



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

# The NoDak News

Official Publication of Alpha Omicron State - North Dakota

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Check out the updated *Delta Kappa Gamma App* available for both the IOS & Android devices.



## 2016 Upcoming Events

Theta & Nu Workshop  
June 13-14, 2016  
Williston, ND

International Convention  
July 5-9, 2016  
Nashville, TN

### 14 North Dakota Members Attend the Northwest Regional Conference which was held in Regina, Saskatchewan Wednesday, July 29 - Saturday, August 1, 2015

The setting for the NW Regional was great. The area, the city, and the hotel were quite lovely. The keynote speakers were probably the most interesting that I have heard recently. Louise Lefrance, was probably my first choice, but it was difficult to decide among the others. Regina was the first time I had attended the US Forum. It was an educational experience and such a timely event. I will make it a point to attend them in the future. It was fun meeting up with other members both old and new. I would recommend that if at all possible, the NW Regional is something everyone should think about attending.

*-submitted by Rosemary Hanson*



**ND members attending the NW Regional Convention in Regina**  
Row 1: Diana Schneider, Bismarck, Delta. Brenda Seebafer, Rolla, Lambda. Lisa Olson, Minot, Gamma. Peggy Donabe, Wahpeton, Tau. Row 2: Esther Eustice, Hazen, Xi. Charlotte Rohde, Halliday, Xi. Verna LaBounty, Fargo, Beta. Faye Miller, Park River, Epsilon Mu. Sandy Starr, Minot, Nu. Row 3: Dotti Schmeling, Bismarck, Delta. Karen Walz, Minot, Gamma. Rosemary Hansen, Wing, Phi. Madeline, Heer, Wing, Phi. Not pictured: Judy Walter, Minot, Gamma.

## President's Ponderings

by Alpha Omicron State  
President, Lisa M. Olson



As I write the first article of my biennium, I am pondering the idea of change. We are all living in a rapidly changing world and for the most part, we have been good at accepting change. Many times, change has made our

world a better place to be. We have become accustomed to changes in technology, transportation, and health care. Our world has become much smaller because of the ability to communicate electronically with people anywhere, at any time. I remember as a child, reading the Dick Tracy cartoon and seeing him talk to someone on his wristwatch. Who knew that years later, we would call that device an Apple Watch? As a teenager, I feared for the day that a boy could call me on the phone and be able to see me as well. What if I hadn't done my hair? Today, we Skype and Face Time on a regular basis. I will be bold enough to say that I doubt anyone reading this article still uses a rotary dial phone. Change is part of life.

George Bernard Shaw said, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything" How does this apply to DKG? Our state organization is 75 years old and DKG International is over 85 years old. Are we still doing things the same today as we did many years ago and if we are, we need to ask ourselves if they are working? Annie Webb Blanton dreamed of an educational organization that would support women and children. She and the other founders wanted key women educators who would be outstanding teachers, but who would also be an integral part of their community, country and world. Is DKG accomplishing those goals in 2015?

Regretfully, I have to report that our membership is dwindling at an alarming rate. Lynn Babb Schmid, DKG International President, has created a recruitment plan that will assist us in

gaining and keeping new members. Her focus, as well as mine, is on members 35 years old and younger. Young teachers are our future, but they need mentoring from our veteran teachers. Mentoring first year teachers is one of the projects of our Educational Excellence Committee. Please refer to the DKG International website for a copy of the Schmid recruitment plan.

As we focus on reaching new members, we have to look within, to see if DKG is an organization that is appealing to younger women. Are our programs current and related to educational issues? Do we meet at times that presently contracted teachers can attend? Do we offer childcare for young mothers? Are we welcoming to new people? Does our membership reflect the culture and diversity of our community? I know I may be posing difficult questions to answer, but if we cannot update and invigorate DKG in North Dakota; our organization may never celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Three of the four goals of my biennium focus on change. The first goal is that EVERY chapter will initiate 10 new members this year, with half of the initiates being age 35 and younger. This will require thinking outside of the box and looking for members in places that we have not looked before. Goals 2 and 3 focus on updating our organization so that it can move forward, but not forgetting what is important and successful in our current structure. Goal 4 concentrates on fun. We need to enjoy membership in DKG and we need to create opportunities for our members to have a good time. I have heard of chapters hosting wine and cheese parties, attending plays, and traveling. Keep up the good work!

