



VOL 68 NO 2

MAR/APR 2011

Pre-conference Training, 10



Europe regional conference edition

■ details inside, 5

Pride in the Big Picture available

Is your chapter gearing up for a spring initiation? Then you need the new orientation guide, *Pride in the Big Picture*, for use with prospective members!

The International Membership Committee, in creating the Power Point slide presentation and print

guide, encourages all chapters to do what many are already doing: prospective members are invited to an informational/orientation meeting to learn about the Society *before* they are asked to reply to the invitation to join.

By learning about the organization *before* replying, See **ORIENTATION GUIDE**, 3

Educator Award title becomes movie

DKG members have good taste according to Hallmark. In 1995, Stacey Bess received the Educators Award for *Nobody Loves Nobody*.

Stacey's book has become a movie by Hallmark Hall of Fame. The movie titled, *Beyond the Blackboard*, airs April 24 on CBS. In this true story a young teacher (VanCamp) gets her first professional teaching job, but it's not what she expected. Rather than a typical class in a traditional school, she is assigned to the School With No

Name, a classroom in a community homeless shelter. As she fights her own fears and prejudices,

and fights to win over the school administrators (Busfield and Williams) she begins to examine the lives of the under-privileged children she teaches. What she finds are children and parents in need of hope and love.

Women authors are nominated each year as candidates for The Delta Kappa Gamma Educators Award. Committee members receive books, read and evaluate according to guidelines to select the recipient. Peggy Rupe, committee chair, responded, "Stacey was in Des Moines when her book was selected! That is the first Educators Award book I purchased. I believe Stacey visited all the regional conferences that year."



INTERNATIONAL • TOPIC

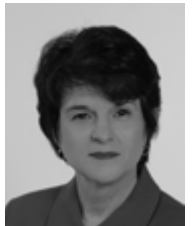
Watson leads as SE Regional Director

Libby Watson, Alabama is the new Southeast Regional Director for 2011-2012.

Watson has served as state president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary and district director.

On the International level, Watson has served on the Membership Committee, Leadership Development Committee and Golden Gift Fund Committee, and was selected to attend the 1999 International Leadership/Management Seminar.

After helping to establish one of the first public kindergarten programs in the state, Watson taught kindergarten and first grade for 28 years. Now happily retired, she and husband Jack enjoy life as "river rats" on the banks of the Tennessee River. They have three adult children, Jon, Beth and Wes, and eight grandchildren.



 INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

Delta Kappa Gamma promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Visit our Web site at www.dkg.org for the latest news and information



♦♦♦ But what have you done for me lately?

By Dr. Jensi P. Souders

2010-2012 INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

A husband grew tired of his wife's constant complaints that he never did anything for her. He finally had enough and said, exasperatedly, "Look, I gave you a five-carat diamond ring that you won't wear. I bought you a chalet in the Alps that you never use. I have given you three fur coats that you refuse to take out of storage; and I hired a housekeeper so you don't have to do any cleaning..." His wife looked at him and said, "But what have you done for me lately?"

Members who decide to drop their membership in the Society often do so because they see no benefit in their membership. Obviously, we are not doing enough to communicate the multitude of opportunities that come with DKG membership! Let me enumerate just a few that are available from International, not counting the huge number of state organization and chapter opportunities:

- Enrichment/Travel events through international conventions/conferences and the Seminar in Purposeful Living (Are you taking advantage by your attendance at a 2011 regional conference this summer?!)
- 30 \$6000 international scholarships for study beyond the bachelor's degree
- Cornet Professional Development Awards of up to \$2000 from Educational Foundation for one-time professional opportunities or for National Board Certification
- Professional Development Special Stipends of up to \$800 from the Golden Gift Fund
- International Leadership/Management Seminar Awards worth @\$7000 to attend graduate leadership training at one of the top business schools in the nation
- Educational Foundation projects grants for school/district/community educational projects
- Discounted insurance of many types that beats/equals other prices and

