

Minutes from the European Forum Meeting 2016

International Convention, Nashville, USA

Thursday July 7th, 11am–1pm

Welcome from: Ingrid Stjernquist, (Sweden), Chair 2015–2016, introduced the 2014–2016 members of the EF Committee and their input to the Society.

Words of Inspiration: Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (Iceland), read an appropriate poem. She recalled the wonderful major contribution of Dorothy Haley in forming the Fifth Region of the DKG Society. (Europe had a Region of its own in 1996 and a vote on the Administrative Board at last!)

In memoriam: Ingrid Stjernquist talked in memoriam of all European DKG members who have passed away during the last biennium. She used a poem “Cape Sunion” by the Swedish author Hjalmar Gullberg to remind us that they and their work will remain with us and continue to inspire DKG members for a long time come. Ingrid then introduced Kathrin Hodgson who gave a moving tribute to Dorothy, a very special person.

Business meeting: This was chaired by Diana Bell, (Great Britain).

1. **Minutes** of the European Forum Meeting in Boras, Sweden on August 8th 2015 had been seen previously by members and as there had been no objections were agreed. Reporters: Evelyn Goodsell and Mary Wardrop (GB).

2. **Financial Report:** The Treasurer, Heli Piikkila (Finland), although not attending on this occasion, had provided a detailed Financial Report for those present.

3. **EuForia:** Joan Carroll (GB) had suggested previously that a new Editor would be welcome as she had compiled the Publication for fifteen years. There was much discussion on this issue and Riet Smits-Hoenderken (The Netherlands), offered to take on EuForia. Riet also emphasised contributions and said that assistance from other members would be much appreciated. Diana Bell, (from the Chair) encouraged Forum members to volunteer and offer Riet help as she believed that the publication fulfilled an important task. Bjørg Nakling, (Norway), the New European Regional Director, agreed to chase up members so that articles would be sent in on time to the Editor. Sjöfn Sigurbjörnsdóttir (Iceland) suggested that more could be achieved by working together. Marianne Skardéus, Immediate Past European Regional Director (Sweden), offered to send photographs to Riet for Euforia. Marika Heimbach, Past European Regional Director (Germany), suggested that help from an English speaker would be an encouragement to assist in writing articles. It was suggested that the History of Euforia should be kept on the website.

4. **European Forum Website:** Eygló Björnsdóttir (Iceland), the EF Webmaster, had explained to members previously that the cost of the website had been very low but it needed updating. She suggested the Presidents should discuss what members needed. This was also encouraged by the new European Director, Bjørg Nakling. Her advice was to go ahead and purchase whatever program was appropriate. Eygló agreed to send details of the cost of an updated system to each country’s State President.

A Motion by Marika Heimbach started much discussion and it was eventually agreed that **‘Each country should discuss whether to go ahead and purchase an updated European website program, each country to make a (financial) contribution. Agreement by the end of October at the latest.’** Eygló Björnsdóttir to be informed of the decisions by this time so that she will be able to take the appropriate action.

5. Membership: Young Members: Riet and Ingrid reminded us to find ways to encourage members to actively participate in DKG Europe, especially the younger ones. Because of insufficient time, Diana apologised to Marika for closing the discussion on the subject of young members at this point, but emphasised the importance of it being continued in Tallinn.

6. Kate York: Past Regional Director, (Great Britain). Trijny Schmitz du Moulin produced a card for Kate (who has been very ill) and passed it round for members to sign.

Gloria Redston and Mary Wardrop were to deliver presents from DKG members to Kate in England. There were many well-wishers for her recovery.

European members present were: Finland 8, Great Britain 6, Norway 6, Sweden 6, Netherlands 5, Iceland 3, and Estonia 2.

In addition there were 13 guests from the USA including Sandra Smith Bull, International Executive Director, who was available for the first part of the meeting. 49 members attended altogether.

The business meeting closed at 12.10pm.

European Keynote Lecture

Gitta Franke-Zollmer (Germany) gave a talk about *Education 2030 - Ensure inclusive and Equitable Education.*

Daniela von Essen (Germany) introduced the keynote speaker

The main subject of Gitta’s talk was that many countries have neglected that technical, vocational and tertiary education offered is relevant to local needs, and that institutions across the country uphold the same quality standards.

After the lecture there was a lively discussion.

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The minutes were recorded by Evelyn Goodsell and Mary Wardrop – both from Great Britain.