In closing, I want to encourage communication and exchange among our members. We are a team of key women educators who can accomplish these goals by working together. DKG offers so many opportunities and benefits to women around the world, that we want to spread the word about our organization. Commitment on our part now, will reap benefits for generations of women and children to come.

## Reflections of the NW Regional

Saskatchewan hosted this conference of 16 state (12 US states and 4 provinces) organizations with only 2 chapters!!! The hotel was older with smaller rooms, crowded women's rooms and poor parking, but it had a gorgeous stately lobby and banquet room, and wonderful service. Meals were ok, but the free coffee urns available all day were Starbuck's- great flavor!

The guest speakers were all excellent and inspiring.



The International President, Dr. Lyn Schmid, was very friendly, relaxed, and cheery. She has completed a year of office and four other regional conferences this summer. During this last one she was having fun. What a joy to meet her, spend time with her, and be inspired by her!

The Regional was located in a great venue, with great speakers, and the opportunity to network with other professional women. I was able to meet for dinner one evening with other regional presidents from the 2007-09 biennium, which was great fun! One of the most interesting sessions that I attended was presented by a teacher who (in her spare time) is an International Figure Skating Judge. She was selected to judge at the most recent Sochi Winter Olympics, and showed slides and talked about the intense experience. One interesting item was that many of the buildings that were erected, have been deconstructed and rebuilt in other parts of the Country to make good use of the materials. Choir rehearsal with all 5 members from ND who took part are in the picture. It is always stimulation to sing in the choir with great musical talent directing and accompanying the group. *-by Dotti Schmeling*



I was proud there were 14 North Dakota members attending. The next NW Regional is 2 years from now in Spearfish, SD. Let's aim for at least 28-30 ND members attending!

*-by Sandy Starr*

Far left, Sandy Starr (2nd one in). Middle rear, Verna LaBounty. 2nd row, center right, Dotti Schmeling. Behind Dotti, Esther Eustice and Faye Miller.



## Reflections of the NW Regional

I found the NW Regional in Regina very well done. The workshops I attended were very good. One on human trafficking was especially informative in that the speaker reminded us that human trafficking also can affect children/males, garment workers, manicuring businesses, farm workers, restaurant employees, etc. Another session dealt with the many new advances in scientific knowledge. The information in it that was especially interesting is that the first eye transplant was successfully done recently in England. That may be hope for those who lose their sight in accidents or due to macula degeneration. We were very impressed with several young women, who were not members, that gave presentations. They were dynamic and committed professionals. They were being recruited as members on the spot! That was refreshing to see since most in attendance were over sixty or more.



The meals and their presentations were outstanding. Another enjoyable event that was not part of the Regional was our attendance at the RCMP Ride, a performance at their fairgrounds of their precision horse back riding officers. Amazing what they can do with their horses.

It is always fun to meet other sisters from previous Regionals and to make new acquaintances. Several mentioned their good time when ND hosted the Regional several years ago. One especially interesting part of the conference was the pomp and circumstance involved in the opening ceremonies when government officials were introduced. The Hotel Saskatchewan was a lovely old hotel with great service and where the Queen's Suite is when she visits. It was very centrally located, downtown, which made it nice for those who like to shop. *-by Madeline Heer*

Regina had not had any rain all summer until the NW Region attendees arrived. On Monday it started raining in monsoon fashion and did not stop until Wednesday morning. This made for damp touring on Tuesday and a few cancellations like the RCMP Sunset Ceremony that is only held on Tuesday evenings during the summer. Verna and I were on that tour and we did get to see the cadets drill for graduation and the canine unit present a drill.



The conference itself began on Wednesday evening and was a nice schedule of sessions, activities and free time. We found some extra time to go quilt shop exploring before the conference started.