gives better coverage

- Parliamentary Training Seminars
 - Expenses-paid speaking opportunities in other countries through the International Speakers Fund
 - Opportunities to hear women from other countries through the International Speakers Fund
 - \$500 grants (from the International Emergency Fund) for a personal catastrophic event due to a natural disaster
 - Recognition for earned doctorates
 - Communication links about Society programs, projects and benefits through the *DKG NEWS* and the Society Web site
 - An audience for professional writing through the juried, peer-reviewed *Bulletin*
 - Professional networking with women educators in every field and every level of the profession
 - A safe, members-only social network
 - Opportunities to make a better world and impact education worldwide through support of the *Schools for Africa* project
 - Opportunities to improve education at local and state organization levels through participation in projects that support early-career educators
- These are in addition to the many state organization and chapter 1) scholarships and grants, 2) leadership training seminars, 3) professional development awards, 4) state organization foundation educational grants, 5) state organization emergency funds, and 6) state organization and chapter service projects that meet local needs of women and children.

All of these opportunities abound for members who take advantage of them. For many of our members, however, two benefits surpass all others: the fellowship and honor of membership in an organization of such extraordinary women who are impacting education worldwide in



everything they do, as educators and as members.

I hope that you will do yourself and others a favor by talking about the many tangible benefits

and opportunities of membership, and by taking advantage of many of those opportunities so you can grow personally and professionally through DKG. **What has the Society done for you lately?** A lot!

2010-2012 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

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Find administrative board members' e-mail addresses at www.dkg.org

Toll-free phone: 888.762.4685

DKG NEWS (ISSN 0747-184X) is published by The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International bimonthly in January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August (online only), September/October, and November/December at 416 West Twelfth Street, Austin, TX 78701. Periodicals Postage paid at Austin, TX. Annual international membership dues include subscription to *DKG NEWS*. Send news items to Linda Eller, editor, at the address below.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *DKG NEWS*, P.O. Box 1589, Austin TX 78767-1589.

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members may decline if the Society does not suit their needs, before they are ever initiated. Those who accept and are initiated do so with knowledge about the benefits and expectations of membership.

Pride in the Big Picture gives an overview of the entire Society at all levels, emphasizing what is attractive to today's young educators.

Each slide has accompanying notes for the presenter(s) to explain and discuss with orientation participants. If, however, presentation equipment is not readily available, the print guide contains the same material.

The Society loses new members at approximately the same rate that early-

career educators leave the profession. There is a need to change the way we present ourselves to prospective members.

Then we must make sure that the reality of chapter life delivers on benefits and opportunities presented through the orientation process. The Society has much to offer. Translate inspiration into connection.

Order your chapter's copy of *Pride in the Big Picture* from the Society store or download it from the Society Web site. Make prospective members aware of the realities of what DKG offers them and what they can contribute to DKG – they are our future!



Parliamentary Training Sessions set for U.S. 2011 Regional Conferences

A critical element of Society business meetings is the services of a parliamentarian who possesses both in-depth knowledge of the rules governing the Society and proficiency in the application of parliamentary procedure. The availability of parliamentary training during regional conferences and international conventions is a Society mandate (SR 8.064).

A two-hour parliamentary training session, designed for members who are serving (or wish to serve) in the position of chapter or state organization parliamentarian, is scheduled during the Southwest,

Southeast, Northeast and Northwest regional conferences.

Content includes Responsibilities and Ethics, Mastering Society Governing Rules, Fundamentals of Parliamentary Procedure and Practice. Participants will be introduced to and receive a copy of the parliamentary guide: *The Delta Kappa Gamma Parliamentarian*.

The sessions will be presented by Jean Gray, International Parliamentarian. To attend the session, pre-registration (see form p. 6) is required with no walk-ins. Maximum participants per session is limited to 50.

Come work in Austin!

