

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - European Forum

Minutes of the Forum Committee Meeting
held in Oslo, Norway - Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November 2008

Friday 7 November 21:30:

Present: New Committee members

<i>Denmark</i> - Ruth Hjorth-Nielsen	<i>Estonia</i> - Anu Joon
<i>Finland</i> - Eija Paukkuri	<i>Germany</i> - Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser
<i>Great Britain</i> - Diana Bell - in the chair	
<i>Iceland</i> - Helga Thorlacius	<i>The Netherlands</i> - Vivian Repko
<i>Norway</i> - Astrid H Bie Skaaland	<i>Sweden</i> - Carin Ahlberg
and Birgit Svensson (Sweden) - European Director (by invitation)	

Outgoing committee members

<i>Finland</i> - Marja-Liisa Lehtikoinen	<i>Germany</i> - Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt
<i>Great Britain</i> - Kate York	<i>Iceland</i> - Helga Thorlacius
<i>The Netherlands</i> - Ria Bleeker – in the chair	
<i>Norway</i> - Bjorg Nakling (hosting)	<i>Sweden</i> - Carin Ahlberg
And Trijny Schmitz du Moulin (The Netherlands) - European Director (by invitation)	

Apologies: None

Diana Bell opened the meeting by welcoming members of the old and new European Forum Committee.

1. Agenda: The agenda drawn up by Diana Bell was accepted.

Minute recorders:

Friday: Carin Ahlberg and Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt
Saturday: Helga Thorlacius and Eija Paukkuri
Kate York would edit the minutes.

2. In Memoriam: It was agreed upon a Minute of Silence to be held in memory of deceased members at each European Forum Meeting without individuals being named.

3. Minutes of the Forum meeting in Niederhöchstadt, Friday 3 November and Saturday 4 November 2007

Matters arising:

- The budget was on the agenda and would be dealt with on Saturday.
- The €1 levy: to be discussed at point 8 of the minutes.
- Pin for European Achievement Award to be on the agenda with paper from Dorothy Haley.
- The proposal to install a Treasurer for the European Forum was accepted in Chicago. It should be one member of the Forum Committee. Vivian Repko accepted to become Treasurer. The money should be brought to the November Forum by the Committee members.
- Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser reported that there had not been any inquiries for the international exchange programme yet.
- The outgoing Regional Director confirmed that she sent a document to the incoming director stating how events went.

Points from Austin:

- No reports have been given from the Task Force until now. Trijny would send the papers she has got.
- There seemed to be problems with receiving the DVD made by Janny Kisteman. Trijny would see to it and she will also ask Janny about reformatting the DVD for European use.
- Travel costs of Regional Director. Sweden still declines to pay €1/member. Birgit reported the "history" of the situation.

The minutes were agreed.

The meeting closed at 22:35

Saturday 8. November – the meeting resumed at 09:00

Present: *Members of the Forum 2008 – 2010*

Minute recorders:

Friday: Carin Ahlberg and Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt

Saturday: Helga Thorlacius and Eija Paukkuri

1. Minutes of the European Forum in Chicago July 2008

Matters arising:

- The time limit for the business meeting of The Forum should allow the speaker to have the allocated time. More time is needed - at least 2 ½ or even 3 hours in total. After corrections to spelling errors, the minutes were agreed on.

2. Budget matters.

- a. Trijny Schmitz du Moulin presented the financial report of the Regional Director 2006-2008. On her report can be seen that she has more expenses than income. Receipts from the European countries were €356 and expenditure was €1889.09. At present not all States are making the agreed payment of 1€ per member each year.
- b. Ria Bleeker presented the European Forum Budget 2006-2007, held in Amsterdam and Frankfurt. She stated that the London conference did not cost the Forum anything and the Frankfurt meeting was cheaper because of train travel. As a result, this time there was money to pay more for travel costs.
- c. Diana Bell presented a Draft Budget 2008-2009, Oslo November 2008. A new process for reimbursement for expenses was discussed. It was agreed on that this time the Forum would pay 80% of the cheapest fare. The members should pay for the board and lodging, then reclaim this and the remaining 20% of the fare from their states. On this occasion, all members were offered hospitality in Bjorg Nakling's home and the Forum paid for incidental expenses. Diana asked the members to pay for the European Award pin and travel costs of the European Director to Vivian Repko the Treasurer, who would issue receipts accordingly.

3. Information from Birgit Svensson, European Regional Director.

Birgit thanked members for the invitation to the Forum meeting. She then informed them about an International Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting she attended in Traverse City. There it was decided that the theme for the Regional conferences in 2009 would be "Activate our vision."

Birgit informed members that the cost of registration for 2009 Regional Conferences would be \$86; the daily rate would be \$45. Various conference details were discussed, including accommodation at Cochs Pension and the Radisson.

Questions were presented in Traverse City:

- Do we change in Delta Kappa Gamma? – It is like an old house – we have to change – we have to decide if, how-, and when.
- What kind of society would we like to have? – Planning for the future. Those questions should also be asked at the Forum meeting in Oslo.

4. The possible development of a European website.

- a. Planning for a European Website. The letter from Marianne Skardeus was discussed. It was agreed on that we need a European website, but financially the Forum members were concerned about proposed costs. It was suggested that European members should be invited to offer to construct and manage a website. This should be discussed in each State before the Oslo meeting.

- b. Paper with Information from Sweden. (The European Forum). The Letter from Ann-Charlotte Berglund was discussed. It overlaps with the letter from Marianne. It is very important to use modern ICT: e-mail, video-conferencing etc, but it is also very important to meet once a year to discuss Forum matters. Trijny pointed out that the Forum is very different in each Region. There are discussions of political, educational or social matters in other Forums.

