



EUFORIA
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Greetings from your Regional Director

A very Happy New Year to all European members .May all your wishes come true in 2007.

And for myself, I wish to see as many of you as possible at our 5th European Regional Conference in London .

St. Mary's College in Strawberry Hill is an excellent location and the programme promises to be marvellous. If you are already curious to see the venue and the possibilities of the tours to make, please visit the website www.deltakappagamma.org/international and link to Great Britain's state website.

St. Mary's College (www.smuc.ac.uk) is partly housed in Horace Walpole's historic house in the borough of Richmond, south west London (www.visitrichmond.co.uk) with frequent rail services to London, Waterloo.

In this issue of EuForia as on the website you will find a lot of information about how to get there, where to stay and at what price, plus information of tours before, during and after the conference. Do start making your travel plans right now! Come early and stay some days after the conference for a tour or a holiday to make the best of it.

Don't forget that there will be a pre conference seminar also on Tuesday July 31 on "**Electronic Wisdom to Share**" organized by the European Forum Committee, and for those who are concerned (new state presidents, program and membership chairs, editors and treasurers), the Leadership Development Training.

Please read every edition of the **NEWS** carefully. All the information and the forms will be in the March/April issue.

At the moment the Steering Committee is finalizing the programme. The theme "**Wisdom to Share • Passion to Care**" and the sub theme "**Creativity through Diversity**" will give opportunities for many interesting workshops to give or to attend.

I have asked for workshops from all European countries to make this conference really feel **OURS**. So if you have not filled in the workshop proposal form yet and you would like to give a presentation, do it now! The closing date is **February 15**.

We have received quite a few proposals for workshops already, but we would like to have a menu as varied and multi European/cultural as possible.

All representatives on international committees from each country are aware of the fact of course that they are expected to be at the Info Fair or, if their committee feels the need, to give a workshop and to fill in the appropriate forms, also before **February 15**.

At the ongoing Info Fair there is a possibility also for Chapters to share their " highlights", some successful chapter event / project, with all of us.

The State Presidents have received letters requesting a presentation, no longer than 5 minutes, on an **Outstanding Woman of Wisdom and Passion** known in their country. This woman can be someone in the educational or artistic field, or other; every woman one can think about and who is a good example of the country, now or

in the past. The chapter presidents should have received this forwarded letter also to discuss in their chapters and to think about suggestions to make.

I have spoken a lot about the Regional Conference in this edition of EuForia because that is what is requiring so much attention due to the strict deadlines, but I must not forget to congratulate Eija Liisa Sokka-Meaney on being invited as International Speaker in Prince Edward Island. I am also looking forward to meeting a lot of you at the different state conventions to come.

At last; to give a flavour of what is awaiting you **August 1 – 4, 2007** some **highlights:**

Wednesday: Opening Ceremony in the historic College Chapel, followed by a Great Britain Night full of surprises. Thursday: Visit to the Olympic sites and Night on the Town.

Friday: Plenary session, workshops, free afternoon with possibilities of interesting visits near St. Mary's, Banquet at Sandown Park Racecourse. Saturday: European Forum, Keynote Speaker, Farewell Luncheon in Historic Waldegrave Drawing Room, Relaxing after-event possibilities.

Trijny Schmitz du Moulin

News from The European Forum

Members of the European Forum Committee 2006-2008 are:

Gisela von Engelhart - Germany
Carin Ahlberg - Sweden
Marja Liisa Lehtikonen - Finland
Björg Nakling - Norway
Helga Torlacius - Iceland
Kate York - Great Britain
Ria Bleeker - The Netherlands

The Forum Committee met in November and worked on goals and plans for the coming biennium.

Pre-seminar: It was decided to offer a European Forum pre-conference seminar on using Information Technology, blogging and safe internet with the title "Electronic Wisdom to Share" on Tuesday 31st July. The maximum number of participants depends on the size of the computer room and the available soft and hardware. We already found one Icelandic member prepared to share her knowledge but we urgently ask other member experts to volunteer in sharing their expertise in this seminar, as we find that we can all benefit from using internet possibilities more professionally. We have not been able to set a fee yet, as we are not sure of the cost. Full details of cost etc. will be sent as a special EuForia mailing as soon as they are available. Details will also be posted on the GB website. www.deltakappagamma.org/GB

The European Achievement Award: the guidelines were set for this award, which will be given biennially in recognition of distinguished service given to Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in Europe. Executive Boards of the European member countries have each submitted the name of a candidate and the result of the vote will be announced at the European Conference.

