

EUFORIA

EDITION NO.37

OCTOBER 2011

Greetings from your Regional Director

I have just been 'online' (www.dkg.org) to read the latest edition of DKG NEWS. Reading the report of our Regional Conference in Baden-Baden took me back at once to Steinbach to re-live the eventful days between 31st July and 6th August. I was immediately reminded of the range and variety of experiences and events which were included in the space of just one week. For me, it was a real delight to see the planning and preparation springing into action. The evaluation forms received confirm that it was a very successful event! I would like to thank everyone from the team in Germany (willingly augmented by members from Great Britain and the Netherlands) for all the hard work which enabled the conference to take place.

Those of you who were present at the conference will already know that we said farewell to Sandra Bull after her term of office as interim Membership Services Administrator. Immediately after the return to Headquarters by staff who had attended all the regional conferences, Nita Scott took up her post as Sandra's successor. In the September/October edition of DKG NEWS you can read an article about Nita and discover the strengths and experience that she brings to the post. I'm sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new job.



At the end of August, my travels re-commenced and I made a two-day visit to Tallinn to join a meeting of both chapters (which, incidentally, made it a state meeting as well). I was very encouraged to see that 'Strategic Action Planning' was already well under way, as the members leading committees shared with everyone their plans for development and progress.

[Kate with Margarita sightseeing and at the Open Air Museum in Tallinn with friends.](#)



Recently, a group of pre-school teachers had made a visit to Austin to discover what DKG is all about, visiting local schools, talking to members, and touring Headquarters as well. It was a real pleasure to meet this intrepid group, who had been invited to the meeting at Tallinn Open-Air Museum to investigate the possibility of becoming members themselves.

In late October, I will be spending two days in Amsterdam, joined by members of the Steering Committee from Germany) to take part in a 'handover' meeting to the members in The Netherlands who will be leading the organisation of the next European Regional Conference in 2013. These meetings began in 2007, they are entirely voluntary and informal, and are intended to give the new Steering Group members the opportunity to ask questions about issues on their minds at the start of the planning process. The members of the 'outgoing' Steering Group can pass on the benefit of their experience while events are still fresh in their minds. The meeting will be supported by written reports for reference as the planning moves ahead.

In November, I will be attending the European Forum 'ex officio'. I will be available for comment, support or advice, according to the wishes of the representatives from each member state in Europe. After three days back home, I will then head off for Texas, where I will be attending a meeting of the International Speakers Fund committee, followed by a meeting of the Administrative Board. This is the meeting at which I will find out which State conventions/conferences I am to attend in 2012 as the official 'Society Representative'. I am also very happy to attend as an invited guest at *any* European state conference or meeting

With all best wishes, **Kate York**

A Truly Golden Gift....

..... is the seminar that the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International offers to members every second year preceding the International Convention.

The idea to create a Golden Gift Fund emerged when the Society celebrated its Golden Anniversary. The fund was officially started with generous donations until it was stated that this major activity would be funded by the interest earnings: a **Leadership/Management Seminar**.

The first seminar started in 1980 and since then 606 DKG members have benefited from the Golden Gift Fund.

Two weeks of intense personal growth and leadership training at the Red McCombs School of Business, University of Texas at Austin, awaits the participants. The university is the largest public university in the USA and the business school ranks near the top of most international polls.

Attending this seminar can be a life-changing experience. You will learn from renowned experts in the field of management, psychology and personal development.

The two weeks are filled with interesting sessions every day, group activities that will challenge you to think in different ways to solve situational problems, learning about different personality types and getting to know twenty-nine women from different countries and establishing friendships that last.

The participants will meet with DKG members of Austin chapters who are gracious hostesses as well as with the staff at headquarters.

If you are ready to grow and challenge yourself you are strongly encouraged to apply for the Golden

Gift Management/Leadership Seminar, held from July 2 – 14, 2012.

Applications are available online. Go to the DKG website www.dkg.org and click Library, then Forms, Applications. Deadline is December 1, 2011.

Marika Heimbach, Germany

Marika Heimbach attended the Golden Gift Seminar in 2006. She is currently a member of the GG committee.

GERMANY

This year's most important event for us German members was, of course, the Europe Regional Conference 2011 in Baden-Baden. Our Regional Director, Kate York, Conference Chair Brigitte Wichmann and all the members of the Steering Committee had tried their best to make it a positive, informative and inspiring event.



