

President's Corner

Dear Omega State,



Hail to the unsung heroes! You may have realized that Corresponding Secretary, **Kerry Tripp** sent out emailed copies and brought in printed copies of the 2017-2018 Omega State Directory at the October 21 Fall Board Meeting even though the Directory often doesn't get to us until the Spring Board Meeting in March. Kerry worked tireless hours uniting International member records, updated emails and addresses sent in from members,

and our previous State Directory, adding new State Teams and Officers so you can contact all of us *only three months into our biennium*. If you haven't thanked her yet, please send an email or write a note.

Hail to the unsung heroes! You've probably realized that Recording Secretary, **Memory Lamfers** is on her third year of sitting silently through meetings, copiously taking notes and recording all the details of who says what and never getting to be among us as we chat and laugh. Yes, that's right--year *three*. Memory signed on for a *second biennium* of squelching her vibrant personality into listening/recording mode for the service of the greater good. If you haven't thanked her yet, please send her an email or . . .

Hail to the unsung heroes! Most of us have no idea of all the things State Treasurer **Lilly Vigil** does for us. She reminds Chapters of due dates and records from all across the State. She sends them to International and sends International updates to all of us. She updates info constantly, assures our surety bonding, helps with budget, writes our reimbursement checks for mileage and purchases, and writes other checks for scholarships and a thousand other things I'm just learning about! If you haven't thought to thank the woman who keeps our money counted, send her. . .

Hail to the unsung heroes! To members who came to the meeting with pain and achy bones (we know who we are), who lay on couches to recuperate during the meeting (you know who you are), who were sick with colds and other crud (you know who you are), and yet created, contributed, and claimed their places as Omega State Leaders. If you know one of these, please send. . .

To the servants who texted and messaged me support before and after the meeting, who stood to sing when there was none to lead, who rubbed our shoulders, brought us water, cleaned the tables after the meeting, to those who carried the totes, the bags, the bottles, the boxes that brought our gifts. If you haven't thanked one yet. . .

To those who spent time planning, preparing, presenting for us to learn and grow and lead. To those who embraced the new structure of Takeaways while still letting all Team Members speak, to those who had no Team and still taught us, to those who showed and shared and silently listened to the ideas of others. If you haven't. . .

You get the picture. If you haven't thought of all the members who worked before, during, and after to



make Omega State Fall Board meeting successful, I challenge you to think of a few now and thank them for their service. Because the meeting was successful and we know it. We learned a million things we've already taken back to Chapters and used--see the list included here and on the webpage. Some of us got so excited we've already used these ideas in our Chapters! Some of us got so excited we've already volunteered to present and create for the Spring Board Meeting!

And if you like the idea of hailing unsung heroes, you might also like to join in the hailing by contributing to the *Travels, Toddlers, and Tidbits* section of our Omega State webpage. It's a new feature of our webpage, kinda like Facebook for Omega State, where every member is invited to share one monthly photo and one sentence of explanation. My hope is that by sharing places we visit, people we love, and things we create we will get to know each other across the state. Besides, when you come to see your sister's new grandson, you might take a moment to download a scholarship application or read my President's Page or Leadership Tips from Dr. Trish and take a new idea back to your Chapter so you can grow personally and professionally. Be creative with your TTT submissions! Post a recipe or instructions for making a craft. Share a book you've loved or a butterfly you drew. The page is all about sharing who we are and what makes each Omega State member unique. Include your name and Chapter so sisters you haven't met yet can write you a note!

So I leave you with this: Hail to the unsung heroes! Should you find one on the pages of this Omega Peaks, send an email or jot her a note!

Janet



Will we SEE you at the Leadership Conference June 11-13?

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Saturday March 17, 2018

7:45 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Lone Tree Marriott

(Denver Marriott South)

10345 Park Meadows Dr.

Lone Tree, CO 80124

ALL members welcome—not just for Presidents and Teams

Praise and Possibility: Join us to help make a difference in Colorado Schools and your Communities

For more information see the website: DKGColorado.weebly.com



Contact a Chapter President near you: janet.mcclaskey@gmail.com

<http://dkgcolorado.weebly.com/>



White Roses of Remembrance

"She has left a part of herself with those she loved, with her colleagues, and with all of us."

Delta Kappa Gamma Ceremonies Book

Marjorie Vlasman, Epsilon chapter, July, 2017

Cyndi Sweet, Omega chapter, August 27, 2017

Ann Kuebbeler, Phi chapter, September 22, 2017

Frieda Royer, Zeta chapter, March 21, 2017

Benestina (Tina) Martinez, Epsilon Chapter, December 21, 2017

REMINDER FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS – FORM 6

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:**

International: International Membership Services:
mem@dkg.org

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

Omega State Treasurer: Lilly Vigil:
cmcr1@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

Fall Board Meeting Moments

Musings from the Omega State Fall Board Meeting

After the meeting while I was cleaning up, I found one of the pinecone basket centerpieces I'd made. One of the hotel workers resetting the tables saw it and said, "Oh! That's so pretty!"

"Do you want it?" I asked. She looked confused but hopeful. "Really," I said. "You can have it. I was going to throw it away." She took the basket and beamed at it.