Further information about the Forum: Elsewhere in EuForia you can read further about the European Forum and the goals for the coming years and other future plans. If you have any questions, comments or other information please feel free to contact me.

Ria Bleeker <mhbleeker@hotmail.com> **Chair of the European Forum 2006-2008**

The European Forum

Background

In 1998 the Europe Region was established, and since then we have had a regional director and a forum in Europe. Today the region has seven member countries: Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. The European Forum is made up of these seven countries. The forum steering committee consists of one representative from each country.

One region – with many differences

Our member countries are different in many ways: language, culture, customs and educational systems. This is one of our strengths because it gives us opportunity for significant cross-cultural exchanges and enables us to encourage chapters and state organizations to take part in events in Europe.

Communication and cooperation

The communication of information among the European members is realized with publication of the electronic newsletter *EuForia*. Society members from the European member countries participate at state organization conferences in the different countries. The European Regional Conference is the most important event, where a stronger link between the countries is achieved.

Goals for the European Forum for 2007-2009

1. Plan both Regional and International Forum sessions through regular meetings of the Forum Committee.
2. Continue to strengthen the member states by using electronic newsletters and homepages with English summarization.
3. Maintain co-operation between European Regional Director and member states.
4. Encourage members to attend state conventions and the European Regional Conference.
5. Recognize ongoing research by members by establishing contacts between members and members' schools
6. Portray ΔΚΓ events and projects through contacts with the media.
7. To organize a pre-conference seminar or workshops.

Suggestions for the future

- Continue to organize a pre-conference seminar
- Organize a European event at the International Convention
- Continue with ideas of expansion, a workshop in the Regional Conference
- Make use of the goals and improve the society information booklet and the use of website
- Investigate the possibility of visits between teachers and students
- Choose themes for which funding could be asked for e.g. from Socrates, Leonardo or the Educational Fund
- Encourage states to focus on the theme of democracy and European citizenship

Ria Bleeker, Chair of the European Forum 2006-2008

Society contacts with Denmark and Estonia

After discussions with Jacky Cuppy and Barbara Day at our European Regional Conference in Turku in August 2005 I proudly accepted to try to expand our Society into Denmark. Some doubts were expressed about this as being an impossible mission, as expansion into Denmark had been tried before without success.

Today the Danish dream is about to come true. After thousands of mails, hundreds of phone calls and thousands of Kms Sweden-Denmark, Denmark's first chapter is going to be installed Friday 23rd of March 2007 in the small town of Hjörning, situated on the tip of Jutland.

Of course I started in the capital Copenhagen, but the responses from the ladies contacted were mostly that they were too old or too busy. Thus I turned to the Jutland and there the responses were much more positive and the reports I have from the meetings that have been held so far are extremely positive. A chapter is also about to be formed in Odense on the isle of Fyn and will probably be ready to be installed this autumn.

The chapter to be installed in Hjörning has started to visit each other's school and present their pedagogical visions as well as practical didactic work. Reading their reports I just wish I could have joined them. The purposes of our Society is just right as there are few natural contacts in the Danish school system between different levels like compulsory school and colleges.

The installation of the first Danish chapter will take place in a little typical Danish kro (inn) in the presence of our International President Barbara Day, German State President Ulrike Gottlob, who will speak about the project SolWoDi –Solidarity for Women in Distress in Kenya, Gudrun Nylander, who kindly has been a great support by driving with me all the miles in Denmark and myself. Please contact me for address if you want to send congratulations to the Danish ladies!

Sweden State is also happy to announce that it has received funding from the Swedish "Delegation for the financial support for female organisations and project for equal opportunities". Sweden State applied for funding to support exchange with teachers in Estonia and Denmark. What was granted was funding for exchange of experience with Estonian teachers, concerning women teachers and democracy and immersion language education in general and of the Russian minority in particular. What a joy!

