



**EUFORIA**  
**EDITION NO.29**  
**JANUARY 2009**

**GREETINGS FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

My best wishes to you for a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity.

I have a very special memory. In 1990 I participated in my first International Convention. It took place in New Orleans and Marjorie Allen served as the International President. At the request of all states within Europe, it had been Dorothy Haley's duty to facilitate open discussion throughout the whole Society on the formation of a fifth region – Europe.

At this time some states were against this request. The participants from Europe were rather disappointed but at an informal meeting President Allen encouraged us saying: "Have patience, you will have your region one day but it takes time."

In 1999 The Netherlands invited us to the first European Regional Conference. That means we have a jubilee to celebrate this year in Oslo. I can assure you that the steering committee is aware of this important occasion and will make it a special event

A jubilee is a time for reflection. What have we achieved? Are we proud of what we face in the driving mirror? A jubilee is also time for new goals and new visions. "It is only when we have a vision that we know where we are going" wrote Dr. Rants in the News. "Each of us has a vision for the Society," she continued. Let's put this vision into action!

I would like that to happen at the European conference in Oslo. On August 6<sup>th</sup> a seminar is scheduled with these contents. Come and listen to the panel, be prepared with your own questions and suggestions! We need "greater involvement and less passivity on the part of all members." (J. Heinicke)

And now WORKSHOPS! Where are all you key women educators? I am sure that all of you have something of great value to present. Take the opportunity to give a workshop at the conference! Up to now I have only received requests concerning Society workshops.

You will find the request form on the home page of Norway's website, [www.deltakappagamma.no](http://www.deltakappagamma.no)

Working together with the steering committee for the planning of the European conference is a great pleasure. But that is not my only task. As an International Representative I am assigned by our International President to go to Norway, April 17 – 19, Virginia, April 24 – 26 and New York, May 1 – 3. Last year I visited Tallinn, Estonia. I have also accepted the kind invitation to the State conference in Great Britain.

I know there is a lot happening in the different States and "From Vision to Action, Advancing the Society" will be their theme too.

I will listen and learn.

**Birgit Svensson**



### **Why are February 1, May 1 and September 1, important dates?**

- Because they are application deadlines for Individual Awards of **The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation Cornetet Fund for Professional Development**
- Because Lucile Cornetet Individual Awards assist educators in their participation in professional development opportunities
- Because Grants are awarded to employed educators, both Delta Kappa Gamma members and **non members**.
- Grants are available for early-career educators and second-educational-career educators. **What to do?**

Go to [www.educatoredge.org](http://www.educatoredge.org) for information. This website lists a variety of professional development opportunities.

As for Europeans, please notice the list of courses in the framework of the European Commission. Please visit Educator Edge and click on **links** and look under More Professional Development/ **European Commission Comenius- Gruntvig Training Database**.

For application forms: Please visit [www.deltakappagamma.org](http://www.deltakappagamma.org) or [www.educatoredge.org](http://www.educatoredge.org)

**Questions?**

Please use e-mail: [Marianne.skardeus@comhem.se](mailto:Marianne.skardeus@comhem.se)

***Marianne Skardéus* Member of the Educational Foundation, Board of Trustees.**

### **EUROPEAN FORUM**

The Forum is pleased to announce a Pre-Conference Seminar in Oslo, Norway. This is an IT Workshop / Seminar presented by Eygló Björnsdóttir on Tuesday 4th August 09.00 -17.00. 20 places are available. Two places will be held for each European country until 25th February. There will also be a waiting list, (you will be informed immediately a place becomes available).

There will be a charge of 200 NKR to cover costs of computer, room hire, coffee etc. This workshop / seminar will focus on some free services available on the Internet for communicating, making websites, sharing information (text and media) etc. You will discuss and learn how to use these tools as educators, for your chapters or just for personal use. The pros and cons of using web-logs will be discussed and participants will learn to set up their own web-log.