Who: Member of Society for 3+ years with a Masters or equivalent, seeking a new challenge

What: Administrator for Membership Services

When: Apply by March 23, 2011

Where: Society Headquarters, Austin, TX

Why: Important job, great benefits, friendly staff, wonderful members, nice office, moderate climate

How: Download application packet from www.dkg.org under Forms



Elizabeth Garner remembered

Nearly 50 members attended Elizabeth

Garner's memorial in Birmingham, Alabama. Elizabeth Nixon Garner received her undergraduate degree from The University of North Alabama and her Master of Science from Samford University. She retired as a classroom teacher from Pizitiz Middle School in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. During 29 years of service to Delta Kappa Gamma, Garner served as Alabama State President (2001-2003) and Southeast Regional Director (2010). Garner passed away December 30, 2010. Elizabeth is survived by her husband, Joe Allen Garner, her son Gerald Allen Garner (Sally) and granddaughters Lucy Bankston Garner and Sarah Jane Garner, and brother Robert Idus Nixon of Macon, Georgia. The family requests memorials be made to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Emergency Fund, P. O. Box 1589, Austin, Texas 78767-1589.

DEADLINES

May 1-Lucile Cornet Award for Professional Development Application

June 15-State Organization Editors Label order form

July 15-Chapter Treasurer Annual Report-Form 15

September 1-Lucile Cornet Award for Professional Development Application

September 1-State Organization Treasurer Annual Report-Form 16

September 15-ISF Speaker Application

Keep in the know on educational policy

Are you and your chapter aware of issues that impact educational law and policy in your community? In your state or province? In your country? In other countries?

The Educational Excellence Committee encourages you to energize your members to work toward our fourth Purpose, "To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators."

Many members subscribe to publications through e-mail. Members can use computer searches to find sites that give up-to-date information for their community, state/province or country. U.S. members can search for Educational Legislation and Policy by state. International members can search international organizations to be linked to sites that contain information regarding education and women's issues worldwide.

Read about current legislation, sign up to get weekly newsletters and alerts, and compose messages to send to state/province and national lawmakers. Many members connect through their retiree organizations for legislative updates. The sites also include many ideas for chapter programs and have links for state legislative updates.



Ingibjorg Jonasdottir and Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir donated 18,000 IKR to Stefán Ingi Stefánsson, Executive Director of UNICEF Iceland, for Schools for Africa.



Global-Local Partnerships for the 21st Century: A UN Collaborative

Make plans to attend the Committee for Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) Conference, Saturday, April 2, 2011. Held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the event will be at the LBJ Auditorium at the University of Texas in Austin.

Ramu Damodaran from the United Nations joins with local experts in content-rich presentations, panel discussions and workshops on topics of social justice, sustainability, and current educational trends. The featured speaker is The Honorable Teta V. Banks. An Info Fair, complete with resource materials, will help make practical and relevant connections to the curriculum.

Join fellow educators and concerned citizens for a day of professional challenge.

The cost is \$45 for the day and includes lunch. To register go to www.teachun.org

Durham and Eller receive special stipends

The Golden Gift Fund Committee awarded Leigh Anne Durham, TN, and Linda Eller, TX, Special Stipends to support special projects and conference attendance. Stipends are given to develop skills and meet specific educational and professional needs.

Durham, Kappa Chapter, Tennessee, proposes to create the Junior Refuge Manager Program for the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. The program is designed to share environmental education with the children who visit the refuge.

Eller, Epsilon Kappa Chapter, Texas, plans to attend the Society for Applied Learning Technologies Conference. She will conduct a presentation describing how an international organization ventured into social networking as a benefit to membership.

Durham and Eller will complete a summary of the outcome of their activities and submit it to the Golden Gift Fund Committee to receive their awards.