For me, personally, being born and brought up near Baden-Baden, it was a pleasure as well as a challenge to give the participants a notion of the culture, history, geography and last but not least of the Lucullan products of a German region which they might not have known before.

As Steering Committee vice-chair I just didn't have time to attend workshops which really was a pity. So I could only listen to the keynote speeches. For us Germans it was Prof. Pfeiffer's keynote speech on **Media Use, School Achievement and the Crisis in Boys' Performance** which was most striking as it showed us how much boys and much less girls are influenced by the screen media when left alone at home in the afternoon.

What are the consequences for us as a society wanting to have an impact on education?

As Prof. Pfeiffer wants his findings being spread in the society, I'll try to get his permission to show his presentation on parents' evenings in kindergartens and primary schools. This will be one of my activities in the first year of my biennium as State President.

With regards to our State Meeting 2011 that will take place from 18th to 20th May in Leipzig, Saxonia, our German member Dr. Sabine Krause from Alpha Chapter has already found a suitable conference site not far from Leipzig central station.

Leipzig is the hometown of Johann Sebastian Bach, the St. Thomas' Boys Choir, the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Opera House, the Mendelssohn House, just to name a few of its most important institutions and sights. And in the quite recent past it was the starting point of the events which led to the Peaceful Revolution of 1989. To get more information go to: www.leipzig.de and there you'll find the website in English.

By the way, it is easy to reach by Ryan Air from London Stansted.

Monika Huber, DKG State President, Germany

ESTONIA

During the first 3 years of membership, DKG Estonia spent a great deal of time and energy on sorting out the DKG rules and regulations, and getting acquainted with one another. We share the same values, interest and experience and we have created a strong fellowship. We have had a lot of interesting meetings that our members have written about in our blog: <http://dkgeesti.blogspot.com>.



This has also been the time of sedimentation where members have weighed the significance of the organisation for their lives. There are members who have been occupied with other responsibilities and could not have taken part in all activities, but may possibly return at a later stage. We are definitely proud that we have initiated new members and more and more sisters can take part in regional and international DKG conferences.

I will use *Marilyn Grey's* quote: *'We know not where our dreams will take us, but we can probably see quite clearly where we'll go without them.'* The time has come when more creative activity is called for if DKG Estonia State Organisation is to stay attractive to present members and also to attract future members. New potential members will naturally ask 'What is in DKG for me?' and 'How can I contribute to DKG?' Nobody is too anxious to give up free time or the time spent with the family unless she can feel her contribution to the enhancement of our society. All the planned projects are guided by our common vision – commitment to educational excellence. *Recalling Aristotle: 'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.'* We all understand how everything that is accomplished at every level feeds into the success.

The new Executive Board is happy to announce that we could reorganize the committees efficiently and we are grateful to all the officers who have taken the responsibility of becoming a leader. Every committee has designed its Strategic Action Plan for the next biennium. Every member will have a meaningful responsibility in order to help to implement the programmes. SAP has a homonym 'sap'. If we know what DKG is for us and what we can give to DKG then we become conscious that everyone's little contribution will nurture our society with valuable sap and energy.

On behalf of the new Executive Board I will unfold **3 key words** how we can be the most productive with the least stress. Let the encouragement be oxygen to our souls!

REFLECT: What would you like to accomplish in our society? Dare to dream, and when you dream, dream big. We would like that our organization has astounding accomplishments.

RETHINK: Admit that this is not DKG who steals your free time unless all sisters move forward with enthusiasm and endurance. Whatever we create or build we do it for our own sake.

ENJOY: Go beyond the chapter! Learn and get excited about networking with other members. Let's turn our chapters with small deeds into vibrant successful ones that new educators will be eager to join.

Margarita Hanschmidt, DKG Estonia State President

GREAT BRITAIN

Greetings to all fellow Europeans from all of us in Britain.

We really had a brilliant time in Baden Baden. Well done Germany for laying on such superb entertainment. The folk singers on the last evening were absolutely wonderful. The other two evenings were also very enjoyable indeed.

Since our return we, probably like the rest of you, have been working on our SAP, with the focus on membership retention and expansion. We are enthusiastic and energised since Baden Baden and really trying to raise the profile of DKG in our country. We are hoping to raise money for DKG's Schools for Africa initiative by showing the very moving film 'The First Grader' and asking for donations. We are also contacting both the press and BBC with Prof. Pfeiffer's shocking statistics about the detrimental impact on boys' achievement of too much solo TV, computer games and networking pursuits. We plan to contact schools and parent groups too and hope this will enable DKG to become better known in our area. Wish us luck and success!