The Radisson Plaza was a nice place for the meetings with ample rooms for all the breakout sessions and a beautiful banquet hall for the Saskatchewan Night, the birthday luncheon and the closing banquet. *-by Faye Miller*

**Photography for the NW  
Regional Conference provided  
by Sandy Starr, Nu and with  
permission from Piper Sports  
Photography.**

**Thank You!!!**

## Reflections of the NW Regional

I attended my first Northwest Regional Conference in Regina this past summer. First, I attended the training for First Vice-Presidents which is a group called the Educational Excellence Committee. The regular part of the conference started with what was called Saskatchewan Night. The speaker named Louise Lafrance was what made this my favorite part of the conference. She is an Assistant Commissioner and Commanding Officer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). She talked about her personal experience with wanting to be a police officer and all of the obstacles and people who tried to get in her way. She overcame them all and has worked in various sections of the police force. She is responsible for the training of the cadets for the RCMP and specialized training for experienced officers around the world. She talked about her experiences and told us in detail exactly how her life progressed as she worked for the RCMP.

I enjoyed traveling and sharing a room with Faye Miller at the lovely Hotel Radisson. We found the Canadian members and Canadian people friendly and hospitable. Our tours included seeing the city, going to the RCMP training facility, and the Natural History Museum. Speakers challenged, enlightened, and motivated us on topics ranging from women in the RCMP to human trafficking to the human brain to the DKG fine arts gallery to book speed dating. Much fun accompanied the suspense of door prize drawings.

The Saskatchewan Hospitality Room became a favorite place to chat with new and old friends while enjoying a beverage and scrumptious treats. Best of all, the women who attended once again demonstrated the accomplishments of leadership that comes with membership in DKG.

*-by Verna LaBounty*

Warm welcomes from NW Regional sisters began an exceptional conference from Saskatchewan Night to the "Champions for Change" Dinner. This year was the first time I sang in the NW Regional Choir, and it was a memorable experience. June Bowers, the director, poured her enthusiasm and skills into each of us to create a cohesive group that performed beyond individual abilities. The early morning walking tours with Dr. Lace Marie Brogden set an ambitious tone for each day. I anticipate the renewing of friendships in Spearfish, SD in 2017. *-by Esther Eustice*



I attended many great sessions while I was at the conference. I was also very impressed by Ruth Smilie. She is the artistic director and CEO of the Globe Theatre in Regina. This theatre enrolls 500 children and young adults. She not only talked about the start of this theatre, but we were able to visit the theatre, as well as watch some of the children who were preparing for a performance. We were able to see all the areas of the theatre and how the process works to diligently prepare for a performance. *-by Brenda Seebafer*



Final Banquet: Outgoing State Presidents



North Dakota Delta Kappa Gamma Past and Present Presidents with First Lady Betsy Dalrymple.

**A Special Thank You to these fantastic Women who provide our State with great Leadership!**

Here are some **Green Flags** Indicating a Healthy Chapter:

- **Strong Leadership** - President and officers mentor chapter members to support leadership roles at the chapter, state and international levels.
- **Positive Leadership** - President is enthusiastic and promotes member involvement. Encourages others to contact another member about meetings. Bring a friend to a meeting. Communication is strong within the chapter.
- **Delegates** - President promotes team planning and ownership of activities and programs. Does not do all the work herself. Capitalizes on member strengths.
- **Inspiration and Motivation** - President is enthusiastic at each meeting. Inspirational and Motivational ideas are shared between members. These same thoughts are shared in the newsletter. Themes correlate with the state wide theme.
- **Communication with state organization is evident** - President and members of the chapter respond to state leaders. State leaders are invited to attend chapter meeting or coordinating council events.

# Opportunities through DKG



# A Journey for Life...



## Activism

As a member of DKG you are automatically a member of the appropriate geographic Forum. Each Forum has projects, professional communiques and, when appropriate, information about proposed legislation with ramifications for educators and children’s welfare. DKG is also a non-governmental organization member of the United Nations with consultative status with the Economic Social community. DKG has a long relationship with UNICEF and the Committee Teaching About the UN.

DKG has been recognized by the Institute of International Education for its partnership with Fulbright grants in supporting World Fellowship recipients – non-member women outside of the United States and Canada, who against financial and cultural odds came to universities in the US and Canada to pursue advance degrees. Over all, DKG at the international, state organization and chapter levels give approximately \$3,000,000 a year in scholarships, grants and project support. The Society is a philanthropic force on the international scene. As a member you are a part of that philanthropy. You impact education worldwide!



