapters try to fit in their schedule a visit to each other. It is very important to interact and learn from one another and feel the power of the women in the Society. Therefore, the meetings at Chapter level, meetings with other chapters, conferences on State, Regional or International level are all very important.

Now Spokane is on the agenda. We are, however, only four of us coming from Iceland this time and are looking forward to meeting you there.

**Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, Iceland State President**

### **THE NETHERLANDS**

This time my contribution will be very short, because Coby van Klaveren, our state secretary has a nice contribution about a gathering between Holland and Sweden last April. This international aspect of our association really brings a lot of opportunities and lots of fun.

At our convention we welcomed our International President Dr. Carolyn Rants from the United States, Kate York from Great Britain and Dagmar Uhlman from Germany. As I explained earlier in EuForia No.32, the main lecture was about *Education and evolutionary developmental psychology*. This item was not only very interesting for us, but also for our foreign guests. The item was a hot one for all of us. We have a lot in common.

While our Society year is drawing to an end, we can look back at an interesting period, but . . . The board and the chapters tried to bring an attractive year programme and we hoped by doing so



that we could attract new members. And yes we got them, but also we lost members. Very sadly, some died. But we also lost some retired members who were not interested in education anymore. That is a pity and what can we do about that? We are thinking.

Many members from Holland will attend the International Conference in Spokane. We look forward to seeing many good friends there. And perhaps we can talk about the issue 'How can we be an interesting society for women of different ages?'

From Holland with love,

**Riet Smits, State President of the Netherlands**

### **Epsilon chapter from the Netherlands visited MY chapter in Sweden**

From 2 to 6 May 2010, six members of Epsilon visited Swedish DKG members from Linköping. The contacts, that were already there, were renewed and strengthened at the European Conference in Oslo. This was the way to organise an exchange between the two chapters.

After a very successful trip we were ahead of schedule when we arrived in Linköping. The Swedish members who were to meet us were a little surprised, because we arrived at a different place from where they had expected us. After a few phone calls, however, two cars came to take us to our host families.

The Swedish ladies had built a wonderful program on the basis of our pre-defined interests and needs. So we started Monday morning with discovering Gamle Linköping, a part of the city where the history is retained in an open-air museum. This was followed by an excellent lunch.

In the afternoon we went to the Office of Education in the City hall, where we were given an explanation about the Swedish Education system and the Government's policy. After this animated meeting we had a clear overview about the education system.

Later in the afternoon we went to the school for the education of adults. This school looks like our public University. There it is possible to follow courses in many areas, such as art and culture, handicrafts, cooking, economics, computer lessons, nature and so on. In the summer there are summer schools. Although the Swedish education is free of charge, adult education is fee paying.



In the afternoon, we participated in a historical tour of the city.

Finally, the day ended with a great dinner at Ingela Delby's house. It's nice to experience Swedish living habits and traditions. It was a fantastic reception!!

The second day of our visit was scheduled to take place within the framework of school visits, so for instance we had the opportunity to visit the Kungsbergskolan (a school where 20% of students are of multi-ethnic origins and therefore receive additional teaching from native speakers of their mother tongues) where we could attend a language workshop and visit the library, or Berzelius (Physics) or the Health University. We had lunch in the Swedish student cafeterias in the same schools.

In the afternoon, we were able to observe the various lessons for the multi-ethnic school population. Finally, we went for a walk through the Botanical Gardens. The result of the long winter meant that the garden could not yet offer as much as usual. Dinner was with the guest families at home, very cosy.



The time was running out very fast, it was already Wednesday. This day was fully filled up with education. We visited the Skäggetorpskolan, a school with 85% multi-ethnic population, which is situated in a multi-ethnic neighborhood of Linköping. In addition to general education at this school there is a lot of time for practical education. After lunch we went to the teacher's College, part of the University. In essence we looked at the various buildings and a few lesson rooms and were walking on the campus. We also visited the beautiful new town library, which has a Centre for Dyslexia. Main responsibilities include: consulting/supervision, educating and training, advice and information, lending books and computer programs.

And we had a bit of free time, each to one's own liking. For example you could have a look in the cathedral otherwise go shopping. I almost forgot to mention the farewell dinner, organised as well by the members in one of the schools.

We all loved the great commitment of the Swedish DKG ladies, who made the creation of such a wonderful program possible! A tribute to the members of MY chapter! We expect you in the Netherlands.

**Coby van Klaveren, on behalf of Epsilon Chapter**

This is an unusually long edition of EuForia and includes many photographs. I rarely agree to do this because I know that it causes computer difficulties for some of our readers. This time, however, I make no apologies. The excellent quality of the articles from the contributors to this edition has been exceptional and is deserving of inclusion in full. For those of you who are unable or who do not wish to download or print off this EuForia I am sure you will be able to access the contributions on your state or our regional website.

Birgit in her message to us has emphasised the importance of networking throughout the European membership and there are some excellent examples of this in the articles included here. I feel sure this is the way we will make our membership grow, even if it is a very slow process for some of us. There is also much information here about the International Convention in Spokane which we all need to be aware of, particularly those of us who are unable to attend this year. I hope you will agree with me and I would like to thank once again all the contributors to this edition. You have done a fantastic job. I look forward to hearing from everyone again in the Autumn. The deadline for contributions for EuForia No. 34 is 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Enjoy your Summer.

**Joan Carroll, Editor**