Europe Regional Conference August 3-6, 2011 Baden-Baden, Germany

The European Regional Conference will be held in Steinbach, Germany, August 3-6, 2011. Sign up for a pre- or post-conference tour to take advantage of the sights and sounds of the European countryside. Try a city tour, wine tasting or imagine life in a castle at Heidelberg.

During the conference, renew friendships and make new ones. First timers may attend an orientation Wednesday afternoon. Meet the international president and the administrative staff as you attend

functions and share in fellowship at the regional conference.

Black Forest Night shows highlights of the area. Thursday and Friday offer workshops, an Info Fair and the Marketplace. Saturday completes the conference with the Third General Session and the Farewell Luncheon.

European Forum invites member and non-member educators to the Pre-Conference Forum Seminar on Tuesday, August 2. The topic, Educational Challenges in the 21st

century, addresses issues and concerns of today's educators.

The European Forum meeting, a two-hour session, will be held on Saturday, August 6.

Eija Paukkuri, 2010-2012 forum chair said, "Looking forward to seeing you all in Baden-Baden."

Secure your reservations early and make your flight plans soon. Join members from many countries as you learn, grow and share with others while in Germany.

Schedule at a Glance

Monday August 1	Wednesday August 3	Thursday August 4	Friday August 5	Saturday August 6
Pre-Conf. Tours	Pre-Conf. Tours	13:00 - 15:30 Webmasters	9:00 - 10:30 General Session 1	08:15 - 10:15 European Forum
15:00 - 18:00 Registration	08:30 - 15:30 Registration & set up	13:00 - 15:30 Treasurers	10:30 - 11:10 Coffee	10:15 - 10:45 Coffee
17:30 - 20:30 Dinner & Leadership	Info Fair & Market Place	8:30 - 15:30 SAP (2 per State Organisation)	10:30 - 14:00 InfoFair & Market Place	10:45 - 12:15 General Session 3 & Closing Ceremony
Devel. Session 1 (State Organisation Presidents & Executive Secretaries 2011 - 13)	08:15 - 15:30 Leadership Development Sessions 5 and 6	14:45 - 15:30 First Timers Orientation	11:10 - 12:10 Workshops 1	13:00 - 14:30 Farewell Luncheon
Tuesday August 2	07:00 - 12:00 or 15:30 Devel. Sessions for St. Org:	16:15 Flag Ceremony Rehearsal	12:15 - 13:15 Workshops 2 Followed by Lunch in College Restaurant	15:00 onwards Post-Conference Vineyard Tour or explore the area on your own.
Pre-Conf. Tours	7:00 - 15:30 Membership Chairs	17:30 - 18:30 Opening Ceremony	14:30 Bus to B-Baden Reception by Mayor, followed by guided tours and/or free time in Baden-Baden.	12:30 Board coaches for Strasbourg
10:00 - 18:00 Registration and set up Info Fair	7:00 - 15:30 Educ. Exc. Chairs	18:30 - 19:30 Wine Tasting/ InfoFair/Market Place	13:45 - 14:00 Arrive Strasbourg	13:45 - 14:00 Arrive Strasbourg
08:15 - 21:00 Leadership Development Sessions 2, 3 and 4	(both above incl. breakfast)	19:30 - 22:30 Black Forest Night	14:00-16:00 EU Parliament for Talk and Tour	14:00-16:00 EU Parliament for Talk and Tour
09:00 - 17:00 European Forum Seminar	8:00 - 12:00 Editors		16:30 Return to coaches	16:30 Return to coaches
			16:45 - 17:45 Return Steinbach	16:45 - 17:45 Return Steinbach
			18:45 Coaches depart for Bühl	18:45 Coaches depart for Bühl
			19:30 - 22:30 Banquet At Bürgerhaus In Bühl	19:30 - 22:30 Banquet At Bürgerhaus In Bühl

Remember that real change is the reward for leaders who accept risk and take action to bring about their dreams.