This seminar is suitable for members at the 'intermediate' level of skill in using the Internet. This is similar to the seminar held in London 2007 but not quite the same. Eygló is focusing on blog, Wikispaces, delicious.com, photos and photoservice on the web, RRS, what Google-service offers etc.

Please contact: Helga A Thorlacius – [helgath@akmennt.is](mailto:helgath@akmennt.is) for a place.

**Diana Bell, Chair of European Forum**

## **COME TO NORWAY FOR THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

All your Delta Kappa Gamma sisters in Norway and the European Regional Director, Birgit Svensson, invite you to Oslo from August 5-8, 2009.

The conference programme follows this year's theme: Activate your vision. Birgit Svensson and the Norwegian members recommend that you reserve the whole week to attend.

We invite those of you who are looking for adventure outside the conference to join tours in and around Oslo. The tailor-made day trips and half-day trips will take you back in time and show you solutions to the challenges of today.

The members of Zeta, Epsilon and Delta chapters will be your hostesses and will do their best to give you an enjoyable time.

During the conference itself we expect to learn more about our organization. We have excellent speakers, a variety of workshops, info-fair, general sessions, vendors and exhibitors.

The Pre-Conference offers courses for all who hold offices in the Society. There are important tasks ahead!

The Mayor of Oslo will welcome the European Conference to Oslo City Hall by extending an invitation to all participants to enjoy an official reception on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

On August 6<sup>th</sup> you will have an opportunity to sail on the S/S Lady Mack in the Oslo Fjord for several hours.

We wish to offer all our members good accommodation. All our hotels are situated near the Conference site, Oslo University College. The options are varied and should meet individual needs.

From Oslo Airport, Gardermoen, you can get to the centre of Oslo in 20 minutes. The airport bus takes you to the hotels and the University College in 50 minutes.

The Norway steering committee with our Regional Director, Birgit Svensson, are busy making every minute of your stay in Oslo a truly wonderful experience. See you August 3-8, 2009 in Oslo at the Oslo University College and the Radisson SAS hotel.

## **GERMANY**

Today there is an amazingly cold, grey and rainy day in our country. Many friends suffer colds, do not feel good. Bad mood? What shall I describe to make everyone feel better?

Actually there are several events to look forward to during the coming months, thinking of the European Regional in Norway and several state meetings.

I would like to cordially invite you to this year's German State Meeting in Etelsen. The Delta Chapter has found a wonderful venue in northern Germany, close to the city of Bremen. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend.

One of the most important aspects to our German members is to meet members on an international basis, to learn and exchange ideas. You see one of our motives is a very egoistic one. You are badly needed!

There is more information on the ΔΚΓ www page. Hopefully we will greet you in Etelsen during May. And of course I am looking forward to meeting many of you during the summer in Oslo.

**Ulrike Gottlob**

## **German State Meeting 2009**

Delta Chapter of the Germany State Organisation invites you all to the annual meeting being held from **May 1 – 2 2009** in **Schloss Etelsen**.

[schloss-etelsen@bnw.de](mailto:schloss-etelsen@bnw.de) [www.schloss-etelsen.bnw.de](http://www.schloss-etelsen.bnw.de)

Schloss Etelsen was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Neo Renaissance style. It is surrounded by a beautiful park. It is owned and operated by the Foundation of the Industry of the State of Lower Saxony.

Single room including breakfast and dinner will be 69 Euro.

There are a few double rooms available, however double occupancy in single rooms is possible (sofa bed) at 89 Euro.

The meeting will take place at the Bildungswerk der Niedersächsischen Wirtschaft  
Schloss Etelsen

Tel: 0049 42 35 9300-0

Fax: 0049 42 35 930010

e-mail: [schloss-etelsen@bnw.de](mailto:schloss-etelsen@bnw.de)

[www.schloss-etelsen.bnw.de](http://www.schloss-etelsen.bnw.de)

### **Program:**

Thursday, April 30 : Arrival of guests at Schloss Etelsen, dinner.

