



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

European Forum Committee meeting 22nd March 2025, 09.30-17.00 in Oldenburg, Germany at Thi Finkemeyer's house.

Present at the in-person meeting were Carola van Zanen van Rijn, Marie Antoinette Hubers de Wolf, Muriel Marsh, Henna Perätalo, Vilborg Ása Bjarnadóttir, Diana Bell, Thi Finkemeyer. Kathrin Hodgson, as treasurer of the Conference from GB took part when the Conference in Brighton was on the agenda. Anette Nyberg took part on Zoom until lunch time. Kadri Mettis was working and could not join the meeting digitally as planned.

1. Welcome: Carola welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking Thi for hosting us.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting in February: The minutes were approved.

3. The Forum meeting minutes from Maryland will be approved at the Conference in Brighton.

4. The European Achievement Award 2025: Members at the meeting were informed of the voting process and Sweden and Estonia had cast their vote prior to the meeting. The outcome was approved by members and the winner will be announced at the Grand Dinner on Saturday 19th July in Brighton. Members present at the meeting were reminded that the winner is confidential until the announcement.

5. Conference in Brighton 2025:

Kathrin informed that 32 members had registered up to the 22nd of March, from just four countries. Since the website was delayed and the payment solution only running for a short period, numbers will increase quite noticeably soon. There are now 12 workshop holders and members are encouraged to apply. Booking of rooms at the campus at University of Sussex is available on the website. Members/ countries who wish to have adjacent rooms must specify this when booking. The website includes **links to hotels and B+B's in the Brighton area**, for those wishing to extend their stay.

The Conference booklet will be in an A5 format and Diana will write the content and Kathy printing. She asked Anette to assist with the cover, which she affirmed.

Roses as table decorations were made on the Friday afternoon prior to the EFC meeting. Thi will take these with her in July as she is driving. There is a need for about twice the numbers made in Germany, and those members who had learnt the technique were encouraged to make some more!

Songs for the barbecue on Saturday. Diana encourages member countries to send in a song they wish sung at the sing-along! Send texts to her so that she can make these available on the night.

Workshop holders: *The link to the Google form is on the Conference website. Members can apply up and til 15th April.*

Flag ceremony: There will be a flag ceremony at the opening of the conference. Diana has an overview, and Henna will bring the DKG flag with her from Finland. All countries are encouraged to have a member present for both events, even though not all officers will be present at the Conference.

Certificate of participation: Some members wish to have this, and Diana will make sure it is ready by the 1st June. Members attending that wish such a certificate are asked to send names to Diana with the same deadline.

To keep a green profile all documents should be posted as e-mails.

EFC members will introduce and thank speakers and workshop holders.

Beverly Hall-Maghan will introduce Dr Diane Bell. Åsa will introduce and thank Bryndis from Iceland. Jaqueline will be introduced by MA and Carola will thank her.

Opening of the conference with Carola: It is the EFC that is responsible for the Conference. Diana and MA will also give welcoming messages, as will Beverly from HQ.

All attending will be given a piece of Brighton rock.

The meeting discussed various suggestions for bags/receptacles to be given to those attending. MA wanted us to think “green” and the example of the shopping bag from Evelyn was shown (a handy fold-up bag that takes little space in a handbag). It is hoped to find something cheap but with a purpose. Plastic folders were not a popular choice! All who have good (and viable) ideas should message Diana by the 10th of May.

6. European Forum Meeting at the Conference: The time frame is two hours and all members can attend. An agenda must be written and approved. The minutes of the meeting held in Maryland will be approved here. We discussed different activities that could “loosen” the meeting, especially physical activities. As a summary and evaluation, a mentometer activity is suggested. Henna will follow this up. Thi showed us an interesting article she had found from the NHS “5 steps to mental wellbeing”. This can be found at www.nhs.uk

Barbara from GB will also have a Tai Chi session.

