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Advancing key women educators in the state of Maryland

DKG alpha beta STATE NEWS

VOL. 79 NO. 4
Winter 2017

State President Makes Her First Chapter Visit

Sharon Settle, Alpha Alpha Chapter President

President Sharon Darling traveled to Western Maryland, Saturday, September 30th, to attend a joint meeting with *Alpha Alpha* and *Eta* chapter members. Forty members welcomed President Darling to their first meeting of this new biennium. Alpha Alpha President, **Sharon Settle**, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. **Cindy Downton**, Alpha Alpha 1st Vice President, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Settle introduced the President who extended a warm welcome to everyone and said that she was familiar with Western Maryland because her son attended Frostburg State University. **Kelly Griffin**, President of *Eta*, introduced another guest speaker, **Evan West**, who is the UNISERV Director for Alleghany and Garrett Counties. Settle and **Michelle Saville**, *Eta*, gave an overview of key information from the ABS Executive Board meeting they attended on September 23rd in Highland, MD. Other members present that also attended the State Executive meeting were **Barb Klug** (*Alpha Alpha*), **Cindy Downton** (*Alpha Alpha*), and **Dr. Minerva Ladores Young** (*Eta*).

President Darling spoke to all present about her biennium theme, "**Grow, Change and Soar**." She also talked about her passion for the **Moon Catcher**



Sharon Darling with chapter presidents Kelly Griffin, Eta, and Sharon Settle, Alpha Alpha.

Project—a project that her own Chapter, *Nu*, has adopted. *Eta* and *Alpha Alpha* members presented President Darling with a basket of goodies made/grown in Garrett County and a special cutting board made by **Larry Foley**, husband of **Pat Foley**, *Alpha Alpha*. The cutting board is made of different species of trees grown in Garrett County.

Barb Klug, *Alpha Alpha*, gave the **Collect**, which was about advice from a butterfly (another passion of President

Darling). The sisters enjoyed a delicious lunch made by the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church ladies. After lunch, *Alpha Alpha* and *Eta* members held their chapter meetings in two different sanctuaries in the church.

All of the *Alpha Alpha* and *Eta* members would like to thank President Sharon Darling for traveling to Finzel, MD, to attend their first meetings. Everyone enjoyed her warmth and kindness!!!

President's Message

Grow ~ Change ~ Soar

Summer seems to be over and fall has arrived. I love watching the leaves as they change colors, the crops being harvested, and feeling the crispness in the morning air.

In order for us to “*Grow, Change, and Soar*”, it might help if all of us had a better understanding of The Society. When we speak of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, we are referring to the entire organization worldwide. **Dr. Annie Webb Blanton** and eleven other forward-looking teachers met together in Austin, Texas. They decided to form an organization in an attempt to empower women educators who had very few rights at that time in our nation. Their goal was to unite women educators in a common cause and to help improve education in general. The meeting took place on May 11, 1929 at the University Faculty Women's Club. After the ceremony, the first order of business was to complete the Delta Kappa Gamma Song which was written by **Dr. Annie Webb Blanton** and **Cora M. Martin**. They then began to work on a constitution. I am sure they never envisioned what has happened to The Society since that day. It certainly did “Soar.”

What has happened in the society since that day? The society is divided into four components. The smallest organizational part is the chapter. In our state, we have 25 chapters. We have chapters from the mountains to the shore. The chapter is the most vital part of the society. This is where members begin to “Grow” in their informational knowledge and leadership skills. Without the involvement of each member and meaningful contributions, the society would not exist. Within the chapter is where “The Butterfly Effect” begins. It is evidenced at this level as the wings are flapped which enables the flourishing and thriving of the chapter to support Alpha Beta State which is the next part of the society.

