

## **Our Farewell to Kate York**

*Some DKG members, from both Alpha and Gamma Chapters, attended Kate's funeral at St Mary's Church in Westerham. This is our GB State President, Evelyn Goodsell's tribute to Kate:-*

Although Kate was already a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) before I joined, it was not until her school, Derwent Lodge, moved up to Somerhill in Tonbridge that I really got to know her. We were offered a classroom for our meetings and it was obvious from looking around at the quality of the work, and the way the work was displayed, that the school was well run and the children were receiving a good education. Kate, at that time, had not taken on any positions in the Society, so when a new Vice President for Gamma was needed, I had no hesitation in nominating her. From here she went on to be President and, eventually, Regional Director of Europe. How well she fulfilled that role! She was so conscientious, she ensured that she visited every member country in the Region, sometimes more than once, often just to take part in their special event.

During Kate's time as State President it was Great Britain's turn to organise the Regional Conference. A venue was chosen and with dear Kate at the helm, we were put into committees, according to our strengths, and under Kate's watchful eye, got on with it. Every so often we would meet together for Kate to monitor progress and be aware of all arrangements. The result was a very successful Conference and even now, after so many years, when I go to other Conferences, members from other countries say how much they enjoyed it. Dear Kate was a perfectionist in a modest, kindly way, she was loved and respected by all who met her – and there were many.

In her last couple of years Kate suffered ill health, but that did not deter her from attending meetings, keeping up with all our activities and continuing to be involved, as recently as the middle of June, when we held a lunch in Sheila's lovely garden in Tenterden. Kate was obviously not finding life easy, but nevertheless was determined to be there. When the news of her death came through, at our recent International Convention in New Orleans, members were absolutely devastated with sadness. I was the only Brit there, and was inundated with requests for Tony's address so they could express their sympathy. These are just a few of the tributes received:

Nita Scott (Executive Director): she was a lovely, caring, amazing woman.

Carol Dawson (GB member in Mallorca): she was a strong woman with an inner calm.

Heidi Chadwick (Leadership Management Chair): Kate was such a gracious, fun person. After being with her in Austin at the Golden Gift Leadership class, I really got to know her and find out her talents. She and her husband had lunch with me in England shortly after that experience. She had a great sense of humour, loved her family, just a jewel of a person.

Janny Kisterman from the Netherlands: In 2008 Kate and I were together in the Golden Gift class. Being the only ones from abroad we travelled to the USA together and I stayed a few days before and afterwards in her house. We enjoyed some very nice days in Westerham. She also came to the Netherlands as Regional Director to welcome a new chapter, and we appreciated this very much. Weekly, until now, we spoke to each other with our Golden Gift Club, and she also spoke to us when we had our Zoom meetings. Tony supported her during these occasions and we also appreciated that very much of course! She was a remarkable lady and we won't forget her.

Marika Heimbach (Germany): On behalf of the European Forum of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, I extend my deepest sympathy to you who mourn the loss of our beloved Kate. Kate was a dedicated member of our Society, well respected by everyone with whom she worked. She was already to take responsibility which she performed to perfection, always being her own self,

outspoken, following the rules and always expecting us to do the same. During the last years of her illness Kate was dearly missed on the European and International level. There was deep sadness at the Convention when we received Tony's message that she had passed away.

I will leave you with this last tribute which sums up dear Kate completely. It was sent by Barbara Day, a past International President of the Society: 'We in the United States are mourning the death of our dear friend Kate York. Kate was a true leader in our Great Britain organization. She led with wisdom and passion along with kindness and respect for all. The Europe Region looked to her for guidance and strength, helping everyone develop leadership skills and commitment to our Society. We treasure and applaud her programmatic and hosting skills both in the European Conference held in Great Britain as well as International Conventions. In the United States she was deeply respected for her leadership, beloved as our sister and highly valued for her loyalty. We loved and cherished her. Her husband, Tony, was always at her side with support and help. Members valued his support and his special talents, especially his hand made beautiful wood carving stand and gavel for this International past President. We will treasure many memories of Kate as we mourn her death and celebrate her life. May dear Kate rest in God's love and peace eternally. Dear Kate, RIP. We will never forget you.'

***Evelyn Goodsell*** (*Great Britain State President*)