

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN FORUM Saturday 10th August 2013, Amsterdam

The meeting started at 8.30



Welcome: Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, the European Forum Chair welcomed members to the Forum.

Introductions of reporters : Anu Ariste (Estonia) and Kamini Nielsen (Denmark); timekeepers: Oddny Damsgaard (Norway) and Dagmar Ullmann (Germany); attendance sheets: Catherine Bringselius Nilsson (Sweden) and Heli Pikilla (Finland).

Ingibjörg introduced the other members of the European Forum Committee: Sheila Roberts (Great Britain) and Riet Smits (The Netherlands).

Words of Inspiration: Marianna Skardeus (Sweden) spoke about the challenges of the 21st century in education - every individual should be given the possibility to have an education, we should question if the 21st century is the century of the child, what kind of an education we want for the 21st century?

In Memoriam: deceased members were honoured, Catherine Bringselius Nilsson read a poem and a white rose was presented.

The European Achievement Award: Sheila Roberts presented Kate York (Great Britain) as the recipient of the 2013 European Achievement Award and said that she has raised the profile of the European region. Kate York, in accepting the award said: " DKG has given me more than I have ever given the organization".

Introduction of the European members serving on International Committees, presented by Ingibjörg.

Changes on voting: Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir (Iceland) introduced the new voting system (electronic voting – one member/one vote) and changes that have to be carried through the next year which means that the constitution has to be changed also. One of the difficulties facing the new system is that only half of the members have an email address which means new costs. Members were encouraged to follow the discussion and take their stand.

Changes on nomination: Birgit Svenson (Sweden) and Kate York (Great Britain) introduced the changes in the nomination procedure. The deadline for new nominees is October 15 this year.

Business meeting chaired by Diana Bell (Great Britain)

1. Minutes of New York 2012: the minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.
2. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: there were no matters arising

3. Financial Accounts: Heli Piikillä introduced the income statement of the European Forum of 2012-2013 and the budget for the next year 2013-2014

4. Matters arising from the Accounts: addressing a question about regional directors travel costs Heli Piikillä explained to the members how the RD costs are presented in the statement.

5. Report about the role of the European Forum, its aims, goals and SAP was presented by the chair of the European Forum Committee Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir. Ingibjörg stressed that many ideas have been shared, now it is time to get something done, get actions. The pre-conference seminar in Amsterdam was held in a good atmosphere with lively discussions which enhances the aim of the Forum – its role as a platform for discussions. We have to be aware of the technical possibilities for communication and should encourage communication between member countries - transparency is important. We have to support each other, the forum is the voice of the European region. We have the website where we can do wonders.

6. Communication, Management Committee for European Website.

In Spokane 2010 it was decided to have a EF web committee. Members of the committee were introduced by Eygló Björnsdóttir (Iceland), the European Webmaster. The committee had a meeting in May where it was discussed how to use the website as a link between countries, how to get material from members. It was suggested that each country would send material one month, other media besides the website could be used, such as a closed Facebook group, blog, etc.

7. Euforia, Joan Carroll editor (Great Britain) – apologies from Joan Carroll who was not able to attend the meeting. Diana Bell forwarded her words to the EF meeting: Euforia is a means of communication, as such rendering articles about the European countries, members enjoy reading the Euforia, ideas from members are greatly welcome. The deadline for 2013 autumn edition is September 23.

Marika Heimbach suggested that members on international committees send photographs and a short description of their work to Joan Carroll.

8. Matters for AOB / Proposals:

- It was motioned to hold a competition to find an alternative DKG song, proposed by Jess Curtis (GB), seconded by Gail Gladwin (GB). Jess Curtis explained that we need to keep up with the spirit of the times, a style and tempo our young members would appreciate. The language of the song will be English. A vote was taken on whether the competition should be held – 39 of the members present voted for the motion, the motion will go forward. The European Forum Committee and the Regional Director will decide how to continue with the procedure.

- Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir proposed, seconded by Mary Wardrop (GB) that the editor of Euforia, Joan Carroll was invited to be a member of the European Forum web committee. This was agreed. Ingibjörg suggested that the name of the committee should be changed as the communications committee.

9. Other business: Marika Heimbach said that we should encourage young members, we should have a forum/ network for young members, they need to be heard. The matter should be put on the agenda for the EF Committee meeting in November.

Diana thanked Ingibjörg for her work as the EF chair.

Close of business meeting at 9.57

Numbers attending: 82

The business meeting was followed by a lecture "Rethinking Education" presented by Gitta Franke-Zöllmer (Germany)