"It's so pretty," she said dreamily. Then she turned back to me. "Thank you," she said, "But will you tell my boss that you gave it to me. So he doesn't think I just took it. He's the guy over there in the tie." Of course, I informed her boss of the basket gift.

Now some people might say: One person's trash is another person's treasure--and let it go at that. But I get teary eyed every time I think of her. I think of my yard full of pine cones and a closet full of baskets I'm sending to Good Will, about how the squirrels were a little mad at me for taking the orange berries of their tree to use for accent color. And how this woman stopped her work to notice beauty, was amazed that someone she didn't know would give to her, and how she had to get permission to receive. There's a lesson in there. Something about beauty and bounty and blessing in freedom and stopping to be thankful for all of them.
~ Janet McClaskey

What we liked about the Omega State Fall State Board Meeting

About our Structure:

- The inclusion of new faces and new voices in the program and sharing parts
- The mixture of activities and having a choice of what to hear
- 7 Minute Takeaway format and content
- Teams working together
- Goals from our State Team



About our Feelings:



- How to ensure each person feels valued by asking: What does our Chapter do well?
- Ideas to praise members and send notes to absent members
- Thank a Member notes
- The idea of a "brag jar" with funds donated to World Fellows at end of meeting
- The importance of mentoring young teachers (from the young non-member who attended!)

Professional development activities:

- Learning how to use the Omega State website
- Activities that can be used in Chapters and in some classrooms
- Haiku poetry activity
- Chapter rules (remember to include new recruitment plan, online template to use)
- How to donate to DKG in honor of a member to recognize members

From our Presenters:

- The Membership Team presentation showing where to get International downloads
- The Membership quiz
- Improving our ability to recruit members
- The map activity and information (plan to take the map to Chapter as a project for school district)
- Crafts
- Improving our ability to support a specific school
- Recycling classroom supplies

We'd like to learn more about. . .

One new suggestion for Structure

- Examples from each Chapter; a slideshow or board that shows Chapter strengths

Ways to Grow:

- How to expand to rural areas with virtual Chapter meetings
- How to support young women educators and allow them involvement at a "lesser" level in DKG
- How to help with the conference plans with New Mexico, Utah, and Kansas

Ways to feel good:

- Encouraging others to honor members

- Increasing member joy
- Chapter website *Travels, Todders, and Tidbits* page

Professional Development Activity Extensions:

- *Music History: Too Many Notes* (the analogy)
- Teen suicide (how to notice signs and what to do)
- Educational law and policy/legislative updates for Colorado/PERA/the crossroads in Colorado
- Be political as an individual
- How to map assets resources, and, our Chapters
- Always more project ideas
- Chapter field trips and examples of what Chapters do as programs in their communities
- Membership ideas (why young people don't want to join organizations anymore)

7-Minute Takeaway Summaries

Schools for Africa nets \$58.00 from October Board Meeting!

At the October 21st Omega State Board Meeting, generous Colorado DKG members donated \$58.00 to an excellent cause: Schools for Africa. Chapters across Colorado have been urging members to consider sharing their resources with children in thirteen of the poorest countries in Africa. Schools for Africa aims to provide quality education to millions of children in Africa with a special focus on the most marginalized. To date, Schools for Africa has helped more than 30 million children achieve the dream of an education. It supports the work of UNICEF to build and furnish schools, train teachers, facilitate school access to disadvantaged children especially girls and marginalized children, provide access to clean water and supply students with school materials.

After hearing a short presentation from the Community and World Connections Team, members learned that most of their tax-deductible contributions will benefit children in Africa. Schools for Africa works in partnership with UNICEF and the Nelson Mandela Foundation and has earned very high ratings from several charity watchdog groups.



Over 90 cents of every dollar donated actually goes to help children, teachers and schools in the target countries in Africa. The remaining money goes to fund raising and administration.

The Schools for Africa campaign advances the professional interests of the teachers in Africa who in turn nurture their students to become teachers themselves. (Purpose 3) It also helps DKG members to participate effectively in a world society by partnering with a foundation whose motto is Transforming Lives Through Education. (Purpose 7)

Collectively, DKG has been a generous supporter of Schools for Africa, donating over \$324,000 to the cause since it became the society's first official international project in 2010. My chapter, in partnership with Omega Chapter, has been donating simply by passing around a "Schools for Africa" can at every meeting. Even small donations add up when many of us give a little bit often. Consider being the chapter member who collects funds at each meeting for this worthy purpose!

More information on the Schools for Africa program may be found at www.schoolsforafrica.com.

