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Advancing key women educators in the Maryland State

DKG alpha beta STATE NEWS

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Northeast Regional Conference 2015 Thanks Alpha Beta State

Carolyn Lang, Tau
Steering Committee Chair
2015 Northeast Regional Conference

One of the stories in the Great Books Foundation's Gr 3-5 Series is called "White Wave," a Chinese folktale as told by Diane Wolkstein. In the story, the main character, Kuo Ming, finds gratitude for the visit of the goddess, White Wave. Diane wrote, "He skipped to the fields in the morning and walked quickly home in the evening... The air was sweet. And his heart was full."

I thought often of this lovely tale as the week of The Northeast Regional Conference progressed. I saw 90+ Alpha Beta State sisters working, laughing, and bustling about in a spirit of genuine spiritual fellowship, and for me, the air was sweet and my heart was full.

I will never be able to express my gratitude for the hard work and long hours that all of these sisters cheerfully devoted to making this conference a smashing success. Members from the other states in

the Northeast Region had a wonderful time attending workshops and meetings, enjoying the beautiful Inner Harbor of Baltimore and all it had to offer, and learning to love and appreciate Maryland. Your hospitality and warm welcome was so appreciated, and was expressed to me often during the week. As a matter of fact, I had many attendees ask when we would be hosting an International Convention right there at the Hyatt, and they said they would not only attend, but recruit others to come, too! (I replied that we would need to recuperate from this regional before we could commit to a convention...) But, wasn't that telling – that they would like to come back?

With so many "hands on deck" we put on one great conference, and had fun in the process. So, from the bottom of my heart, a warm thank you to all of you who volunteered your time. I am grateful.

From a First Timer Continuing the Learning Process through NERC

Lynn Mattingly

This past July was the International Northeast Regional DKG convention held in Baltimore. My DKG Alpha Gamma chapter was one of Maryland's hosts and I was invited to attend by our president, Suzi Plaut. Attending this convention was a first time experience for me but we are all teachers and can handle any new opportunities presented, right?

The people attending were all ages and from many different areas of the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. Teaching is our common denominator, in addition to a love of learning and a genuine caring for students. The sessions attended reflected this caring and fostered an enthusiasm for the teaching process. Sean McComb, 2014 National Teacher of the Year, demonstrated his enthusiastic teaching style and left with the message, "Don't tell me you are burned out if you have never been on fire".

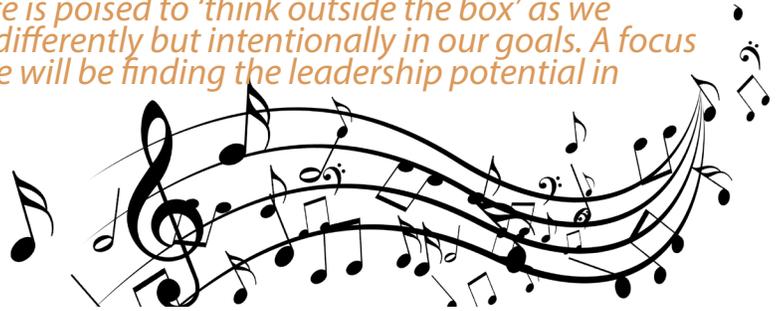
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President's Message

Renewed Rhythms

Alpha Beta State is poised to 'think outside the box' as we operate a little differently but intentionally in our goals. A focus area in our state will be finding the leadership potential in every person.



Northeast Regional Conference (NERC) 2015 in Baltimore: I must admit that when the subject first came up, I calculated that it would happen during my biennium. I didn't want that responsibility on my shoulders as an incoming State President. The motion was approved to move forward at an Executive Board meeting and the wheels started turning. Under the leadership of Carolyn Lang, Tau, and her capable steering committee, the State of Maryland held a very successful Northeast Regional Conference. If you missed it this year, please make plans to attend in Ontario in 2017. The Regional Conference provides training for several officers, features an Info Fair, highlights well known speakers and gives true meaning to Purpose # 1- "To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship." Attending meetings, having dinner, going to a baseball game or just talking with other DKG sisters from various states made the week so rewarding. My sincere thanks goes to every sister of Maryland who gave her time in preparing for NERC and making our guests feel so welcomed. We also had Alpha Beta State sisters who led workshops at NERC. I am so proud of each and every Maryland Sister. This state really will be in the minds of the Northeast region for years to come.