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Alpha Beta State was founded in January of 1937 by 16 Maryland teachers during a blizzard in Baltimore. Dr. Blanton came by train during a blizzard to guide those key women educators. The state has Bylaws and Standing Rules which are directed by the International Constitution. In odd years, a three day convention is held in different geographical locations throughout the state for the purpose of conducting society business as well as having breakout sessions that address different society purposes. A committee made up of different chapters work together to plan the convention. During even years, a one day Leadership Development Conference which is professional and personal growth oriented, is held in the spring. New chapter presidents are also trained during the conference. Each year there are two Executive Board Meetings, one in September and one in March, where we learn about the different committees; their goals and their accomplishments. This is where all members can gain a better understanding of Alpha Beta State. This is also true at the Society Workshop which is held on the first Saturday each November. These are all state events where all members can participate in many learning and inspirational opportunities that address the seven purposes. The state is where we can continue to “Grow, Change, and Soar.”

The International Society is divided into 5 regions. In the United States, we have four regions which are Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, and Southwest. The fifth region is Europe. Each region meets during odd years. The Northeast Region, which includes Maryland, met this past summer in Windsor, Ontario. We highlighted that Regional in the last newsletter. There is no business conducted at these conferences. However, there are many excellent speakers and breakout sessions where members continue to learn about The Society as



well as grow more professionally and personally.

The largest component is The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International which we are all a part of. It is made up of the United States and 16 member countries. At the present time, there are over 75,000 members worldwide. International Conventions are held during even years where society business is conducted and also many wonderful breakout sessions are offered. On July 16 to 20, 2018, the convention will be in Austin, Texas, the birthplace of The Society. How exciting that should be! You will be getting more information as the time gets closer.

In today's world, we may not have quite the same goals and needs as Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and the other key women educators, but we still have a definite need to connect, support, and network with each other. There are many opportunities for members to learn leadership skills, provide outreach across our community and beyond, showcase their talents, and just discover some hidden “inner talent”.

We are all at different “walks” in our lives, but check out these different ways in the society in which you can get involved. Take a step out of that comfort zone and begin to “Grow, Change, and Soar” as we all flap our butterfly wings together.

If you would like more information about The Society, check out the website- www.dkg.org

- **Sharon Darling**, State President

(Many thanks to Ann Campbell for all your assistance.)

Meet My Friend, Stephanie

Sharon Hilty, Delta

Everyone has a story to share. What is your story and who are you connected to?

I would like to introduce you to my friend, Stephanie, who lives in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was fifty years old this year. She is the most independent, confident, caring, kind, person it has been my pleasure to ever know or teach. Stephanie just happens to have Down Syndrome, and she and her family have never allowed her disability to keep her from doing anything she wanted to try.

Stephanie has a more involved “weekly” schedule than most of us. Her amazing parents, Jonna and Milton, have provided her with every opportunity, and have worked very hard all these years to see that Stephanie is never off her schedule. Stephanie has been a Special Olympian since she was eight years old. She continues to participate in softball, swimming, and more recently bocce and Hawaiian dancing with her Rainbow friends and coaches. This powerful group of athletes, coaches, and parents has worked all these years as a “family.” Their goal has always been to help their children break down barriers and stereotypes in order to have a better and more productive life of their choices.

Today, Stephanie continues as the receptionist at the Hawaii Special Olympics Office a few days a week. She has many duties including writing thank you notes for all contributions to Special Olympics. She also represents all athletes by accepting donations from organizations in Honolulu. Her very busy schedule also includes Weight Watchers, Sylvan Learning Center (which teaches her about finances), riding two buses to and from work, and meeting her friends all over Oahu. The woman is truly amazing!

So... how did Stephanie and her family become one of my blessings? Stephanie’s mother, Jonna, grew up in Snow Hill with my 50 year friend, Janice, who I met at Towson State University. Her grandmother continues to live here on



Stephanie and her mother, Jonna, enjoy Mother-Daughter Hawaiian dancing.

the shore at 94. Stephanie visited with me this past spring while Jonna and Janice attended a luncheon in Snow Hill. It was a fun day on the Boardwalk with my very special friend.

