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Advancing key women educators in the state of Maryland

DKG alpha beta STATE NEWS

VOL. 78 NO. 3
Fall 2016

2016 International Convention

Alpha Beta Sisters had a "Rootin', Tootin'" Time in Nashville

*Sharon Darling, Chair, Communications Committee,
Minnie Young, Eta*

Thirty Marylanders attended the DKG International Convention in Nashville, TN in early July. There were inspiring keynote speakers, dynamic breakout sessions, and a worthwhile Marketplace. The International reports were informative. Opryland Hotel is a breathtaking venue and a most splendid place for reconnecting with sisters met at past conventions and making new connections. Rootin', tootin' moments include line dancing during a general meeting and at the Wild Horse Saloon. Here are a few reflections from attendees.



The International Convention of DKG in Nashville will be a lasting memory. Speakers at large and small sessions were thought provoking and inspirational. Dedicated women from everywhere were in attendance, and the fellowship was warmer than the Tennessee temperature.
-Barb Klug, Alpha Alpha

During the opening, attendees were given a rubber band to encourage participants to "Stretch Goals." Each chapter and each individual should focus on stretching ourselves on a personal level and at a societal level. Set goals that stretch upward for personal growth and stretch horizontally to strengthen our Society. And remember to encourage yourself and others to create unique ideas for accomplishing those goals!
- Jane Cupani, Nu

More reflections on pages 4 and 5.

President's Message

Are you ready? Born ready!

If you were in the audience in Nashville attending the 2016 International Convention, then these words are quite familiar to you. The keynote speaker, Natalie Paquin was substituting for Anna Maria Chavez on Saturday, July 9 but Natalie came with her A-game. Ms. Paquin is the Chief Transformation Officer of the USA's Girl Scouts of America and she transformed us with her dynamic presence and powerful message. She led us with the statement "Are you ready?" and the audience was instructed to respond, "Born Ready." So I'm asking the same question for Alpha Beta State- ARE YOU READY? I know that you will answer, "Born Ready!" What are we born ready to do? I can give you a few suggestions although I'm sure that you have some of your own.

- Ready to build a stronger relationship with our chapter and state members
- Ready to reach out and think differently in moving Alpha Beta State to a higher level of engagement
- Ready to seek out a diverse group of educators to join our membership
- Ready to be open to changes and not always doing things "the same as before"
- Ready to encourage members to be leaders in our organization

You'll hear about Nashville from others in this newsletter. However, this Convention led by Dr. Lyn Schmid was a bold statement on leadership, listening to Generation Y, acknowledging educational achievements, voting on issues, recognizing new International leadership and enjoying the genuine hospitality of the Xi State Organization of Tennessee. Those of us that stayed in the Cascades section of the hotel got in our 12000 steps per

day because of the walk to the Convention Center but I will certainly say that you wouldn't mind walking through the exquisite areas of the Gaylord Opryland Resort. What a gorgeous place! All convention attendees should complete the survey found on the International website and order your Convention pictures. Everyone is reminded to begin planning to attend the 2017 Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor, Ontario on July 12-14th.

Alpha Beta State Organization will have new leadership at the chapter level. Our chapter presidents are beginning their biennium with fresh ideas, a binder full of notes, meeting agendas to create and build upon the success of their predecessor. The members of the chapters must give their 100% support to the new presidents. I'm looking forward for them to be "Born Ready" for our work in the state. With a new International President taking office, chapter presidents should order membership certificates with her signature. Please use the many resources at www.dkg.org for planning, questions and ideas.

The Northeast Regional Four States Joint Arts Seminar has taken on a life of its own. I can't believe that it is almost right around the corner. Our committee has visited Delaware to look at the site, assigned workshops for the participants, selected the menu for the meals and waited for the registrations to roll in. We are excited about this first joint



venture and know that those attending will enjoy the day. It will be held on Saturday, October 1st in Smyrna, Delaware.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for making the first half of my biennium so memorable. I appreciate your understanding of the circumstances in my personal life and thank you for the many well wishes I have received for my brother. The time has gone by so quickly but there is still much work to do. I have visited 8 chapters so far and need to complete my visitations by the end of my biennium. If you haven't sent me an invitation, please get on my schedule soon. I love seeing the similarities and differences of our chapters around the state. Continue to "Captivate the Rhythm of Alpha Beta State."

