

**MINUTES of the EUROPEAN FORUM MEETING
at the ΔKT EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN OSLO
Saturday 8 August 2009 at 08.30 am**

Welcome:

Diana Bell, Chairman of the Forum, welcomed 161 European participants plus 16 guests from the USA and introduced the members of the Forum.

Diana Bell apologised for errors made by the printer in the agenda and Standing Rules. Rule 5.51 should have been updated and after 5.3 they are Regional Rules.

Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser (Germany) should have been included in the agenda and would raise the question of the age limit for membership.

Introduction of Reporters: Anu Joon (Estonia) and Carin Ahlberg (Sweden). Kate York (Great Britain) to proof-read the final version.

Timekeepers: Vivian Repko (The Netherlands) and Unity Harvey (Great Britain).

Attendance sheets: Astrid H Bie Skaaland (Norway) and Helga Thorlacius (Iceland)

Word of inspiration: Brigitte Wichmann (Germany)

Brigitte Wichmann reflected on the words *activate* and *vision*, because the theme of this Regional Conference was Activate your Vision. She had first consulted her dictionary in order to find out what different meanings these words might have. She spoke about the importance of having a vision - a vision for your life, your loved ones, your job, your chapter, state, the Society. Visions are not just something for the young. Everybody must have a vision. She concluded that all it takes is a vision – and then the necessary action, day after day.

Business meeting:

In Memoriam:

Deceased members were honoured. Diana said she would send cards to Carol Mueller and Paula Dent who have lost family and friends. Trijny Schmitz du Moulin said that she had already organised cards that were being sent around for members to sign.

Minutes of Chicago 2008: Agreed

Matters for AOB/proposals:

1 European Website:

Marianne Skardéus, representing the Swedish State Board, talked about the need for changes, to go beyond good to great and to involve all members and by:

1. making the Society more international
2. making necessary changes in the administration
3. the European Forum being replaced by the European Regional
4. limiting the number of committees
5. increasing the membership and especially having a focus on young teachers
6. reaching all members by setting up a website

Diana Bell referred to the European Website Workshop and stated that Eygló Björnsdóttir has agreed to set up the first version of the website. The audience supported this. Money and professional support are needed to be able to go forward. All were asked to contact their state presidents and Forum representatives if they had good ideas about what was to be included in the website. Diana Bell also mentioned there will be a link to a new Social Networking program, which HQ has bought, to enable contacts between members in the future.

The audience discussed the role of the European Forum and how to make the European meetings more professional by emphasizing educational research.

2 Age limit:

Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser gave 8 arguments for doing away with the age limit:

- age does not tell you how motivated someone is
- even being still active does not guarantee activity
- lots of women stay 'active' after they have retired, whereas
- others have finished working at an earlier age
- any former teacher who wants to donate her time and experience should be welcome
- we should not risk our good reputation by discriminating against our fellow-teachers
- as we get older ourselves it's paradoxical to say someone our age should not be member
- Article 27 of the Declaration of Human Rights

She was told either to put in an amendment with endorsement from the EF or send a paper to the Constitution Revision Committee. This was to be included in the minutes.

3 European Forum Representation:

Dorothy Haley (GB) gave the historical background for the Forum and the role of the Regional Director compared with that of an Area Representative. She proposed that the state presidents should be the state representatives in the Forum and that the Forum money should be used to invite the RD to the meetings.

Birgit Svensson, Regional Director, was glad that this question was raised. All member states had earlier agreed to pay for the RD to be able to attend the Forum meetings except one state. The RD is ex officio member of the meetings but it is important that she can attend.

There were some discussions and questions regarding the role of the Forum and suggestions that the money for the Forum instead goes to the RD. This should be considered in the revision of the appropriate documents. The Forum committee members were asked to discuss this at their November meeting and report back in Spokane. The need for information and communication between the Forum Committee and the members was highly stressed.

4 European Data Base:

Kate York, (GB) explained that so far we have waited for a website which now will be set up. There are problems involved because some members do not want their names and contact details published. This could be addressed by using a protective password. She asked if we could proceed on an opt-out basis. The database should include names and ways of contacting, e-mail addresses etc. Data Protection legislation may be different in each country.

Kate submitted a motion: 'It is proposed that contact details for all members in Europe should be included on a password-protected website unless individual members wish to opt out, in which case they are asked to notify their State Presidents by November 1, 2009.'

The majority of the audience were for, with a few against.

European Achievement Award:

Diana Bell presented **Dr Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir** who was recipient of the 2009 European Achievement Award. The citation was:

'Dr Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir was recognised as having extensive knowledge of the Society. She has been involved from the time she became founder of the first chapter in Iceland in 1975, and has held many positions on chapter, state, regional and international levels.

She is well known within the AKT Society and has served as the European Regional Director. During her biennium she visited most of the European States. This biennium she is the first European member to serve in the position of a vice president on the Administrative Board. She is the former National Librarian of Iceland, the first woman to hold that position in the country. She is always ready to do work for the Society and is a very worthy representative of the European Membership.'

The award was a design in silver, 'one woman is special and she is in gold and in the centre of the group (ruby) She is cherished and supported by the organisation of women, the other female symbols. The ruby can also be seen as the rose that symbolises the DKG society'. (The designer's explanation).

Other business: There was no other business.

Diana Bell thanked Ria Bleeker for being such a good chair of the last Forum Committee.

Marianne Skardéus introduced the Swedish History book II and gave a copy to each state president.

Lecture:

Anu Joon (Estonia) introduced the speaker **Meeri Sild** (Estonia).

The theme of her lecture was **Collaborate, share, create – in the new way.**

'In today's rapidly changing world the need to be informed and quick information exchange is vital. The presentation focuses on ways to make the best use of new technologies for strengthening and growing the organisation through net-working, vital practice communities and electronic tools.' (Link to The Power Point presentation: <http://dkgeesti.blogspot.com/>)

Close of business meeting:

Diana Bell closed the meeting at 10.10 am.