While visiting my son during his five tours in Hawaii, Janice had me contact Jonna, and on their next visit to Maryland....Jonna brought Stephanie and her family to visit me in Ocean City. One summer they also used my home while I was away. Stephanie and I became pen pals and have continued to share notes, texts, pictures and visits. Then it was my turn to go to Hawaii. (“) It was my great pleasure to spend three weeks with Stephanie while her parents toured Europe. I was her “companion” and enjoyed every minute of seeing her work, travel the Island, participate in the Hawaii State Special Olympics and meet her Rainbow friends and their families. And we both got to visit with my son and his family.

Earlier this year I shared Stephanie with the DKG Southeast Region. I had hoped they could find a way for Stephanie’s Mother-Daughter Hawaiian dance group to share their talents. Unfortunately the schedule was already complete.

I consider my lifetime friendships with Stephanie, Sarah, Kim, Eugene, Raymond, Kerry, all Special Olympians, my rewards and blessings of **joy** for thirty years of teaching and coaching Special Olympics.

My hope is that you will share your story, too!

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

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Alpha Beta State News

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Committee News

Scholarship Committee

Sheila Owens, Mu

The Scholarship Committee is still growing in participants who want to make a change in their lives through Mini Grants and various scholarships. We have met via emails to see if we need to make any changes to the applications for the Mini Grant or scholarship. We have also screened and eliminated applications that did not meet the criteria for approval by the Alpha Beta State President, **Sharon Darling**.

The Scholarship Committee will still be using a traveling project board displayed at meetings to inform and remind members about the various Scholarships and Mini Grants that are available and when the applications for them are due.

So, what are you waiting for? Lift those wings and soar to achieve your long term goals. If that goal is towards a Master's or Doctoral Degree

consider applying for one of the three Scholarships offered by Alpha Beta State of Maryland. The Dr. Anne H. Matthews, Esther J. Crooks, and Dr. Fern Schneider scholarships can help with \$1,500.00 towards expenses for taking classes to further your education. The deadline for applying for the State Scholarships is January 15, 2018.

Now if you just want to expand your horizon such as a one day seminar on starting your own business or learning to play the piano or a one day culinary class or a new skill that may add a new beginning or change your life, apply for one of our Mini Grants of up to \$200.00. The deadline for applying for the Mini Grants are November 1, 2017, February 1st and May 1st, 2018.

Chapter Presidents, please remind your members to apply for the Mini Grants or the different State Scholarships.

World Fellowship

Laura McClelland, Chair, Omicron
Sharon Hilty, Delta
Margie Nowosielski, Xi
Florence Saku, Eta
Becky Taylor, Beta
Sharon Darling, State President

We are all familiar with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s, "I have a dream" speech. Many women who are not DKG members from other countries other than the U.S.A. and Canada have dreams, too. For example, a 2015 World Fellowship applicant from Bulgaria wrote:

"I have a dream. I want to be an agent of change. I want to be one of the future education policy makers in Bulgaria. I dream of the day when we shall have happier and more motivated Bulgarian teachers and students. My Master's degree

in technology in education in the USA is my first step in accomplishing my goal."

Together we are helping young women like her make their dreams a reality through our donations to the World Fellowship Fund.

Our committee calculated the contributions made by each chapter to the World Fellowship Fund during the 2015-2017 biennium based on the report from International. Proudly we can say that **Alpha Beta State contributed \$4,902.41**. Let's aim for over \$5000 in this biennium.



Fundraising Idea

Terri Shank of Pi chapter shared their fundraising event at the September Executive Board meeting. A **homemade stocking decorated**

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:

January 3, 2018: Up to \$10,000 may be awarded to groups or individuals for projects that not only benefit children and education but also encourage intercultural understanding and educational excellence.

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.

with children was filled with loose change. Once it was filled, the stocking was auctioned. The money in the stocking and from what is made on the auctioning of the stocking went to World Fellowship. This year they will have a decorated box to fill with loose change. Way to go, Pi chapter!

