

Nita Scott



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Alpha Beta State NEWS

Advancing key women educators in the state of Maryland

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Nita Scott Encouraged ABS to Explore Possibilities for Membership

Suzi Plaut, Alpha Gamma

At the May 5th Leadership Development Conference in Bowie, Maryland, DKG Executive Director **Nita Scott** addressed background and insights into the proposed amendments to the Constitution, shared data and strategies about membership in DKG, and addressed the three top concerns that ABS generated in November. Threaded through her talk were personal stories where she shared details about her life as an educator, a leader and woman.

"I'm a millennial trapped in a baby boomer's body," Nita Scott shared. She had been teaching Algebra 2 in Tennessee. Throughout her talk, she reiterated that the proposed amendments are not attempts to ignore history or change who and what we are. The reason we have a Greek name stems from the fact that when DKG began, the collective voices of powerful females gathering together was only permitted through social organizations. The founders of DKG were mavericks in their

own time and the ideals they were working towards were not popular or comfortable. The core of who we are is still relevant and valued today. The proposed amendments allow for states and chapters to have even more options and change the shalls into mayas.

Ms. Scott focused her talk on Membership, Communication and Leadership which were the three main areas of need based on ABS November Society workshop with **Becky Sadowski**. As of early May, DKG had 67,583 members. Maryland has 776 members. She encouraged expanding our definition of "educators." Educators can refer to corporate trainers, people who educate through the private sector and other non traditional potential members. Nita shared that we lose most members in Year 2. While she led Membership at International, members were surveyed who dropped to find out the reasons WHY. The survey did not just include "Dues too high" but followed up to separate out whether membership dues were too high

based on value or based on personal financial situations. ABS sisters should know that reinstatement is a possibility. While 43% of members who dropped cited family and personal reasons, chapters and sisters can reach out again as life circumstances change and people may have more time and energy to reconnect with DKG. She encouraged us to ask members who leave our own chapters about their reasons for leaving. Ms. Scott is also willing to share the full results of that survey.

Nita asked us why we were a part of DKG and audience members shared a plethora of reasons including friendship, networking, socializing, opportunities, leadership potential, having a support system and scholarships. Heads were nodding and smiles were all around as people realized that it truly is the relationships among us that make being part of DKG such as positive experience. She encouraged us to simplify! And she challenged chapters to focus on ONE goal our chapter has instead of trying to achieve

multiple goals. Members of the audience shared critical goals from their chapters including focus on early career educators with supply bags, time, mentoring and creating partnerships with schools. Omicron Chapter shared how they address Leadership in their chapter by having a strong nominations committee and working within chapter to determine their slate of officers six years in advance so leaders are groomed and have time to learn and grow into positions.

Ms. Scott shared that DKG is a bottom-up organization and members pay the locals which filters up to national. Many non-profits are top down models. Data about members including address changes come from us and the locals. Remember to update your profile on the website on the DKG website. Ms. Scott reminded us to keep our eyes and ears open.

If you would like to know more about Nita Scott, check out dkg.org website.



President's Message

Planting Seeds of Positive Habits

The weather forecasters tell us spring has arrived and summer will be here soon. It sure has been a crazy weather year.

Much is going on this time of year in our society: Chapters are electing new officers, setting up new committees, and planning for the coming year. Alpha Beta State is beginning to plan for the coming year which will include the state convention; International is getting ready for the convention in Austin this summer where new officers will be elected and all those amendments will be voted on (check www.dkg.org to read all about it). We will have 30 sisters and some spouses attending. It is not too late to register.

Our Leadership Development Conference in May went great thanks to the Leadership Development Committee, the Music Committee, our presenters Lulu Delacre, Mark Ring, and the International representative, *Nita Scott*, and all the presidors and recorders at the different sessions. As you read the newsletter, you will see what an outstanding job of summarizing was done. A special thanks goes to incoming chapter presidents who attended training that same day. Even with the technology issue, they still received much information. Also, many thanks to all who gave up a Saturday to attend!

Without all of you, there would have been no conference!

We are getting ready for the second year of the biennium. It is the time of year when seeds are planted. In Alpha Beta State we will be planting the seeds for this second year. We all know there is much to be done. Many years ago my mother received a copy of what makes good a garden for us. I shared this a few years ago at a Leadership Development Conference and want to share it again. I have never been able to find the author.

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of perseverance

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be faithful to duty
2. Lettuce be kind to one another
3. Lettuce be patient with each other
4. Lettuce be loyal to our society

Our Garden is Not Complete Without Turnips.

