



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

## Minutes of the European Forum Committee Meeting

Held in Amsterdam, Netherlands on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November 2009

### Friday 6 November

#### Present:

Denmark - Ruth Hjorth-Nielsen  
Estonia - Anu Joon  
Finland - Eija Paukkuri  
Germany - Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser  
Great Britain - Diana Bell - in the chair  
Iceland - Helga Thorlaciuss  
The Netherlands - Vivian Repko (Ria Bleeker substitute)  
Norway - Astrid H. Bie Skaaland  
Sweden - Carin Ahlberg -  
Birgit Svensson (Sweden) - European Regional Director, ex-officio.

1. **Apologies.** Vivian from Netherlands could not attend because of personal reasons, Ria agreed to be her substitute. Eija from Finland was delayed.
2. **In Memoriam.** Diana Bell opened the meeting by welcoming the members and presenting the agenda which was accepted.
3. **Minute recorders.** Friday: Ruth Hjorth-Nielsen and Helga Thorlaciuss  
Saturday: Ruth Hjorth-Nielsen and Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser.
4. **Minutes of the European Forum in Stabekk, November 2008.**  
**Matters arising:**
  - It was agreed that Vivian would be asked to be Treasurer for the European Forum again this year.
  - Pin for European Achievement Award will be discussed on Saturday.
  - The minutes were agreed on.
5. **Minutes of the European Forum in Oslo July 2009.**  
**Matters arising:**
  - European website will be discussed on Saturday.
  - **Age limit.** Birgit said that there would be a discussion about this matter in Spokane. They have been discussing this in more Chapters in the States. There could be a risk if there are only elderly people join the group. Focus on active members.
  - **Money for the RD.** This will be discussed further on Saturday.  
There was a discussion on whether the money from HQ should go directly to the RD or, as now, to the chair of the EF. Members of the EF give €1 a member to cover the travel expenses of the RD; the money given to the EF goes to cover the travel expenses of the members of the EF. Sweden seems to disagree with the rest of the Forum about paying for the RD's expenses. Sweden to be asked by Carin to discuss this at their next state conference.
6. **Financial matters.** Will be discussed on Saturday.
7. **Evaluation from the Regional Conference in Oslo.** There were many positive points for the Oslo Conference. Excellent speakers, good workshops and sightseeing tours. The participants at the Regional Conferences in Europe are increasing. We only got 54 answers from the evaluation forms, so we have to do better, but the

evaluation said that this was one of the best Forums we have had. The Pre-Conference Seminar was excellent. The Norwegian committee has already met with the German committee and passed on every detail from the Oslo Conference.

#### **8. Spokane.**

- **The European Breakfast.** What would we like to have? Suggestion was made that we would ask somebody who can speak about the European roots in Washington County. Astrid to look into this.
- Are we going to have guests? We should invite Caroline Rants, the new International President, Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, Evelyn Barron, Marcia Elliot and Karen Duke. The State presidents pay for these guests.
- **Time for a European reception at the Convention?** Birgit explained that some regions have receptions at the Convention; the last one for Europe was in 1991. The presidents have to decide and pay for guests. Maybe it is not the right time for this now. Personally inviting members for drinks in the bar might suffice.

**Meeting closed 21.30**

#### **Saturday 7 November**

The meeting opened at 09.30. Introductions were made.

#### **9. European Forum Meeting in Spokane.**

- **Topic: Quality in Education** Eija main speaker (15 minutes). Then a discussion on:- What do members understand by quality in education? Ria to be the moderator. We want to hear from all levels of education including university. One hour altogether.
- Try to avoid too long presentations and leave room and time for networking.
- **The main theme will be: From Vision to Action.**
- **Reporters and timekeepers:** Ria, others to be decided when we know who will be going to Spokane.
- **Birgit will introduce the new Regional Director and the new Forum Committee.**
- **There was discussion on rules for Forum Committee Members.**  
Nomination of members by March 4<sup>th</sup> of even years  
How long should members stay? It was decided in Finland and other countries that members should stay for 4 years, in England 2 years. Birgit said continuity was important so some experienced members were still on the team. Changing every two years means the history of the Forum regularly has to be repeated. The State Executive Boards invite their Forum member to report.  
There are 5 regions, every region has a forum. The Chair changes every two years. Suggested that we could rotate the chair from country to country, but would all countries find members willing to chair the Forum? Suggested we vote for the chair in the middle of the four year period, so members knew the person.  
There was also discussion about whether only State presidents should be members of the EF committee. There were arguments for other members to be representatives so that as many members as possible are active. Some state presidents said they have quite enough to do. See later.
- **Opening thoughts: Words of Inspiration in Spokane.**  
Eija to ask Finland's State President to speak for five minutes. If unable, then Helga to ask Iceland's State President. Topic should be exciting: European female educationalist - to do with quality in education.