-Eleanor Roosevelt

TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Registration online only. Payment in Euro only. Deadline May 15. NB.: We recommend participants of post-conference tours (nos. 7, 8 & 9) to book into hotels as college accommodation is only available from Sunday, July 31 to Sunday, Aug. 7. Forms at: www.dkg.org Send to: dkg tours@gmx.de Tour Queries to: christa.dunker-hopferwieser@gmx.de

Last Name _____ First _____

E-mail _____ Tel _____ Fax _____

Full Postal Address _____

State Organisation (geographic) _____ Name of Guest/s _____

		No. of People	Price	Total
1) Monday, 1 August	Baden-Baden City Tour and Casino	_____	25€	_____
2) Monday, 1 August	Panoramic Freiburg	_____	40€	_____
3) Tuesday, 2 August	Rebland Wine Trail	_____	20€	_____
4) Tuesday, 2 August	Highlights of Heidelberg	_____	55€	_____
5) Wednesday, 3 August	Explore Alpirsbach	_____	50€	_____
6) Saturday, 6 August	Rebland Wine Trail	_____	20€	_____
7) Sunday, 7 August	Black Forest Experience	_____	40€	_____
8) Sunday 7- Monday 8 August	Königsschloss Neuschwanstein	_____	148€	_____
9) Sunday 7 - Tuesday 9 August	Cruising on the Neckar and Rhine	_____	315€	_____

Deadline for receipt of bookings is Monday, 16 May.

Important note for non-European members: Please make sure that the full amount arrives in the conference account (bank fees on your side.) European members are advised to use SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area) for transfer where possible in order to save fees. Payment in Euro only.

Please pay to:

DKG

Deutsche Bank Lahr/Schw.

Acc. No.: 013446000

IBAN: DE15 682 700 240 013446000

BIC/SWIFT: DEUT DE DB 682

Total amount _____ Euro

European conference speakers



Professor Carl Parsons has researched social inclusion and social justice in education. He has published articles and is the author of books about school exclusions.

Parson states, "The Community School is a global concept, interpreted locally, and promises a quiet revolution in the acceptance and inclusion of young people, their families and communities."



Barbara Schindelbauer leads the Institute for Preschool Learning and its advisory team in Germany. They have devised hands-on seminar concepts to develop and teach didactic concepts designed for early childhood needs.

She studied business management and psychology in Mannheim. She completed postgraduate work and obtained an MSc in Communication.



Professor Christian Pfeiffer, director of the Criminological Research Institute, in Hannover,

Germany, guides research teams in the study of media use and their effects.

The aim of this interdisciplinary research project, "Media Use and School Achievement," is to investigate the consequences of intensive and increasingly uncontrolled television, computer and video game use by children and adolescents.

2011 EUROPE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION RESERVATIONS

Südbadische Sportschule Steinbach, Yburgstr. 115, 79534 Baden-Baden/Steinbach

Available only from noon Sunday, July 31, to 10 a.m. Sunday, August 7. Post-Conference Tour participants are advised to book hotels to ensure accommodation on the night of return.

Forms at: www.dkg.org Send to: dkgacc@gmx.de Sportschule Queries to: [Gisela v. Engelhardt - g.von.engelhardt@online.de](mailto:Gisela.v.Engelhardt-g.von.engelhardt@online.de)

Last Name _____ First _____

Email _____ Tel _____ Fax _____

Postal Address _____

Check-in date _____ Check-out date _____ Single/ Double Room (twin beds) required for the nights of

Sun. July 31 / Mon. Aug. 1 / Tues. Aug. 2 / Wed. Aug. 3 / Thurs. Aug. 4 / Fri. Aug. 5 / Sat. Aug. 6

(Single room at 55€ per night, Double at 45€ per person per night, all en suite incl. breakfast)

If booking a double room, please state name of person sharing _____

Cancellation: Write to dkgacc@gmx.de All cancellations will be charged a 12 Euro fee.

