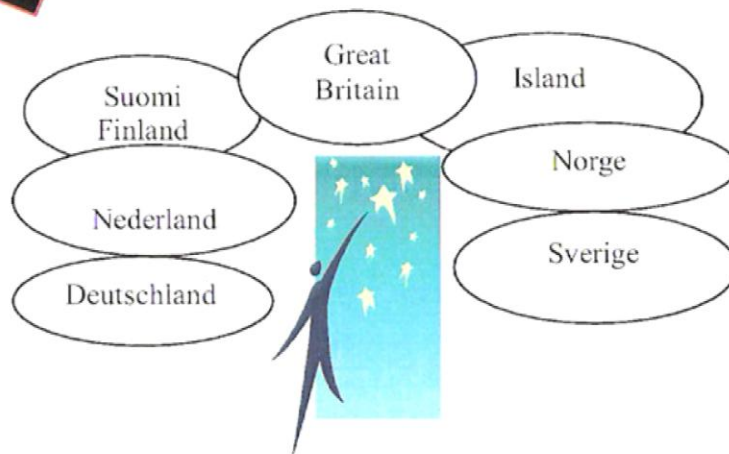


FOR KEY WOMEN
EDUCATORS

European Forum

Tuesday 31 July 2001
14.00 -16.00 p.m.



Europe Regional Conference

MALMÖ

Partnerships: Advancing Teaching and Learning

EUROPEAN FORUM

CONSTITUTION

Article V, Section D4:

"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 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. The forums shall be funded at four cents for each member within the forums subgroups per year. No forum shall be funded at less than U.S. \$ 2,500 per year.

5.52 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

- A. 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.
- B. Maintain the co-operation between the Europe Regional Director and the Steering Committee of the European Forum.
- C. Prepare for the forum sessions at the 2001 Regional Conference in Malmö, Sweden, and at the 2002 International Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, by having forum planning meetings.
- D. Conduct the European Forum sessions at the 2001 Regional Conference in Malmö, Sweden, and at the 2002 International Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- E. Develop the contents of the forum sessions as educational events at the regional conference.
- F. Increase communication and information among the European members through electronic newsletter and common database.
- G. Develop a system of setting up forum liaisons in each member country in Europe.
- H. Conduct surveys on the professional and social position of European teachers.
- I. Create and implement common projects in education with non-member countries – e.g. the Baltic states.
- J. Create and implement projects that can be supported by the programmes of the European Commission.
- K. Develop a procedure for the nomination of the European Forum chairman.
- L. Be prepared on invitation to visit the European states of the Society.
- M. Benefit from all work done in all the committees.

Marianne Skardéus, chr
European Forum

DECISIONS



Selection of chair of the European Forum

Step one:

- Each member state chooses her own candidate. The State president sends the name, recommendation form, if the candidate is willing to serve as the chair of the Europe Forum to the chair of the European Forum before March 1 of the even years. In case the candidate wants to serve as the chair of the Forum there must be a written statement.
- The chair of the European Forum sends each State president the names and the recommendations of those who are willing to serve as a chair before April 15 of the even years.
- State presidents inform their members. This is important for the election of the chair of the Europe Forum at the International Convention. Every member, present at the Convention, knows about the candidates.

Step two:

- At the International Convention during the Europe Forum meeting every European member gets (at the door entrance) a voting paper with the names of the candidates for chair of the Forum.
- During the meeting the members mark the name of their choice for the new chair of the Forum.

Step three:

- Three members, by preference no State presidents, form the polling booth. They collect the voting papers, count the votes and give the results of the poll to the chair.
- The chair declares the poll.

Candidates who do not want to become the chair are the representatives from their countries in the Europe Forum.

No presentation of the candidates is made during the Europe Forum Meeting at the International Convention. There is a whole week to meet the candidates and to talk to them if wanted.