I hope everybody is enjoying as warm and sunny an 'Indian Summer' as we are in Britain. Glorious sunshine with temperatures reaching 28c. So much better than in August. Such a shame to have to spend the last warm days of the year in school!



We in Britain are preparing for our State Conference next March which will be 23rd-25th March and will be held in a very old Carmelite priory near Maidstone. Our keynote speaker will be talking about 'Girls with Autism' and the special ways for recognising Autism in girls, - as opposed to the much higher percentage of boys- and the particular ways of teaching these special girls. We are keeping the costs very low and hope that many of you, especially the fellow presidents I worked with at Baden Baden, will be

able to join us. The venue is close to the Channel Tunnel for those who can come by car or Eurostar, and is easily accessed by plane to London and then a short train journey.

The weekend of 24th September saw Beta Chapter, based in Plymouth, Devon, which is in the far south west of the country, celebrate its 30th anniversary. Four of us from Kent crossed the country by train and joined them in their celebrations. We all enjoyed an excellent lunch followed by delicious cakes made by Loetitia, complete with a DKG red rose topping each one. We ended the day at a very lively Murder Mystery Dinner. It was an excellent weekend and we all wish Beta Chapter every success in the future. (One of Beta's members, Sue Torr, a non-reader herself until 10 years ago, has been awarded an 'MBE' by the Queen in recognition of her work in encouraging adult non-readers to learn to read. She encourages non-readers by making it clear that there should be no shame at being unable to read and then provides tuition to suit each person. Together with some of her students, she has written books exposing the tragedy of being unable to read even a basic sentence and the joys which come after success. Beta Chapter has been constant in providing both moral and financial support to Sue's work.)

Enjoy Autumn and I look forward to meeting up with you all again in 2012.

Sheila Roberts State President, Great Britain

Baden-Baden



Baden-Baden – so good they named it twice, and so lovely we visited it twice. Our first excursion involved a Reception by the Lord Mayor of Baden-Baden, Herr Wolfgang Gerstner. A glass of sparkling wine upon arrival always guarantees a convivial atmosphere, I find. Herr Gerstner's fifteen minute speech, in perfect English, was impressive to say the least.

The weather was conducive to a gentle stroll around the town; our guide was charming, though I have to confess I was more interested in observing beautiful gardens and architecture than listening to tales of villainy.

Water is ever an attraction and so we found ourselves following the course of a gently flowing river – it was too tempting. The bank didn't prove to be too much of an obstacle, and the cooling sensation of water trickling through my toes was well worth the risk of falling in.

External refreshment complete, we ambled to the tennis club. I'd like to say we played a couple of sets before relaxing with a cold beer. I'd be lying. We listened to the sound of balls pinging off racquets, which was energetic enough, we felt. We needed to conserve our energy for the Night on the Town, later that evening.



Our return visit was at the end of the Conference. Carole Stirling was keen to experience a tour on the train – first spotted as we listened to the Lord Mayor two days earlier. Now, as you will know, Dorothy Haley cannot be rushed, as she greets her many admirers; as a consequence, we missed the bus, which meant we missed the last Tourist train around Baden-Baden. Were we downhearted? Of course not! Another hostelry beckoned.



I was highly impressed by the ability of two of our more experienced members to conquer, quite frankly, massive examples of German Kuchen. Honour forbids me to name them, but you will observe them on the right of the photograph!

Rain trapped us for a while, so we had to order another round of drinks – such hardships we endured in the name of culture! Dinner followed, rain continued, and we were

eventually chauffeured home by an extremely obliging taxi driver. Baden-Baden was a highlight of a fabulous first visit to Deutschland.

Kathrin Hodgson (Gamma Chapter Great Britain)

I hope you have enjoyed reading this post conference edition of Euforia on our European website, which is where it will in future be located. If any member wishes me to send a personal copy of EuForia, in Word or pdf format please contact me at terjocar@hotmail.co.uk. The deadline for items for the Spring edition of EuForia is 23rd January 2012. Thank you to all those who contributed to this edition and I look forward to receiving news and articles from many more of you in future.

Joan Carroll, Editor