Friday, May 1 : Depending on arrival of guests there will be a program in the morning and in the afternoon.

Dinner at Schloss Etelsen.

Saturday, May 2 : Annual meeting, installing of new officers.

Corlea Plowman, International Executive Coordinator will be present.

Dinner and entertainment at the castle.

Sunday, May 3 : Departure after breakfast.

### **How to get to Etelsen:**

- a) **by car:** Take Autobahn A 27 Bremen-Walsrode exit Verden-Nord, direction Bremen/Achim, Langwedel, Daverden, then - Etelsen
- b) **by train:** Hannover / Bremen, change trains either in Achim or Verden to local train to Etelsen, it is a 10 to 15 min. walk from the station to the castle
- c) **by plane:** The nearest airport is **Bremen Airport**. Take a tram to the main station, then take a local train that stops in Etelsen.

**Deadline for reservations is February 25, 2009.**

Please make reservations through: Marika Heimbach, Delfshauserstrasse 45, 26180 Rastede  
[famheimbach@t-online.de](mailto:famheimbach@t-online.de)

**The members of Delta Chapter Germany** are looking forward to welcoming you in Etelsen.

### **Friendship across borders**

Since the chartering of Delta Chapter/ Germany it has been a tradition to meet with our colleagues from Epsilon Chapter/ The Netherlands during the Christmas season.

Last December our Dutch friends invited us to come to Eelde-Paterswolde, a village near Groningen. There were eight of us travelling, including three young teachers from Rastede who had been attending our chapter activities during the past year.

We were welcomed with coffee and cookies in Anette's house and then taken to a beautiful old mansion, hosting a collection of old instruments, where we were treated to a concert of "Old Music" mostly written in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Dutch composers. We thoroughly enjoyed the unusual connection of different flutes with classic guitar and cembalo.

Yvonne then opened her house for spending the evening, savouring a delicious menu which her husband had prepared along with a colleague and friend who is an educator within the gastronomic field.

Later in the evening we had the pleasure to initiate the three young educators from Rastede. Daniela, Claudia and Sonja were warmly welcomed as new members.

We gladly accepted the invitation to the annual President's New Year reception in January and to join the Dutch members in the celebration of Epsilon Chapter's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

our party of eight were welcomed at a very special place, the site of the earliest settlement in the northern part of The Netherlands. At the small church we were introduced to the history dating back a thousand years.

Dinner had been prepared by our friend from Uganda, Florence.

We enjoyed delicious African food after listening to Florence's touching story of her origins in a remote Ugandan village being one of the few girls who were able to attend a school. Florence is planning to go back home to Uganda at the end of the year, she wants to work for her country, especially for girls' education. The piggy bank for her project was well "fed" afterwards.

The evening concluded with a concert at the church. The two artists, mother and daughter, presented a performance full of fun, excitement and emotional depth.

Highlight after highlight – on Sunday a visit to the remarkable exhibit of J.W. Waterhouse "Betoverd door Vrouwen" at the Groninger Museum, followed by the reception at Riet's house – again with fine food and entertainment and crowned by the initiation of two new members of Epsilon Chapter.

Again friendship across borders has been joyfully experienced which makes our society so valuable to all of us.

**Marika Heimbach**

## **SWEDEN**

January is the month when chapters plan for new interesting activities during this oncoming Spring. Two of our Swedish chapters celebrate their anniversary this year, Sigma 20 and Mu 25. And Sweden State is becoming 35 this year. Our history book is on its way – and will be distributed at our next State Convention in March. To look backwards will give perspective to the impact of our Society! A good way of "Advancing the Society".

Let me take this opportunity to highlight the idea about a European website. Sweden came up with a proposal on this matter at the Forum in Chicago last summer. The details were discussed at the European Forum in November as you can all read from the minutes of that meeting. Who knows – maybe there are some members interested in the technical parts of such a website. If money could be raised, it would be a superb way of communicating on pedagogical matters - which is one of the main tasks for the Forum.