## Leadership

Every DKG member is considered a leader – a woman who wants to make a difference. How you choose to lead is up to you but DKG offers support for that leadership in many ways:

- through chapter and state organization opportunities;
- international executive education seminars;
- professional learning experiences during regional conferences and the international convention (continuing education units are offered at these events and at many state organization meetings.)

Seek leadership opportunities for personal and professional growth. They are there for you.



## Events

International conventions and regional conferences bring DKG members together from our 17 member countries and within our five geographic regions. Internationally known presenters, themed breakout sessions, Marketplace vendors and exhibitors all gather to realize the Society mission to provide personal and professional development for members. Continuing education credits, tours within the host city/region, and networking of members create quality experiences.

### International Convention

Held in even years  
 2,000 Attendees  
 Each convention is held in a different city in North America  
 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee  
 2018 – Austin, Texas

### Regional Conferences

Held in odd years  
 200-800 attendees varied by region  
 Five conferences in five cities in North America and Europe  
 2017 Northeast – Ontario, Canada  
 2017 Southeast – South Carolina  
 2017 Southwest – Hawaii  
 2017 Northwest – South Dakota  
 2017 Europe – Estonia

### State Organization Conventions

Held either annually or biennially, state organization conventions give members leadership development and personal and professional growth opportunities while providing interactions with fellow members of the state/province/country.

### Special Group Events

Each Forum (Canadian, European, Latin American, and United States) offers meetings with an emphasis on cultural, social and political influences on educational issues. In addition, the U.S. Forum offers a semi annual Legislative Forum in Washington, D.C. A Latin American Conference is presented in odd numbered years.

**From the U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #140, AUGUST 2015** shared by Jeannie Sovak, State Rep. to U.S. Forum

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at [Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com](mailto:Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com). We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY EXPANSION**

The Social Security Expansion Act (S.743) would, among other things, use the Consumer Price Index to calculate cost of living increases in Social Security payments, extend the tax on earners making more than \$250,000 annually, increase the amount paid on lifetime low earners based on years in the workforce. If this legislation passes, some of its provisions would not take effect until 2021.

### **EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDING**

The five week summer break for Congress ends September 8. When members return there will be only 10 "work days" before the 2016 fiscal year budget should take effect. The problem is that a deal raising education funding which was negotiated in 2013 expires at the end of September 2015. Both budget bills currently pending in the House and the Senate would cut education spending. As one might expect the two bills do not agree, and the House bill would cut almost twice as much funding as the Senate bill. A continuing resolution could be passed which would continue spending at the current levels or Congress could put together some sort of temporary spending allocation. If there is no budget agreement, as seems likely, most education funding would continue with two exceptions. The two programs which could be negatively impacted if no agreement is reached are Head Start and Impact Aid. These programs would not get any money until a budget is agreed upon. In that case the programs would have to borrow money to operate thus paying interest on the borrowed funds which would decrease money for the programs. Impact Aid monies go to schools on military bases and Native American reservations. This affects about 1,250 school districts.

### **EDUCATION TAX RELIEF**

There are currently two bills which could provide tax relief for educators. The Educator Tax Relief Act of 2015 (H.R.2940) would make professional development expenses tax deductible. The Tax Relief Extension Act of 2015 (S. 1946) has been introduced; however, no summary of the provisions in the bill are available at this time. The bill would extend tax deductions for educators which expired in 2014.

### **DEALING WITH ROBOCALLS**

More and more telephone customers are being plagued with unwanted robocalls. There are several devices which block incoming robocalls. One of those rated well by Consumer Reports is Nomorobo which is free; however, it is not available everywhere. You can find information about this at <https://www.nomorobo.com/>. If this service is not available in your area, the site provides toll free numbers that you can call. It is to your advantage to call the number/s provided; because that will motivate your provider to install the free service in your area. (When you complain it ties up their paid operators, so it is to the company's economic advantage to put in the robocall blocking service and allow the paid operators to take care of customers with other problems.)

There are devices which block robocalls that can be purchased through Amazon. These are

1. Digitone Call Blocker Plus (\$110) 18 of 24 reviewers gave it a positive rating.
2. [HQTelecom.com](http://HQTelecom.com) Landline Call Blocker (\$59) six of thirteen reviewers gave it a positive rating.
3. Sentry Dual Mode Call Blocker (\$59) 27 reviewers gave it a positive rating; 28 reviewers gave it a negative rating

For a more detailed account of all aspects of robocalls, consult out the September 2015 issue of Consumer Reports which is probably available at your local library..