Joan Wiggins, State President

Committee News

World Fellowship News: Education for the World



*Laura McClelland, Omicron
Joann Clise, Eta
Peggy Way, Phi
Ann Campbell, Nu*

Thanks to you, the coffers for World Fellowship are filling. Thanks to you, women from around the world are receiving a quality education here in the United States. One of the goals of this committee is to encourage chapters to increase donations to World Fellowship. This encouragement has been provided with a special challenge for chapters to double their contribution to this fund from last year. Sixteen chapters contributed to the fund this year. We are pleased to report that twelve of those chapters increased their contributions to

this fund. Some of them met the challenge and more than doubled their contribution from last year. As a state, we should be proud, because we increased our donation to World Fellowship from \$1,305.90 in July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015 to \$2,707.69 in July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. That is an increase of \$1,401.79! We appreciate all of the chapters that helped to make this happen and we want to recognize them.

Chapters that doubled or more than doubled their contribution:
Alpha Beta, Pi, Nu, Omicron

Chapters that exceeded their contribution from last year:
Alpha Tau, Gamma, Theta, Phi, Iota, Alpha Delta

Special recognition goes to **Epsilon** with the highest contribution of \$521.

Other contributing chapters are **Delta, Mu, Xi, and Alpha Alpha.**

Please note that this data was based on the information provided by each chapter and the revenue sheet from International. If we missed your chapter, please let us know so you can be recognized, too. Contributions are submitted by the treasurer of your chapter to International using Form 43 found on their website.

Your contributions are helping to light the way for our World Fellowship recipients. Thank you. Your chapter can contact some of the World Fellowship recipients who are on the website (www.dkg.org). If you want to reach Silvia Mata-Marin, she would love to hear from you. Contact the World Fellowship Committee for her new address.

WANTED : New State Treasurer

Do you enjoy working with numbers and computers? Do you like to be organized? Are you a team player who would enjoy working with a diverse group of sisters at the state level? Then you are just the person we are looking for! Our current treasurer, Janey Snyder, is retiring on June 30, 2017. Alpha Beta State needs YOU as the new treasurer. This position is supported by the ABS Finance Committee and past treasurers. If you have questions or are interested in applying, contact:

Brenda Patterson, State Finance Chair
Phone: 410-937-8372
Email: brendapatterson_45@msn.com



Application forms are available at www.dkgmd.org and must be **postmarked no later than December 31, 2016.**

Convention Planning Committee to Meet

Lorraine Johnson,
2017 State Convention Chair

The planning committee for the 2017 Alpha Beta State Organization Convention in April will meet on Saturday, **October 15, 2016**, 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn - Solomons Conference Center and Marina, located at 155 Holiday Drive, in Solomons, Maryland 20688.

The following chapters and committee chairs will be attending our first meeting of the year: **Epsilon, Alpha Beta, Omega, Alpha Delta, Rho, Nu; Necrology, Nominations, Women in the Arts, Chapter Support, Communications and Music.**

Please bring your convention binder with you. There are several eateries in the area within walking distance of the hotel where lunch can be purchased.

I look forward to seeing you on October 15th.

Reminders for Chapter Presidents

1. To **report the death of a member**, the chapter president should prepare **Form 6** immediately. A copy should be sent to the International Executive Director, State President, State Treasurer, and State Membership Chairman. One copy is placed in the chapter files.

2. **Share your chapter stories, activities, and achievements.** Send chapter news to the State President, Joan Wiggins, to be published on the newsletter. Please include an accompanying high quality photograph, if possible.

2016 International Convention

July 5 - 9, Nashville, Tennessee

Reflections and Photos

The DKG Convention in Nashville provided opportunities for me to get to know members of our state organization that are in different chapters so much better. What a wonderful bonding experience.
- **Wendy Happel, Mu**



Keynote speaker Kai Kight, a classically trained violinist, played a violin solo of his own composition.



Opryland Hotel was truly grand! It was a joy to take walks in the atriums and look at animal topiaries and waterfalls. Food was terrific at Cascades American Cafe which is surrounded with a pond with water fountains.

Kai Kight, classical musician, was the keynote speaker on opening night. He inspired us with his musical career transformation and life's experiences. His music and stories inspired the audience to encourage others to "create unique ideas in a world that celebrates conformity." Delta Kappa Gamma Society is experiencing a turning point which calls for our acceptance of unique ideas rather than conformity.
Jean Cupani, Nu



Another rootin' tootin' moment for participants during a Moment for Dance at the Third General Meeting.



572 Delta Kappa Gamma sisters enjoyed the western buffet and line dancing at the Wildhorse Saloon during the “Call Me Country” event sponsored by the Educational Foundation to raise funds. The \$40,514.00 netted during the event will go directly toward funding awards.



Mary Ruth Meredith celebrated her birthday with DKG sisters.

Working the “store” was a blast because I met so many other members while trying to sell our stuff. One woman was Lorraine’s chapter president who had moved out of state and another woman I talked to at length had my first name. After talking, I discovered that she graduated from Crossland High and the military moved her family to Florida. She went to college there. I hadn’t known anyone who had ever heard of her high school. Met another person I believe from Michigan, who went on the General Robert Lee paddle boat with Latanya, Betty Helper and me. - **Missy Zentz, Delta**



Sharon Darling and company posing near a cow sculpture at the Wild Horse Saloon.

