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Advancing key women educators in the state of Maryland



DKG alpha beta STATE NEWS

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Fall 2017

Ontario Conference 2017 NERC: A Resounding Success

Patty Simon, Mu

The Northeast Regional Conference that was held in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, from July 12-14 was both educational and interesting. **Caesar's Windsor Hotel** proved to be an excellent venue with plenty of rooms to accommodate all NERC attendees and a variety of eateries both in and around the hotel.

Two pre-conference seminars were offered: **The Underground Railway** and **Indigenous Peoples of the 21st Century**. African Canadian Heritage consultant and author **Elise Harding-Davis**, shared fascinating information about the history of African Canadians and their contributions to society. A proud descendant of slaves, Ms. Harding-Davis spoke passionately about the plight of slaves and the part that Canada played in the success of the Underground Railroad. The seminar included a trolley ride to a church that welcomed



*Delta Kappa Gamma
2017 Northeast Regional Conference*

*Windsor, Ontario, Canada
July 12-14*

and hid escaped slaves and that now houses a museum devoted to that historical period.

The seminar on **Indigenous Peoples of the 21st Century** had two speakers who work with indigenous students. **Charlene Bearhead**, who also addressed the whole NERC group later in the evening, is a former education officer for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and

Mary Ellen Gucciardi is a school counselor. Both shared their personal experiences with indigenous youth and what is being done to make education more meaningful for them.

The conference opened with the presentation of flags with our own **Joan Wiggins** having the honor of carrying the flag of the United States of America.

Continued on page 4.

President's Message

Grow ~ Change ~ Soar



When I joined Nu Chapter over 25 years ago, did I ever imagine that I would be President of Alpha Beta State, but here I am ready to open the 2017-2019 Biennium. It is an honor and privilege that you put your faith in me to do this job.

First and most, many, many thanks go to **Joan Wiggins** for thinking outside the box during the last biennium. Her ideas of First Friday, changing the venue for an executive board meeting, and encouraging members to take a leadership role were wonderful. We will follow her rhythm as we continue to implement some of the initiative that she began.

This past summer thirteen sisters, 2 husbands, and I attended the Northeast Regional Conference at the Caesar's Windsor Hotel in Ontario, Canada. What a fantastic conference! The Delta Kappa Gamma sisters in Ontario welcomed us with open arms and planned a wonderful conference. There was great training for me and committee chairs, wonderful speakers, informative breakouts, and ten-minute sessions led by many sisters from the Northeast Region, including **Joan Wiggins**, immediate past state president. It was great to reconnect with the DKG members from other states in our region and to have the opportunity to get to know the other state and chapter presidents across the northeast. This conference is always a way to “*UNITE women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship*” (Purpose #1) and to “*STIMULATE the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action*” (Purpose #6).

My theme is “**Grow, Change, Soar.**” It is time for us to work together as we begin as caterpillars and become those butterflies that flap their wings and make many great things happen. James Cook said, “*Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.*” No group, whether it is the Executive Board, the Executive Committee, the Leadership Development Committee, or one of the many other committees, is responsible for the success of Alpha Beta State. **It is the responsibility of all of the members to work together for the success of the state organization and The Society.** We need for the members to become involved beyond their local chapters. Come to the state meetings and the society workshops. **Take part in the Leadership Development Conference in May 2018 and the Alpha Beta State Convention in April 2019.** Be sure to check the state Website at www.dkgmd.org. On the international level, check out the website at www.dkg.org. To get on the website use your six digit member number found on your member card and ask the chapter president for the password. There is a wealth of information to be found. The **Alpha Beta State NEWS** is always looking for chapters to share. Please send these items to me first at darlingsh.abs@gmail.com.

Thank you to all who agreed to serve The Society this biennium. I look forward to seeing you at all state meetings as we “**Grow, Change, and Soar.**” Please invite me to visit your chapter meetings. I look forward to reconnecting with those whom I know and to meeting new sisters.

- **Sharon Darling**, State President

Member Achievements

Celeste Williams Featured in NEA Today

Minnie Young, Eta



Celeste Williams, Theta Chapter, was named among the Six Over Sixty: Retired Educators Who Are Still Making a Difference in an article written by Brenda Alavarez for NEA Today, a publication of the National Education Association.