### **FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK**

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

## Applying for the Citation Award

Nominees for the Citation Award should show outstanding leadership, contributions and/or services rendered beyond the call of duty to Delta Kappa Gamma (chapter, state, and/or international) in furthering and promoting the purposes of DKG.

Nominees shall be residents of North Dakota and members in good standing of the Society for at least five years. Members of the same chapter may not receive the Citation Award in two successive years. No person may receive the Citation Award a second time. The current State President is not eligible during her term of office.

Members are encouraged to submit worthy candidates for this award. An application may be downloaded at <http://northdakotadkg.weebly.com>.

Applications are due February 15, 2016. Submit to Diana Schneider, 119 Burgundy Circle, Bismarck, ND 58503



### Contact The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Mail: P.O. Box 1589, Austin, TX 78767-1589

Telephone: (512) 478-5748

Toll-free (U.S. and Canada) (888) 762-4685

Fax number: (512) 478-3961

### *The Nodak News*

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Judy Walter, State Editor  
4520 37th St SE, Minot, ND 58701  
[thenodaknews@gmail.com](mailto:thenodaknews@gmail.com)

## Noteworthy News

- Theta and Nu Chapters are working on the 2016 DKG workshop. The workshop will be held in Williston, June 13-14, 2016.
  - The 2016 International Convention will be held in Nashville, TN, July 5-9. Lyn Babb Schmid has promised us a convention chock full of events. Please start planning now to attend.
  - The 2017 NW Regional Convention will be right in our backyard. Spearfish, SD will be hosting DKG members from the 16 state organizations in DKG's NW Region.
  - Sadly, Psi Chapter of Bowman has requested and has been granted permission to dissolve.
  - Senator Heidi Heitkamp has been invited to join DKG as an honorary member. We are working with Senator Heitkamp's staff to secure a date for her initiation.
  - Past State President, Orpha Prather, passed away in July in a car accident. She will be remembered as a compassionate teacher who helped countless numbers of students in Tioga and Williams County.
  - Our state website is up-to-date and full of information. Please refer to the website for answers to many questions you may have.
  - I look forward to seeing many of you at the workshop would love to see several North Dakota members in attendance at the International Convention.
  - Last, but not least, I want to thank Gamma, Nu and Lambda for inviting me to their chapter meetings. I have enjoyed sharing my goals with them. I will be visiting Theta on October 17th. Please let me know when you would like me to visit your chapter. During the school year, I can attend a Saturday meeting. During the summer, I can be much more flexible.
- by Lisa Olson

Visit Alpa Omicron - North Dakota website  
<http://northdakotadkg.weebly.com>

# Chapter Communications

## Pi

Chapter members had a wonderful meeting in August at the LaMoure Senior Citizens' Center. It was good to get together after a nice summer with our families. Our committees are in place, and the Finance Committee worked on the proposed budget for the year.

Members brought various items to fill eighteen "Welcome Baskets" for first-year women teachers in our four-county area. Members volunteered to deliver the baskets to the new teachers prior to their first day of school. It was fun to make that connection with our new teachers.



(L to R) Carol Smith, Samantha Stenvold (Gr. 3)  
Jenna Anderson (Gr. 6) and Jackie Peterson



Sue German presenting a Welcome Basket to Kira Fischer, new K-12 Counselor at Ellendale School.



In September, we met at the Sargent Central School in Forman. We were pleased to welcome a guest, Holly, to our meeting. Our Golden Grant Committee presented the thirty "Pillow Packs" (pillow, book, toy, instructions) and 12 "peek and find" items that we will be donating to the six area pre-schools. Everyone had fun looking at these cute and useful additions to each pre-school. Students may check out these pillow packs and take them home to work on the suggested projects with the families. The hostesses served a delicious meal, and after our meeting we all participated in a recommitment ceremony to remind ourselves of our purposes as an organization.

Several of our members from Edgeley were part of a "welcome committee" for the students' first day of school there. They welcomed the students and handed out Edgeley Public School bracelets to each student. We are so proud of you, **Cheryl Fredenburg**, **Diane Jolin**, and **Kathy DeBolt** for this fun project!

