EUROPEAN FORUM
Minutes
July 28, 2004
4.15 – 6.15 pm
Convention Centre, Minneapolis

Chairman: Cor Wolff-Heins
Reporters: Marianne Skardéus and Kate York

The programme brochure handed out included:

- *The Constitution/International Standing Rules*, and European Forum Goals for 2002-2004
- *Rationale, Purpose, Structure, Financing and Accountability* of the European Forum
- Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the European Forum meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland
- Proposed Budget for Regional Director
- Proposed Term of Office for Forum members
- 2004-2006 European Forum members

WELCOME
The meeting began with a warm welcome from the Chairman, who introduced Gloria Redston, who was to give the Word of Inspiration.

WORD OF INSPIRATION: GLORIA REDSTON
Gloria spoke about her experiences at the recent Golden Gift Seminar, giving particular mention to the quality of the lectures and the fellowship of the thirty members taking part – she said that Purpose 1 of the society was fulfilled throughout. She encouraged those present to apply for a generous Golden Gift themselves.
There were two main points she wished to mention:

1. We should take every opportunity to strengthen the Region by increasing our interaction within Europe. For example, Marie-Louise Nordesjös, from Sweden recently contacted Joan Carroll in Great Britain for information about autism, resulting in a meaningful and useful exchange. We could do much more like this, which will be helped by the European database when it is up and running.
2. The recent Minneapolis Night had illustrated the diversity of cultures in the USA. The same is true of Europe, both in terms of recent immigrants and of older ones. This is not yet reflected in the Delta Kappa Gamma in Europe but would greatly enhance the society. We should think how to develop this aspect.

Gloria urged everyone to go back enthused by what they had gained from attending the Convention and to pass the news on to others. It is important to get as many members as possible to Regional Conferences to see the European and international aspects of membership. As many as possible should go to Finland in 2005, building on previous wonderful conferences. This will demonstrate that Europe is playing an increasingly significant role in Delta Kappa Gamma.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- The minute-takers, Marianne Skardéus (Sweden) and Kate York (Great Britain) were introduced, together with the timekeeper, Barbara Kern (Great

Britain). The international warning signs to be used for timing were explained.

- Minutes of Reykjavik, Iceland, 2003 – The minutes were approved and the reporters were thanked.
- Annual Report. Members were referred to the report on page 85 of the '*Program and Biennium Reports*' booklet issued to all delegates.
- Budget Recommendation for European Regional Director – The Chairman clarified the possible confusion over the meaning of the budget. The intention was to facilitate a Co-ordinator to visit more European countries. Proposals had been made to State Presidents about how to handle suggestions in their own countries. The subject had been discussed in State Convention meetings and the outcome had been notified.
  The seven State Presidents had decided to provide money to a Co-ordinator, who can then travel to the European countries. Europe can appoint whoever they want – members understand the implications of who will be appointed. The Chairman explained that it is up to State Presidents to decide how to provide the money and how to have it accounted for. Thus it is no longer a matter for the European Forum and members were thanked for the step towards more contact between countries.
  Replying to a question asking whether the procedure is allowed constitutionally, the Chairman explained that it is – the money is not being required from Headquarters. If it is the wish of the State Presidents, then it is not a matter for the European Forum Committee. In future, it could be included in guidelines.
  Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir emphasised that we have to be very careful **not** to involve the International Society or Headquarters. The recipient will be *called* a Co-ordinator, but in practice the intention is to enable the Regional Director to make greater contact.
  The Chairman mentioned that the facility does not appear in the job description of the European Director but she is sure it will work.
- Proposal for a change of the chairman and a 50% change of the members of the European Forum each biennium –The Chairman emphasised that it is not necessary to keep reinventing the wheel. Six out of seven countries had agreed to the proposal and every state would be free to implement the proposal in its own way. The intention was to maintain continuity. After discussion, it was agreed that the proposals are guidelines to enable flexibility and they should be tried out to see how they work.
- 2004-2006 Installation of officers – Incoming officers were each introduced by a member of the relevant state.

Presentation of members of the Forum 2002-2004 and 2004-2006

Country	2002-2004	2004-2006
Finland	Asta Rauhala	Marja-Liisa Lehikoinen
Germany	Ellinor Riegel	Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt
Great Britain	Gloria Redston	Sandra Blacker
Iceland	Sigridúr Jónsdóttir	Sigridúr Jónsdóttir
Norway	Berit Theien	Berit Theien
Nederlands	Cor Wolff- Heins, Chair	Ria Bleeker
Sweden	Birgit Svensson	Birgit Svensson, Chair

New members, Sandra Blacker (Great Britain) and Ria Bleeker (Netherlands) were welcomed. The Chairman presented some small personal tokens of appreciation. Birgit Svensson, Forum Chairman for the new biennium, told the meeting that she hopes to do a good job and sees the task as teamwork. She thanked the ougoing Chairman on behalf of the seven member countries for her efficiency, ideas and enthusiasm, then presented her with a small gift.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Barbara Kern reported that the European database is being worked on and she hopes that it will be completed during the Society's 75th anniversary year.
- Joan Carroll thanked all who have supported '*Euforia*' with material. Members indicated that they wished the publication to continue and Joan's offer to continue as editor was accepted. She asked to be notified of any changes to e-mail addresses and explained the arrangements for circulating the newsletter.
- Members were notified of arrangements for the European Supper.
- Marianne Skardéus referred to the diversity of Minnestoa Night. She proposed that Europe should try to focus on embracing/celebrating diversity for the coming biennium. It was agreed that the proposal would be put to the European Forum committee for consideration and suggestions would then be circulated for members to think about. Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir mentioned that all seven State Presidents were present at the meeting. It was a good idea that could be passed on and each state could implement it as they think best in their own countries. Triny Smitz du Moulin (Netherlands) asked if the meeting could accept the proposal as a recommendation and their was a unanimous oral vote of 'yes'. Birgit Svensson suggested that the idea should be carried forward to the Finland conference.
- The Chairman confirmed that 49 European members had attended the meeting, representing member states as follows:

Great Britain	11
Iceland	5
Sweden	13
Norway	6
Germany	2
Finland	6
Netherlands	6.

She thanked all for their participation and contributions and declared the meeting closed.