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip with a smile, even when things are difficult
3. Turnip with determination to do your best

The Last Thing Our Garden Needs is Thyme

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Remember to always water what is planted with patience and to continue to cultivate your garden. There is much fruit to be found, but it takes time for those seeds that were planted, it takes time for changes to manifest, and it takes time for us to see the fruit.

What you "seed" is what you get, so "seed" all those positive habits in your garden.

Remember, we all "reap what we sow."
Our chapters and state will blossom with success.

May each of you have a great and safe summer!

Sharon Darling, State President



Committee News

The Revised Chapter Achievement Award

Joann Wiggins, Chairperson

You spoke and we listened. The Chapter Support Committee is tasked with providing support to the chapter president and their members by monitoring chapter progress; sharing strategies for strengthening chapters; creating an intervention plan to address chapters showing signs of stagnation and awarding chapters for their achievements at the state conventions.

Each chapter is unique in its membership, programs and outreach, but each chapter is unified in following the seven purposes of the Society. How do we recognize the greatness in every chapter?

Our Chapter Support Committee is comprised of extraordinary sisters of Alpha Beta State: **Cheryl Townshend, Omega; Mary Bolton, Tau, Wenique Brooks, Epsilon and Joan Wiggins, Alpha Theta-Chair.** They have restructured the chapter achievement award structure to

make it possible for every chapter in Alpha Beta State to be recognized, but also allow them to decide which step of the award they will receive. The Chapter Support Committee listened intently to **Becky Sadowski** (Tennessee State Organization and International Second Vice President) at the November workshop and incorporated her suggestions for the award. The award requirements were streamlined and attainable for the state organization. With the assistance of **Dr. Minnie Young**, state newsletter editor, an interactive checklist was created for the chapter president or designee to complete and return to the committee.

There are three levels of the award. **Level 1 (Essential)** are the minimum requirements that each chapter should follow for the biennium. Each level contains a Bonus criteria that can be used to substitute for any criteria in the level. **Level 2 (Excel-**

lent) moves beyond the chapter level to State and International involvement. This level keeps that chapter vibrant and members see the value in their membership to the Society. Finally, **Level 3 (Exemplary)** is the cherry on the top of the ice cream sundae. Chapters achieving this level are our models for the others. They have the tools in place to make sure that chapter leaders and potential state leaders are identified and trained, the members are strong supporters of community outreach and they reach beyond the state level and venture into International activities.

There is no reason why each chapter in Alpha Beta State cannot achieve the Exemplary level and the Chapter Support Committee looks forward to calling each chapter's name for that top recognition at our State Convention in 2019. We know you can do it.

Chapter Achievement Awards Alpha Beta State Organization



Level 1	Criteria
Essential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holds 4 meetings each year 2. Chapter represented at State Executive Meetings for the current biennium 3. Making an effort to maintain the same membership level throughout the biennium (exclusions- Death, transfer of membership) 4. The chapter president communicates to the members via email, phone, Facebook or mail. 5. Bonus- chapter representation at a current Regional conference held in the biennium.
Level 2	Criteria
Excellent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same as Essential level 2. Reviewed the International Membership Recruitment plan located on the International website during the biennium. (www.dkg.org) 3. Initiated new members during the biennium 4. Chapter represented at State Activities for the current biennium (i.e.-Society workshops, Leadership Dev. Conference) 5. Bonus- member(s) of the chapter serve on a State Committee or every member of the chapter receives the state newsletter.
Level 3	Criteria
Exemplary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same as Basic and Essential level 2. Implemented the International Membership Recruitment plan during the biennium. (www.dkg.org) 3. Evidence of community outreach held during the biennium. 4. Create a succession plan to have a smooth transition for new chapter officers 5. Bonus- member(s) of the chapter have attended an International Event (i.e.- Conventions, Conferences, , U.S. Forum, CETAUN, etc) during the biennium.

Instructions

- ~Complete the form using the checklist located on the State Website. Please list dates or other information as necessary.
- ~ Remember that you must complete 4 of the criteria in each section. The Bonus can be used in place of one of the listed criteria in each section.
- ~ All checklists must be completed by March 15, 2019 to the Chapter support committee to give us time to record the results for the State Convention.

State Leadership Conference



Betty Helper's music greeted us.



We're going to Austin!



We watched the Pink Bat.



The Music Committee led the Grace.



Special guest, **Nita Scott**, addressed 125 participants.