*Submitted by Cela Varosy, Alpha Iota, Area 5
Community and World Connections Team member*

Hooray for Haiku

For my 7 *Minute Takeaway* I explained how to use a haiku to get to know your Chapter members. Most people remember that it's a 3 line Japanese poem with syllable counts of 5-7-5 so you can remind them or have someone else explain, depending on time. Usually the poem creates a picture or mood and makes a statement about life like a theme or thesis, but you may want to skip the picture and focus on syllables and theme unless you're in a group of poets! I make the title the topic of the poem--Thanksgiving, My Mother, Love, My Shoe Size, DKG, Education . What you choose for a topic depends on how well you know the group. Each person can write her own poem or you can contribute to write one group one. This activity can be used as an ice breaker or extended into a program by sharing favorite poems and adding more poetry forms to try. Google "tanka" to find an easy how-to

extension of the haiku form. It's fun trying to fit your meaning into syllables and learning about your sisters! Here's my model:

Delta Kappa Gamma

**When I joined this group
Key Women Educators
My leadership grew**

Submitted by Janet McClaskey

Omega State Chapter, Omega State President

DKG Emergency Fund

During this past year, we have all witnessed the overwhelming damage left by floods, fires, tornadoes, and earthquakes in our country and beyond. Many members want to contribute money to the victims in these locations but there is always a concern that the funds will not reach those that need them. At the October 21, 2017 Executive Board Meeting, the World and Community Connections Committee asked members to consider contributing to DKG Sisters who have recently incurred home damage as a result of the many natural disasters we are currently facing. Thank you, Colorado members; you collected **\$150.00** to send to the DKG Emergency Fund!

If you are a victim of a natural disaster, contact the Colorado State President and ask for help in receiving the \$500 Emergency Fund Award. If a member has an emergency, the Colorado State organization president contacts the Executive Director with name of member, member's chapter, exact nature of disaster sustained and current mailing address. The Executive director approves the request and mails a check from Society Headquarters. It is just that easy!

It is never too late to help! You can contribute to the fund at anytime by credit card, go to https://www.dkg.org/DKGDONATE/DKGDONATE/Donate_to_DKG.aspx

and click on "Emergency Fund. You may also contribute by check or cash by using Form 43. This form is interactive and can be found on the International website. As well, State Treasurer, Lilly Vigil (970-409-9312) or Team Leader, Sue Pettit (719-423-9600) can help you. Giving to others is



safe and easy through Delta Kappa Gamma International and 100% of your donations go to DKG members. These are all tax deductible gifts!

Submitted by Dr. Sue Pettit

Teen Suicide

The heartache of a loss to suicide is unimaginable. In each issue of *Omega Peaks*, we will focus on a skill or information that may help us approach this topic with more confidence.

Is this FACT or is this FICTION?*

1. If you ask a young person about his or her suicidal intentions, you will encourage the person to kill themselves.
2. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people.
3. A young person who attempts suicide will always be suicidal.
4. Suicide happens without warning.
5. Suicide occurs across all classes of young people.

Answers

1. FICTION: The opposite is true. Asking someone directly about their suicidal feelings will often lower their anxiety level and act as a deterrent. Your openness and concern may allow the person experiencing pain to talk about their problems, feel less lonely, and perhaps a bit relieved.
2. FACT. This 2015 data from the Jason Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.: Suicide is the SECOND leading cause of death for ages 10-24. Suicide is the SECOND leading cause of death for college-age youth and ages 12-18.
3. FICTION. Most people feel suicidal for only a brief period in their lives. However, most suicides occur within three months after the onset of a period of improvement, when people have the energy to turn their suicidal thoughts and feelings into action.
4. FICTION. According to the Jason Foundation, four out of five teens have given clear warning signs.

5. FACT. Suicide is represented throughout society. However, females attempt suicide 3 times more often than males, and a young person who identifies with the LGBTQ community is more than 8 times as likely to attempt suicide.

*Copied from Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor Packet

Submitted by Susan Burnett

7 Minute Takeaway on Chapter Rules

Sometime in the future, there may be such a thing as a Chapter Rules App. But until then, the "go-to" for updating chapter rules will be found on the template provided by the Bylaws and Standing Rules Team (BLSR) of Omega State. This fact is coming to you from me, Susan Denny, Omega State Parliamentarian for the last several years as well as an advisor on the BLSR Team of Omega State. Chapter Rules should be updated every four years. The next due date is October 2018. Maybe a chapter's rules were recently updated (as in 2016) and approved by the BLSR. If so, just resubmit what is current to the BLSR Team come October 2018. If changes have been made, such as re-naming "Committees" as "teams", include those. Often changes happen at the International level which may eventually be included in a chapter's rules. The template is so easy; all that needs to happen is for the chapter to fill in the blanks. It works really well when a chapter can't locate its chapter rules, or the rules haven't been updated in a decade, or if there is new leadership for a chapter. This template can be downloaded from the Omega State website: dkgcolorado.weebly.com.

The work has been taken out of the process by the BLSR Team of Omega State. In addition, a chapter will have streamlined its documents to synchronize up with the State and International Rules. A chapter should allow time in the biennium to review the chapter rules with its chapter. It's a surprising way to renew what a chapter is all about. It may help avoid confusion in the future with such things as a coordinating council, if a chapter is part of one. Again, the Template for Chapter rules can be found on the Omega State website. In addition, the Omega



State BLSR Team and Omega State Parliamentarian are always available to answer questions. Now is not too soon to start taking a look at chapter rules updating for October 2018!

