



President's Corner

Dear Colorado State,

"Why **BLUE?**" asked the Convention Planning Team on their invitation to the 2019 Colorado State Convention on July 28, 29, 30. What a provocative question! We all know the symbol of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is a *red rose*, so why in the world would the invitation to the State Convention be *blue*?

In asking that question,
Convention Planning Team Leader

Kerry Tripp certainly honed in on one of the key components of joyful living--anticipation! As we head into the holiday season, you may remember the anticipation of Christmas from your own childhood or perhaps you now watch grandchildren shake the gifts under the tree, all excited by that special joy of wanting and waiting to know. We all know that *having* isn't nearly as good as the moments of wanting and waiting and wondering! Anticipation is ripe in childhood, and it's an inspiration we can build into our chapter and state meetings as well. Anticipation is planting a seed in the future. It's looking forward to something big. It's expecting something grand to happen.

I had a hunch that anticipation raises our endorphins, dopamine, and serotonin so I googled "physical effects of anticipation" and watched some videos, and you know what? I was right! If we get you wondering what blue has to do with the Colorado State Convention, we're actually making you happier! And isn't that what we ought to do with a state theme like *Promoting Praise and Possibility*?! So keep on wondering--why *blue*?--and mark the State Convention date on your summer calendar!

I was so proud of Colorado members at our Fall Board Meeting for engaging in the democratic process and parliamentary procedure to decide on dues for collegiate members. You can read about our decisions in this issue, but here I want to honor all of you for engaging in the process in an orderly manner and supporting your views with factual evidence. As a critical thinking teacher, I require that my students use facts to support opinions, and I was beaming with pride as members engaged with our documents to evidence their positions.

This volume of the *Colorado Omega Peaks* offers glimpses into our Fall Board Meeting activities, ideas to use and share, and celebration of Chapter meetings and projects. As you read the articles and look at all the happy faces, please join us in embracing the changes that move our state forward. When we view change as a possibility that opens doors, we will be able to move forward, and I'm honored to be on this journey with you moving into our future!

I hope you keep wondering about our Convention color choice, but didn't have a blue Christmas, and are in full swing in our new year of 2019!

Much Love,

Janet

Contents

President's Corner	1
Reminder for Chapter Presidents	2
Omega State Officers 2017-2019.....	2
International Conferences	2
How Do We Grow New Leaders?.....	3
Sorting Out the Vote	3
Kudos Corner	4
Chapter Happenings	4
Alpha Iota.....	4



Omega and Alpha Iota5
 Omega Chapter6
 Chi Chapter.....7
 Alpha Chapter7
 Phi Chapter.....7
 Alpha Beta November Gathering.....8
 Eta Chapter Celebrates Pride in First-Year Teacher.....8
 Mu Chapter News8
 Zeta Chapter..... 10
 Alpha Eta Celebrates 55 Years 10
 Team Updates 11
 Early and Career Educators Team 11
 Bylaws and Standing Rules..... 12
 Music, Arts, and Humanities Education 12
 Membership Team 13
 Educational Law and Policy 13
 Tips for Chapters on Preventing Teen Suicide 14
 DKG State Executive Officer and Chapter President
 Receives Award at International Education Conference
 14
 What Benefits Do You Get for Dues?..... 15
 Star Chapter Awards 15
 Omega State (Colorado State) Award Application..... 16
 Mission Statement 17
 Vision..... 17
 Society Purposes 17
 Omega Peaks..... 17

Reminder for Chapter Presidents

It is very important that each death of a member be reported as soon as possible on **Form 6 for Death of a Member**. Please work with your membership chairs to **promptly report to all three of the following**:

- 1. **International Membership Services:**
mem@dkg.org

2. Omega State Membership Chair:
Beth Barzdukas: Barzdukas@live.com

3. Omega State Treasurer:
Lilly Vigil: cmcer1@msn.com

The form is interactive on-line and is available on both the state website and the international website. Names will not be listed in the White Roses unless the Form 6 is submitted.

Omega State Officers 2017-2019

- President** - Janet McClaskey
- 1st Vice President** - Leila Koenig
- 2nd Vice President** - Dr. Maxine Fawcett-Yeske
- Recording Secretary** - Memory Lamfers
- Corresponding Secretary** - Kerry Tripp
- Executive Secretary** - Cynthia Mousel
- Treasurer** - Lilly Vigil
- Parliamentarian** - Susan Denny
- Editor & Webmaster** - Nancy Scofield
- Archivist** - Kathy Flynn
- Immediate Past President** - Dr. Sue Pettit

International Conferences

International now offers us **five** exciting conferences for summer 2019! You can now submit a proposal to present at dkg.org. Registration will be available soon so keep checking the website.