Now the work continues for Maryland. We have several projects to tackle during this biennium. Alpha Beta State is poised to "think outside the box" as we operate a little differently but intentionally in our goals. A focus area in our state will be finding the leadership potential in every person. Our Leadership Development

Committee, Executive Board and Executive Committee are not to be viewed as the decision making body versus the rest of the state. We coexist together. Expect a phone call from the leadership team during this biennium as we build relationships with each other. This is a member driven organization. Members are delegated to serve as chair but they serve with others on their committee and get feedback from members throughout the state. Robert Half stated, "Delegating work works, provided the one delegating works, too." I will not ask anyone to do a task that I am not willing to do myself. In addition, I know the potential that I see in each person of Alpha Beta State. There are new faces that are excited and nervous about stepping into the chairmanship of committees. In Alpha Beta State, you are never alone and we will not let you fail. Thank you to all the persons who accepted positions of chair and those who are new members on the committee.

Let's be committed during this biennium to:

- Adhere to deadlines when responding to registration forms
- Market our name to reach potential members
- Investigate new forms of communication and registration
- Encourage our chapter members to attend local, state and international events
- Seek out new leaders among the Alpha Beta sisters
- Support chapters that are struggling
- Investigate forming new chapters in areas that do not have a strong DKG presence.

Coming to Alpha Beta State events keeps you informed about our local DKG but there are ways to be connected with the International Organization. You are encouraged to follow DKG on Facebook: www.facebook.com/dkgorg, Twitter: @DKG_SI, Instagram: @DKGSI, LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/delta-kappa-gamma-society-international, Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/DKGSII/ and Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/DKGAustin. Please don't forget to check out our state website – www.dkgmd.org. We need chapters to submit their activities, special member recognitions and pictures so that we keep our website current. Remember to submit any information first to the State President for approval before it goes to the webmaster. For those interested in speaking outside of Maryland, the International Speakers Fund (ISF) is seeking applications for members to participate in this program. An interactive Speaker's application form is available on the website (www.dkg.org) as a download. These applications must be returned by email attachment to International Headquarters at isfapp@dkg.org by September 15th.

I am truly honored to lead the State of Maryland for the next two years as we "Captivate the Rhythm of Alpha Beta State." See you at the Executive Board meeting in September and the November Society Workshop. I look forward to visiting your chapter and finding our new leaders for the organization.

Joan Wiggins
State President

First Timer *continued from page 1*

Smaller group sessions gave us an opportunity to compare how our different regions handle federal mandates and the challenges of the curriculum.

I had an added challenge to present Baltimore in its best light and chose to offer a guided tour of the Baltimore Basilica. Participants signed up for a small group on Thursday or a larger group on Friday and rode on the Charm City Circulator which is a free, clean and modern bus ride through parts of the city. The route came within one block of the Basilica which is the first Catholic cathedral in the United States. The DKG teachers became students on a field trip for the next hour learning about Maryland history and architecture.



During NERC 2015, Lynn was challenged to present Baltimore in its best light.

DKG conventions are a way to continue the learning process and hosting is a chance to share our city and state at its best. The teacher and student roles can become blurred when we learn from each other.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 7, 2015
Society Workshop

March 5, 2016
State Executive Board Meeting

May 7, 2016
Leadership Development Conference
Bowie, MD



New State Editor

Inspired by DKG

Minnie Ladores

My former yoga teacher used to greet us saying, "Namaste! The spirit in me honors the spirit in you." It is with honor that I accept the position of State Editor and greet all of you with this message.

The State Editor's Training, conducted by Claire Swanson, was my first official introduction to the task ahead. It was held on Wednesday, July 8, during NERC 2015. The other state editors who attended shared tips with newbies like me. I found it very inspiring. They also shared software they use in creating newsletters and I looked at the different programs. After careful consideration, I decided to go for Adobe In Design, which is very new to me. I signed up for it and started watching tutorials on how it works. So far, it has taken me more than six weeks to

study a 3-hour course on Lynda.com! It is a complicated program, but it is powerful. This is my first project using Adobe, and I dedicate my efforts to my sisters in DKG.

Our former state newsletter editor, Christine Wall, kindly provided important information I needed to know through emails and Dropbox files. She also served as Communications Committee Trainer during the Alpha Beta State Committee Training last August 22. I appreciate all the help she has been providing.

However, just as a potter needs clay, I do need your stories! Please do not be shy in sharing your chapter activities. Send your articles to our State President, Joan Wiggins. I am looking forward to your contributions for the next newsletter!