Cor Wolff-Heins, Netherlands



Recommendation to add countries/sites to the World Fellowships Program

The World Fellowships Committee shall grant world fellowships, when sufficient funds are available, to women educators who are not members of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and who live in countries other than the United States and Canada. (*Constitution, Article VIII, Section D.9*)

The World Fellowship Fund shall be used to grant fellowships to women who are not members of the Society and who live in countries other than the United States of America and Canada. The fund shall be maintained by voluntary contributions. Rules governing fellowships shall be recommended by the World Fellowships Committee and approved by the Executive Board. (*Constitution, Article VIII, number 10*)

At present recipients of the World Fellowship stipends can study at universities in the United States and Canada exclusively. In order to enable universities of other member countries of our society to receive recipients of World Fellowships, it has been suggested that the International World Fellowships Committee submit a proposal to the Constitution Committee which would allow for adding other designated countries/sites to the World Fellowships Program. The European Forum is hereby asked to support a recommendation to the International World Fellowships Committee to submit such a proposal to the Constitution Committee.

Christina Lindqvist, Sweden

Co-operation with Rotary

The Professional Affairs Committee shall develop an action program designed to encourage mutual respect and cooperation within the profession and to promote women in education. The committee shall study and recommend action on professional issues and shall urge the state organisations to initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavours in the interests of education and of women educators. (*Constitution, Article VIII, Section C.3.*)

A co-operation with Rotary has been suggested as a partner for cooperation and mutual support concerning leadership training, student exchanges etc. As quite a few of our members already are Rotary members an increased co-operation seems natural. We are hereby asking for your support.

Marianne Skardéus, Sweden

Programme

Time	Title	Responsible
14.00	<u>Welcome</u> <u>Decisions</u> 1. European Forum administrative goals and selection procedure 2. World Fellowship stipends 3. Professional Affairs - Rotary <u>Reports:</u> 1. Baltic extension 2. Social situation of teachers in Europe.	Cor Wolff-Heins, Marianne Skardéus Christina Lindqvist Marianne Skardéus Gudrun Nylander & Lena Nordesjö Birgitta Joustra, Ellinor Rigel
14.40	<u>Introductions to discussions</u> 1. Language learning and cultural understanding. 2. Gender, democracy and quality in decision making	Berit Theien & Asta Rauhala Sigrún Jóhannesdóttir
14.50	Discussions in smaller groups	<u>Recorders:</u> Members of the European Forum and the participants at the meeting in Malmö
15.30	Reports from discussions	As above
15.50	Conclusions	Marianne Skardéus
16.00	Closing	

REPORTS:

► **Baltic expansion**

At the Europe Regional Conference in Breukelen in 1999 the discussion about extension to the Baltic countries came up. I, Gudrun Nylander, past State president Sweden, was asked to collect names and make contacts with schools, institutions and people in the educational field. Making this survey I found that a lot of Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian society members have personal or business contacts in different schools and institutions in all the three Baltic countries and that there is a great interest in the educational field to build up network with colleagues in Europe and further international.

In autumn 1999 a proposal was sent to our International Expansion Committee for Expansion into Estonia. The proposal was rejected, but was not total without interest from the Expansion Committee. In name of The Swedish Executive Board Lena Nordesjö and I have applied for a stipend from the Swedish Institute and The Visby programme, for networking in the Baltic countries -mostly Estonia. This application was rejected because a society can't apply for that stipend.

In Spring 2000 Europe Regional Director Christina Lindquist, Drs. Trijny E. Schmitz du Moulin, the Netherlands, Marja-Leena Leskinen, Finland, and I met in Helsinki to prepare a proposal about expansion into Estonia.

In Finland Marja-Leena Leskinen got a stipend from the society and she invited some Estonian teachers to her school and chapter in autumn 2000.

After the Toronto Convention the Expansion Committee gave the instruction that there will be no expansion in the coming biennium. The Expansion Committee means it is not the right time to expand into the Baltic countries just now.

How can we build up further contacts? Can we set up a sort of sister chapter connected to our own chapters? Can we adopt some Baltic teachers in our chapters? Can we start travelling together to the Baltic countries and build up more networking?

How can we go on networking in the Baltic countries? They ask for support – How can we give them that support?