June 27-29 *	Asheville, NC	<i>Arts and Humanities</i>
July 10-12	Des Moines, IA	<i>Leadership</i>
July 17-20	Costa Mesa, CA	<i>Technology</i>
July 25-27	Reykjavik, Iceland	<i>Professional Research</i>
July 30- August 1	Mashantucket, CT	<i>Global Awareness</i>

*Conflicts with our Colorado State Convention - June 28, 29, 30

The Colorado State Officers plan attend the International Leadership Conference in Des Moines, IA, and we'd love to have members from across the state join us in strengthening our leadership skills! Let First Vice President Leila Koenig know which one or ones you plan to attend so we can create a phone tree for attendees.



How Do We Grow New Leaders?

Each of us grows in two ways as a leader. The first is in the practical area of what we actually need to do. We learn how to fill out forms, run meetings, and understand our Society. The second is a personal type of growth. We learn how to communicate more effectively, study what others think make good leaders, and develop our own personalities so we can be better leaders. It takes a lot of time to grow as a leader and a lot of time to develop other leaders, and sometimes we're so busy leading that we forget to grow ourselves or grow others. That is why I made Goal 2 of our State Goals: Grow Leaders; Grow As Leaders.

Our International leaders are also aware that States and Chapters need effective ways of developing new leaders so they've given us many resources to help us grow our leadership skills. At DKG.org under My DKG, you can access the *Leadership Lab* which has fun videos from national speakers. In addition, our State Leadership Development Team sends out monthly leadership tips and posts them on our website; when you receive them, please send your ideas back to the team so we can all grow together. At our Fall Board Meeting, I asked members to share their best ideas for leadership development. Here's what we said, and what grand ideas we have!

- Believe in the abilities and talents of current members.
- Ask members to take small jobs and encourage them when they do them.
- Encourage members to present programs about topics of their expertise.
- Provide mentors and assistants to help and encourage new members in leadership positions.
- Present leaders can make the transition for new leaders easy and be willing to help.
- Nurture new members--and all members!
- Keep materials organized to pass on to next leader.

- Clean out folders and get things put together.
- Send out a newsletter after the meetings instead of waiting for the minutes.
- Use Teamwork to accomplish everything.

Submitted by Janet McClaskey

Sorting Out the Vote

The democratic process of voting, parliamentary procedure, and interpretation of Colorado Bylaws and Standing Rules are always a challenge, but it's one we navigated smoothly at our Fall Board Meeting when we tackled the issue of collegiate members. Members have strong feelings about having collegiate members, how much they should pay for dues, and when we can amend our State documents to gather them in. Here's how these three ideas break down.

Collegiate members--At the International Convention in July 2018, we voted to have them. Chapters get the choice to have collegiate members or not. Chapters are *allowed* to, but they don't *have* to.

How much should collegiate members pay for State dues?--International dues for collegiate members are set at \$20. We discussed whether State dues should be nothing or the same as reserve members which is \$15. The amendment to charge \$15 passed. Collegiate members will pay \$20 International dues and \$15 State dues. Chapters get the choice to charge collegiate members Chapter dues or not. Chapters are *allowed* to, but they don't *have* to.

When can Colorado State amend our State documents?-- At International, we voted to amend the International Constitution every 2 years instead of every 4 years. At our Colorado meeting, it was moved and seconded to amend the Colorado Standing Rule 2017 I. A. 1 by inserting "and collegiate" so that it reads "The state annual dues shall be \$27.00 for active members and \$15.00 for reserve and collegiate members." A Standing Vote was taken resulting in 28 in favor, 8 opposed, and 1



abstention so the motion to amend the Standing Rules carried. Chapters get to change Chapter rules *whenever needed*.

I am proud of Colorado State for engaging in the democratic process, clearly stating our views supported by facts, and making a choice based on documentation and parliamentary procedure! Though we don't all agree, we stand in unity, and one great thing is this--*Chapters get more choices and more power!*

Submitted by Janet McClaskey

Kudos Corner

Colorado State is delighted to congratulate Epsilon member, **Laura Kuniansky** on the completion of her final doctoral dissertation entitled *The Relationship between Adult Learning Modes and Teacher Knowledge of Reading's Basic Language Constructs* on November 26, 2018 at Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ. When you see her, give a great big congrats to Dr. Laura!

Congratulations to Beta Chapter's **Linda Pitts** on having her article "Don't Tell Me" selected inclusion in *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin!* Linda is a poet and writer of whom we're all so proud!



teaches was one of only five schools in the state of Colorado to be named a National Blue Ribbon School.

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recognized 349 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2018. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Swigert International School, the only school in Denver Public Schools received the award based on student overall performance.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

On Friday, October 12th, the entire school was honored with a celebration assembly and ice cream party sponsored by Blue Bell Ice Cream. The students, families and staff are extremely proud of this honorable recognition.