Submitted by Susan Denny

Chapter Happenings

Chi Chapter News

Submitted by Wendy Burrell

Chi Chapter had a busy fall quarter, starting with a mutual sharing of chapter building ideas with Heidi Ragsdale and Yolanda Crawford from Alpha Mu in Grand Junction at the September meeting held in Olathe. October's meeting was held at the newly renovated Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. A tour of the enlarged space and new displays were enjoyed by all. Personal safety was the topic of interest at Cedaredge High School in November, and December's holiday party with games, white elephant gifts, and a silent auction put everyone in the holiday spirit.

Continuing projects for Chi Chapter include Bags of Love (clothing and supplies for displaced children), fundraising for the annual grant-in-aid, and seeking new potential members. We are looking forward to the upcoming winter/spring meetings and activities planned for us.

Delta Chapter Awards 2017 Student Teacher Scholarship-Celebrates 80th Anniversary

Submitted by Dr. Barbara Whinery



Delta Chapter presented their 2017 Student Teacher Scholarship award to University of Northern Colorado and Cumbres Program Elementary

Education teacher candidate **Luptia Lopez-Chavez** who has endorsements in ESL, Spanish, and Bilingual-Bicultural education on October 7, 2017. The chapter also celebrated its 80th Anniversary and shared their recently updated chapter history compiled and written by Mary Lauk, Letha Hummels and Dr. Barbara Whinery with assistance from all chapter members.

Longmont Mu Chapter News

Submitted by Kathy Flynn

Mu Chapter began this year with sending 5 members to state convention to learn, present, perform and grow. The convention was excellent with many different offerings. The presentation by the Superintendent of the Greeley schools was most memorable to me. The energy displayed in changing many things for the better was stressed. I invite you to visit the web site of the Greeley schools.

We started our school year in our usual way with the New Teacher Orientation where we had our table of information on DKG for this our 6th year. St. Vrain welcomed 185 new teachers this year. We offer two \$25.00 gift certificates for those who sign up for our drawing and give us information on their teaching assignment and school, plus which year of teaching they are entering, and contact information. We draw out one 'at large' name and one specifically for our "Adopt A Classroom" teacher who received additional support all year long.

This year our teacher is a first year teacher, Molly Fredrich, kindergarten at Central Elementary.

Molly commented, *"I have 26 Kindergarten students in my class and am enjoying getting to know each one of them. My days are filled with laughter, learning, and tying shoes."*

In October, former Senator **Brandon Shaffer**, now **Executive Director of Legal and Governmental**





Affairs, Community Outreach, and P-TECH, and Interim Director of the St. Vrain Education Foundation, presented on our district's innovative P-Tech program begun in affiliation with IBM. The P-Tech program was legislated in 2015 via HB15-1270. IBM invited St. Vrain to participate in 2013. There are currently 60 school districts in the US and Australia that provide the P-TECH program. Students begin in 9th grade and will learn technological skills, receive an opportunity to pass certification tests and at the end or 4 and maybe 6 years, leave the program with an associate's degree and the certification to start in a technology position commanding a great starting salary. The program is partially funded by the College Opportunity Fund and is directed through the St. Vrain Innovation Center and offered at five area high schools. Brandon also gave us insight into the PERA revisions that will most likely affect us all.



In honor of Veterans Day and patriotism, members greeted author Barbara Hoffman who presented in costume on her book "Echoes of Freedom." The book features the lives of 4 indentured servants brought from England during the time preceding the Revolutionary War. Their lives were hard, yet they

endured and earned a place in what was to become the United States of America. The book is offered on Amazon.com and is a great read.

Zeta Chapter

Submitted by Nancy McFaddin

Fall was in the air when the ladies of Zeta Chapter met in September at the home of **Ronnie Fugita** to kick off another year. Not to be out-done by previous years, the committee provided delicious food to begin our meeting. The 2017-2018 Yearbook of programs and membership information was prepared and distributed by **Nancy McFaddin**. We were treated to an outstanding speaker from the Denver/Colorado Alzheimer's Association on

different forms of dementia, the many resources available for families and progress in research. The brochures were timely and very interesting.

Just prior to our October fundraiser activity, our dear friend, **Jackie Bell**, passed unexpectedly from complications of a blood infection. Jackie always provided lively, vivacious and entertaining bus trips to Blackhawk/Central City for our once-a-year fundraiser. Jackie was passionate about education and taught in both Adams School District 50 for over 40 years and actively taught choir and classes at her beloved Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She had an awesome singing voice and shared her talents willingly. Jackie held several chapter offices and was our current first vice-president. We deeply miss her delightful smile and humor. The Heavenly Choir has a new alto.



Elizabeth Price continues her faithful work on Zeta Chapter history and compiling member information for our archives. She also provides us with many computer-generated brochures and invitations for special events. Our chapter is so fortunate to have such varied talent within our membership! **Vivian Harvey** has researched and arranged for several of our interesting and informative programs this year including the program and lunch for our Tri-Chapter meeting in February.

Veterans Day will be celebrated at our November meeting when the ladies share stories of family members' participation in our country's past wars. December is always a favorite time with our Craft & Bake Sale and brunch celebrating this special time of year together.

Zeta Chapter sends greetings for a Blessed Christmas and great New Year in 2018 to all the ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma.



