

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL



EUROPEAN FORUM

**2006 International Convention
San Diego, California**

**Wednesday, July 19, 2006
1:30 – 3:30 PM**

EUROPEAN FORUM

Constitution

Article V, Section D 4

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shall have forums as designated in the *International Standing Rules*. The plan for each forum shall be determined by its participants. These forum units serve the interests of members, insofar as they reflect the Purposes of the Society.

International Standing Rules

5.5 Forums

- 5.51 Annual planning meeting costs and communication expenses for the Canadian, European, Latin American and United States Forums shall be funded in the Available Fund budget. The forums shall be funded at four cents for each member within the forum subgroups per year. No forum shall be funded at less than U.S. \$2,500 per year.
- 5.52 The funds shall be used to communicate with state organizations and members in the forum unit and to allow each forum unit to have meetings of representative groups for the purposes of planning and may be used to take action on educational activities that are of concern to the forum unit.
- 5.53 The chairmen of forums shall be members other than elected officers of the International Society and shall be selected by members of each forum by a method they determine.

Goals for 2004-2006

- ♦ Strengthen the unity inside the Europe Region by offering opportunities to all members to discuss matters of special interest to European members of the Society.
- ♦ Maintain the cooperation between the Europe regional director and the steering committee of the European Forum.
- ♦ Prepare for the forum sessions at the 2005 Regional Conference in Turku, Finland, and at the 2006 International Convention in San Diego, California, USA, by having forum planning meetings in Malmö or Amsterdam.
- ♦ Continue to strengthen the unity of the seven member states by using electronic newsletters, data bases, and personal contacts.
- ♦ Encourage members to attend state conferences. Discuss proposal to minimize expense by waiving conference fee and offering hospitality.
- ♦ Recognize ongoing research of members by establishing contacts and exchanges between members and members' schools/work places.
- ♦ Increase visibility and publicize information about Delta Kappa Gamma through contacts with the press.
- ♦ Try to organize leadership/management seminar or workshop for members who have not had any leadership training within the organization. These seminars/workshops take place one day before/after Regional Conferences and are led by members.
- ♦ Benefit from all work done in all the committees.

*Birgit Svensson, Chairman
European Forum*

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RATIONALE

The European Forum aims to fulfill the Purposes of the Society as outlined in the *Constitution*, (Article V.D.4) relevant to a specific European context and setting (in particular Purposes 2, 6, 7).

PURPOSE

To unite the European members, and celebrate their diversity. To give opportunities to discuss in an open situation issues of educational importance.

STRUCTURE (*International Standing Rules*, V.5.2)

The committee consists of one representative from each of the member countries. If the representative is neither the state organization president nor a member of the state organization executive board, she shall be an ex-officio member of the state organization executive board. Any representative is encouraged to assume the role of the chair of the committee if required. The Europe Regional Director shall be an ex-officio member of the European Forum Committee. The Forum Committee shall serve for the period of one biennium. Names of each country's representatives shall be submitted to the outgoing chairman of the European Forum by March 1 of the even numbered years. The current chairman shall then circulate the names of the new representatives to all state organizations presidents, members of the Forum and elected incoming members. The chairman of the European Forum shall be elected within the committee. The incoming members of the committee shall elect the chairman from the candidates sent in by May 1 of the even-numbered years and send the names to the present chairman of the European Forum Committee.

FINANCING

As outlined in the *International Standing Rules*, V.5.1, the Forum shall be funded at no less than \$2,500 per year. A budget in written form shall be produced for these funds, and approved by the Forum Committee. Each European Forum Committee is permitted to set up its own budget.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Each representative is accountable to and shall report regularly to their state organization president and members. There shall be a biennial review of the Forum meetings by the Forum Committee based on an evaluation from participants. A statement of accounts shall be presented at the International Convention Forum Meeting.

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN FORUM 2006 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

JULY 19, 2006

AGENDA

- 1.30 Welcome
Word of inspiration - Ria Bleeker, The Netherlands
Introduction of reporters and timekeepers
- 1.40 Business meeting
 - ◆ Minutes of Turku, Finland 2005
 - ◆ 2002-2004 Annual Report of the European Forum
 - ◆ Guidelines for European Achievement Award
 - ◆ Other business
 - ◆ Installation of Officers 2006-2008
 - ◆ Closing business meeting
- 2.30 Lecture—"Practicing Democracy at Schools"
Speaker—Ria Bleeker, The Netherlands
Introduction—Birgit E. Svensson
Discussions in smaller groups
- 3.30 Closing

EUROPEAN FORUM MINUTES
August 6, 2005 — 8.00-10.00am
Turku, Finland

Chairman: Birgit Svensson

Reporters: Mary Wardrop and Gloria Redston

The program brochure included:

- ◆ The *Constitution/International Standing Rules* and European Forum Goals for 2004-2006
- ◆ Meeting Agenda
- ◆ Minutes of the European Forum meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 28, 2004
- ◆ European Forum Rationale
- ◆ Nomination Forms for Forum members 2006-2008
- ◆ 2004-2006 European Forum Members

WELCOME

After the chairman welcomed everyone, she asked that the title of the Meeting, 2005 International Convention be amended to European Conference. It was agreed. She introduced Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt who was to give the Word of Inspiration.