#### **10. Next meeting of Forum Committee.**

5th to 7th November 2010 in Freudenstadt, Germany. Christa said she will invite the members to her house (provided she is still within the committee). It was suggested that Diana and Birgit be invited to hand-over to the new committee. Agreed that the Committee should try to meet at all Europe Regional Conferences.

## 11. Financial matters.

- **Out-turn Statement** 1st July 2008 – 30th June 2009. Diana produced this and spoke to it. She will report in Spokane
- **Budget 2009 – 2010**, this was tabled for agreement with minor amendments.
- **Regional Director travel expenses.** The Regional Director's Financial Report 2008-2009 was given by Birgit Svensson.
- Diana proposed that 90% of the Committee's main transport costs should be paid. It was best to use the Forum finances than charge states. This was agreed.
- **Printing of the European Forum Agenda booklet for Spokane.** Eija kindly offered to get this printed at her school.

## 12. Development of a European Website.

- Generally accepted as a brilliant idea.
- Costs: €102 as a start, € 31 annual costs - as prices are now.
- To be a basic site.
- Links to main DKG Social networking site which is password protected.
- A paper on basic rules was presented (thanks to Gloria Redston), and it was agreed to pass this on to state webmasters, editors, Oslo meeting attendees, and state presidents for agreement.
- Eygló Björnsdóttir, Iceland, to be the first webmaster.
- Links to all relevant DKG sites. (All members should discuss with their states whether this is acceptable, if changes are necessary, etc. See rules).
- State webmasters to be asked to have a paragraph in English on their sites.

## 13. Effective communication.

Everybody should reply to e-mails. But to sender only, unless the reply is of general interest. Avoid unnecessary mails.

## 14. Aims and Goals for 2008 – 2010.

### How we are doing?

- a) *Plan both Regional and International Forum sessions through regular meetings of the Forum Committee.* Completed.
- b) *Continue to strengthen the 9 member states by using electronic newsletters and homepages with English summarizations.* The European website will aid this.
- c) *Maintain co-operation between Regional Director and members states.* RD attends Forum Committee meetings and we are financially supporting the RD's travel.
- d) *Encourage members to attend state conventions and the European Regional Conference.* Ongoing, the website will support this.
- e) *Recognise ongoing research by members establishing contacts between members and member's schools.* The website will allow more support for this.
- f) *Portray DKG events and projects through contacts with the media.* Some success in Germany, generally not very successful.
- g) *To organise pre-conference seminar or workshops.* Completed.

## 15. Regional Rules

All the European Regional Rules agreed at meetings should be written into one document: Ria agreed to work with Cor Wolff-Heins (Netherlands) on this.

## 16. Suggestions for the future.

**Conference times:** The present schedule of dates for conferences makes it hard, if not impossible, for active members to attend. All to e-mail term dates to Birgit to take to Admin Board at HQ.

## 17. AOB

- **European Achievement Award and Pin.** Birgit gave the history. It was suggested that this goes on the European Website so we do not have to go over it again. Ria will

ask the artist whether the design could be handed over to someone else. Cost of award was discussed and €300 Euros (€25 annually each) for a 'one-off' special symbolic piece of jewellery was considered reasonable. Carin to report back to Sweden on why we consider the pin is necessary.

- **Discussion on who can/should be members of the European Forum.**

We discussed at length and decided to minute the points.

- The presidents get money to go to regional and international conferences.
- Presidents can accept & make decisions on behalf of the whole state.
- All committee are members of the state exec board.
- Not democratic for the president just to accept or refuse without asking the State Exec. So the same situation whether it's the president or somebody from the state board.
- EF: nothing to do with society questions, but educational questions. So it doesn't have to be the presidents.
- Presidents work closer together, makes a special tie.
- To serve on the EF while a president: a kind of honour – to see everybody.
- If it's to do with constitutional matters, you cannot send just anybody.
- Not good if one person only knows everything ( concentrated power and influence, not democratic).
- Presidents job very busy, offers others important job.
- If it's only presidents: probably just another place to discuss constitutional matters.
- Presidents can meet at conferences (cf first point).
- The RDs could organize that the presidents could get together at the international conferences to network (cf points 6 and 7).
- EF: project orientated. So members should be the ones interested in the project.

- **Projects**

Eija suggested applying for possible Education Awards finance for a Project such as involving immigrant children's parents in their education. Could be presented as a 'Gold Paper'. Could ask members for their expertise of working with ethnic groups. Use experience for a conference, write up as a booklet. Entrepreneurship with Indian women also discussed.

Birgit to check on awards and inform all. Uplink to awards information on website.

Projects on the website.

Reminder that younger members especially should apply for leadership training.

The meeting closed at 18.30