Loved the convention. Great networking with very interesting and talented women. Fantastic speaker who made us laugh at ourselves until we cried. We went to interesting sessions. Facility was overwhelming and we loved shopping at the store for great crafts and pins for our badges. We had a blast and even found time to celebrate Mary Ruth’s birthday. She had her first tiramisu birthday cake with Happy Birthday written in chocolate. Of course Connie Dean and I had a great time at the Wildhorse Saloon learning new line dances. It was so awesome seeing the entire Maryland delegation wearing their black- eyed susans made by the NU chapter. - **Thomasina Fabri, Nu**



Joan Wiggins, Alpha Beta State President, shared information about outstanding members during the Northeast regional breakfast on Friday, July 8.

2016 International Convention

Great Membership Ideas Gleaned at the Conference

Jean Cupani, Nu Chapter

Jean Cupani shares summaries for sessions focused on Membership. Read her notes and get some ideas for your own chapter.



Step Up to the MIC (Member-Inspired Communication)

Presented by Emily Arnold

This session focused on ways to communicate that will inspire, inform, and resonate with the membership. Chapter communication should be member inspired. Emily Arnold used musical excerpts from YouTube to demonstrate ways we can accomplish member-inspired communication and be marketing geniuses. Emily provided 10 ways to be a marketing genius:

1. Change your practices and communication methods to fit your audience.
2. Have an opinion. Share what's important to you and know what's important to your members. Who are they? What are they passionate about?
3. Leverage the social media that is being used by your members. Communicate through the platform that most are using such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Pinterest. This is like stealing the wheels and changing the rims. Using Facebook, you can check the analytics to see who is visiting. Post your newsletter. Be strategic with using the social media calendar. For example: On Mondays, posts should focus on Membership. Tuesday's posts will focus on Empowerment. And so on. Or do it on a weekly basis. For the first week of the month, post something about Membership. For the second week, post on Empowerment, etc.
4. Be different. There are too many normal organizations doing normal things. Be unique. Show, don't tell.
5. Provide a reason to communicate.

6. Talk to your members like they're your best friends. Treat them well and they will make your organization shine.
7. Don't be afraid to make waves. Advocate for members and education.
8. Be sure members are all on the same team. We don't have to like each other, but we can work together as a team. Try not to say "NO" to a reasonable request or new opportunity.
9. Produce content that is relevant, current, and resonates with your members. Consider content that is quality, relevant, and inspirational over quantity.
10. Have a purpose for your communication. "What's our goal for our Facebook page? Google Drive?"



Building Leadership Within Your Chapter

Presented by Deborah M. Bedard & Karen Crumley, New York

The presenters emphasized that each member is a leader. As we are recruiting, we should be thinking about recruiting leaders, not members! They also shared a few "Do's and Don'ts" of Leadership.

Do's:

- Mentor (Guide to the purposes of leadership); delegate with follow-up reminders and checks.
- Rotate roles.
- President should send all information on to 1st and 2nd VP to keep them informed (FYI).
- Pair a new leader with an experienced member leader.
- Engage new members right away—Ask them for their choice of assignments.
- Make personal contacts.
- Encourage new members to attend meetings by asking a "sponsor" to help (phone contact, ride together, etc.)

- Affirm members by encouraging them to attend meetings beyond chapter meetings.
- Encourage time to look at the DKG website.

Don'ts:

- Keep a position "for life."
- Do it all yourself.
- Appoint only long time members to leadership roles.
- Don't expect the role or job to be completed your way.
- Expect members to fulfill smaller responsibilities before beginning larger ones.
- Don't expect another chapter member to encourage future leaders.



Storybook Leadership

Presented by Susan Doughty, Anne Perdue, Vicki Newburn, Virginia

Key elements of successful leadership can be included at each chapter meeting by using picture books as the discussion starter. The following keys were shared:

- Trying New Things/Taking Risks
- Overcoming Mistakes
- Daring to be Different
- Cooperation/Teamwork
- Kindness
- Self-Esteem

Participants read picture books and determined how each resonated with us in reference to our role in the DKG leadership.