# Chapter Communications

## Nu - Minot

**Sandy Starr, Deb Schultz and Linda Christianson** received Minot State University's highest award, the Golden Award at a banquet during MSU's Homecoming week. The list of accolades and service these women gave and still give to MSU, the students of MSU and to the community of Minot is astounding! Sandy and Deb are Nu past president's and have held State DKG offices. All three were also in the MSU Homecoming parade.

Pictured are some of the Delta Kappa Gamma sisters who attended the MSU Golden Awards banquet to support the three honorees.



Front row (L-R): Sandy Starr, Linda Christianson, & Deb Schultz.

Middle row: Audrey Hugelen (Gamma), Jan Repnow (Lambda), Jeannie Sovak, Leslie Barney, & Jazmine Schultz.

Back row: Rochelle Feldner, Jeri Langemo (Gamma), Holly Eidsness, Pat Burckhard, Paula Simonson & Vicki Campbell. Also in attendance were Gloria Lokken, Adalaide Johnson (Gamma), Kristi Berg (Gamma), and Doris Slaaten (Gamma).

**Jeannie Sovak** volunteered with the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Foundation in Medora for eight days. Her next summer adventure is her ultimate dream vacation, a cruise to Alaska.

**Jessica Graf** is involved in the MSU Summer theatre. She is also a director of the Western Plains Children's Choir that performs at concerts and community events.

**Dawn Freeman, Brenda Demke, and Jeanne Sovak** are members of the Minot Chamber Chorale. They performed "When David Heard" and "Sunrise Mass" with 18 members of the Minot Symphony Orchestra. Dawn Freeman judged the Region 8 solo and ensemble choir competition.

**Rochelle Feldner** is the president of Phi Beta Mu, and honorary fraternity for band directors. She judged the State Class B Music Festival in Bismarck May 2 and earlier judged several regional music competitions. Rochelle was one of three conductors for the Minot Intermediate Honor Band that participated in the Big Muddy Band Festival in Mandan. The band received a silver trophy and had an outstanding soloist award.

**Kathy Thiel and Marj Bubach** are co-advisors of the Magic City Campus Honor Society. The group received a \$5000 grant from the Power of the Purse local philanthropy to help fund the MPS Backpack Buddies Project. They held a PB&J Drive and presented over one hundred PB&J containers in addition to a \$500 donation to the Backpack Buddies. The program supplies food for the weekend to over 100 MPS students.

**Holly Eidsness** was in Minot State University's Summer Theatre 50th Anniversary of production of "The Music Man."

# Chapter Communications

**Nu** continued

**Renee Rudolph** has been hired as principal at Perkett Elementary School in Minot. She is a former math instructor, math strategist and principal intern for Minot Public Schools.



**Nancy Pearson** presented in April at the Central States Communication Association convention in Madison Wisconsin.

**Joy Shirek, Amy Neal and Cindy McKay** were delegates to the North Dakota United Spring Representative Assembly in Bismarck.

**Gloria Lokken** was honored for her years of service to NDU (formerly NDEA) at the assembly.

**Cindy McKay** completed a Master of Technology Education degree from Valley City State University in June.

**Sharon E. Johnson** received the ND State AARP Volunteer of the Year last fall.

New initiate **Jazmine Wolff Schultz**, advises the Velve FCCLA which earned two membership awards at the state convention. Three students will attend the National Star Event in Washington DC.

**Cassie Vetter** traveled to Orlando Florida with 14 Minot HS marketing students. The students competed in competitive events and attended leadership conferences. Ten of eleven competitors received "Awards of Excellence".

**Kathy Haskins** presented during the North Dakota Reading Conference for the ESL.

**Marian Askem** volunteers with Trails and Rails over the summer and with the greeter program at Minot's Scandinavian Heritage Park.

Congratulations to **Amy Neal**, kindergarten teacher at Lewis & Clark Elementary School, for being chosen as Minot Education Association's Teacher of the Year. She was also presented the prestigious North Dakota Teacher of the Year award by Governor Jack Dalrymple and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler.



<http://ndunited.org/news/minot-kindergarten-teacher-named-2016-toy>

**Julianne Bonner**, Thor Lodge President and Thor Lodge members have been involved in various community activities throughout summer and fall. These activities were serving Rootbeer floats at Arts in the Park, having a float in the ND State Fair parade, and having a Thor Lodge Food Booth at the 2015 Norsk Høstfest.