Alpha Chapter's Library Ladies

Submitted by Ruth Ann Bearden

Alpha Chapter boasts numerous insatiable readers. Thus every year we thoroughly enjoy the ladies from the Arapahoe Library District, who bring us their personal recommendations as to the latest and most intriguing works of both fiction and nonfiction. At our November meeting this year, we eagerly welcomed Pamela Hallaren and Alyson Corcoran. Our member, Cathy Throner, graciously opened her lovely home to the chapter as we enjoyed a lavish potluck brunch. The following four exciting novels were highly recommended.

- *Bluebird, Bluebird: A Novel* by Attica Locke relates the story of an African-American Texas Ranger forced by duty to return to his racially divided hometown.
- *Fates and Traitors: A Novel of John Wilkes Booth* by Jennifer Chiarieni describes Booth's childhood through the eyes of four key women in his life.
- *Ginny Moon* by Benjamin Ludwig explores autism and abuse through the actions of a fourteen-year-old foster child.
- *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck focuses on three women and their children surviving in a dilapidated Bavarian castle after WWII.

The library ladies' nonfiction selections were equally exciting reads.

- *Mandalay Forever: A Biography of Daphne Du Maurier* by Tatiana de Rosnay traces the life and achievements of the classic novelist, emphasizing her enduring influences on literature.
- *Mozart's Starling* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, written from the viewpoint of a naturalist, describes how Mozart was enchanted by the intelligence and playful spirit of this bird.
- *Hunger: A Memoir of My Body* by Roxanne Gay explores the author's personal challenges with

food and body image, triggered by a devastating act of violence.

- *Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann presents a true account of dozens of murders of wealthy Osage Indians in the early 20th century.

In addition to these enthusiastically endorsed choices, our guests gave out the list of 2017 Book Club kits and the upcoming Meet the Authors Series events.

Scholarship and Awards Team

By Phyllis Sinclair

The team is working on updating the information on the Omega State website. Until everything is updated you can find information about the scholarships by clicking on the By-Laws, scroll down to Standing Rules, click on Appendix I and scroll down to Appendix II. The Life Long Learning Scholarship application is found by going to forms, then scholarships. The applications for the Road Scholar scholarship, and the Hildegard Sweet and Katherine S. Glendinning Scholarship may be obtained by contacting Phyllis Sinclair at wandpsinclair@centurytel.net.

The information for The Omega State Award and The Star Chapter Award is found under Awards. Carol Drollinger will continue to take care of the Star Chapter Award. She gave chapter presidents or their representative an updated form at the Fall State Board meeting. Ruth Ann Bearden will continue to take care of the Omega State Award. Their contact information is listed with their respective awards.

About CTAUN

Submitted by Kathy Flynn, UN Liaison Representative, Omega State

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) focuses on today's most important assignment – teaching our children about a world made increasingly interdependent by globalization.

We are, whether we like it or not, linked



internationally many ways.

As the lives of our children are increasingly shaped by events in other parts of the world, how can we create active global citizens who can communicate across cultures, function in the global marketplace, respect diversity, prevent the conflicts that arise from environmental destruction and limited resources, and make peace when those conflicts do arise? How can we imbue them with the conviction that ***“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere?”*** (M. L. King, Jr.) How can we teach them that they are capable of making a difference, however small?

This enormous challenge lies primarily in the hands of educators. But no one can do it alone. The United Nations and its programs are crucial resources for this learning. CTAUN exists to provide opportunities for educators to learn, understand and appreciate the work of the UN, and to incorporate global awareness into curricula and school activities at all levels. We do this through annual conferences at the UN and in other parts of the US, and through the resources on our website.

“Promises made to children are sacred.” – Nelson Mandela

Today, children worldwide are increasingly in jeopardy. They are facing war, trafficking, and the dangers of crossing borders unaccompanied. Many lose their identity due to lack of documentation at birth. Others risk death from untreated water, famine, disease, and lack of reproductive health care.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND the 19th CTAUN Conference at the UN Friday, April 6th, 2018

“Stepping Up to Protect the World’s Children”

<http://www.ctaun.org/conferences/2018-un/>

Omega State Award

Nominations should be sent to the Awards Chairman, Ruth Ann Bearden, 9626 Kemper Drive, Lone Tree, CO 80124, or rabearden@aol.com by **March 1, 2018**. For further information, call her at 303-790-4573.

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

Guidelines

A. General

- 1) Writeup should be in outline form
- 2) Use an 8 ½ x 11 inch paper, typing the information
- 3) Be specific as to the nature of the service and contributions
- 4) 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

B. Order of Information

- 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. Family, children
 - e. Letters of recommendation, commendations, etc.
 - f. Narrative letters from friends, etc. which would lend a humanistic value in writing the final resume of the recipient
- 2) Educational background
 - a. Degrees, colleges, teaching positions, honors
 - b. Additional experiences, positions, other educational work
 - c. Papers published, writing, etc.
- 3) Professional organizations
 - a. Membership
 - b. Offices held
 - c. Contribution and service
- 4) Community involvement
 - a. Organizations and committees
 - b. Offices held and responsibilities
 - c. Contributions and services
- 5) Additional information
 - a. Travel
 - b. Hobbies, special talents



What Is An Appendix?

