



**Minutes of the Europe Forum Meeting
Friday 20th July 2018
Austin, Texas**

Welcome

The meeting opened later than planned, at 15:35, due to the extension of the fifth general meeting, in order to deal with the proposed amendments to the International Standing Rules and Constitution. It was agreed that, due to the commitments of many European members that evening, we would just hold the business meeting. The two speakers – Ewa Johansson and Jóna Benediktsdóttir – were prepared to save their talks for the International Conference in Iceland in 2019.

Kathrin Hodgson (Forum Chair) thanked the members of the Forum Committee for 2016-2018 for their hard work over the biennium.

Opening Words

Iida Hyvönen asked the members to consider what they liked about travelling. After several suggestions, the conclusion reached was that, wherever one travelled, and whatever our experiences were, when we return, we realise how wonderful home is.

Minutes from Tallinn, 2017

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting. Kathrin asked the members to give their thoughts to Barbara Carlsen, whose husband is seriously ill, and asked Anne Marie Solstad to give her our very best wishes.

Financial Accounts 2017-2018

The accounts were printed in the Forum programme. No questions were raised. Kathrin thanked the two joint treasurers, Anne Marie Solstad and Ria Logtenberg, for their work in looking after our money. €465 would be carried forward to the next financial year.

Björg Nakling and Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (European Regional Directors)

Björg spoke first and asked who present had been a member of the European Forum Committee – there were five. She insisted that we need to get the members more informed about the purpose and work of the Forum, and to get more people involved. Her idea to achieve this was to have one member in each chapter who would find out about what the Forum is doing, from their Forum representative, and to inform their own chapter.

She suggested that chapters have 'sister chapters' – organised by one person within each chapter. Ideas could be shared via the European website.

Ingibjörg asked how we can move forward in Europe. Perhaps we need a joint project – the possibility of networking was right here. But how should we go about it? We have to keep up with changes in education via leadership and management courses, and seminars, and help one another with sources of these. We could ask for a grant from the Eunah Temple Holden Fund. The important thing is for us to connect together, working towards a common goal.

She then told us about the story from Gung Ho - the geese that fly in a V formation – how they work together, the one at the front being in control for a while, and doing much of the hard work. Then the formation is changed, and someone comes to help and lead from the front to allow the previous leader to take time to recuperate. She used this analogy to compare the role of the European

Regional Director - Bjørg - and herself; there is always someone to take over the reins. Shared leadership and the support of all is important.

EuForia

Ria Bleeker spoke on behalf of Riet Smits; it was agreed that EuForia is still an important tool in uniting the eight European countries. Riet sent her thanks to all of the European presidents for their contributions throughout the past year. She would also welcome reports from other European members about any matters of interest or projects in which they are involved. Riet was thanked for her hard work since she took over as editor of EuForia.

Website

Last year the website was moved to another provider – Weebly - but it retains the same name. Eygló Björnsdóttir asked for many contributions – perhaps chapter programmes, books read, or other items of interest could be sent. Most internet sites have a translator available, so that articles can be written in the native language and then transcribed into English. Eygló was thanked for her continued service on behalf of the European region.

Membership - Younger Members

It had been mentioned several times during the week that Europe is the only Region that has increased its membership during the past biennium. This could have influenced the decisions taken during the discussion of the proposed amendments – this was affirmed by a member from Wisconsin, who attended this meeting. Many of these new members are younger members.

In October, Great Britain will take part in the Revitalisation programme through a visit from Carolyn Pittman. It was agreed that GB would share their experiences of the Revitalisation plan via the website. Other states may also choose to take part – each country has to find its own way to expand/revitalise.

Iceland has been very successful – Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir was described as a ‘master of expansion’. It was suggested that they hold a workshop in Iceland on their experiences in recruiting new, younger members, and how it might work in other European countries. Iceland also has good representation on International Committees.

Members Present

Estonia 1, Finland 1, Germany 2, Great Britain 1, Iceland 8, Netherlands 6, Norway 4, Sweden 4, plus one visitor from Wisconsin.

Closing Words

Daniela's words linked with Iida's opening words about travelling. She said that, through DKG, she had been given a great opportunity to travel, and listened to many interesting speakers, but somehow the educational part was missing – visiting schools and learning about them. As a result, she has arranged her own exchanges with members from Finland and Estonia.

Her suggestion is that she starts up a programme for younger members who would like to participate in an informal teacher exchange. There might be funding available from the EU. It might be that DKG already has a fund to finance such a project – this needs investigating. Daniela gave her email address; she will be the ‘caretaker’ of this programme and all those present were asked to inform their chapters of this new enterprise.

The meeting closed at 16:20