In a couple of days two Swedish teachers will go to Tallinn and plan our cooperation. Sweden State will be able to invite Estonian teachers to events of importance and of course to the Swedish State Convention 17-18 March 2007 in Umeå. The programme of the State Convention will be found in English on www.deltakappagamma.se and Swedish teachers will be able to apply for scholarships in order to visit schools and teachers in Tallinn.

This is hopefully a turning point so that soon we will have Society members in the Baltic States!

What an exciting start for 2007!

Marianne Skardéus State President 2005-2007

Hello from Norway

From our chapters:

We are working hard on increasing members in all our chapters. Unfortunately Alpha chapter in Oslo is struggling but they have not given up yet!! We try to invite each other to meetings and it is very inspiring to meet the other members. I have visited the chapters before Xmas and find that they have good programs for the semesters. Small chapters have values that big chapters cannot manage. They know each other and can take care of each other more easily.

From our website: www.deltakappagamma.no

We are so proud of our web-site but understand that it is of limited value. We must have something in English for you to read. But you can look at the pictures and write to the editor and ask questions!!

Looking forward to London:

We hope that at least 40 will go to London in August. Delta will ask to have a workshop. We will fill out the forms before 15th February. Maybe there will be some from the other chapters too. We are looking forward to see you all there. Thanks to the web-site we can enjoy the information already.

Our own meeting in Kristiansand:

We are having our state meeting on the weekend of 21 and 22 of April in Kristiansand. Please contact the president <bn@baerum.kommune.no> if you would like to come and join us.

Bjørg Nakling State President

EuForia 23 – GB State President's message

My time as State President is flying fast and now there are only a few months left. What an experience and range of opportunities I have had!

As I hoped, I have been able to make visits to chapters other than my own in recent months. I made a one-day flying visit to Plymouth for the celebration of Beta's twenty-fifth anniversary. We had an excellent day of friendship, good food and a splendid 'Pageant of memories' provided by members. In December I joined Alpha members for their Christmas celebrations; we installed a new member as well as enjoying each others' company and a delicious buffet meal. I was last at a meeting of Gamma, my own chapter, back in September, but I tried to make up for that by presenting some 'Impressions of India' at the January meeting after my recent stay in Maharashtra province.

2007 promises to be a momentous year for all of us in Great Britain as the date of the European Conference in August approaches ever more rapidly. Before that, we have our Great Britain Conference at Strawberry Hill on 31st March. I have urged every single member in Great Britain to come to this because it is a great opportunity to prepare and unite ourselves as the 'host team' for August. Our Steering Committee has been hard at work and plans are already at a very advanced stage. To make the European Conference the outstanding success that it promises and deserves to be, the help of each and every member has been asked for. Chapter Presidents will be seeking out anyone who hasn't already got a specific task.

At the international level of our society, much has been happening. The new International President, Dr Barbara Day, has launched a new drive for a 'Membership Explosion', and members will be hearing much more about this from Chapter Presidents and through the international newsletter. The views of every member are being sought to see how best the society can meet the needs of teachers, starting with a questionnaire at chapter level. Barbara's theme for the next two years is 'Wisdom to Share • Passion to Care' and these two initiatives show that she means what she says!

It was with dismay that I heard that Sandra Smith Bull, our outstanding Executive Coordinator in Austin has decided that she must retire in order to help members of her family who need her support. With her typical consideration and forethought, Sandra has undertaken to stay in post until May this year while the search for a replacement takes place. Hers will be an exceedingly hard act to follow – she is always 'only an e-mail' away and I can vouch for the personal help and support that she provides almost instantaneously.

Our European Director, Trijny Schmitz du Moulin, will be present at our State Conference as well as at the European Conference. Our International President, along with her immediate predecessor, Jacky Cuppy, will be with us in August, together with many members of the HQ team from Austin.

Our society is truly multi-layered, and there is much on offer as a benefit of membership at chapter, state and international level.

I hope to see all Great Britain members in March and many of you from Europe in August at the European Conference, if not before.