By Joyce Best

The Bylaws and Standing Rules Team has pondered over the spelling, meaning and viability of this part of the Omega State documents. We have read and reread its contents wondering how many others have ever read the Appendix to Omega State's Standing Rules. It is our expressed interest to convey to all members, new and old, why this document exists.

Q: *What is an Appendix???*

A: It is supplementary material that usually is found at the end of a piece of writing. It often is explanatory in nature, giving extra information.

Q: *What does the Omega State Appendix contain?*

A: The Appendix defines the purposes of the CONSTITUTION by Omega State's Educational Law and Policy and U.S. Forum Team and the Scholarship and Awards Team, and the State Historian. It explains what each of these teams will be responsible for and gives team guidelines and procedures. In the case of scholarships it lists the requirements for each scholarship and award offered by International and Omega State.

Q: *Is that all the Appendix contains?*

A: No. It addresses symbols, official jewelry and paraphernalia as well as giving guidelines for sale of items.

Q: *Is there more?*

A: The Appendix gives information on policies related to Electronic Communication. This is important to the Society and needs to be consistent with Delta Kappa Gamma's purpose and mission. Privacy and copyright guidelines are included to protect members.

As each official document of Omega State is reviewed and updated it is the express interest of the Bylaws and Standing Rules Team to make these relevant, compliant and usable in the work of the state organization. We encourage members to take a peek at what governs Omega State and how that fits with their Chapter Rules. It is important to

understand why these documents exist and how to use them.

Help Wanted: Educational Law and Policy Team

By Dr. Barbara Whinery, Team Leader

Why: The Educational Law and Policy Team is essential to accomplishing the purposes and goals of Delta Kappa Gamma International. Our founders were activist women who were committed to taking stands on issues. And because of our expertise in education we are important voices in communicating with lawmakers, boards of education and other governmental agencies that create laws and policies that impact education.

This Team contributes directly to the following purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma International: 1.) Purpose #4- to initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interest of education and women educators; 2.) Purpose #7- to inform members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society. We also collaborate with the U. S. Forum Team and contribute to the Educational Excellence Team.

What: The Omega State Standing Rules outlines the responsibilities of the Educational Law and Policy Team. They state that we shall work hand in hand with the U. S. Forum Team to study and recommend action on professional issues, urge the state organization, chapters and individual members to initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interest of education and of women educators, and be responsible for assessing accomplishments and honoring legislators who sponsor legislation passed into law benefiting excellence in education.

Who: This Team needs members who interested in research, open to studying both sides of an issue, and in exploring strategies for people to listen and discuss issues with civility and mutual respect for one another. We need critical thinkers who can analyze and critique a variety of information and resources for our state, chapters and members to use.



We need teachers, lifelong learners and team players. This Team has many OPPORTUNITIES and POSSIBILITIES to Make a Difference! NOW! Bring a friend!

When: ASAP!! The Colorado State Assembly convenes on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. There will critical issues to follow that impact education, students and women educators at the state and local level. Please contact Dr. Barbara Whinery, Team Leader if you are interested in serving on Education Law and Policy Team. Contact me by phone: (970)-353-6731 or email: blwhinery@comcast.net

Ad Hoc Team on Chapter Assignments

By Sue Denny

Ad Hoc Team Is Looking For Your Ideas!
The Ad Hoc Team on Chapter Hostess Assignments for Omega State Conferences and Conventions is looking for suggestions! This Team was appointed by our current Omega State President, Janet McClaskey, to look into a "plan B" for chapter hostess assignments. These assignments are currently in the Omega State Standing Rules. Hostess chapters are listed by year and area for the Omega State Conferences and Conventions until the year 2031 (see Omega State Standing Rules, V. Activities, A. Omega State Conventions and Leadership Conferences, 2.) The team is looking for options to cover a situation when a hostess chapter cannot completely fulfill its obligations. Perhaps there's a different way for a chapter to hostess a convention and/or conference? Can time and resources be spent differently? Are centerpieces, favors and printed programs still an integral part of the scene? Should the Omega State Teams become a stronger presence at both conferences and conventions? Any one of us on the Ad Hoc Team would love to hear your ideas! Especially, we are looking for volunteers to assist Alpha Delta with the 2019 Omega State convention. Members of the Ad Hoc Team are: Beth Barzdukas (970-353-5998, barzdukas@live.com); Susan Denny (303-777-8365, sdenny@gramshop.com); Kerry Tripp (303-773-0222, jtwerpie@msn.com); Cynthia Mousel (303-377-8198, camousel@gmail.com);

Donna Hoover (719-478-3805, danhov@wildblue.net); with advice from Dr. Sue Pettit (719-543-1901, slpettitdkg@gmail.com); and True Morgan (303-752-2088, true.morgan@comcast.net). Contact anyone of these ladies with ideas!

World Fellowship

By Gail Fray

IMPACTING EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

The DKG World Fellowship Fund began at the 1946 DKG National Convention in San Francisco with approval of a project to aid women in war-torn countries. The WF Fund was established to provide opportunities for women from foreign countries to pursue graduate studies in either the United States or Canada.