Important note for non-European members: Please make sure that the full amount arrives in the conference account (bank fees on your side.) European members are advised to use SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area) for transfer where possible in order to save fees. Payment in Euro only.

For bank transfer pay to:

DKG

Deutsche Bank Lahr/Schw.

Acc. No.: 013446000

Reference: "Accommodation"

IBAN: DE15 682 700 240 013446000

Total amount _____ Euro

BIC/SWIFT: DEUT DE DB 682

Conference Block-booked Hotels in/near Steinbach/Baden-Baden

Hotel Accommodation Queries to: [Monika Huber m.h.huber@gmx.de](mailto:Monika.Huber.m.h.huber@gmx.de)

Linde

Business hotel, recently refurbished, only 150m from the college.

+ 49 7223 52850

Herr Fiala
Yburgstr. 79

76534 Baden-Baden

www.linde-steinbach.de

Weinberg

Pleasant hotel and restaurant with a vineyard view. 500m walk or bus to the college.

+49 7223 96970

Frau Welser
Umwegerstr. 68

76534 Baden-Baden

www.weinberg-umweg.de

Traube

Nice hotel and restaurant just over 1km from the college on regular bus route.

+49 7223 96820

Herr Baumann
Mauerbergstr. 7

76534 Baden-Baden

www.traube-neuweier.de

Altenberg

Good hotel and restaurant in a village only 400m from the college.

Tel. +49 7223 57236

Herr Velten
Schartenbergstr.6

76534 Baden-Baden

www.hotel-altenberg.de

Röderhof

Nice hotel with a pleasant garden. Near a bus stop and just over 1km from the college.

Tel.: +49 7223 808379 0

Frau Schmalz
Im Nussgärtel 2

76534 Baden-Baden

www.hotel-roederhof.de

Rebenhof

Very nice hotel, pleasant view, good food. Hotel shuttle or bus to the college.

Tel.: +49 7223 96310

Herr Ziegler
Weinstr. 58

76534 Baden-Baden

www.hotel-rebenhof.de

Pre-conference training gets 5 stars

Past participants give pre-conference training five stars! Must see!" say Souders and Sadowski.

Nominated for Best Training, Best Performance by a Volunteer, and Best Take-Home Ideas... The 2011 Pre-Conference Training for incoming state organization leaders promises to raise the bar and surpass expectations. The special training will challenge incoming state organization presidents, treasurers, web masters, editors, executive secretaries, and chairs of membership and educational excellence (Program of Work) committees.

Incoming 2011-2013 state organization presidents and "new" executive secretaries will begin their session with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Monday evening before the respective regional conferences start Wednesday afternoon. Returning executive secretaries will be offered an opportunity to attend when their expenses are paid. According to the governing documents, each participant will receive four meals and training materials. Tuesday begins at 8:15 a.m., includes lunch/dinner, and ends at 9:30 p.m. All sessions will end at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The Leadership Development Committee is creating activities, charts and information for these sessions. Society administrators will join the team and add to the data available. Responding to suggestions from previous attendees, the committee is keeping favorites, streamlining forms/reports, and adding to the resources. Each regional conference session will be tailored to members in that region. "We have an outstanding group of trainers and impressive activities," Becky Sadowski, chair, says.

On Wednesday morning, state organization Education Excellence (Program of Work) Committee chairs will have breakfast at 7 a.m. and begin sessions at 8 a.m. State organization membership chairs will also start with breakfast at 7 a.m. State organization presidents will be asked to name participants, so space and meals can be reserved. Lunch is included with the training ending at 3:30 p.m. These two groups will find numerous updates and changes available.

State organization editors will start at 8 a.m. Wednesday and end at noon with lunch. State organization web masters start with lunch at noon and end at 3:30 p.m. The Communications Committee is considering cross-training sessions. They will announce details later.

The Finance Committee has planned an energetic look at laws, reports, forms and deadlines for state organization treasurers. Their training will begin with lunch at noon and end at 3:30 p.m.