Chapter Happenings

Alpha Iota

National Blue Ribbon School Award Given to DKG Member's School

Alpha Iota chapter member, Holcomb Mosley, is proud to announce that the school in which she



Submitted by Holcomb Mosley, Alpha Iota

We are excited to welcome three new members to Alpha Iota. Corinne Rebeck was initiated in May 2018, Fumnanya Camara was initiated in September 2018, and Michelle Miller transferred to Alpha Iota in September 2018. All three members have already been very active in Chapter activities and Colorado State meetings.

Alpha Iota and Omega Chapters met together and this year we have decided to adopt Dartmouth Elementary School in Aurora. In September we collected school supplies for the school. The next collection will be a book collection in December where the books will be placed in student's hands and some for the library. Other projects are in the works for Dartmouth throughout the year.

Our September meeting was Getting to Know Your DKG Sisters. Each member brought an artifact that revealed something new or surprising about herself. It was a fabulous meeting and very informative. In October we studied the ballot issues with the help of Dr. Barbara Whinery. And in November we travelled to China and Japan via two of our members. They shared their experiences traveling in these two countries. Our December meeting is a fantastic Brunch where we enjoy great food, fellowship, singing and conversation. This is an annual event for our two chapters.

Submitted by Karen Eilenstine, Alpha Iota

Omega and Alpha Iota

Omega and Alpha Iota chapters sponsored a book donation for Dartmouth Elementary School the last day of school for Winter Break. We placed a huge DKG sign outside our book distribution classroom.

Photo 1 shows Ruth Reiley, Leanne Pratt and Patti Oda placing DKG stickers in the front of each book. Thank

you, Carol Drollinger, for making these stickers! We also sorted books by early, middle, and upper elementary readers.

The second photo shows two little elves, Anthony and sister Sara hauling books to our distribution spot.

Featured in the 3rd photo are Rudolph (Leanne Pratt), Kathy Tedrick and Bonnie Domer waiting for kindergarteners.





Next is para Ashley helping one of her students find the perfect book.

In the 5th photo Karen Skeins watches over her kindies. Yes, it was pj day.



Finally, Mary Metcalf celebrates many now empty boxes. We had 514 book donations, plus 180 tiny books at a beginning reader level. Thus, preschool, kindergarten and first graders all received a “regular” book plus a tiny book. There were 2 new fifth grade teachers and 1 new 4th grade teacher. With the leftover books they were able to “grow” their own classroom libraries. We had so much fun watching the kids and visiting with the adults. It was a most satisfying project, AND we were able to get the DKG name out to many teachers. Hopefully we might pick up a few new members for our group!



Submitted by Mary Metcalf

Omega Chapter



Sharon Gordon and Kathy Tedrick presented a slide show about Sharon’s travels to Japan and Kathy’s travels to China this past summer.



Award certificates for 30 years of membership were given to Melanie Briscoe, Paula Hale, Bonnie Domer,



Sharon Gordon, and Kathy Tedrick. Kneeling is Leanne Pratt who received her 10-year certificate. 1988 was a good year for getting new members for Omega! Not pictured is Saundra Langren, another 30-year member.

Submitted by Mary Metcalf

Chi Chapter

Chi Chapter member Twila Brown was the recipient of an Omega State Life Long Learning Scholarship, which she used to attend an Orton-Gillingham Training at the University of Colorado in Boulder this past summer. The nine-day training taught a multisensory approach for teaching reading to young students, which Twila will use with her students at Olathe Elementary School. Twila wishes to thank the Omega State Lifelong Learning Committee of Delta Kappa Gamma for the opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile class.



Alpha Chapter

Every November our chapter holds a potluck brunch, and we enjoy a program by the ladies of the Arapahoe Library. It is a wonderful time sharing good food (and recipes), good books, and conversation, and is hosted by one of our members. The ladies always share a plethora of wonderful reading, and just in time for those cold winter days of curling up with a good book and cup of tea! We would like to take this opportunity to share some of the recommended books for your enjoyment.

All You Can Ever Know by Nicole Chung (a memoir of growing up)

Clock Dance by Anne Tyler

Dear Mrs. Bird by A.J. Pierce (WWII)

Evergreen Tidings from the Baumgartners by Gretchen Anthony (perfect holiday letters until something goes terribly wrong)

The Newcomers: finding refuge, friendship, and hope in an American classroom by Helen Thorpe (former first lady of Colorado)

Our House by Louise Candish (thriller)

The Traveling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

The Witch Elm by Tana French

Enjoy!

Submitted by Deb Francis

Phi Chapter

Phi Chapter members, Coralea (Corky) McKenzie and Laverne Hanes, were honored to be the first artists displaying their art at the new Otero Junior College Gallery hosted by the OJC Art Club and OJC Art Department. Their show was on exhibit September 17th - 28th with a Meet the Artist Reception on September 20th.