Sharon Darling and Mary Makinen conducted Chapter Presidents' Training.



The Silent Auction generated funds.



Jean Marie Hofstetter and Dorothy Clowers present state scholarship award to recipient **Christina Mc Donough, Tau.**



Money Matters with Mark Ring

Yvonne Babcock, Alpha Delta



The State Leadership Development Conference in Bowie was once again a success. It is always a pleasure to meet new sisters and reconnect with others from around the state. Mark Ring's workshop, Money Matters, focused on the role of women and financial decisions, the emphasis being on gaining an understanding of how you process information about your finances and how you perceive them. It is also important that the financial advisor that you employ should share this understanding. According to Mark, there has been a "seismic change" in our society in demographics, gender, education, & economics that evolve around women. One factor is that our population has shifted to 51% women. Most people are not educated regarding this change, which could make a big difference in the guidance you receive. Also, most financial planners are men. Below are statistics that were shared in the workshop:

- 43% of the country's top wealth is held by women (2014-15). Now this has probably increased to over 50%. That is more than ever before.
- Women are estimated to receive 70% of the 4 trillion dollars in inheritance wealth over the next few decades.
- 95% of women are the financial decision makers in families.
- 84% of women are either solely or jointly responsible for household finances.
- Women have surpassed men in attaining a higher education.
- 40% of women are earning more than their spouse.
- The salary gap between men and women for the same job is decreasing, but women still earn 77 cents to every man's dollar.
- Women are starting businesses 2 times more than men and, based on statistics, this will continue to increase.
- The average life span for women is 81 years, men 76 years.
- Women are more likely to be single than a generation ago.
- 26.3% of Social Security recipients rely on it for 90% of their retirement income. This is not recommended.

We left the presentation with a wealth of information and a lot to think about. Rely on yourself, set realistic short and long term goals, choose wisely, and ask questions. It's your future.

State Leadership Conference



Lulu Delacre provided prompts and examples to inspire participants to write a story. Ann Campbell, Nu, shared her piece.

Creative Writing Workshop with Author and Illustrator Lulu Delacre

Mary Bolton, Tau

Lulu was born in Puerto Rico by Argentinian parents. She had developed a love of art at a young age and eventually studied at L'Ecole Superieure d'Arts Graphiques in Paris, France. At first she started as an illustrator for Mother Goose books. Not finding any Latino children's books about their culture, she started to write children's books for her two daughters.

She noticed there were only 17 different alphabet books in Spanish. One day in the newspaper she read an article about a new nocturnal animal that was found in South America: the Olinguito. Incorporating it and other animals native to the area, she started to make her alphabet book. The project required a lot of research to make it accurate. As an illustrator she made story boards to help her plan.

Jay and Ben is about a boy with autism. *Rafi and Rosi* and *Nathan and Nicholas* are book series she wrote and illustrated.

Over the years she has given workshops for children to encourage their writing and story telling. To start, she will ask them "What food brings you good memories of your childhood?" Then she will ask to describe the location and season of the year. The next question will be: "Think of a time something unfair happened to a friend." When we write, Lulu reminds us to think about the following: "Why is it a good memory? Why is it special to you? When did you have it? And where did you have?"

"Now to write about the good food but bring up a negative issue. You should

change from first person to third person to make it a fiction story and make sure you change the names. Think about how you could change the real ending of a negative event in your fiction story. You should write to heal a situation or to help others understand a problem. Make sure you add a lot of details as you write about what happens next in your story."

Ann Campbell followed her directions and read to us the beginning of her story she wrote during this workshop!

Lulu continues to illustrate books. Coming in September will be the book *Turning Pages* by Chief Justice Sonia Sotomayor and illustrated by Lulu.

A participant asked how she got started. She replied that in order to get her books published, she joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators which gave her the insight to contact Lee & Low about publishing her books. Her website is at luludelacre.com which will explain her life story in more detail, a list of her books, and links for some of her worksheets.



Lulu Delacre interacted with Shelly Yanow, Upsilon, during Book Signing.

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

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Chapter News

Lambda Chapter Meets Major Goals

Dr. Terri Showers, Lambda President

Lambda Chapter of Alpha Beta State has been very busy this past year and successfully completed new goals developed in October 2017. Meeting these goals reflected the dedication to the mission and vision of DKG International. Our 2017-2018 Goals are:

Secondary Education Goal: The secondary education members of Lambda Chapter will support a select group of first year Howard County teachers by mentoring them as needed or giving support and preparing and providing gifts to these teachers three times during the 2017-2018 school year.