Alpha Beta State Officers

State President

Joan Wiggins

joan633@comcast.net

1st Vice President

Sharon Darling

darlings@atlanticbb.net

2nd Vice President

Lorraine Johnson

johnson6608@comcast.net

Recording Secretary

Dr. Marilyn Keane

alcatraz46@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian

Dr. Terri Massie-Burrell

tmassieburrell@frostburg.edu

Executive Secretary

Mary Makinen

mlmakinen@comcast.net

Treasurer

Janey Snyder

janey Snyder1@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Ms. Janette Bell

njanettebell@verison.net

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Dr. Minnie Ladores

minnieladores@gmail.com

Photography

Christine Wall

Jim Miller - Photographs by Jim

<http://www.photographsbyjim.com>

Proofreaders

Christine Wall

Dottie Loughlin

Maureen Palardy

NERC 2015 Highlights



Baltimore Memories

Lyrics by Betty Hepler
To the tune of "Ain't She Sweet"

BALTIMORE! Yes, the good times
were in store

When we met our Sisters at the
Conference in BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE! It was great fun to
explore.

All the ways we could enjoy the
Conference in BALTIMORE.

We ate some crabs and took a boat
ride,

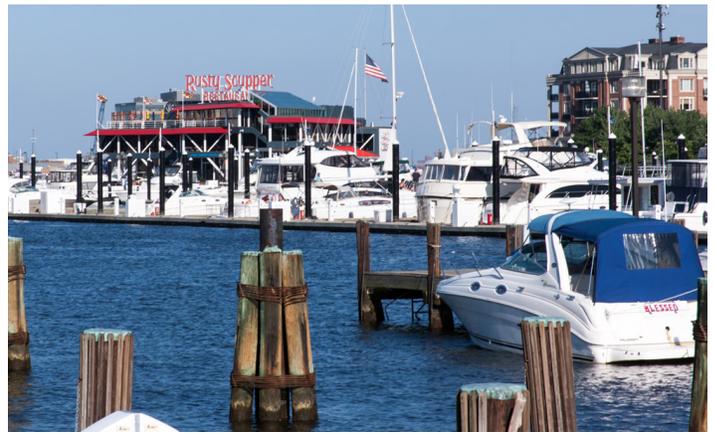
Went to a game and cheered for our
side (Go "O's!")

BALTIMORE! We have memories
galore

Of the absolutely super Conference
in BALTIMORE!



Steering Committee Members: Sharon Darling, ABS 1st VP (Mu Chapter), Janette Bell, Immediate Past President (Theta Chapter), Janey Snyder, ABS Treasurer (Alpha Chapter), Brenda Patterson, Steering Committee Treasurer (Tau Chapter), Dr. Kay Clawson, NE Regional Director 2014-2016 (West Virginia), Carolyn Lang, Steering Committee Chairman (Tau Chapter), Dr. Lyn Schmid, DKG International President 2014-2016 (Pennsylvania), Dottie Loughlin, Past State President 2001-2003 (Phi Chapter), Mary Lee Makinen, ABS Executive Secretary (Alpha Delta Chapter), and Carol Miller Schultz, Chapter President (Pi Chapter)



Dear Sisters,

I smile with sincere gratitude as I remember how you assisted Nancy and me at the Information/Tour Desk during our recent NERC.

We are so proud of the tremendous effort you exerted in making the State of Maryland look good. The comments received from our guests are a testimony to your hard work and dedication to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and Alpha Beta State Organization.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the sacrifices you made in order to get the task completed in an outstanding and excellent manner.

We look forward to working with you again, soon, in enhancing our beloved organization.

Thanks again.

Nancy and Lorraine



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World Fellowship Recipient 2014 - 2015 Improving Lives through Design

Silvia Mata-Marín, World Fellowship Recipient for September 2014-May 2015, attended the Maryland Institute College of Arts in Baltimore. When Sharon Hilty asked her if she would still be in Baltimore in July during NERC, she responded that she would. She attended on Thursday including the luncheon and the World Fellowship. She is working independently this coming year to complete her project. Here is an email to Sharon in which Silvia shares her story.

I was told just two weeks ago during commencement that I received the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Fellowship to stay one more year here in Baltimore and execute and evaluate my thesis project, which is really exciting.

Documenting the Journey of Indigenous People using Socio-Documentary Photography

In Costa Rica I studied graphic design and sculpture. When I graduated I went to work at an ad agency and wasn't fulfilled with that line of work. I then decided to go back to school and do a licenciatura degree (which is basically a degree in between bachelors and masters) in socio-documentary photography. This led me to document the journey of the indigenous group of Ngabe-Buglé do every year between Panama and Costa Rica. I spent around 6 months following the indigenous population and living with them and during this time I found out all the hardships indigenous people experience in these countries. This experience instilled in me a sense that design can be used to help improve the lives of people in need. And this is how I found the masters in Social Design at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Helping Migrant Children through Graphic Materials

Social Design is an interdisciplinary approach that aims to use design as a tool and a process to come up with innovative solutions to address social issues. During my year here in Baltimore I was able to work with an extremely diverse cohort and

put in practice the tenets of Social Design.