Retirement, after more than thirty years in teaching, has given Corky and Laverne the opportunity and time to pursue their love of art. They frequently travel to Taos, Santa Fe, Denver, and other art rich areas to visit art museums and participate in workshops and courses. They also continue to take art classes at OJC as well as with local and visiting artists.

Laverne and Corky show and sell their artistic creations in their booth, *Good Morning Glory*, at the 1st Street Emporium in La Junta, CO. Laverne is the past president of 1st Street Emporium and Corky has served on the booth committee.

Corky and Laverne have received numerous first-place ribbons at the annual Arkansas Valley Fair, with Laverne being named Crafts Division Grand Champion in 2014 for her enameled pin entry. They also show their work in the Fine Arts League Early Settlers Art Show each September in La Junta. Corky has been awarded several first-place ribbons on her paintings. One of Laverne's entries was named Judge's Choice in 2014 and another was selected to receive the People's Choice Award in 2018.

Laverne and Corky are active Phi Chapter members with Laverne currently serving as Recording Secretary. Phi Chapter is honored to have these two outstanding educators and artists as members.



Submitted by Loretta Kerr

Alpha Beta November Gathering

Something Delta Kappa Gamma sisters are really good at is supporting each other. The November meeting of Denver Alpha Beta Chapter at the American GI Forum, did just that in so many ways. First was a wonderful talk by yoga instructor Irene Landers. Members had fun trying out rubber bands from grocery celery to stretch their fingers and hands. Simple tennis balls were used to stretch the plantar fasciitis as well as glutes, spine, shoulders, neck and back muscles. Members learned easy ways to take care of their aches and pains. Secondly, members took time to honor chapter sisters who have recently passed away: Lorene Anderson, Bess Brown, Eleanor Popham and Grace Henninger. Brief summaries of their lives were read with added comments from people who knew them. The placing of white roses in the vase of red roses was accompanied by singing "Vaya Con Dios". Third, President Betty C. deBaca caught two members, Peggy Ferguson and Magdalena Aguayo, by surprise, giving them a special shout-out with a poem and rose for their contributions to the chapter. Finally, Lourdes Lopez was given the customary pumpkin bread for her November birthday, courtesy of Judie Mitchell and Marsh Henry. Business was in the mix for the day with reminders regarding everything from dues to upcoming Delta Kappa Gamma meetings and scholarship information. The December meeting will be held at the Homestead House at Fox Hollow Golf Course. Members decided to share the wealth and instead of exchanging ornaments at the luncheon, members will bring mittens and gloves to be

used by the students at St. Catherine's School in Denver where Lourdes volunteers.

Submitted by Susan Denny

Eta Chapter Celebrates Pride in First-Year Teacher

Eta Chapter marked their "Back-to-School" September meeting with a very special celebration. Katie Fails, who was Eta's 2016 Scholarship Recipient, began her first year of teaching this fall, and to mark that milestone, the chapter had a "Classroom Shower" for her, showering her with a multitude of items to enrich her classroom and her experience as a teacher. She received baskets of books, educational games, bulletin board artwork, supplies, along with a "Best Teacher" cup, a soothing neck pillow, and lots of other gifts and best wishes. Katie is teaching second grade at John J. Audubon Elementary School in Colorado Springs. Welcome, Katie Fails, to teaching and to DKG!

Submitted by Maxine Fawcett-Yeske



Mu Chapter News

This fall we once again set up our SVVSD **New Teacher Orientation Booth** at Frederick High School. President, Susan Burnett, Louise Johnson, and Kathy Flynn made contacts with many new teachers at our booth on Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday. St. Vrain added 285 new teachers this year, plus opened three brand new schools. The district keeps growing. President Susan made our annual presentation at the closing session of the orientation and her message was heard. DKG gets 5 minutes to promote the DKG Organization and Mission to all the new teachers, along with presenting our drawing recipients with \$25.00 gift cards. It is an excellent opportunity for making ourselves known in the district. (Interesting Side Note--Pi Member, Barbara Howe was there representing "Friends of the Longmont Library.")



Our Adopt A Classroom recipient is Ana Felix, kindergarten teacher at Timberline K-8 school. SVVSD – MU chapter showered her with gifts at our September meeting. We will continue supplies and monetary support throughout this first year she is at Timberline. (Pictured is Ana and her 5 year old daughter.)



As this was election year, Mu hosted League of Women Voters speaker, Susan Sanders in October. She informed us of many pending election proposals on the Colorado Ballot. The League is non-partisan and researches issues and make recommendations on each issue.

At our November meeting, we saluted Veterans’ Day with the pledge led by Lindsey Cook, readings by Kathy Simon, and the singing of the National Anthem by Abby Flynn, Kathy’s granddaughter. Candie Schey and Kathy Flynn presented highlights from the 50s decade celebrating our 80th Chapter Anniversary.