- September- Gift bags with supplies for their students and classroom
- November- Gift bags with supplies for the teacher
- May- a large mug with a DKG sticker filled with favored coffees, teas, and chocolates

Higher Education Goal: The higher education members of Lambda Chapter will:

- Donate 10 Starbucks Gift Cards to stu-



Lambda Chapter's 2018 Initiation Ceremony



"Mugs for Mentees"

dents at Howard Community College during the 2017-2018 final week. The intent of this effort is to allow students a break to refresh and reenergize during a stressful time.

- Distribute back packs to children whose parents attend the Montgomery College Refugee Center, Fall 2018 Semester.

Activities during meetings always include reflections and fellowship. One activity that we all enjoyed was the **"Activity of Sharing Happiness."** This activity allowed us to have a voice that reflected on how we will move forward during our meetings: Encouraging, Fellowship, Respect, Teamwork, Help, Giving, Collaboration and Willingness.

Besides meeting the goals, Lambda Chapter continues to grow. In April, we had two

initiates, **Torri Brown** and **Brittany Martin**, join the chapter. Many thanks to **Lorraine Johnson**, Alpha Beta State First Vice President for helping to conduct the ceremony on behalf of our state president, **Sharon Darling**. The ceremony was beautiful and well attended by Lambda members to welcome and provide support to our two new members. These young ladies will help to expand our commitment to supporting our higher education sisters. Additionally, during 2017, three new members joined Lambda chapter: **Susan Bannister**, **Frances Reynolds**, and **Dr. Brenda Williams**.

Members of Lambda Chapter also serve on state committees, attend state and regional conferences, and international conventions, and look forward to travelling to Austin, Texas for the 2018 International Convention.

Look at What Zeta Chapter is Doing

Paula Kuenzle, Zeta Chapter President

Zeta Chapter has been very busy this year. We responded to the need of all the hurricane damage by using our first meeting to build **hygiene and school bags**. These bags have been sent to a facility that supports UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief. Each chapter member was given a list of materials needed to complete either a hygiene or school bag. They then brought their materials to the meeting and we built the kits and bags. If you are interested, go to <https://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>. This project was an extension of the **bleeding bags** we put together for the local women's shelter in Cecil County. We have maintained baskets of books throughout Cecil County stamped with Zeta Chapter's information.

One project that has paid off greatly for our chapter this year has been getting our name out in the community. We had become a chapter where most of the active teachers were

concentrated in just a couple schools. We needed a way to make many teachers aware of our organization. In Cecil County we have a Teacher Leadership Network (TLN). This is a group of educators dedicated to excellence. They provide professional development and leadership opportunities. Twice a year they hold a professional development opportunity for teachers. They allow some county information to be shared as well as other organizations in an exhibit area. Zeta set up an information booth in the exhibit area. By meeting and talking with teachers in the county we were able to get our name out into many of the schools in our county. In addition, we were able to make our name known to other school-based organizations in the county. This has led to one transfer membership and one new member. We have three other people who expressed an interest to join. We also have a list of over twenty people who expressed an interest in Zeta chapter. We plan to follow



Zeta Chapter put together hygiene and school bags in response to hurricane damage.

up by reaching out with invitations to events to these individuals. You may want to look into your county to see if they have a similar organization.

In addition, Zeta chapter is putting book baskets out in the local laundromats. We collected several new and used books and placed labels in the front saying they were donated by Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.



Omega Celebrates Each Other

Cheryl Townshend, Omega Chapter President

On Saturday, February 17, 2018, Omega Chapter members enjoyed a **CEO luncheon. (Celebrating Each Other)** In this day and age of angst and anger concerning our culture and the part that education and educators play, sisters came together to encourage and appreciate all that each has contributed to the profession and to the Society. Several brought guest educators who were welcomed and celebrated also, as like-minded women interested in championing the efforts and successes of classroom teachers in Anne Arundel County. Our sister chapter, **Rho**, was invited to attend also.

Held at the Renditions Golf Course in Davidsonville, Maryland, the luncheon was also meant to be a recruitment tool.

Key women educators still exist and Omega chapter wanted to be intentional about introducing a number of them to one another. We are seeking as new members effective leaders in the profession who will help us build a network of support by truly listening and responding to the hearts, goals and needs of today's classroom teachers.