WORD OF INSPIRATION: Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt

Gisela was honored to be invited and felt that the *Word of Inspiration* was expected to be philosophical. However, she was going to share her thoughts on goals and actions for the European Region. She compared Florence Nightingale to Annie Webb Blanton as two women who thought that feelings were wasted when expressed in words. They should be put into actions. Gisela stated that we must develop programs which will attract new members by meeting the needs of active teachers. We must strive to get our seminars acknowledged by our governments. We should consider an addition to the name of Delta Kappa Gamma so it is more readily understood and does not need complex explanations. We should follow Purpose 7 and make ourselves more visible to the general public. Europe is now a strong region. Our goals should be apparent. *"A goal is like a road map. Goals help us with personal and professional lives rather than following what other people want us to do or accomplish."*

BUSINESS MEETING

- ◆ The reporters, Mary Wardrop and Gloria Redston (GB) were introduced and the role of the time keepers, Loetitia Stone and Bettina Kulsdorn (GB) was explained.
- ◆ Minutes of the Forum in Minneapolis, USA 2004: The minutes were approved and signed.
- ◆ Report 2004-2005 European Forum: Birgit Svensson reported that the committee had held a fruitful meeting in Malmö and had communicated regularly by e-mail. She referred to the goals set by the committee (page 7). The leadership/management seminar (item H) which had preceded this

conference attended by 15 members proved to be most successful. It was hoped that this would become a regular part of the Committee's work.

- ◆ Proposal: To minimize expense by waiving a conference fee and offering hospitality to encourage participants from other member countries to attend state conferences. Joan Carroll commended sponsorship for younger members. All agreed. The proposal was passed and the Forum Committee was asked to clarify.
- ◆ EuForia: Joan Carroll explained the history and distribution of EuForia. It was sent by electronic mail 3 times a year in October, February and June. As photos can cause a problem for some members, she would only use a limited number. Especially good ones would be sent to state organization presidents in future. Written contributions should be limited to 500 words. State organization presidents were responsible for arranging distribution to members without e-mail. Joan apologized for the most recent problems which had been unforeseen when she changed to Broadband. The next deadline would be 20 September. She urged members "Share news – Celebrate achievements – Give dates of events - Keep information coming. Thanks for support!" On behalf of the members, the chairman expressed gratitude to Joan for all her hard work on EuForia.
- ◆ Process of nominating new officers for the Forum 2006-2008. Forms on Pages 10 & 11. Nominations to be received by March 1, 2006.
- ◆ AOB. Kate York, Great Britain state president, said that it had been suggested that there should be a European Achievement Award. She asked for comments. Birgit Svensson asked for approval. Cor Wolff-Heins seconded. There was one vote against. Dorothy Haley said that it would be very difficult to administer and before the idea could be accepted there needed to be guidelines. Sigrun Klara Hanesdottir thought that it was a very good idea and suggested that the Forum Committee should formalize its purpose and organization. Forum Committee to plan.
- ◆ Business Meeting closed at 8.50 a.m.
- ◆ Attendance: Finland-12; Germany-9; Great Britain-18; Iceland-11; The Netherlands-13; Norway-19; Sweden-27; USA-5; TOTAL-114

LECTURE: DIVERSITY—POSSIBILITIES OR THREATS: Marianne Skardeus

The speaker, Marianne Skardeus set the Forum a challenge: *“Where would it be more appropriate to discuss diversity than within an international society encompassing fourteen different countries but united as educators by our common objectives – or seven Purposes?”* She described the process by which the culture in which one was raised was considered to be entrenched in the consciousness. It was essential to set aside the prejudices and move beyond any threats to one’s own way of life. In order to welcome other cultures and assimilate newcomers required an open-minded approach to other experiences and a willingness to move outside the known to learn about the culture of others. In the natural world, we welcomed diversity. We should celebrate the unique nature of each individual and not concentrate our prejudices on visible or audible differences; names, hair color, language, age or dress code. Labels we imposed on others nourished prejudice and could lead to stereotyping, intolerance and false conclusions about personalities – by race, gender or mental abilities. However, diversity could be rewarding especially where employers used these differences to enhance organizations. *We have to ask ourselves:* Are we open minded? Do we treat everyone in a fair and just way? Courageously, Marianne drew two examples from the experiences of her own early years as an educator where language deprivation hindered effective communication and led to violence by one of the two Greek students. The second example portrayed a lack of appreciation of a Romanian immigrant’s musical gifts and created an unhappy student, who then chose to opt out of taking full advantage of the educational system by not attending classes. Fortunately over the next 30 years, matters had improved and Marianne turned to a more recent example of which she was familiar at the University in Borås, Sweden (or as she called it the University College of Diversity). In spite of an academic background, it had become apparent that the first generation of immigrants and refugees had been obliged to accept menial jobs not commensurate with their qualifications. Thus their self-esteem had been eroded and a waste of the resources they could offer. There was a knock on effect, for their children had begun to turn away from academic careers. Subsequently, strenuous efforts have been made to address the issue. Closer co-operation with supportive groups had redressed the balance. Personal mentors and individual programs then supplemented original cultural differences and achieved encouraging results. The speaker quoted research from the Runnymede Trust in which diversity was described as adding another dimension to equal opportunities. She urged her audience to celebrate differences in each unique individual and finally posed the question: *“Is the right to equal treatment, also the right to be different?”* In appreciation of her most interesting presentation, the audience joined Sandra Blacker in warm applause for Marianne’s expert discourse on “Diversity – Threats or Opportunities?”