***Membership Matters!
Build your membership today.***

Membership Ideas (cont)



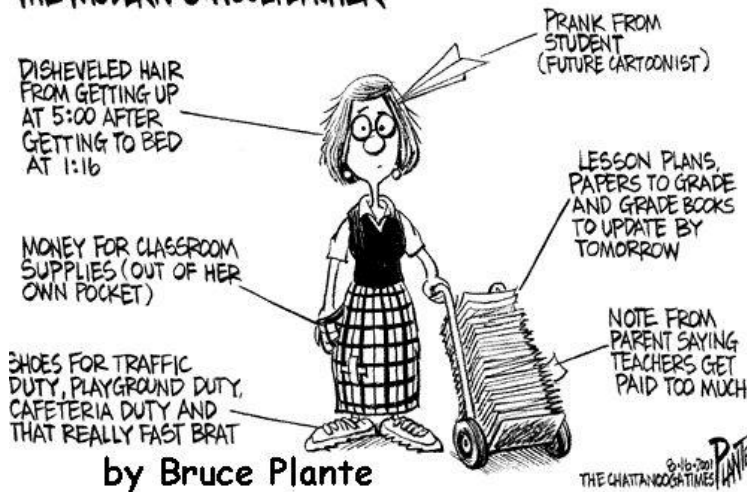
Engaging Members Through Inclusive Leadership

Presented by Dr. Elizabeth Turner, Virginia

A few of this session's tips for leading inclusively that resounded with me:

- Inclusion is the quality of an environment or mindset that includes, maximizes, and leverages the diverse talents, backgrounds, and perspectives of the individuals in that environment.
- The leadership team needs to set group norms.
- Inclusive leadership requires the breadth of perspective beyond knowledge by accessing and utilizing all points of view. It understands that no one is as smart as all of us together.
- Use www.doodle.com for surveying meeting dates.
- Make a map of the area your chapter encompasses. Label where each member lives. This will help when determining venues for events and potential leaders for various activities.
- Develop an Action Plan for inclusion and engagement of all members.

THE MODERN SCHOOLTEACHER



by Bruce Plante

Three Ways to Help Teachers

Joan Wiggins, State President

\$500-\$600 is how much money teachers typically spend each year to furnish their classrooms with supplies, books and other necessities. Here are three ways you can help relieve the strain on educators' pocketbooks.

Adopt a Classroom

Sam Swantek wrote in Parade Magazine (August 21, 2016), that Adopt-a-Classroom has raised almost \$30 million in classroom donations in its 18 years. Select a category which range from arts and music funds to first-year teacher assistance. Web Address: <http://www.adopta-classroom.org>

Donors Choose

Founded by a history teacher, this site invites you to read classroom testimonials and select one to support based on school need, location and materials on the wish list. Web Address: <https://www.donor-schoose.org>

From One Hand to Another

This was established by entertainer Pharrell Williams and gives at-risk students the STEAMM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics and motivation)-powered tools they need to succeed. For the past 10 years, FOHTA also has donated supplies to classrooms in need. Web Address: <http://fohta.org>

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Alpha Beta State News

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Save the Date!

April 21 -23, 2017
Alpha Beta State Convention
Holiday Inn, Solomon's Island

July 12 - 14, 2017
Northeast Regional
Conference
Caesars Resort, Windsor
Ontario, Canada
(Get those passports ready!)

Using Blind Copy in an Email

*Barb Cody, Sigma State
Communications Chair*

DKG Society International is asking society members to use Blind Copy when sending out mass emails to members. If you are not familiar with this method of sending an email, here is some information on this.

First, why use Bcc? This allows you to send an email without recipients knowing whom else you are emailing or their email addresses. I use this when I send out a mass email to non-profit organizations. This keeps their email addresses private and they do not know who else is getting this email. I also send out a meeting reminder to an organization where many do not want their email address known to others. This eliminates your email list being used for other purposes, like sending out jokes, political ads, etc. The disadvantage of

Bcc is you cannot use "Reply to All" to send messages back to the others on the email list.

Second, how do you use Blind Copy? This is not always necessary, but **I always put my email address on the To: line.** For many email servers, Bcc is not readily visible so here are the directions for some of the more popular email servers. After starting a new message, follow these instructions to find where Bcc is located and open it. Then add the address you need, just as you would otherwise do in the "To:" line:

Microsoft Outlook: From the Options tab, click "Show Bcc" or "Bcc."

Macintosh: Click View and select Bcc Address Field to make that line visible, or click the drop-down arrow located to the left of the Subject field and select

Bcc Address Field.

Yahoo: Click CC/BCC located on the upper part of your email message at the end of the To: line

Gmail: Click Cc/Bcc located on the upper part of your email message at the end of the To: line.

Hotmail: Click on the CC/BCC located on the upper part of your email message at the end of the To: line.

Thunderbird: Type your email address on To: line. Move down to next line, click on the down arrow to the left, and choose Bcc: from the dropdown menu.

I found these online articles to be very helpful, <http://www.rudder.com/safe/bcc.html> and <http://wikihow.com/Use-BCC-in-an-Email>.