Before you are a leader your success is all about yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others. Omega membership is filled with leaders. Omega chapter wants to make opportunity to grow others in the county, state, nation and globally through membership in DKG. Omega leadership firmly believes that if one permits oneself to fully engage in membership at all three levels of the Society, starting at the chapter level,

involvement at any level of membership has the capacity to take a woman where she wants to go personally and professionally, but even more it will take her where she doesn't want to go ...but ought to be going.

The luncheon was intended to assist members to consider taking the time and energy to move the chapter from vision to reality through participation at a leadership level. Leadership and learning are indispensable one to the other. Omega is looking to each member to exercise not only their mind on behalf of women in education, but their heart as well. This luncheon was a great way to laud members who are forward thinking within retirement, as well as those who continue to serve in the classroom.

The Hartford County Connections

Joann Wiggins, Alpha Theta

What's better than having a chapter meeting with your own chapter? It's sharing a meeting with another DKG chapter. On a designated snow day in January for Hartford County students, the members of **Alpha Theta Chapter** held a joint meeting with members of **Phi Chapter**. Attendance at meetings had become a concern so our chapter presidents decided to devise a plan to increase the number of business meeting attendees. This brilliant idea resulted in a wonderful fellowship.

In the past, former members of Alpha Theta chapter conducted a Book Club at their school. This idea was replicated by the chapter and called "**Book and Vino.**" Those attending the meeting at the home



Pictured are members who attended the event. From left to right: Luianne Potter (Alpha Theta), Joan Wiggins (AT), Dottie Loughlin (Phi), Ann Sturtevant (Phi), Dr. Karen Petr (AT) and Donna Lewis (AT). Missing from the picture- Karen Gyolai (Phi)

of an Alpha Theta member gave a review about their favorite book along with sipping wine or other beverages. Our host prepared a delicious chili dish and we devoured some scrumptious desserts. Not only did we share a synopsis of our books, but we brought several delightful children's books for the Wash-N-Fold Express laundry mat owned by member, **Bangtam**

Miller's family. This business, located in Edgewood, Md., provides children with a lounge area to enjoy good books. For the past two years, Alpha Theta has invited the members of Phi Chapter to attend the Book and Vino meeting and they have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie.



Alpha Beta State NEWS

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Circulation Editor
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Join and Attend!

International Convention
Austin, Texas
July 16-20, 2018

DKG Alaskan Glacier Cruise
August 29 - September 8, 2018



Dear Alpha Beta State Organization Members,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your gift to the DKG Emergency Fund in my honor. Having received money from this fund following a tornado in my community many years ago, I truly understand how important this fund is for our members. I appreciate so much your thoughtfulness in honoring me this way!

With gratitude,

Becky Sadowski

World Fellowship Committee

- Laura McClelland, Chair, (Omicron)*
- Sharon Hilty, (Delta);*
- Margie Nowosielski, (Xi);*
- Florence Saku, (Eta);*
- Becky Taylor, (Beta);*
- Sharon Darling, (Nu and State President, ex officio)*



Dr. *Sigrún Klara* of Iceland knows first hand the impact our contributions to World Fellowship make. In 1967, Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir received a World Fellowship Award from Delta Kappa Gamma and was accepted to Wayne State University in Detroit. At that time all she knew about Delta Kappa Gamma was that they were financing her studies. Not much later she be-

came actively involved in Delta Kappa Gamma, becoming one of the founders of the first chapter in Iceland, Alpha Chapter in 1975. She served as chapter president, state organization president, and parliamentarian. Extending her leadership positions to the international level, she was Europe Regional Director,

second vice president, member of Ad Hoc Committee for Revision of the Constitution, member of Editorial Board and chair of the World Fellowship Committee. In 2013, she received the DKG International Achievement Award and most recently, Dr. Sigrún Klara was recognized at the Fulbright Foundation's Thanksgiving Dinner in Iceland as the oldest recipient of the World Fellowship Scholarship. Dr. Sigrún Klara has made many contributions to DKG during those fifty years. More about Dr. Sigrún Klara can be found on the Delta Kappa Gamma website.

This is one of many ways our donations to World Fellowship makes a positive difference in a young women's life. Donations are made as a chapter, or individual, using Form 43 found on the website.

Speaking of these young recipients. Omicron chapter has written to two of the ladies attending Pennsylvania schools. Omicron was thrilled to have received a response from one of them, expressing her appreciation for the card and sweet wishes. When you are far from home, it is comforting to receive mail, birthday cards and words of encouragement. Hopefully your chapter has had a chance to reach out and communicate with some of our current World Fellowship recipients.

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