We are now looking forward to coming Oslo, to the Regional Conference and meeting with members from all nine European countries!

**Ann-Charlotte Berglund Sweden State**

## **GREAT BRITAIN**

Delta Kappa Gamma is a wonderful society for those who like to travel and meet new people. I've been reviewing with pleasure the many opportunities offered me last year. In March it was Tallinn, where I met our new Estonian members and witnessed their installation and the birth of a new Chapter. In April, I recall our own conference in Bournemouth, where we had such excellent speakers. In August, the impressive International Convention in Chicago, an exciting and vibrant city and in November it was Oslo, where I chaired a meeting of the European Forum with a handover from the outgoing members. There were 16 of us and I returned home with a sore throat from so much laughing, talking and singing. After work of course!

Good to note that this year our Honorary Member Sue Torr has been chosen as an international speaker. We feel honoured that Sue is one of thirty four nationally selected Reading Heroes, who will be acknowledged as guests of honour at a private reception with the Prime Minister's wife.

Our Chapters have also been very pro-active and membership has risen very slightly. We have a great deal to offer potential members, the [www.deltakappagamma.net](http://www.deltakappagamma.net) webpage lists forty two reasons to belong.

The Regional Conference in Oslo looks very exciting and I hope to see many of you there. Our State Conference April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in Cambridge, has some excellent speakers lined up and a full programme. We will also welcome and hear *Jensi Souders*, our new International First Vice-President. Do look at our website for details. [www.deltakappagamma.org/GB](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/GB).

It is almost 80 years since Delta Kappa Gamma Society International came into being. In that time education has seen many changes, especially in methods of communication. However there is still a need for women educators to get together. During our State Conference we will have time to celebrate our Society's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I hope to see you there.

**GB State Organisation President Diana Bell**

### **THE NETHERLANDS**

Our organisation can look back on a variety of activities. The individual chapters are busy as they work out the initiated programmes, while the board is finishing their new policy approach.

Following the fee increase from ΔΚΓ International, we increased the fee for the Dutch department as well. Although there were some objections, a large majority of the members eventually accepted the increase. So far no members left because of this.

Although the winter snow and ice have disappeared and here and there trees are starting to blossom, we look back on a festive winter season for our association. For several years the Epsilon chapter from the North of Holland has had an exchange programme with the Delta chapter from the north of Germany. The annual exchange brings a lot of fun and understanding. This time the festivity was in Groningen, we visited a concert in the framework of a festival for old music, had a delicious buffet and installed new German members. In summary it can be described as a joyful event with a lot of singing.

In January, we had another festive weekend because of the 20th anniversary of the Epsilon chapter and the New Year gathering at the State president's home. On Saturday, Epsilon's celebration day, there were festive speeches, a sponsored dinner for the Uganda school project and a concert. We do have a member from Uganda and we help her to realise her dream. The next day, the New Year celebration day, we visited a beautiful exhibition on the women of Waterhouse, had a buffet at the house of the state president and were happy to install two new Dutch members. During this weekend a lot of members from our other chapters, as well as from Germany, joined in. To be able to promote the brand ΔΚΓ and as part of the celebration, all attendees received a copy of the elevator speeches Trijny brought with her from Headquarters. They help us to tell our story to others. We also sent a lot of balloons into the air. Attached to every balloon was a card with information about ΔΚΓ, together with a request to the finder to hand the balloon over to a female educator, so that she might contact us. Although no responses have been received so far, we eagerly anticipate any reactions that may lead to the strengthening of our Dutch chapters.

On May 16 the Dutch State Convention will be held in Groeneveld Castle, a beautiful location in Baarn. The theme will be 'aspects of sustainability' and we will discuss how women educators can contribute to this. The Dutch ministry of agriculture and environment uses this castle to work out their contribution to sustainability. You are cordially invited to attend this convention, the members of the Netherlands-DKG will have their homes available for overnight stays.