To find a World Fellowship recipient in your area:
In mid-October you can go to the World Fellowship Committee page on the DKG website, scroll down to Documents, and click on "World Fellowship Recipient Booklet" where you will find a list of the recipients and the schools they are attending. You may also contact the operation services department at societyoper@dkg.org.

2017-2018

Thirty-six outstanding women from outside the United States and Canada were selected by the DKG International World Fellowship Committee to receive World Fellowships for a total amount of \$100,000 U.S. Their courses of study range from special education, educational leadership and human rights to family law, nursing and human genetics.

Since 1960, 956 women have been awarded fellowships totaling over \$3,449,100.

OMEGA STATE COLORADO DONATIONS TO WORLD FELLOWSHIP

Support for the World Fellowship Fund comes from member contributions and bequests. Colorado DKG member donations from June 30, 2016 to July 1, 2017 totaled \$1,627.76.



PROMOTE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER CULTURES

- Acquire current World Fellowship brochures for distribution at chapter functions.
- Invite WF recipients and/or high school exchange students to make presentations at chapter meetings that promote cultural understanding.
- Correspond with WF recipients. (Check the DKG website for a list of WF recipients)

CONDUCT CHAPTER WORLD FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The Community & Connections Team urges chapters to insert a World Fellowship budget item in the chapter budget. Also, select a chapter World Fellowship chairman who is creative and fun loving to coordinate World Fellowship fundraising activities that are fun and that won't exhaust the bank accounts of members!

Some ideas are listed below:

- Donate a penny-5 cents for each year of your life.
- Donate a penny-5 cents for the number of years you have been a member of DKG.
- Donate the change in your purse.
- Count the number of letters in your full name and contribute 5 cents for each letter.
- Donate a quarter at each chapter meeting from members who forgot to wear their DKG pin.
- Donate 5 cents for each of the letters of the state in which you were born.
- Donate a penny-5 cents for each year of your teaching career (including substitute years).
- Donate a penny-5 cents for each of the letters of the state where you received your Bachelor Degree.
- Donate 5 cents for each piece of jewelry you are wearing (including your DKG pin).
- Donate a buck if you don't want to do the math calculations for any of the above ideas!

COMMUNITY & WORLD CONNECTIONS TEAM

Vivian Bray, Ethel Clow, Shirley Cotton, Gail Fray, Rosie Jelden, Dr. Sue Pettit, Marlene Shields, Cecilia Varosy, and Janet McClaskey.

Thirty-Year History Booklet of Omega State

Submitted by Kathy Flynn, Archivist

Gathering thirty years of Omega State History requires the assistance of all chapters and past state presidents, plus any others who might help. Most chapters have submitted their update of history from the past 30 years and about half of the state presidents have submitted their biennium summaries. The layout of the booklet has been drafted and will be updated as necessary.

Ruth Hardiman, past president and Omega State executive secretary for many years, was largely responsible for the Golden Anniversary 50 year history of Omega State and will be featured in this new history supplement as well. The original Archives committee was assembled to write the 50 year history and was dissolved after the history was completed. The position of Archivist was created in Omega State and was first filled by the appointment of Ruth Klein who served 16 years. I, Kathy Flynn was appointed in 2014. As archivist and historian, I have replied to all chapters and past state presidents who have submitted their written information. Together we have proofed, added information and edited submissions. 22 chapter histories are complete, with two reported still in progress.

Scholarship chair Phyllis Sinclair has sent the records of the scholarships presented. Thank you, Phyllis. I greatly appreciate your assistance. Sue Denny is working on gathering information on all the Omega State Award recipients and the Citation of Merit recipients.

Currently, I am in the process of looking up and validating all of the members who have served on the international administrative board, as international officers, and international committee members, and international convention assignees.



Plus listing information about the state treasurers and executive secretaries.

Sue Denny and I have begun writing the information that precedes each capsule of time in Decades. Also, in the history there will be feature articles on some of our older and distinguished members who have served Omega State well in various capacities.

Every chapter who submits their history will be featured in this most interesting booklet. Some early bird chapters submitted at the very beginning in late 2015, however, only a few came in at that time. Most were submitted during late 2016 and 2017. While the research for your chapter may have been time-consuming, it will be preserved as valuable history of Omega State. Thank you to all who have submitted. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

This project revived by state president, Beth Barzdukas, in early 2014 has been an ongoing process dependent on all chapters, state presidents and members. We are proceeding with completion. Susan Denny and I plan on having three or four completed copies at the 2017 Spring Board meeting for your perusal. Copies will be able to be pre-ordered and pre-paid at that time for the cost of the booklet, which I estimate to be about \$25.00. The completed booklet will be printed in black and white, spiral bound with a cover page, and will be approximately 175+ pages.

Thank yous for further assistance in gathering information for the project go to Donna Hoover, True Morgan, Ruth Klein, Cynthia Mousel, Joan Shoemaker, Memory Lamfers, Gail Fray, Ronda Collette, and many others. Your assistance has been invaluable, and we're over half way there. The next few months will be busy!

Look for this booklet DRAFT at the Spring State Board meeting!