“Better Angels” Colorado State Coordinator, Denice Davis, presented on “Healing Our Divided Nation.” Through trainings and debates Better Angels is bringing liberals and conservatives together. www.better-angels.org Kudos to Susan Burnett for scheduling such informative programs.

Through workshops, debates, and trainings, Better Angels is bringing liberals and conservatives together into a working alliance, building new ways to talk to one another, participate together in public life, and influence the direction of the nation.

Mu Chapter inducted four new members this fall. **Faith Halverson-Ramos**, MA, LPC, MT-BC., who counsels for SVVSD and also founded SoundWell Music Therapy in Longmont using music therapeutically to promote mental health and wellness. **Julie Gavin** teaches 7th grade Language Arts at Timberline K-8 school. Julie hails from Virginia, and she and her husband, Operations supervisor at Dawson Private Academy, have been in the area a few years.



Pamela Cheek, Spanish teacher at Soaring Heights K-8. Pam is a veteran teacher having taught 20 years in various states following her husband’s employment.



Laura Lewis, recently retired from Sunset M.S. and was very active in the SVVSD Teachers' Association.



Zeta Chapter

Greeting from 80-year-old Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma!

October was a fun social event as several members of Zeta Chapter attended the production by the **Peanut Butter Players** of "The Emperor's New Clothes" at the Community Theatre in Lafayette. The cast was composed of middle and high school students and their talented performance was amazing!

In November, we highlighted our newest member, **Shirley Simpson**, and she spoke to us about her varied and interesting career in education. She transferred from Beta XI, Eta State, North Carolina where she taught most all levels, worked in administration and curriculum development. Since she moved to Colorado, she has been actively tutoring students in reading, and has established tutoring in reading business. We met in the home of Nancy McFaddin and an additional highlight of our November meeting was **100% attendance** of our active membership!



We all are looking forward to our annual December Brunch and Craft & Bake Sale to be held at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Northglenn. Everyone brings non-perishable food for the church's food bank along with donated items for Precious Child, a non-profit organization providing basic essentials for both children and adults. Precious Child serves eight local counties including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and Weld. They partner with local agencies, Health and Human Services, churches, foster homes, service organizations, safe homes, fire and police departments, at-risk youth shelters and homeless shelters.

At our upcoming meeting in January, we will be finalizing plans for the Tri-Chapter event on February 9th, 2019 to be held at the Metro Denver North Islamic Center to "Learn about Islam".

Submitted by Nancy McFaddin

Alpha Eta Celebrates 55 Years

Alpha Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma celebrated 55 years of being a chapter. There were 16 original members, two of whom are still living, Connie Haynes and Lyda Dunbar.

At our Sept 11, 2018 meeting we honored our two living founders. They were crowned "Queens for the Day" with tiaras. Facts about each were read and they shared some of their own memories and how things have changed in DKG. Each shared state conventions and board meetings as well as legislative meetings they had attended. Members then shared some of their memories of Connie and Lydia through the years. Fifty-



five year certificates as well as pins were presented to them.

We are so proud and honored to have these two lovely ladies in our chapter.

Submitted by Gay McDaniel



Team Updates

Early and Career Educators Team

At the Fall State Board Meeting the members of the ECE team present discussed ideas about how you as a DKG sister may pass on your expertise and knowledge to the “newest” members in our profession. The follow ideas are not inclusive, yet we hope it may spark other ideas and allow you to select one or two that will allow you to share with others. The ideas included represent actions currently underway and possible future actions individuals or chapters could undertake. Read, digest, select, and take action! Please share what you are doing with an ECE team member – we want to acknowledge all of our great work!

Ideas

1. Recycle and Reuse. In April notify teachers at a school near you that you would love to collect any material no longer needed. (This is especially true of retiring teachers). You would be responsible for collecting the materials in late May / early June and storing for the summer. Then, in the fall, you would conduct an “open shopping festival” for new teachers to come and grab. There is no charge for the materials. The idea being that new teachers to

the profession usually have the bare bones – so this allows them to have a bit extra. This activity could be done by an individual, a couple of people, or entire chapter.