For my thesis project I became involved with the Hispanic immigrant community that lives in Baltimore City. While reaching out to this community I became aware of a very recent issue which was the increase of unaccompanied minors from Central America that were crossing the Mexican border to the U.S. This was a problem that I was familiar with since it is also happening back home in Costa Rica. But I had no idea that there were so many children and youth migrating by themselves. I started to reach out to these children that were living here in Baltimore just to hear their stories and the difficulties they experience during their journey and adjusting to life in this country. (Maryland received over 3,000 of these children.)

I realized that most of these children are greatly intimidated and don't understand the U.S. immigration system which makes them not follow through the process and end up living here illegally even though a huge percentage of them have claims for asylum. So I decided that my thesis would be to create a series of graphic materials that could explain how the system works and facilitate the navigation of the process to children. (I am working with Homeland Security and Immigration to prepare these materials.) Because of this project I was awarded a fellowship to stay in Baltimore.



Silvia Mata Marin and Sharon Hilty at NERC



Educational Excellence Committee **Pick Your Passion!**

The Educational Excellence Committee, EEC, (which is easier to remember) was brand new during the last biennium. It did an outstanding job combining Women in the Arts, Professional Affairs, Program of Work, and Legislation in its planning.

The Goals for 2015-2017 Biennium are:

1. Empowering women through leadership opportunities.
2. Promoting Educational Excellence through programs and projects.
3. Changing Global Awareness through collaboration worldwide.

These goals can be accomplished through programs and activities at the state and chapter level. Can we do it all? Sure we can! We are Alpha Beta State Superwomen!



We are Alpha Beta State Superwomen!

Let's look at things we could do to accomplish each goal:

Empowerment: Promote leadership from wherever we are, promote personal growth through lifelong learning, focus on the arts, develop programs that emphasize pride.

Educational Excellence: Promote early-career educators, focus on "Hot Topics" such as bullying, poverty impact, violence, and encourage programs and activities that stimulate

members to impact educational law and policy, develop ways to increase members' knowledge about pedagogical research.

Changing Global Awareness: Encourage programs and activities that promote the DKG/ United Nations relationship, communicate information and develop programs to educate members about Schools for Africa and World Fellowship, encourage programs and activities that promote chapter to chapter and state to state activities.

These are just a few ideas. It is the responsibility of EEC and your chapter's committee to do all they can to accomplish these goals during the 2015-2017 Biennium. These goals are **passions** in our society and we will **pick them all** at some time during this biennium. If you have any ideas for programs or activities, please contact any one on EEC. We look forward to hearing from you so we can have inspiring programs for everyone.

- Sharon Darling, Nu Chapter, Chair
- Becky Taylor, Beta
- Christine Redman, Nu
- Sally Nazelrod, Xi
- Sharon Hilty, Delta
- Ayn Ford, Alpha Theta
- Celeste Williams, Theta



Hello...

It's time to reconnect with our sisters. When was the last time that every sister in your chapter attended a chapter meeting at the same time? Do you have a core group that comes to every meeting? Are there sisters in your chapter that you wouldn't

recognize if they walked past you on the sidewalk? If these questions are generating a "Yes" answer, then the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is coming to the rescue. We have started the "Call a Member" initiative during this biennium. Members of the LDC have selected a chapter or two that they will call during the biennium. We have a script that we will use but LDC members can certainly use their own words during the conversation. We are specifically calling those members that we haven't seen at meetings (chapter and state) and begin to reengage them into DKG and ABS. They certainly had the passion when someone invited them into the

organization so let's get that passion back. At every Leadership Development meeting, we will talk about our progress and anticipate that some of our sisters will begin to attend our ABS events as a result of these calls. Chapter Presidents, don't be surprised if you get a phone call from a member that you haven't heard from in quite some time. Purpose # 1- "To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship" certainly will materialize with this initiative. Let's burn up those phone lines!

Leadership Development Committee,
2015

Name Our Newsletter!

We need a name for our newsletter. States with names for their newsletter include Arizona Sahuaro, The Connecticut Keynote, The New Oregon Trail, and Indiana's The Hoosier Newsette. Do you have any creative ideas? Please send in your suggestions to minnieladores@gmail.com. Suggestions will be presented to the Communications Committee and the State Board. Hopefully, a new name will be featured beginning Volume 78.

Let's Go Web Hunting!

To play this game, you will need to visit our state web site.
Go to <http://www.dkgmd.org>



- Find the application for a mini-grant where Jean Marie Hofstetter, Omega, is the contact person.
- Find the title of Dr. Judith J. Pula's most recent published article in The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin.
Hint: Click "More", then click the Bravo Members Section

You'll find out the correct answers in the next newsletter! Stay tuned!



Alpha Beta State News
Diane Straub
1605 Crestline Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

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