In the article, she was described as a strong advocate for the education profession. After retiring, she volunteered to join the NEA's Rapid Response Team. As a member of this team, she has attended different rallies on Capital Hill and advocated for issues impacting educators.

Celeste is an active member of Theta Chapter. She is a past chapter president and the current state membership chair.

For the full article, please visit <http://neatoday.org/2017/07/26/six-over-60-retired-educators-making-a-difference/>

Blondelle Hunter Featured in Her Mind Magazine

Joan Wiggins, Alpha Theta



Blondelle Hunter, Lambda was featured in "Her Mind" magazine, Spring 2017 issue which featured the women of Columbia, Maryland. The article written by Ann Haddad is entitled "Early Adapters." Haddad relates a discussion of Columbia's first residents' choices for an oral history project. Columbia was the vision of James Rouse who created a planned development in 1967 of socioeconomic and racial diversity. Blondelle is a long time resident of Columbia. A teacher at Wilde Lake High School for much of her life, she and her husband were living in Washington, D.C. when they read about Columbia in a newspaper article. Their initial attraction to Columbia was based on their decision to raise their children in a safe environment. Mrs. Hunter, who calls herself a "people person" says the Columbia model of integrating economic groups gives children from different backgrounds the opportunity to learn and grow together.

APA Citation:

Haddad, A. (2017, Spring). Early Adapters. Her Mind Magazine, 33.

Fran Luther's Article to be Published in DKG Bulletin

Minnie Young, Eta

Congratulations to **Dr. Fran Luther**, Alpha Chapter. Her article, "A Listing of Recommended Online Database Resources for Use in 1:1 Technology Programs" has been selected for inclusion in the 2017, Volume 83-5 issue of The

Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin: Journal.

Dr. Judith Merz, Interim Executive Director of DKG, wrote in her acceptance letter that Dr. Luther's "cooperation in sharing (her) manuscript with the Society in this meaningful way is greatly appreciated."

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

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2017 Northeast Regional Conference

July 12 - 14, 2017

Ontario, Canada

This was followed by **Charlene Bearhead**, who spoke about the need to better understand and educate indigenous children. *“The truth of our students might be different from the truth as we know it. We need to acknowledge that there are multiple truths,”* she said. She went on to say that educators should not try to change the indigenous children, but that *“The thing we can change is us”* and our attitudes. She encouraged us to *“show indigenous children that we have as much to learn from them as we have to share with them.”* **Ontario Night** concluded with a selection of Canadian songs sung beautifully by the **Karen Schuessler Singers**.

Thursday was full of activities. In the morning, there were the Second General Session and the Canadian and United States Forums. Later in the day conventioners could choose from a variety of breakout sessions and ten-minute take-aways, as well as browse the items being sold by the Marketplace vendors.

The main afternoon event was the **DKG World Luncheon**, which provided delicious food and an excellent speaker. Two awards were presented prior to the main speaker's address. The first was the **Educator's Book Award** which was given to **Dr. Patricia Edwards**, who quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, and W.E.B. DuBois, who said, **“There is no force equal to a woman determined to rise.”** The second award was the **International Achievement Award** given to **Dr. Lynn Schmid**, who spoke of her appreciation for DKG and the impact of **“random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty.”**

Afterwards, keynote speaker **Carolyn Pittman** talked about acts of courage and the importance of standing up for what one believes in and supporting others in their efforts to do so, too. In addition, she emphasized the importance of recruiting new members into DKG and keeping current members. **DKG needs to be a**
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Caesar's Windsor Hotel proved to be an excellent venue with plenty of rooms to accommodate all NERC attendees and a variety of eateries both in and around the hotel.



The conference opened with the presentation of flags with our own Joan Wiggins having the honor of carrying the flag of the United States of America.



Harmonica player Mike Stevens spoke about his experience working with Inuit youth and his mission to provide musical instruments for them



Keynote speaker **Carolyn Pittman** and Educator's Book Award-ee **Dr. Patricia Edwards** gave inspiring messages at the conference.



Dr. Janet Cornick, Lambda, with Royal Canadian Mounties.