2. Adopt a school near you and foster relationships. Take treats to the staff meeting (don't forget the DKG literature), help out at school wide events (field day, fun runs, etc.). The idea is to enable current teachers to experience what DKG offers and encourage them to become part of our sisterhood. This activity could be done by an individual, a couple of people, or entire chapter.
3. Adopt a teacher. Select a school in which you are able to commit an hour or two a month. With the assistance of the school principal (if needed) offer your services to a classroom teacher (preferably one in the first three years of their teaching career). You may be specific in what you are willing to offer (help with bulletin boards, listen to students read, help edit a student's writing, help the teacher plan a great unit) or just be open to what is needed each time you arrive. A word of caution – this option may require a background check (at the members expense) because you will be in the classroom. This activity could be done by an individual, a couple of people, or entire chapter.
4. Offer of time (outside of the school day) of “grandma extra ordinary”. Remember those times when you were trying to juggle teaching and parenthood? You have papers to correct, phone calls to make, lesson planning, cleaning the pet cages, etc. that always seem to come after you had “clocked out” for the day. You can offer to “sit” with a teacher's children (read a book, go to the park, a museum, a movie, do a craft project, etc.) and allow our “new” inspired teacher some creative work time without having to worry about the expense of a sitter. This activity could be done by an individual, a couple of people, or entire chapter.
5. Book drive! Collect gently used or new books for a particular classroom, grade-level, or school. When presenting, make sure to emphasize why DKG wanted to help out. Remember how difficult it was to build your classroom library from your personal funds? Garage sales can be a great source for this material. It is amazing what can be found. This activity could be done by an individual, a couple of people, or entire chapter.



- Invite teachers to attend your meeting as a guest when you have a special presentation or event. Don't give up after one attempt, people have busy lives. A personal invite vs. a flyer is going to have better results. This activity could be done by an individual, a couple of people, or entire chapter.

Submitted by Michelle Miller

Bylaws and Standing Rules

“Stepping Up to the Bylaws and Standing Rules Changes”



The Bylaws and Standing Rules Team is feeling some success this fall. Under the guiding hand of True Morgan, the BSR Team advisor, we have posted to the state web

site a **revised template for chapter rules**. It has the changes adopted by International Convention 2018. The Team hopes that chapters will find the template friendly and quick when updating their rules. **The Bylaws and Standing Rules Team is asking each state chapter to send a copy of their rules to the Team by January 30th for review.** Any BSR team member is willing to answer questions, support your chapter as it is working on chapter rules and will accept completed chapter rules either through email or postal service.

Stepping forward ...this is a reminder for members seeking to submit **proposed amendments to the Colorado State Bylaws**. The proposed amendment will be considered in odd-numbered years (i.e. 2019). Amendments may be submitted by any member, any team, board or chapter by **January**

15, 2019. When submitting a proposed amendment, please indicate who is recommending the change, if there are budget implications, and reasons for the change. Once amendments are received and reviewed by the Bylaws and Standing Rules Team, the proposed amendments will be sent with the official call 30 days prior to the spring Colorado State Executive Board meeting. At the spring Executive Board meeting each proposed amendment will be recommended or not recommended. It takes a two-thirds vote before being



submitted to the Colorado State Convention. The proposed amendments will also be printed in the spring Omega PEAKS for the membership to read. The final part for approval of proposed amendments will be two thirds vote at the Colorado State Convention for adoption.

To amend Colorado State Standing Rules the process requires a majority vote at the State Convention or Executive Board meeting if the proposed change is submitted thirty (30) days prior to the Executive Board Meeting or the State Convention. An amendment can also be presented at either the convention or state executive board meeting with a two-thirds vote without previous notice.

All amendments adopted will take effect immediately unless reasons state otherwise. As a state, all amendments must be in compliance with International.

It is hoped that this information will enlighten you and help you understand how these working parts serve our organization. **We are “Stepping Up”!**



Music, Arts, and Humanities Education

MAHE Team unveils the Omega State Fine Arts Gallery!

At the Fall Board meeting, attendees were treated to the first submissions to the Fine Arts Gallery. President Janet McClaskey submitted watercolors and Suzanne Foster submitted photos. The first page of the Gallery also lists the way to submit items. Please visit the Gallery and make submissions. The Fine Arts Gallery will be expanding to include **poetry**. Watch for details.

<https://dkgcolorado.weebly.com/fine-arts-gallery.html>

The MAHE Team hopes to run a loop of all submissions at the Convention in June As well as have a table of Fine Arts submissions as we have had in the past.

WHAT ARE THE TUNEFUL TEACHERS?

Also, anyone who wishes to be a part of the Convention Choir can sign up on the registration form. We will be called “The Tuneful Teachers” and more details will be made available as we move into the new year. We will provide the entertainment post banquet, specifically, and off and on during the Convention

Submitted by Suzanne Foster



Membership Team

Have you reviewed your Chapter Member Biographical Data Sheet?

Right now, you could be saying, “What is that? I have never heard of that form!” So, let’s learn more about this form as we read this article. **Every member should have filled out one of these forms after becoming a member.**

Form 82, Chapter Member Biographical Data Sheet is found on the Delta Kappa Gamma website, www.dkg.org. To find this sheet, log in to the “Member Home” part of the website by clicking on those words at the top of the Home Page. A new screen will appear, and type in your member number found on your member card you received when you paid your dues. Then create a password if you have not already done so using at least 7 characters including at least one letter and one number. Once you are on the Member Home site, click on Forms. Then click on Membership, and finally Form 82.