Gudrun Nylander, Pi Chapter, Sweden

► **The social situation of the teacher**

The reason why I brought up the question concerning the social situation of teachers at the National Conference in Uppsala in 1999 was that I had noticed how few of the chapter members working at school had the time to be active members. I also read a lot of alarming reports in the papers of the school situation. At last I came across a big questionnaire constructed by one of the teachers' unions in Sweden, LR (Lärarnas Riksförbund). The outcome was depressing. It appeared that not only teachers over 60 couldn't cope with the situation and finished working before retirement, but that many younger teachers were ill for a longer or shorter period and doubted that they would be able to work as teachers their whole life.

Even among those who studied to become teachers there were many who, after practising in schools did not think they would work more than 5 years at school. Already then I thought that Delta Kappa Gamma Society International as an organisation for teachers should observe this and react.

It is also a fact, according to the questionnaire, that the average age of teachers today is 53 years – so in about 10 years when most teachers retire, we will see an enormous shortage of teachers at least in Sweden. Politically we can not act, but we can discuss and come up with ideas which we can publish one way or another.

Questions for reflection:

- Has the social and working environment for teachers changed during the last decades and if so, in what way?
- The teaching profession seems to have lost much of its old status. Why ?
- According to teachers 75% of the lessons can not be finished according to plan. Which are the most important reasons for this situation?
- What do you suggest to make the daily work easier for the teacher?

Birgitta Joustra, Epsilon, Sweden

DISCUSSIONS:

► Language learning and cultural understanding

Language/s is important to all of us – vital for our identity, for our place on earth. Our language gives us as human beings so much: Contacts, culture, security. But it also contains dynamite and conflicts: “Don’t touch my language!”

Teaching foreign languages sometimes give us the feeling that we forcing something upon our students that they don’t want. If we are ambitious we try beyond the pure linguistic elements to create cultural understanding for the countries where a language is spoken. Sometimes it is possible but often we fail. Lessons are too few, the students have so many other interests and don’t realise that language learning partly demands hard work. It is hard for the teacher to be enthusiastic and encouraging all the time. The need of more in-service training is obvious.

Please discuss to what extent you are

- Creating awareness of the importance of knowledge of foreign languages
- Achieving effective learning of foreign languages
- Integrating cultural understanding in language learning
- Receiving proper in-service training for language teachers
- Promoting languages LWULT¹

Marianne Skardéus, Sigma, Sweden

¹ 2001 is the European Year of Language, funded by the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The purpose is to raise awareness of the richness of European languages and encourage people to learn foreign languages. The European Union gives support to projects addressing languages LWULT (least widely used, least taught languages). Still, in our schools we are mostly teaching the “big” languages. English as a first foreign language. German, French and Spanish come next.

► Gender, democracy and quality in decision making

Summary of an Icelandic research on: Partnership – men and women in decision making

Democratic Quality

Definitions

- Democratic Quality is defined as quality in decision-making and gender equality in democratic decision-making.
- We reach Democratic Quality by integrating views and rights of both genders in decision-making in management and politics.
- Democratic Quality enforces quality in decision-making and democracy.

Main hindrances for women's participation

- Structural factors
- Social factors
- Personal factors



Training model for Democratic Quality – main objectives:

- to train men and women in co-operation and decision-making in terms of Democratic Quality and Mainstreaming
- to overcome hindrances for women's participation in decision-making and management
- to train self evaluation and self critique
- to change attitudes
- to evoke new perspectives
- to train different approaches
- to train flexibility

- How do these results concern us in our “society” and in our workplace.

Sigrún Jóhannesdóttir, Iceland

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

***Recommendation for a member
of the European Forum 2002 –2004***

Instructions: Please complete a recommendation form for the candidate your country wants to recommend for the position of chair of the Europe Forum.

Important: Please mail no later than March 1, 2002, to chair of the European Forum.

Marianne Skardéus, Norra Bergvägen 41, 431 32 SKÖVDE, Sweden

Phone: + 46 500 41 91 37 E-mail: marianne.skardeus@telia.com

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

/ _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Telephone home Office Fax E-mail

PRESENT POSITION: _____

International:

Regional:

State:

Members of the European Forum 2000-2002:

Euro reps:

Presidents 1999-2001:

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