**Riet Smits, The Netherlands State organisation president**

### **ICELAND**

Delta Kappa Gamma members in Iceland wish their sisters in Europe a Happy New Year and send their sincere thanks for good collaboration and good times spent together throughout the years.

We keep up traditional work in the chapters working with diverse and interesting topics. The very popular so called "book-meetings", we told you about in the January-edition last year, have been held in many chapters now at the beginning of the year. Then members share their opinions of

interesting books they have read during Christmas or recently. In Iceland the majority of annually published books are published a few weeks before Christmas. In Icelandic we use the term “book-flood” to describe this phenomenon. The members’ comments are collected and a list of interesting books is written up. Some chapters have been assessing the legislation recently passed for our entire school system, from early childhood education through university.

Many of our chapters have recently created and taken into use their home page with a support from Eygló Björnsdóttir, our webmaster and a member of the Beta Chapter. If you take a look at the Icelandic ΔΚΓ website <http://dkg.muna.is> you see that each chapter has its own page under the hat of the Icelandic ΔΚΓ State Organization. This seems to be working well and has been received very well by all.

During the autumn the chapters have been active in initiating new members and as a result we are gradually increasing in numbers. Hopefully this will continue and make it possible for us to reach our goal of 300 members in a year or two.

Our State Convention is to be held in the eastern part of Iceland May 16.–17. Preparations are already well under way. The main theme will be “The New Teacher” and how to support him/her. Some of the chapters are also working with that theme this winter. A revised version of Iceland State Organization by-laws will be presented at the general meeting. Our handbook is also being reviewed and our plan is to make it accessible on the State Organization website and not published in a booklet.

There is a genuine interest among the Icelandic DKG members to attend the European Regional Conference in Oslo next August. As many of you might know Icelandic financial circumstances have changed considerably since we met in London during the last European Regional Conference. This means that there is more uncertainty concerning our attendance than before. It will become clearer in the spring how many can attend.

With best regards and warm greetings,

**Anna Thora Baldursdóttir Iceland State President**

## **FINLAND**

Our annual AGM and seminar is within two weeks in Tampere. We are very happy to have International president, Dr. Carolyn Rants as our International representative. It is very important to have international guests in order to help our own members to understand chapters to be part of the greater system. There are better chances to discuss personally during smaller events than among thousands of women who have gathered together. This biennium it is more important. We have had many discussions here about increasing fees. The effects may be disastrous in small organisations like we have in Finland.

As you may know Finland has been at the international media headlines because of very sad events, massacres at schools that happened here in Jokela November 2007 and Kauhajoki, in September 2008. Our professionals, teachers and educators need something to recover and adjust. Our theme for the seminar, “Feeling good - How to survive in changing educational world?” We will try to provide some support. We try to increase one's own sense of personal agency and how to create a positive working place by improving our communications skills.

It has been a very interesting two years. I have had great opportunities to learn to know my European colleagues and Delta Kappa Gamma sisters. When you study and work together in order to achieve greater goals, it always helps to feel more unity. Thank you my European sisters for these years. I look forward to meeting you all in Oslo.

**Heli Piikkilä**

Thank you for all your interesting articles. I hope you like the new Society logo our International President is promoting. I am sending Germany’s very attractive advertisement for their State conference separately as it contains photographs and not every member is able to download such material satisfactorily but I hope those of you who can, will pass on the information to all your chapter members. The deadline for articles for the Summer edition is 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

(I thought all my hardy sisters in Europe might be amused to know that today (2nd February) in London we are experiencing the worst weather conditions for 18 years – 25 cm. of snow and more to come. As a result there are no buses, no trains, airports are closed, the roads are dangerous, schools are closed and very few people have been able to get to work. The radio and TV have been broadcasting messages advising us to stay at home and make sure elderly neighbours are safe. The result is that the street where I live is blissfully silent except for the sounds of children (and their parents) playing snowballs and building snowmen. Just for one day it seems we are forgetting about economic recession and having a Monday snow holiday! And Yes, I know that no other country in Europe would find snow a problem.)

**Joan Carroll , Editor**