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL TELL ABOUT THEIR SPECIAL ITEM

Anne Aalto and Britt Heikkilä, Sweden reported on their experiences of working in an international school of nine hundred 13-16 year-olds where 36 students coming from 15 countries spoke 17 languages. The main goal was to integrate the pupils as quickly as possible through an intensive course in Swedish. Opportunities for personal and social relationships were created to dispel misconceptions on topics of teenage interest through discussion. Parents, too, were encouraged to join in activities, visits and projects to minimize conflicts and misunderstandings. Cor Wolff-Heins, The Netherlands outlined the history of immigration from former Dutch colonies where differences of appearance had caused mistrust and discrimination in the indigenous population. Workers from Mediterranean Europe had filled jobs for which there was a shortage of skills in the Netherlands. As families joined these immigrants, early difficulties in coping with the language presented educational limitations. Although in time qualifications to degree level were achieved, discrimination still surfaced when applying for employment. Sensitivity and support had to be encouraged to demonstrate that diversity was not a threat but an opportunity to enrich society. Kristrun Isaksson, Iceland explained that at first there was opposition to immigration in Iceland. Currently, however, the challenge of integrating new people into a small population is being encouraged. Grants are available from the Ministry of Education and a special school has been established in Reykjavik where individual learning paths and ICT programs have been developed. She reported that valuing and celebrating diversity within an atmosphere of fellowship and teamwork had resulted in learning to respect and the celebration of other cultures. Astrid Skaaland, Norway spoke of her own experience of living abroad in seven different countries over nine years with her young family and how it took her at least six months to settle in on each occasion. Astrid now teaches Norwegian as a second language to immigrants and her empathy was apparent. She stressed the importance of recognizing that refugees, asylum seekers or those joining their relatives brought a variety of experiences to their new country. They needed understanding in meeting the challenges awaiting them. Relieved to have escaped from war, terror or poverty, many of her students were eager to learn the language but it took longer for them to adjust to a new environment because of their previous history. Psychological problems inhibited their learning and had to be dealt with sympathetically. Teachers were keen to build trust and mutual respect and sought to solve these problems at an early stage with particular expertise.

CLOSING—At the end of the meeting the chairman presented each of the participants with a red rose. She asked that the minutes of the Forum would be circulated via EuForia and closed the meeting at 09.56 am.

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PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR EUROPEAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The European Forum will present the following proposal in San Diego for an European Achievement Award (EAA).

PROPOSAL

An EAA to be given biennially in recognition of distinguished service given to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in Europe:

- ◆ Procedure
A name will be submitted by each European State Executive Board to the chair of the European Forum by October 15, 2006, for decision of recipient at November 2006 Forum meeting. After the first year, the deadline for submissions will be October 15 in even-numbered years.
- ◆ Award
The award is a specially designed pin, paid for by Euro 50 from each state organization in Europe.
- ◆ Criteria
The recipient will be someone who:
 - a) has worked on expansion in her own State Organization;
 - b) has improved public relations and visibility of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International;
 - c) has increased membership;
 - d) has given lectures and/or workshops at Delta Kappa Gamma meetings;
 - e) supports and mentors other members of Delta Kappa Gamma; and
 - f) is active in the development of the European Region.
- ◆ Submission
A recommendation form to be completed by State Executive Board. This form will be created by the 2006-2008 European Forum.

2004–2006 EUROPEAN FORUM CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVES

- ◆ Finland..... Marja-Liisa Lehtikainen
- ◆ Germany Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt
- ◆ Great Britain Sandra Blacker
- ◆ Iceland Sigridur Jónsdóttir
- ◆ Norway Berit Theien
- ◆ The Netherlands..... Ria Bleeker
- ◆ Sweden Birgit E. Svensson, Chairman

The 2004–2006 European Forum members are proud to introduce the incoming members for the 2006–2008 biennium:

2006–2008 EUROPEAN FORUM CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVES

- ◆ Finland..... Marja-Liisa Lehtikainen
- ◆ Germany Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt
- ◆ Great Britain Kate York
- ◆ Iceland Helga Thorlacius
- ◆ Norway Bjorg Naking
- ◆ The Netherlands..... Ria Bleeker, Chairman
- ◆ Sweden Carin Ahlberg