# Chapter Communications

**Nu** continued



**Dr. Cheryl Nilsen**, associate professor and chair within the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, was recently appointed as College of Education and Health Sciences dean at Minot State University. She will begin her new role July 13.

Nilsen, a rural Minot native, wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. She started her professional career as a secondary teacher in Cromwell, Minn. After two years, Nilsen and her husband, John, moved to Riverdale, N.D., where she taught math, physics and English for 17 years.

In addition to her position as an associate professor and department chair, Nilsen runs and judges speech meets, sings in various groups, has served in multiple roles in the N.D. Speech and Theatre Association and the N.D. Council of Teachers of Mathematics, was a National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Board of Examiners member, was involved in the revision of the accreditation of the state portion of MSU's teacher education programs and also represented the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board as a state consultant. Nilson was

recognized for twenty years of service to Minot State this spring.

**Leslie Barney's** Jim Hill Middle School Mystic Marching band, made up of 80 7th & 8th graders, marched in Minot State University's Homecoming parade.



**Robin Fiddler** and her committee were in charge of book sales for the North Dakota State Reading Conference held in Minot in April.

**Colleen Schwan** went to Florida with the Minot High band and choir. The band and choir performed at Downtown Disney and attended a workshop and recording session. The MHS choir competed at Festival Disney.



New initiate Alyssa Bayer married Stephen Palmer June 13.



New initiate Jazmine Wolff married Zach Schultz June 13. Her mother-in-law is DKG member Deb Schultz.

# Chapter Communications

## Delta - Bismarck

Delta Executive Board met June 15, 2015 to finalize all chapter financial matters and discuss the 2015-2016 proposed budget.

In July, **Dotti Schmeling** hosted the Delta Chapter summer social at her home on the Missouri River. North Dakota State convention experiences were shared and possible programs ideas were discussed as well as other chapter concerns.

The first Delta meeting of 2015-2016 was held at the Horizon Middle School, September 10, 2015. The agenda included chapter issues such as membership, programs, a courtesy committee and publicity. **Dotti Schmeling** reported on the Northwest Regional in Regina, Saskatchewan. Diana Schneider also attended the Northwest Regional. The meeting culminated with members making sister bracelets.

Delta sisters gave a special recognition to **Jane Beauclair** whose daughter Roxane Salonen was a presenter at the North Dakota State convention in Bismarck in June.



Jane Beauclair and her daughter Roxane Salonen (seated)

## Gamma - Minot

Gamma gathered with Nu for the first meeting of the year on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Moose. Nu arranged a wonderful breakfast and the NuNotes signing group provided fantastic entertainment!

Our State President and Gamma member, **Lisa Olson**, gave an engaging presentation highlighting the goals for the biennium. We are proud of Lisa and excited for her leadership at the State level.

Our Chapter President, **Kristi Berg**, started the idea of "Gamma Goals" and our we have set some ambitious ones for the upcoming year! We will focus all year on educational outreach and mentorship (SEE), community service and making meeting attendance a priority. In September our goal was to have 90% of members in attendance at the meeting paying their dues. This goal was achieved! At our October meeting we are planning breakout sessions to review the roles each committee will have in OUR programs this year! February will feature a Chapter rules refresher and we have also set a goal for 10 new member nominations! In March we will learn more about Schools for Africa and have set a goal to donate \$500 from our Chapter! Finally in April we will celebrate our community service achievements for the year, we plan to report these to the media as well!

Gamma remembered our sister, **June Schmitz**, with a memorial service.



# Chapter Communications

Updates on Gamma Members: **Lisa Olson** continues to serve on Minot's City Council. Lisa Olson and **Ashley Grina** were awarded Independence Inc's Advocates of the Year Award. The award is given to individuals who advocate for the needs of persons with disabilities.

At the North Dakota Library Association conference, **Paulette Nelson** was announced as the winner of the 2015 Librarian of the Year award.

**Deanna Klein** continues to serve on the SRT Board of Directors, she also became Department Chair of Business Administration Department in the College of Business at MSU.