Diana Bell would write a letter to Sweden State to answer those two letters. Those matters would be discussed at the Forum in Oslo.

5. Effective communication, replying to e-mails.

Diana Bell pointed out how important it is to reply to e-mails, so that the sender knows that it has been received. The Forum members should report from the Forum meeting to their State Presidents, if it is not the same person, as soon as possible afterwards. Some States have a Forum site on their homepage. It was recommended that all matters for discussion should be sent to the members of the Forum Committee before the Forum meeting in November.

6. Pre-Conference Seminar.

As at previous regional conferences, a Pre-Conference Seminar will be organised and run by the Forum Committee on the Tuesday immediately before the European Regional. It was agreed on that Eygló Björnsdóttir from Iceland should be asked again to give an ITC lecture at the Pre-Conference Seminar in Oslo. She will be asked to answer by 1 December, 2008. Plan B is to ask Ria Bleeker to give a lecture about *Entrepreneurship in Schools*.

The Norwegian Steering Committee has to be informed about the theme, format, anticipated costs, presenter(s), number of places, charges, venue, materials and equipment etc.

It was agreed that the Pre-Seminar should be widely advertised within the European states, and also on the registration form if possible. It is important for members to know about arrangements before they book their flights.

7. Forum Meeting in Oslo.

Birgit Svensson handed out a draft of the *Schedule at Glance* for the Regional Conference in Oslo 3-8 August, 2009. It was pointed out that the Forum meeting needs at least 2½ - 3 hours, for the business meeting and a speaker. This is for the Steering Committee to consider. There were some discussions if there should be a Norwegian speaker at the Forum. Birgit pointed out that we should make it as European as we could. Anu Joon will ask for an Estonian speaker, who speaks about communications, websites, interaction etc. The deadline for a response would be 1 December, 2008. Plan B: Eija Paukkuri would ask a Finnish speaker who speaks about *Better Communications in Firms and Families*.

It was suggested by the Forum Committee that costs for the speaker would be covered up to €100. For those who are planning a Workshop, the Workshop proposal form is on the International website. Workshop proposals are looked forward to and members should be encouraged to present them! Proposals are to be sent to Birgit Svensson, postmark deadline is 16 February, 2009.

For the Regional Conference in Oslo all the information will be on the Norwegian website <http://www.deltakappagamma.no/>. The main part of the European Regional Conference will be taking place in Oslo, Norway 2009 from 5-8 August. All plans and suggestions from the Steering Committee have been sent to Birgit.

Reporters for the Forum meeting at the Oslo Conference will be: Anu Joon from Estonia and Carin Ahlberg from Sweden. Timekeepers will be Vivian Repco from The Netherlands

and Unity Harvey from Great Britain. The word of inspiration will come from Germany, Gisela will invite someone.

8. Aims, goals and a strategic plan for 2008-2010.

It was decided to continue working at the goals from the Frankfurt meeting:

- a. Plan both Regional and International Forum Sessions through regular meetings of the Forum Committee.
- b. Continue to strengthen the nine member states by using electronic newsletters and homepages with English summarizations.
- c. Maintain co-operation between European Regional Director and member states.
- d. Encourage members to attend State Conventions and the European Regional Conference.
- e. Recognise ongoing research by members establishing contacts between members and member's schools.
- f. Portray ΔΚΓ events and projects through contacts with the media.
- g. To organise a pre-conference seminar or workshops.

9. The next European Achievement Award.

It was agreed on that the award should be an appropriate piece of jewellery. According to Dorothy Haley's paper regarding the award brooch, Ria Bleeker will ask the artist for a quotation and a change of pin/pendant. The finance issues for funding the award were discussed. It had previously been agreed that each state would contribute €50 every 2 years. Sweden has not been supportive of this. It was suggested that the new member states should not pay for the EAA the first two years after they joined ΔΚΓ. The nomination and selection process was reviewed by the new Forum Committee members and a decision was made for the award in 2009.

10. Paper from Dorothy Haley about the nature of the Forum Meetings.

The Forum members discussed the letter and it was suggested that they should take this letter to their executive boards and have a discussion there. Diana Bell would write a letter to Dorothy and tell her that a discussion had taken place.

11. Any other Business.

- a. Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser raised for discussion that she felt that the age limit for new members was very improper. Currently, new members should not have been retired from work more than two years. Birgit said that every member could send in a request for changing the relevant rule, but she also thought that it had already been voted on. Chapters could be reminded that 'retirement' meant 'the end of any active work' and this could be interpreted quite liberally. Christa would like to have a discussion about this at the Forum meeting in Oslo.
Christa also pointed out that the exchange programme could be used during Conventions and Forum meetings if members are willing to offer lodging, which of course would reduce the expenses of attending these meetings.
- b. Dates of State Conferences 2009:
Norway - Oslo 24.-26. April; Germany 1-3 May; Finland (Tampere) 7 February; Sweden (Vesterås) - 14-15 March; Great Britain (Cambridge) 3-5 April; The Netherlands 16-17 May; Iceland (Egilstadir) 16-17 May; Denmark – no State Conference in 2009; Estonia – dates not yet finalised, but will be publicised on the Estonian website.

Next meeting of the Forum committee will take place from 6-8 November, 2009, in Amsterdam. The 2010 meeting would take place in Germany.

12. Closure of meeting. The meeting closed at 17:30.