What you need to know about Form 82:

- Every member should fill out a copy of this form.
- The completed form should be kept on file either with the membership chairman of the chapter or the chapter president.
- **Annually, this form should be reviewed by the member.**
- Perhaps mailing address has changed, or phone number has changed, or email address might have also changed. Make the form current by writing in the correct information.
- Check your contact information to see that it is current as well. Who should we contact if there is an emergency? Please update that section if needed.
- You might have more DKG involvement to list. If so, please do so.
- Return the completed, updated form to either the president or membership chair.

While this may seem like a “pain”, your chapter may need this information to nominate you for awards or for an emergency contact. Please review the form annually and make any changes needed to stay current.

Submitted by Beth Barzdukas

Educational Law and Policy

Fall Elections the Focus of Chapter Activities

The Educational Law and Policy Team focused on educating Colorado State Delta Kappa Gamma members about 2019 state ballot issues using the League of Women Voters Ballot Issue pamphlet. At the Fall State Executive Board meeting the pamphlets were distributed to the members present and a short overview was provided on the different types of ballot issues. At the 7-minute breakout session, team members answered questions about specific ballot measures. Additionally, the ELP Team visited or facilitated state ballot issue discussions within her chapter as well as with other chapters. Chapters who we worked with across the state included Delta, Eta, Alpha Iota, Alpha Chi, Alpha Rho, and Omega.

The Colorado State Legislature will convene on January 4, 2019 so look for a variety of activities and information regarding upcoming bills associated with education, women’s issues, and healthcare that would be of interest our chapters. The ELP Team will keep you informed meetings such as the Women’s Legislative Breakfast the end of February and important happenings during the legislative session.

The ELP is working on creating a listserve to state chapter ELP contacts so that we can keep you posted on important issues that your chapter may want to discuss. The ELP is also responsible for the Outstanding Legislator Award. If you have a legislator who you think is advocating for issues that Colorado State Delta Kappa Gamma think are important to women educators, please let us know so we can recognize him or her.

If you have any questions or issues that you would like the ELP Team to follow or find out more information about, please feel free to contact us. ELP Team: Dr. Barbara Whinery, blwhinery@comcast.net or Maggie Hunt, rac96@eathlink.net.

Submitted by Dr. Barbara Whinery, Team Leader



Tips for Chapters on Preventing Teen Suicide

Chapter Helps for Informing Members about Teen Suicide

Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide

Understanding Basic Characteristics and Teen Suicide:

- Suicide is an attempt to solve a problem of intense emotional pain with impaired problem-solving skills.
- Suicide can then be understood less as a wish to die than as a wish to escape the intense emotional pain generated by what appears to be an inescapable situation.
- Crisis thinking impairs problem solving; being able to talk through the feelings with someone who listens is another way to reduce their intensity.
- Acknowledging that there is a part of the person that really wants to die and letting them talk about it may be scary, but it will lower that person's anxiety. Ignoring those feelings or discounting them can raise anxiety and increase the feelings of isolation that are so prevalent in people who are feeling suicidal.
- Suicide is a form of communication for people who are suicidal, normal communication has usually broken down. The question that addresses this breakdown can be phrased in the following way: "Whom did you want your suicide attempt to send a message to and what did you want that message to be?"

Quick Ways to Help Your Chapter support Lower Suicide Rates in Teens

1. Inform members, inform members, inform members
2. Use this and other Suicide Prevention sites to train members on how to accurately respond to suicidal teens (there are many free resources!)
3. Partner with schools so that members can mentor and support teens that are in stressful situations
4. Promote Suicide Prevention Life Lines such as 800-273 TALK

<http://www.sptsusa.org/educators/understanding-suicide-outlining-basic-characteristics/>

Submitted by Dr. Sue Pettit

DKG State Executive Officer and Chapter President Receives Award at International Education Conference

Dr. Maxine Fawcett-Yeske, Colorado State Second Vice President and Eta Chapter President, recently received an award and an invitation at the Ireland International Conference on Education (IICE) in Dublin. Dr. Fawcett-Yeske delivered a poster and a formal presentation set entitled "Learning Has No Boundaries: Helping College Students Understand, Articulate, and Realize the Benefits of Their Liberal Education." Her research was both philosophical and pedagogical in approach and received the Best Poster-Presentation Award at the Conference. The IICE is a juried conference that observes a rigorous one-third or less acceptance rate on proposals submitted. This year IICE received proposals from a wide range of scholars including higher education faculty from the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Portugal, Japan, and South Africa, among others. Dr. Fawcett-Yeske was also asked to serve as chair for the conference session, "Cross-Disciplinary Connections." As recipient of the Best Poster-Presentation Award, Dr. Fawcett-Yeske is the invited keynote speaker for the 2019 IICE conference which will be held in Canada.



Dr. Fawcett-Yeske receives Best Poster-Presentation Award from Steering Committee Director, Professor Charles Shoniregun, at the International Conference on Education in Dublin in October.

