DELTA KAPPA GAMMA INTERNATIONAL

EUROPEAN FORUM 2002.

Minutes of the Forum Meeting held on July 31st at 4-6 pm. In the Convention Center at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Chairman. Marianne Skardeus.

Written information presented at the door, included:

1. A message from the chairman.
2. Names of the 2002-2004 members of the Forum Committee.
3. Chairman's report of the previous European Forums.
4. Report on the selection of the chair of the Forum Committee, including recognition of the necessity for full communication between the European Director and the Chairman.
5. A proposal made by Great Britain.
6. An analysis of research done on certain topics, illustrated by graphs.

The meeting began with a résumé of the development of the forum during the 4 years, and continued as follows:

1. Report that the Forum Committee has met 3 times during the biennium, with 7 members present.
2. Discussion centered on making sure that the open forum meetings should be a) interesting b) active c) professional and d) useful.
3. A resource guide was available as an aid.
4. Report on expansion. The chairman had written to the Expansion Committee and to the chair of the Professional Growth Committee, and had asked Karen Duke to report on the possibilities of expansion into Estonia and other European countries.
   Karen clearly outlined the present situation. The Expansion Committee cannot spend the money required for expansion into a new country at this time, nor should they risk expansion without definite chances of real success, growth and sustainability.
   After much discussion, the situation was clarified. If individual members or individual groups or states wish to "befriend" teachers in other countries, they may do so under their own auspices, but not in the name of Delta Kappa Gamma. The Executive Committee would obviously be pleased to know of any successful developments.
5. The Regional Director's Report. Anne Cattoor.
   Anne spoke positively about the decisions we must make to ensure the value of the forum. We must remember that it receives $ 2500 per annum to finance meetings, whereas the Regional Director gets nothing to allow the 7 State Presidents to meet. This is because we have changed from an area to a

region. We must decide what our forum is for, and how it should work for the maximum benefit of the members.

6. Marianne reported on the research she had done on behalf of the forum.
   a. The financial situation of teachers in different countries in Europe, presented in graph form.
   b. Retirement of teachers, analysed on the different age of teachers on their retirement. Graph.
   c. Length of teacher training for different types of teachers in European countries. Graph.
   d. The stress on teachers, with special reference to Sweden.
   e. Research on the greatest needs of teachers, compiled from a questionnaire. These were:
      1. Time to study and pursue personal professional development.
      2. Need for a "rest" in the form of sabbatical leave.
      3. It should be more acceptable for teachers to take time off when they are ill instead of carrying on.
      4. 80% of teachers feel that teaching satisfies them as a profession, but feel they are undervalued.

7. Report of Joan Carroll on EuForia.
There has been a period of experimental development. EuForia has not been funded up to date. Costing is very difficult as there are 3 publications per year and expenditure on e-mail is considerable for there are up to 55 contacts. As a result, expenses of $ 300 need to be paid from forum funds, as EuForia's function is to form a communication link between members of the European forum.
The report with statistics was given to each member by Joan.

8. A proposal for the future clarification of matters concerning the forum was made by Joan Carroll and Mary Wardrop of Great Britain. Anne Cattoor wished to make clear that she, as Regional Director, had taken no part in these proposals. The position of each member of the Forum Committee in their own countries was explained, and the selection of Cor Wolff-Heins as chairman was automatic, as she had been the only member who was prepared to take this commitment.
Mary quoted both the International Constitution and the Standing Rules, which state that an international officer may not be the chairman of a forum committee. Therefor the Regional Director can not be the forum chairman, but any state president can be.
There was a considerable discussion!!
A proposal was finally made by Anne Cattoor and seconded by Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, that the new forum should have as its major and immediate task, the production of a draft document on the purposes and procedures of the Forum Committee, and recommendations for changes in the future at the end of their biennium. A vote was taken and passed.

A list of important factors to be studied was shown on the projector. Anne stressed the need for accountability, and also the possibility of telephone conferences when actual meetings were impossible.
Sigrún Klara requested that the document should be ready at the end of the calendar year, so that all could study it and go prepared to Reykjavik.

9. Any other business.
   Anne Cattoor gave us information regarding:
   - The Regional Breakfast when there would be a collection, as usual, for the Emergency Fund.
   - The European dinner would be at Trios.
   - Janet Shelver had issued an invitation to us all to be her guests at the reception to celebrate the 10^{th} anniversary of her biennium as International President.
10. At the end of the meeting, Dorothy Haley thanked Marianne and her committee for their commitment, and for the fact that they had spent a great deal of time and thought on the welfare of Delta Kappa Gamma and its members in Europe. This was a difficult time in our development, and all members must feel that this meeting had cleared the way ahead for decisions in the future.

Dorothy Haley.