Mary Lauck, Delta Chapter



Poem Places Second

Submitted by Dr. Barbara Whinery

Mary Lauck, Delta Chapter member, was recently recognized for a poem she wrote and submitted to the 2017 Write a DearReader Contest. Mary is a retired high school English and journalism teacher who loves to write poetry. She is a member on the Greeley Poetry Club founded in 1939 where she has been a member since the early 1980's where she currently serves as Workshop Director. She is also a member of the Omega State Communications and Publicity Team.

Mary's poem won second place and was the first poem ever selected in the top three writing entries. The title of her poem is "Shoes to Serve a Voyage." Mary said she was inspired to write this poem because, "All four of my grandparents were Germans from Russia who came to the United States in the early part of the 20th Century. This poem is a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of maternal (Anna) and paternal (Susanna) grandmothers." Thank you, Mary, for sharing your gifts and talents with us!

Shoes to Serve a Voyage
(for my grandmothers)

No fashion shoes for them-
they'd come too far to put on airs.
Oxfords, laced up tight,
on sensible clunks of heels
of dependable rhythms



sang them across an ocean to
prayer meetings
singing at grave sides,
fields and kitchens,
sleep.

Anna,
you never wanted to
voyage across rolling
waves with six children,
the oldest just nine.
You thought you'd die,
leaving shoes behind
as they slid your body
into the Atlantic,
but nausea didn't take you.
Your sole set foot on
dusts of Rifle, Gering, Fort Morgan.

Susanna,
who knew what you wanted?
Your shoes had long accepted
loving where God led.
At 6 you worked other homes.
Then came the blows
of a mother-in-law, a husband,
the feet-wearing
work of raising 13.
But you put that leather
down, always with love,
on city streets in Denver,
in sugar beets fields in Brush.

What's left to me
of solid soles,
blessed souls,
who ventured so far?

Thick leather, cotton laces,
tied away heartaches
so I may run barefoot
dance in rain showers,
crunch through snow---
far from the Volga, safe from the rough Atlantic
waves.

Untied from Colorado beet fields
and forever tears
weeping good-bye
to families on the shore.

DKG Gallery of Fine Arts

The Arts & Humanities Jury of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is pleased to announce the publication of three photography entries: *Painted Lady*, *Hedgehog Cactus*, and *Perfection in Black and White* by **Loretta B. Kerr** in *The Butterfly Effect Exhibit* of the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts, an online gallery of works of art and letters at www.dkg.org. **Kerr**, a resident of Rocky Ford, Colorado, is a member of Phi Chapter of the Colorado State Organization of the Society.



Painted Lady



Hedgehog Cactus



Perfection in Black and White

Colorado Member Builds Bridges to the World

Colorado Omega chapter members are very proud of our **Melanie Briscoe**. She has been in DKG for 29 years and served as president just 4 years after being initiated. Melanie was raised in a scientific community where her father was a physicist. When she decided she wanted flute lessons there were none available in her neighborhood. No problem. Her parents found a teacher in another town and her father faithfully FLEW her to her lesson each week. Yes, Melanie is an accomplished flutist.

For many years we have enjoyed Melanie's lead in our World Fellowship activity. They are always fun and teach us about our DKG sister countries. For example, her media presentations have been shared emphasizing cultural, historic, and scientific aspects of Norway, Iceland, and Sweden. This includes visits to Icelandic elementary schools where she saw a beautiful cultural cross-over of skills being taught. The boys and girls were all taught both shop and knitting!

Vizina states, Melanie is a retired Rangeview High School and Community College of Aurora teacher. She held a fulltime and part time job together for many years teaching geology and other sciences as needed. Several years ago she travelled to Iceland to learn more about geology. While there a volcano erupted and she met the world's foremost expert on

volcanic activity. She presented a DKG program to our chapter about her travels there. She especially was pleased to be able to donate books to an Icelandic elementary school which had recently been damaged by an eruption.

She is proud of her Norwegian heritage and speaks the language. She found that she could understand a lot of Icelandic as it is similar to Norwegian. She was a caregiver for her parents for many years. As you can see, Melanie is a valued member of our organization with her many talents and her spirit of giving.



Melanie is pictured in her native dress – an outfit she herself made.

http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Member_Spotlight/Member_Spotlight_Page.aspx

Need Money for Projects, Seminars or Professional Growth?

Go the www.dkgef.org and use your computer bookmark to connect you to the website of the Educational Foundation of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Take advantage of the opportunities to apply for funds that are available to individuals, chapters and state organizations. Deadlines to apply for the funds are on or before:

February 1, 2018: Members and nonmembers can apply for [Cornet Individual Professional Development \(CIPD\)](#) Awards to participate in events and activities that occur between March 15, 2018 and October 15, 2018.



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.

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

Alaskan Glacier Cruise

Enjoy an Alaskan Glacier Cruise
Join DKG Friends aboard
The Celebrity Solstice
August 29 – September 8, 2018

Cruise out of Seattle to Alaska
See towering blue glaciers, spot whales,
View totem poles in Ketchikan

Bring a spouse, a friend, a colleague
Tour the Seattle Fish Market,
Pass through a 20-mile fjord,
Learn about the 1800 Gold Rush,
Have fun!

For more information contact
Carolyn@rants.net

Or

Check it out via

Alaskacruisedkg.grouptoursite.com

Or call

1.800.438.7672