Conference raffle prior to the Grand Dinner: All countries are encouraged to bring small items as prizes for the attendees. The main prize will be a voucher for the conference to be held in Norway in 2027.

7 a. Incoming messages and mail: The meeting discussed the mail and letter sent from the Swedish board concerning the new administrations decisions in the USA, and the impact these have on educators, research and diversity. Many supported the content, but we maintain a non-political stance. The American Forum has also sent a letter to members which has been distributed to European members and will be published on the European website. The meeting agreed to Carola and MA writing a letter from the EFC which we will send to our own members and publish on the website.

7 b. News from Regional Director: MA told of the ongoing work by the Byelaws taskforce committee. The job entails rewriting the constitution and reducing the volume drastically! All procedures will go to GAPP. This will have a profound effect on the Conventions in the future, where there will be less need to amendments taking up the time. The Strategic plan committee, of which she is a member, are rewriting the long-term plan. The findings of the Avenue M report will be included here. The plan will be for the next 4 years, and in 2029 a new plan for the following ten years will be written. The

Administration board will approve the plan. The Admin Board have one in-person meeting a year, otherwise monthly Zoom meetings.

MA reminded us that her position is vacant as and from 2026 and that applications will be accepted between May and September. The Nominating Committee has already sent information to the European SOP's and they are providing two Zoom meetings to inform of the application process.

MA hoped that there will be applications from Europeans to committee positions. It is hoped to have a European member in all international committees.

8a. Schedule for "Artist in the spotlight": The EFC agreed to show the presentation of Thi's Easter eggs during April. The Netherlands with Jeannine de Jong will then show her stained-glass work in May. Finland will be highlighted during the summer and in September Norway will show some of the skilled knitters' patterns.

8b. Educational topics: We agreed to have an educational topic four times a year, so that the whole region is represented during the biennium. MA will check the availability of a lecturer who has the topic "The ethics of AI". It is hoped to have her hold the lecture in April. The proposed times for topics were February and April in the spring and September and November in the autumn. The topics themes are encouraged to be taken from the survey. Behavioural problems in the classroom is a very relevant subject.

In addition, the EFC keeps it's yearly Christmas Zoom around Lucia Day in December.

8c. Euforia: The spring edition will shortly be published. Members are encouraged to send articles in advance of deadlines, as the editor spends time chasing up countries! Both Carola and MA have submitted articles concerning the Conference, as has Diana. The deadline for the autumn edition is 1st September.

9.Strategic Action Plan for the EFC: The plan has been updated to cover the biennium. Carola will submit the plan to the Strategic Plan committee by the end of April. The plan is published on the European website.

10. European Forum Guidelines: Members are reminded to read these and remember that they also have a place on the executive/administrative board of their countries.

11. Reports from member countries: We had had considerable time spent on the situation in Sweden, where there is a reluctance to take office at the state level, as well as Chapter level. Many members have left, and we heard of dissolving Chapters. MA has had extended contact with the present board. Both Germany and GB have few members. Both countries have their yearly meetings in April. GB members are very busy preparing for the Conference. Iceland is the biggest state organisation in Europe with 13 Chapters. They are busy preparing for their 50th anniversary on the 10th and 11th May. Beverly will attend their meeting. Both Finland and Norway have stable numbers but also aging members in certain Chapters. Working members often have colleagues they can invite. We are encouraged to use LinkedIn to spread the message. We can also be encouraged to spread the word with each other when we know of interesting projects that other countries will have interests in, eg the Finland Project with reading that has received international funding. Henna can be contacted. MA informed of members who were not Chapter members but had state membership. They must in the end have a Chapter connection and opened for hybrid meetings.

As our discussion from the different countries revealed, we are all very taken up with membership losses and recruitment.

12. Other business: All members present in Oldenburg registered their travel costs with Henna so that reimbursement would occur smoothly. Thi's food costs were also covered.

The meeting was adjourned at 17.00 CET

Muriel Marsh (Norway)

27.03.2025