With an eye to being as fiscally responsive as possible, pre-conference planners will bill state organizations for meals of "no-show" participants in all sessions.

Dr. Jensi Souders, international president, comments, "We are working very hard to make the pre-conference training valuable and meaningful for our incoming leaders as they help design our future." She encourages pre-conference participants to mark their calendars now and make room reservations soon. The appropriate regional registration form is in this *NEWS* and all regional forms are online. Members may also choose to attend other regional conferences.

Worse than being blind would be to see but not have any vision
-Helen Keller

Travel discounts to conferences

Earn mileage reward points for yourself and the Society.

Business codes:
Delta - US0001955
American - 786809



Visit www.atcmeetings.com/dkgis

Attend educational focus seminar

"We can share our professionalism and our fellowship with local non-member educators through an educational focus during the regional conferences," Dr. Jensi Souders smiled.

The regional directors took the idea and ran with it. The times and days may vary but each regional director is preparing invitations for local educators to attend the conference and hear about current issues in education. Topics range from math, bullying and mentoring to brain-based learning and education in the digital arena. Presentations vary from keynoters to workshops. Another variable is the cost for the non-member.

Each registration form includes the non-member cost. A guest must pay the \$15 to attend events plus the non-member fee to attend the Focus Sessions. Members should indicate their plan to attend and pay no extra fee for the event(s).

"The regional directors have really developed this idea. I am so pleased about the variety of educational topics. We are addressing today's needs and working to attract new members, as well as serve our members," Dr. Souders added.

Times and dates are on each region's Schedule at a Glance. Additional information will be included in future issues of the *NEWS* and on the Society's Web sites for regional conferences.

Show pride in chosen profession

By Corlea S. Plowman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the priorities set by the Educational Excellence Committee says, "Encourage programs and activities that stimulate personal and professional pride." Now we are responding to a most powerful stimulus...attack. Attack from national, state/province, and city budget makers. As worldwide economies tighten, we watch the horrific ways some governments choose to adjust their bottom line. Some use a carefully guided scalpel; others use a blunt axe.

In the United States, education has been one of the first targets for cuts. Recently the local news covered state and city education cuts that forecast hundreds of education positions being cancelled and numerous school closings. Many residents who lobbied for lowering school taxes are now arguing for keeping their neighborhood schools. Emotions run high. The next story read by the newscaster complained that U.S. science scores were yet again in the bottom third of international education reports. Yes, a connection exists here! Like so many other commodities, in education you get what you pay for.

Pride in our profession and pride in our career mark educators across the world. The leaders of the future, the health caretakers, the builders, the thinkers...are all in our hands, and we know we bear this responsibility. Birgit Svensson, Sweden, recently told me that Finland educators enjoy the respect and admiration of their countrymen. Finland also maintains high standards for its schools and expectations of its students.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports that Finland outscored all of NCES' participating countries in

math, reading and science in 2009.

According to this same report, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and other member countries in Europe hold scores above the U.S. in most cases. Latin American educators continue to need increased funding and salaries.

As war rages across the Middle East, Europe is drowning in refugees. Schools try to teach local language and help students acclimate, but a great drain occurs on the education funding. Even with this challenge, education is holding its place of importance.

We rarely hear about education cuts in undeveloped countries, because they have no organized education supported by a government. That is why they remain underdeveloped. Educators have learned to do much with little in Africa, Afghanistan, Haiti. They are dependent on donations, missions and volunteers. How sad that developed countries claiming to be economic, technical, marketing and research hubs of the free world are turning to donations, missions and volunteers to support their educational systems.

As educators we know that our training and experience makes a difference. We have met specific criteria to earn our teaching certification. We have endured an internship of student teaching. We have studied, researched and practiced to prepare ourselves for this career. Too many politicians believe that attending school makes them qualified to do our job. Too many untrained bystanders want to tell us how to do our job. Unfortunately, they frequently hold the purse strings that strangle our success, limit our technology/resources, and offer salaries that send us to other occupations.