Charlene Bearhead spoke about the need to better understand and educate indigenous children.

multigenerational organization that supports its young members. Carolyn Pittman also said you must “go beyond your comfort zone and move your butterfly wings,” which must have pleased incoming state president **Sharon Darling** since she has chosen the butterfly as the symbol of her biennium. The Maryland representatives were frequently complimented on their **gorgeous butterfly pins** which were made by **Mary Lee Makinen**.

Friday started bright and early with a delicious breakfast followed by an amazing slide presentation and lecture by **Dr. Vivienne Collinson**, who shared the history of the quest to find the **Northwest Passage** and her trip to the countries along that route, especially Greenland. Attendees were treated to pictures of animals, especially polar bears, and their icy domain while learning about the impact of global warming on that part of the world.

More breakout sessions and take-aways were offered in the afternoon, as well as another opportunity to peruse the goods being sold by the Marketplace vendors.

The Friday night banquet included a sumptuous meal and wonderful entertainment. Prior to the entertainment, the outgoing State Presidents were recognized, and the incoming ones were introduced.

The banquet attendees were treated to both vocal and instrumental music. The **Northeast Regional Chorus**, which included Maryland's **Joan Wiggins** and **Lorraine Johnson**, performed three songs beautifully. Then harmonica player **Mike Stevens** took the stand. After speaking about his career, which included performing at the Grand Ole Opry, he shared his experiences with Inuit youth and his mission to provide musical instruments for them. He concluded his segment of the program by playing several songs on his harmonica. His unique style kept everyone spellbound.

The camaraderie, information, and activities shared at the 2017 Northeast Regional Conference made for a truly memorable experience.
- **Patty Simon**, Mu



The regional conference provided a great opportunity for networking among state presidents and executive secretaries.



Mary Lee Makinen takes a selfie with International Leadership Development Chair **Dr. Lace Brogden**.

2017 Northeast Regional Conference Session Summaries

Dr. Terri T. Showers, Lambda Chapter President

Session 1 Breakout: The DKG Educational Foundation: Impacting Education Worldwide

Presenters: Jane Tanner, Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid, Dr. Dorothy Sample, Sheila MacKay, Dr. Kay Clawson

This session enlightened participants on helpful information pertaining to the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) Foundation and how individuals are able to benefit from funding opportunities made available through the Foundation. The presenters highlighted the mission, vision, and three purposes of DKG and emphasized the importance of DKG members making an impact on the world by sharing educational opportunities and best practices. Established in 1964, the Foundation gives approximately \$150 K yearly to support educational projects, seminars, and professional development.

There are three different types of awards given by the Foundation, two awards funded for professional development through the use of the Cornet Funds and the third award given to grant funded projects. The Cornet Funds support professional development opportunities for individuals and seminars. These individual awards are known as the **Cornet Individual Professional Development (CIPD) Award**. The seminar award supports professional development in select areas, state organizations, and various

regions. This award is known as the **Cornet Seminar Professional Development (CSPD) Award** and serves groups of individuals rather than an individual. The Foundation also supports grants to an array of projects that provide educational and cultural enhancement to people. Finally, educators who are members and non-members of DKG can apply for these three awards.

Additionally, participants were encouraged not only to apply for funds but to financially support the Foundation. Even though the process for receiving a grant may be rigorous, it was shared applicants must be persistent and should thoroughly review the rubric before submitting a proposal. Although failing is not an option, the presenters reminded participants, to **“Fail” means, it’s your First Attempt in Learning!**

Members can support the Foundation by giving individual gifts, contribute to the different giving opportunities at the Northeast Regional Conference, and consider attending the International Convention to be held in Austin, Texas, July 16-20, 2018. On July 18, 2018, convention participants can support the Foundation by participating and contributing to the pre-convention activity, **Night of the Museum**.

For more information and resources on the DKG Educational Foundation, go to http://www.dkg.org/DKGEF/DKGEF_Resources.aspx

Session 2 Breakout: The Myth of One Size Fits All

Presenters: Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid and Joan Wolfe

What are some ideas that can help to revitalize and energize your chapter? This session provided participants an opportunity to explore ways to enhance their chapter and to maintain members. Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) Society International is very concerned about how chapters stay current and maintain their membership. Therefore, members who leave the organization are asked, **“Why do they leave?”** A summary of many of the responses included: people do not feel as if they fit in and the programs do not serve their needs. It was suggested to change the focus of the chapter if members would be better served. The presenters reminded participants DKG is an educational organization and not a sorority. Furthermore, young women are looking for ways on how to teach better and to be more professional.