Kate York Great Britain State President

Finland

Winter has finally come to our country. We have had a couple of dark and rainy months especially here in southern Finland. But now everything looks completely different, although I should not be complaining, because we have been saved from the huge storms of other European countries.

The Finnish organisation is having its AGM and annual seminar, which we are organizing together with The Academic Women in Espoo on 27 January in Helsinki Business College. We are very grateful, because we are receiving a lot of support from the headquarters. We received the Lucile Cornetet award. Besides as a foreign speaker Dr Laurie Carlson Berg from Canada will speak about 'Wellness and the Professional Educator'. Furthermore we are delighted to receive our Regional Director Trijny Schmitz du Moulin as the International representative. We feel privileged.

The theme of our seminar is 'Challenges of Change' and accordingly we are granting a scholarship to a kindergarten teacher who is re-educating herself to become a teacher for pupils with special needs.

We have a tradition in Finland that one chapter at a time is responsible for running the state organisation. It has been Alpha chapter in Helsinki since the Turku Regional conference and the next one will be Zeta chapter from Tampere. In our AGM we will elect the members of the next board. It has been a great honour to work as the state president and I wish our successors all the best in enhancing Delta Kappa Gamma in Finland. Looking forward to seeing you all in London in August.

Tuula Penttilä Finland State President

Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland celebrates 30 years

On March 28th 2007 it will be 30 years from the foundation of the Icelandic Delta Kappa Gamma State Organization. This important milestone will be celebrated with an ambitious State Organization Congress, May 5-6th, held at Reykholt, a cultural setting in the Icelandic Saga.

A special Anniversary Committee has for two years been preparing the program. Among many events are the following: An opening of a new home page for Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland, a historical overview of Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland and various lectures of interest. And last but not the least all the Icelandic Chapters will present the highlights of their work so far. It can also be mentioned that an editorial committee was assigned to edit a special anniversary publication to be distributed in the spring.

Our special guest on behalf of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will be Beverly Helm from Florida, USA. We are very pleased to have her with us and hope that more Delta Kappa Gamma members will have the opportunity to come and join our celebrations and experience Iceland.

Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir, ΔΚΓ Icelandic State president

Eyrún Ísfold Gísladóttir, ΔΚΓ 1st Vice President

INVITATION TO THE GERMANY STATE CONFERENCE 2007 IN MEISSEN

The Alpha Chapter in Germany is looking forward to welcoming you at their State Conference May 17 – 20th 2007.

We are planning to meet in the city of Meissen, a lovely and culturally interesting town, embedded in the Elbe River valley and surrounded by the foothills of what is known as Saxonian Switzerland (Sächsische Schweiz) near (30km away) Dresden.

The history of Meissen dates back more than 1000 years. Atop the Burgberg hill there is a historic Gothic cathedral. Right next to it is a fortification erected in the late Gothic style known as the Albrechtsburg. During the reign of King August of Saxony, known as *August der Starke*, Meissen reached world fame because of its "white gold": the world famous Meissen china which has been produced there since 1710.

Between Meissen and Dresden there are excellent train connections. Dresden has such places of interest to offer as the newly erected *Frauenkirche*, the *Zwinger* museum, the Semper opera house, the *Gruenes Gewolbe*, famous art galleries, and, if you take a nice trip on a boat along the Elbe upstream, a beautiful castle, *Schloss Pillnitz*.

We are offering you a challenging and varied program and looking forward to your participation there. We have selected a well furnished and lovely situated hotel for you, the Hotel Siebeneichen, which can be reached at <http://www.hotel-siebeneichen-meissen.de> . Dr. Sabine Krause has reserved rooms for the Delta-Kappa-Gamma Society, Germany. The hotel offers 20 double rooms and several singles. The price for a two-bed room with breakfast is Euro 69.

There will be more information at a later date. Hope to see you in Meissen in May 2007!

Ulrike Gottlob, Germany State Organization President

My thanks to all of you for making this such an exciting edition of EuForia. I look forward to seeing many of you this year. The deadline for articles for the next edition of EuForia is 26th May 2007.

Joan Carroll Editor