We would love to hear how your chapter is raising money for this worthwhile fund.

Starting in mid October you should be able to view this year's World Fellowship recipients at <http://www.dkg.org/> Click on committees, World Fellowship, scroll to the bottom to see videos, other fundraising ideas, and the brochure of recipients.

Let's help women make their dreams a reality!

Alpha Beta State Scholarship Recipients

Sandra L. Rodeheaver, Alpha Alpha

Dr. Fern D. Schneider Scholarship Aids in Doctoral Dissertation



I am again very appreciative and honored to be chosen to receive the **Dr. Fern D. Schneider** from the Maryland state organization of Delta Kappa Gamma. With the help of last year's scholarship, I was, able to complete my coursework for my doctorate and I am now working diligently on my dissertation in hopes to graduate by December of 2018 with an Ed. D in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on multiculturalism. My sisters in my local chapter have been so supportive and encouraged me to apply again this year for both the state scholarships and our local chapter scholarship. This encouragement has meant a great deal to me as I work to conclude my research and writing.

This scholarship has again relieved financial burdens that are a part of pursuing an advanced degree. I have been able to purchase necessary materials such as books and pay fees necessary to maintain library access through the research process. This past summer I have been able to write another chapter of my dissertation on the theoretical framework of my research. It was the funding from this scholarship that aided in the purchase of some of the necessary materials for the research for that chapter. As I continue my research, my area of focus is still rural Appalachia schools and minority populations, particularly transnationally adopted Asians within this community. My theoretical framework for the study will be Third Space Theory, which will encompass all participants in this study (parents, teachers, and students).

I would like to encourage any member of any chapter of the Maryland State DKG who is pursuing an advanced degree to apply for the scholarship opportunities our state organization offers us. The application process was easy and everyone, both local and state representatives, are

Kathleen Brunnett, Omicron

Dr. Matthews Scholarship Helped with Last Class for Educational Administration Certificate



It was certainly an honor to receive the **Dr. Anne Matthews Scholarship** at the spring Alpha Beta State Convention. This scholarship enabled me to register for my final class toward my certificate in educational administration through McDaniel College in Westminster. Thanks to the scholarship, my classes are now finished. I am currently completing the last phase of the certification which is my administrative internship. I feel fortunate to belong to an organization that so strongly advances the educational interest of its members. President Kennedy once said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Alpha Beta State's generous scholarships allow members to be both leader and learner. Thank you again for supporting me in my career goal of educational administrator.

always willing to help with any questions any applicant may have. It has been a great organization of which to be a part. As I watch our local and state chapters give scholarships to the young ladies who are starting out in the field of education, support educational needs for local school students and also to be aware that the organization does so much for its members as they continue to pursue their educational endeavors. I know I will continue to be grateful to this organization.

Ray Long, Rho

Esther Crooks Scholarship Used for MD Teacher Certificate Renewal



I wish to thank you for awarding me the **Esther Crooks Scholarship**. The monies were used to cover the cost of renewing my Maryland Teaching Certificate. The two classes I took at Anne Arundel Community College both expanded my mind as well as opened my eyes to the teaching methods used in today's classrooms. Online classes are quite different from traditional classrooms. However, you get to "know" the other students through discussion questions. Women's Studies highlighted women's issues in today's complex world and brought to light the struggles women faced to ensure we have the benefits we enjoy today. If you've never seen the film, "Iron Jawed Angels," you should watch it. I learned about the Candy Bomber in World War II while taking the American Studies class. Although I majored in History in college, I had never known of this wonderful mission.

Taking these courses was a wonderful learning experience. They reinforced the importance of being a life-long learner and I am grateful that Alpha Beta State now grants scholarships for undergraduate courses. Having a current Maryland Teaching Certificate affords me the opportunity to continue working on our schools and helping our students achieve their goals. Thank you once again.

**Will you be our next
Alpha Beta State
scholarship recipient?
APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 16, 2018**

Visit www.dkgmd.org for more information.