**Deanna Klein** and **Kristi Berg** recently served as a collaborative editors and chapter authors for the book Strategic Data-Based Wisdom in the Big Data Era, IGI Global.

**Joanne Lautenschlager** was chosen as volunteer of the year for North Dakota Credit Unions.

**Pat Eggen** completed her fifth year as a Board Member for the YWCA in Minot.

**Marita Hoffart** received a Lifetime Achievement Award at MSU in May 2014. Marita also served on the committee to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Province of the Sisters of St. Francis who operated St. Joseph's Hospital for nearly 90 years.

**Dawn Bodtke**, 2015-16 North Central Reading Council President, will be attending the International Literacy Association Conference in St. Louis in July.

**Cheryl Hagar**, **Tracy Lawson**, **Rhonda Grindy** and **Shawneen Voiles** attended a three day Marzano training conference in Colorado.

**Tracey Lawson** accepted the position as Assistant Superintendent for Elementary for Minot Public Schools in July of 2015. Prior to that she served as principal at Longfellow Elementary in Minot for nine years.

**Jeri Langemo** has led The Sunnyside DRUMKIDZ group for more than 15 years. The group performs at many functions in the Minot area.

**Apryl Davenport** and **Mary Carlson** are co-presidents of Minot Area Retired Teachers Association.

**Apryl Davenport** is the Senior Medicare Patrol Volunteer Coordinator NDCPD-MSU.

**Mary Carlson** has been supervising student teachers at Minot State University and is the coordinator for Exceptional Family Member Program for Air Force Families with Child Care Aware of ND Lutheran Services.

**Judy Walter** is the new state editor for DKG's The NoDak News.

Sandy Starr and **Lisa Olson** met with Jan Nerem this summer. Jan has been an active member in DKG for many years. She has most recently chaired the Eunah Temple Holden Leadership Fund Committee. Jan lives in Montana, but grew up near Minot She indicated during our lunch that she would enjoy attending the state workshop next summer. She would not be considered an International guest, but hopefully she would be willing to present a breakout session.

## Beta

<http://betachapter.blogspot.com>

## Theta - Williston

We are continuing to raise money for Imagination Library. It is our goal to raise at least \$1000 every year for Imagination Library. We received the Golden Grant this past year so we are grateful to be able to donate even more money to our local Imagination Library this year.

We are working with Lisa Olson, our state President and Nu Chapter (Minot) to organize the 2016 Workshop. We are excited to announce that it will be in Williston on June 13 and 14. We have many ideas for sessions and are excited to put together a program for the state.

## Lambda

**Jeannie Orke**, Lambda, was elected first vice-president for the North Dakota Retired Teachers Association. The state convention was held August 25 & 26, 2015, in Minot.

How many of you were able to meet basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal this summer? Well, **Brenda Seehafer** from Lambda got to meet him, shake his hand, and received a copy of his first book. (Please see attached picture.) He was at the International Literacy Association Conference in St. Louis talking about his commitment to literacy. He is the author of "Little Shaq", a new series of books for early readers. He has a doctorate degree in education. Brenda attended this conference as the North Dakota Reading Association President. She was also able to attend many events that Scholastic hosted and some very informative sessions; she got to hear some other great keynote speakers. Brenda also attended the NEA Conference in Orlando. She was a delegate representing North Dakota and serves as the ND Resolutions chair. Many hours of business were dealt with at this

conference, but one always needs to squeeze in some sightseeing. Brenda checked out Hollywood Studios and went to a Medieval Times performance; Medieval Times is where the jousting is done on horseback and the meal was all eaten without silverware.

**Jan Repnow**, Lambda, presented a conference workshop at the North Dakota Career and Technical Education Professional Conference in Bismarck in August. The presentation "Finger Frenzy" highlighted current research on methodologies of teaching keyboarding to middle and elementary students. She also serves as the treasurer for the North Dakota Business Education Association which also met during the conference for their annual business meeting.

Lambda chapter was pleased to have state president, Lisa Olson, attend our September 2015 meeting and attend our Hats and Teacups Party!



Front Row: L to R: Sharon Marquardt, State President Lisa Olson, Vicky Boehnke, Jeannie Orke. Back Row: Wanda Follman, Shari Jerde, Brenda Seehafer, JoAnn McCarty, Liz Deckert, Deb Zavada