I am proud to be an educator. My mom and dad were proud of me and what I do. My husband shook his head in disbelief that I worked so hard for my students. I cry when I receive a

note from a former student who has tracked me down on Facebook. I know I make a difference. I know I chose the career that touches the future more than any other.

Our Society was formed by women making a difference. We cannot let attackers (due to budget concerns or ignorance) have the upper hand. We have the mind and vocabulary to defend ourselves. We are important to our culture, our world, our future. It is time for us to be heard.

Support the Golden Gift Fund

Have you noticed the increasing cost of greeting cards and postage? Does it take you forever to decide on a card, only to misplace it and have to start over again?

The Golden Gift Fund Committee suggests that you switch to donations in honor of those friends who would have received a card from you. Send your donation to Society Headquarters and we will send your honoree a notice of your gift. Donate online using **Forms** from the top navigation on the DKG Web site. Then look under **Contribution Forms** for the online form. Fill out the credit card number and information, click, and you are finished!

Mary Lee Makinen, chair, says, "This fund helps us maintain our high level of leadership training. We do not want low interest rates to affect this important and vital program."



INTERNATIONAL ■ UPDATE

Latin America works for the future

Latin America is ready for the fourth Regional Latin American Conference. The topic is "Apropiándonos de nuestra visión para diseñar nuestro futuro en Latinoamérica" (Embracing Our Vision to Design Our Future in Latin America). The program includes workshops for Presidents, Executive Secretaries and Treasurers with sessions on the DKGNetwork and the Strategic Action Plan.

From April 29 to May 1, Guadalajara will host members. Members attending can listen to mariachi music and enjoy the Mexican flavor. The hotel Vista Express offers good rates at a double, triple and

quadruple occupancy. Information is on the DKG Web site under Events.

State organizations are also preparing for conventions. Costa Rica will receive an ISF speaker from Puebla, Luz María Padilla Castillo. She will participate in their Leadership Seminar to be held in September.

Dr. Martha Corrales Estrada from Nuevo León, also an ISF speaker, has presented a book entitled, *Management and Development based on Knowledge: innovation and networks*.

State organizations who have requested will be honored by the visit of a representative from the Administrative Board during their conventions.

Panama held its first convention and Dr. Jensi Souders attended and gave her speech in Spanish! Twelve members were initiated.

Puebla celebrated its 10th

anniversary with great hope for many more years. The translation of the *Constitution and International Standing Rules* into Spanish is a project that is to be completed by the end of this year. States are preparing material about their countries to be showcased on DKG Web site. Puerto Rico was highlighted on the Web site in February.

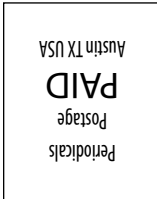
Latin American state organizations are working hard at enriching and improving education in their countries through professional development opportunities facilitated by DKG members. Members embrace the vision and design the future by communicating constantly within our state organizations and with Society Headquarters.

This column is submitted on a rotating basis by the Europe regional director and the area representatives for Canada and Latin America.

Embracing Our Vision Designing Our Future

EU

The member is correct. The keypin is a piece of official Society jewelry; it symbolizes membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The keypin does not determine membership in the Society. All members are encouraged to purchase and wear the keypin; however, it is not a constitutional mandate to do so. A state organization/chapter cannot make it a mandate.



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My chapter requires initiates to purchase the keypin within three months of being initiated. A member has challenged the legality of this rule.

Chapters have no constitutional financial obligation for regional conferences. Only the chapter can assess itself to support projects of its choice. Chapter decisions to financially support chapter or state organization projects should be recorded in chapter minutes.

If regional conferences are international events, why must host state chapters increase their dues or raise funds to pay for conference activities?