Chapter News

Nu Chapter Celebrates 60 Years!

Ann Campbell, Nu

Nu Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International celebrated its sixtieth anniversary by having a tea under the expert guidance of Nu sister, **Peggy Murchake**, on Sunday, June 4, 2017 from 2 to 4 o'clock at the parish house of St Luke's Church in Church Hill, Maryland. Delta Kappa Gamma is a key women teachers' society active in seventeen countries around the world with a mission of promoting professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Nu Chapter was founded on June 8, 1957 as sixteen members signed the charter. In the beginning, four mid-shore counties, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot, were represented by the membership. At the present time there are no members from Caroline County. Nu Chapter boasts forty current members who meet regularly to increase their skills as educators as well as learning more about health, exercise, nutrition and artistic crafts. We have tried to increase our knowledge of technology, legislative issues and hot topics facing education today. We have learned more about bullying, curriculum changes and supporting early career educators. We pride ourselves in working on projects which impact the community in general and support student learning. Currently, our chapter is involved with The Moon Catcher Project which provides reusable, washable hygiene supplies so that school-aged girls in the poorest communities worldwide can remain in school for the entire month, thereby not missing any educational time in school. This is such a huge benefit to these young women and directly impacts their future in a positive way. The Maryland organizational part of DKG, Alpha Beta State, is hopeful that more chapters statewide will also become involved with this program.



Nu Chapter celebrated its 60th anniversary by having tea.



Guests enjoyed fine china including a myriad of teapots and teacups.

Guests of the tea, including current and some past members, were delightfully entertained by Nu Chapter soloist, **Marita Reed**, who sang "I Dreamed a Dream" and "Flying Free". Congratulatory remarks were made by ABS Executive Secretary, **Mary Lee Makinen** and current ABS President, **Joan Wiggins**. **Tamara Forte**, a Nu Chapter member and current Teacher of The Year for Queen Anne's County, provided inspirational thoughts as she challenged us to use our talents to enrich the organization and our communities as well. Nu Chapter member, **Sharon Darling**, ABS President, spoke citing a "butterfly theme" as her message to promote during the next bien-



Nu boasts 40 active members who meet regularly to increase skills as educators.

nium. Alpha Beta State will continue to **grow, change and soar** so that we can preserve the past while continuing to advance by designing a plan to meet the needs of a diverse membership and the increasing demands of an ever changing world.

We enjoyed the many delicious refreshments including a very realistic teapot cake created by members enhanced by an elegantly decorated room complete with fine china, and a myriad of teapots and teacups! We look forward with pride and anticipation to the next ten years as Nu Chapter continues to flourish.

Alpha Alpha Supports Students and Teachers through Goody Bags, Survival Kits, and Scholarships

Sharon Settle, Alpha Alpha Chapter President

Alpha Alpha supports the Burlington United Methodist School students throughout the year with donations and various supplies. In September, we donate various school supplies for the students to use to begin the school year. Donations include but are not exclusively limited to backpacks, pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, glue, and various other school supplies, along with monetary donations. In November, members bring a Christmas card with a message for the students along with \$5 to go in each card. Many of the students do not receive gifts from relatives. In March, members bring a birthday card with \$5 enclosed as a gift for the child. Finally, in May we bring “*Summer Fun*” items to be used by all students throughout the summer. Some members also choose to give a monetary donation at this time.

Alpha Alpha supports teachers throughout Garrett County by providing the coun-

ty Teacher of the Year with a check that he/she can use for any personal expenses needed to complete their year-long obligations. These teachers always send thank you messages back to the chapter stating how the money was used. The chapter gives all new teachers “*Goody Bags*” full of school supplies to use for themselves or for their students. All the supplies in the bags are donations from Alpha Alpha members given at the September meeting. Along with these bags comes a “*Survival Kit*” created by member, *Anna Marie Miller*. Anna donates all the supplies for these bags along with her time to assemble them.