A few suggestions on how to revitalize and energize your chapter included:

1. Differentiate your programs.
2. Ask members what they desire.
3. Changes to the Chapter Rules should be submitted to State Bylaws Committee.

This session was a reminder that one size doesn’t fit everyone and chapters need to explore and implement ways to be a better fit for all chapter members.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation has awarded

\$3.8 million

since its inception in 1964

to improve, enrich, and encourage intercultural understanding and educational excellence

2017 Northeast Regional Conference Session Summary

Lorraine Williams Johnson, Theta

Educational Excellence Committee

Presenters: Dr. Debra LeBlanc, Marilyn Spedding, Lochie Musso

On Wednesday, July 12, 2017, I attended a session that provided information on the Educational Excellence Committee which impacts state and chapter leadership and programming.

The presenters gave a flash drive to attendees that provided extensive information about the work of the committee. A **Scavenger Hunt** hand-out gave attendees and interactive tool for accessing pertinent information on the DKG website. The form was provided on the flash drive for use with chapter leadership.

The Committee's three goals include: empowering women through leadership opportunities, engaging educators in purposeful programs and projects, and creating global involvement. Participants were encouraged to attend the **Legislative Seminar** which will be held on March 18-21, 2018, at the Holiday Inn National Airport, Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia.

Becky Sadowski to Lead November's Society Workshop

Sharon Darling, Alpha Beta State President

I would like to introduce you to **Becky Sadowski**, the International Representative who will lead Alpha Beta State Society Workshop in November.

A member of the Society for 28 years, **Becky Sadowski** currently serves as **International Second Vice-President**. At the international level she has served as the 2014-2016 Southeast Regional Director and chair of the 2016 International Convention Steering Committee. Becky has also been a member of the International Golden Gift Fund Committee and chair of the Leadership Development and Membership Committees. She has served as chapter president as well as the 2003-2005 Tennessee State Organization President.

Becky's DKG membership has provided many opportunities for personal and professional growth. She attended the Basic and Advanced Leadership Seminars in her state organization and is a graduate of the 1999 International Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar. Becky is a frequent breakout



session presenter and speaker at all levels of the Society. She was a keynote speaker at the 2005 SERC and has facilitated the Advanced Leadership Seminar four times in her home state of Tennessee.

Serving as a Special Education advocate has been Becky's passion. Her career includes serving as a classroom teacher, a reading specialist, a Lead Teacher for the Memphis City Schools, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Memphis,

and a Special Education Specialist and Educational Consultant for Shelby County Schools, as well as Head of the School of Education at Lambuth University. Becky has served as the President of the Tennessee Association for the Gifted and was a Keynote Presenter at the Tennessee Legal Education Conference on Special Education. She received the Jo Patterson Award in Gifted Education in Tennessee in 1996.

Married to her college sweetheart for 48 years, Becky has two grown children and enjoys spending as much time as possible with her four granddaughters. She is active in her church as well as in her community.

A "lifelong learner," Becky often refers to one of her favorite quotes from C.S. Lewis- "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

I cannot wait to have her be with us. She is so enthusiastic and I know will share many great ideas.

Society Workshop November 4, 2017 Ashton United Methodist Church

Alpha Beta State Organization membership has dropped more than 25 percent in five years. To address this trend, **ALL Alpha Beta State Organization members are invited and encouraged to attend this one-day conversation about membership development and revitalization for our state.** YOU are needed at this important event. Becky Sadowski, international second vice-president, will facilitate our discussion of significant issues that impact our membership, leadership, communication, and decision-making. The goal of the day is to define our needs and how to address them. Join us to be a part of the solution!



Alpha Beta State News

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Society Meeting Dates

Come and join us!

Executive Board Meeting

September 23, 2017

Society Workshop

November 4, 2017

Executive Board Meeting

March 3, 2018

Leadership Development Conference

May 5, 2018

International Convention

Austin, Texas
July 16-20, 2018