What Benefits Do You Get for Dues?

In DKG we give our time, money, and talents to promote the personal and professional growth of women educators and excellence in education. As we pour into our Society at Chapter, State, and International levels, thousands of other educators pour into the Society, too, creating a powerful pool of resources each of us can choose to draw from.

Our State website dkgcolorado.weebly.com offers inspiring ideas, leadership tips, documents and forms

needed by Chapters, a place to share travels, toddlers, and tidbits about your life, an online gallery of art and poetry to enjoy or submit your own to, details and registration forms for meetings, scholarships, contact info for State Officers and Team Leaders, photos from State meetings, and much, much more!

Our International website dkg.org offers two publications you can write articles for or read and grow personally and professionally from, a fun new Leadership Lab with videos from International speakers that you can learn from or use at Chapter meetings, documents and applications for scholarships, surveys about education, an online gallery of art, music, poetry, short stories, and more, registration for conferences and conventions, DKG Education Foundation scholarship links, details about Society history, and much, much more! You can join one of the online communities and conversations which include a book club, collaboration, communications and marketing, editors forum, educational excellence, social media, global awareness, home life, Canada, membership forum, DKG Next, DKG Travels, and DKG with a focus on the arts.

So what we get for our dues depends solely on how we choose to engage with the resources we're offered. We can show off our talents or learn to be better leaders or join a conversation. It's all up to us. Go check out the resources. Then write an article for our newsletter or website and tell us what you learned and how you used it. Keep the circle of growth going!

Submitted by Janet McClaskey

Star Chapter Awards

The new Star Chapter form is available on the DKG Colorado website (<https://dkgcolorado.weebly.com/star-chapter-award.html>). Please take time to download it and print it out (2018-2019 form). It helps to keep track of your chapter activities as they happen so it is not a huge rush at the end of the year.

Participate this year and give your chapter a pat on the back.

Submitted by Karen Eilenstine



Omega State (Colorado State) Award Application

The Scholarships and Awards Team encourages all chapters to nominate one member yearly for the prestigious Omega State Award. This award honors Delta Kappa Gamma women who have given outstanding service in the field of education and leadership to the Society. Prospective honorees are also making a significant contribution to the educational or cultural growth of the community. In order to be nominated, one must have been an active member for at least five years and still be gainfully employed in some aspect of education.

Nominations should be sent to the Omega Award Team Leader, Sue L. Pettit, slpetttdkg@gmail.com by **March 1, 2018**. For further information, call her using the Colorado State Handbook Directory.

Nominee must have been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 5 years and must also be gainfully employed as an educator. Substitute teaching qualifies.

Guidelines

1. General: Applications are judged through a point system and must be sent electronically.
 1. Writeup should be well organized, concise, and complete; the application will not be included for evaluation if it is not complete by the March 1, 2018 deadline.
 2. The nominee must be gainfully employed as an educator when nominated and must have been an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma for at least 5 years
2. Order of Information for the Application
 1. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society (double point value)
 - a. Chapter level: offices, committees, contributions
 - b. State level: offices, committees, contributions
 - c. International level: offices, committees, contributions
 - d. Letters of recommendation, commendations, etc.
 - e. Narrative letters from friends, etc. which would lend a humanistic value in writing the final resume of the recipient
 2. Educational background
 3. Degrees, colleges, teaching positions, honors
 4. Additional experiences, positions, other educational work
 5. Papers published, scholarship and presentations, writing, etc.
 6. Professional organizations: membership, offices held and contributions
 7. Community involvement: organizations and committees, offices held, contributions and services
 8. Additional information
 1. Other contributions
 - 2.
3. This is a competitive and prestigious award, so the chapter applications should be presented in a professional light. The nominee will be selected according to a point system by the Scholarship and Awards Team.

Please keep the process a secret so that the nominee will be surprised. The Award will be presented at the Colorado State Convention or Leadership Conference.



Mission Statement

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

Vision

Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide

Society Purposes

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to women educators from other countries

6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action

7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

Omega Peaks

Published four times a year in March, June, September, and December by the Omega State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Deadline for the Spring issue is **February 15, 2019**.

Contributors to the newsletter are asked to send news as soon as it is available to ensure its placement in the next issue to:

Nancy Scofield
PO Box 19531
Colorado City, CO 81019
Or nancyscofield@ghvalley.net

Send address changes and e-mail addresses to:

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
PO Box 1589
Austin TX 78767
or mem@dkg.org



Treat members well; they are the Heart of our Society.

Express praise to chapters that exemplify the Purposes of our Society.

Ask chapter members for their thoughts and suggestions.

Make Society members aware of ideas, problems, and new information.

Work at staying positive, even in times of stress.

Offer assistance to chapters whenever you can.

Respect and allow for others' differences and opinions.

Keep in mind that together we all achieve more.