Three scholarships are offered through our chapter. The first is the **Jean D. Wolfe Memorial Scholarship** for \$300 for Professional Development/Career Enhancement. The second scholarship is

our **Grant-In-Aid** for \$300. This goes to assist a young woman who is pursuing a degree in teacher education. This grant is given out at our June meeting. The third scholarship is the **Gifted and Talented Grant** for \$50 for two different female students or \$100 for one female student. These are awarded at the June meeting to provide students with opportunities to attend camps during the summer.

Other organizations that we have supported over the past five years are the Dove Center (Domestic Violence toward women and children,) The Salem Children’s Trust Home for at-risk students in Maryland, Regina Holliday’s Medical Advocacy Fund, and Garrett Mentors who provide in-school support and community activities for individual elementary and middle school students.



Alpha Alpha chapter with Sharon Darling.

Eta Chapter Continues to Savor Sanity with Sisterhood

Kelly Griffin, Eta Chapter President

The Eta Chapter continued the theme of *Savoring our Sanity with Sisterhood* by joining our Alpha Alpha sisters for a fall meeting in beautiful Garrett County. **Evan West**, UNISERV Director for the Allegany and Garrett County Education Associations spoke to the group about the important work being done regarding the Kirwan Commission and what actions we as educators and community members can take. We were also blessed with a visit by Sharon Darling. We were her first chapter visit of the biennium!

Sisters will be volunteering at **West-ernport Elementary School** this year to support teachers. This is our second year to volunteer. Last year, sisters went once

a month on Tuesdays from February to May. This year, we started volunteering in September on a weekly basis. We give teachers at Westernport an extra pair of hands for two hours every Tuesday.

Chapter members will also be enjoying fellowship by getting together for social events like dinner, wine tasting, and shopping. Upcoming activities include preparing donations for Operation Christmas Child and the Christmas Auction which will benefit the two scholarships we give annually. We are looking forward to a productive year.



Eta chapter members with Sharon Darling.



UNISERVE Director Evan West spoke about the Kirwan Commission.



Alpha Beta State News

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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

DKG Alaskan Glacier Cruise
August 29 - September 8, 2018



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

Join the
DKG Alaskan Glacier Cruise
Aboard the Celebrity Solstice
August 29 – September 8, 2018

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 visit
alaskacruisedkg.grouptoursite.com

Member Achievements

Lorraine Johnson elected President of the Prince George's County Parliamentarians



The National Association of Parliamentarians held its 41st Biennial Convention at Westin Lombard Yorktown Center on September 8-11, 2017. **Lorraine Johnson**, *Alpha Beta State First Vice President*, was elected President of the Prince George's County Unit of Parliamentarians, which was chartered on June 3, 2013.

This photograph, courtesy of NAP, shows Prince George's County (MD) Unit members: Michael Shields, John Tatum, PRP (Bylaws Chair), Stephanie Frye, Barbara Elzey (Treasurer), Loraine Johnson (President), and Marjorie Vaughn, PRP (Parliamentarian).

Congratulations, Lorraine!

Florence Saku Helped Set National Board Performance Standards for Teachers

Kelly Griffin, Eta Chapter President



Eta Chapter is proud of the recent accomplishments of sister, **Florence Saku**. Florence was one of 271 teachers who met this summer in Chicago to set national board performance standards across 25 certificate areas.

Florence said, "I set standards for biology content knowledge." During standard setting, a panel of biology national board-certified teachers from across the nation analyzed 45 multiple choice questions in biology content knowledge to determine whether the 'borderline' teacher would be able to take and pass the assessment. Currently, national board certification involves a portfolio piece of four entries that documents the teacher's interactions with students, colleagues, community and professional development. Then the teacher takes a computer-based assessment in content knowledge, which is made of six constructed responses. Now, the new assessment will have three constructed responses and 45 multiple-choice questions.

Participating in this process shows Florence's expertise, dedication, work and vision for the profession of teaching.