



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



## 2018 Upcoming Events

ND State Workshop  
June 20 - 21, 2018  
Wahpeton, ND

DKG International  
Convention  
July 16 - 20, 2018  
Austin, TX

## 2017 Alpha Omicron Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board held their annual meeting and work session in the Rugby High School-Commons on September 23, 2017.



## President's Ponderings



by Alpha Omicron State President, Brenda Seehafer

My focus the last four months has been twofold. I have really tried to learn more about my role as your State DKG President and I am thankful for all of you that have helped me do that.

It has been things such as conducting my first State Executive Board Meeting, putting together state committees, finding out my responsibilities to International, making chapter visits, etc. My other focus has been professional development in my role as an educator. I have found so many connections to professional development lately that I can't take it all in and learn everything that I want to learn about what is out there.

I feel that I am actively involved in my profession. I have some great connections to my DKG sisters and some of you I know from other professional groups, as well. I am finding that these professional growth opportunities are very beneficial to me as your president, as an educator, as a leader at many levels, etc. I am also finding that book studies are becoming one of the most frequent forms of professional development available to people across the state. I am part of several of them at this time; I am part of one that my school district is doing, one

that North Dakota United is doing, and one that the North Dakota Reading Association is doing. These types of professional learning all have their own purpose, and they are all unique in their own way starting with the subject that they all focus on, as well as how they are set up and how you collaborate with others. You can start networking with other educators from another part of the state that have common goals or issues and you can share ideas. I am also involved in a training that is preparing me to become an Instructional Coach and have found that my role in this duty can be as varied as each book study, as each DKG chapter, and as each member of our great state organization.

Where I am going with all of this is that every member and every potential member of our organization has a different perspective on how things should be done for our organization to prosper. We need to reflect, we need to think about what other states are doing, and we need to consider what International would like us to think about in the future. We definitely have some great things going on in this state, so we don't want to change those. We need to consider our membership and what we can do to raise those numbers, not see them decline. There are two state ad hoc committees that met prior to the Fall Executive Board Meeting to look at some things at the state level. One of those committees focused on replacing our state flags, banners, scarves, etc.; it looks like technology will play into this and how we recognize our chapters at our state conventions/conferences. The other committee focused on the location, time frame possibilities, and chapter rotation roles for future conventions/conferences.

(All chapter presidents should have forwarded the survey relating to some of these items, as we would like feedback from all of our members; the deadline for the members to do the survey is December 1, 2017.)

## *Survey for Conventions*

[goo.gl/CDW2tN](http://goo.gl/CDW2tN)

My goals include adding to our membership, but also making our current membership stronger. My first goal is that each chapter will add five new members each year and three of those new members will be age 35 and younger. My next goal is about making a difference in your community by learning and serving whether you volunteer, run for an office in your community, mentor new teachers, or promote DKG. My third goal is that you attend your state Convention/Conference each of the next two years to get those attendance numbers to 70 and 80, respectively; there is an opportunity to even earn a credit at the 2018 State Convention. My final goal is to have fun by enjoying your chapter meetings, meeting new people, and seeing new things. This all goes back to professional development. Look at all the ways you are getting professional development at your local meetings with the great programs that you have and the network of educators that are your members.

As members, you are the KEY women educators that can help me achieve my goals. We have to work together, as this is OUR organization. We can't be afraid of change, and we can't be afraid to try new things; we know that from our professional careers.

I have had the honor to visit the Gamma and Nu chapters in Minot, as well as my local Lambda chapter. I look forward to my upcoming chapter visits. Don't forget, if you haven't contacted me about a chapter visit, please do so; it will probably have to take place on a Saturday, as I am still a full-time teacher. -Brenda Seehafer, ND State President

## Meet your Chapter Presidents

A special Thank You for your support for DKG and Women Educators!

**Beta** Jolene Beckman  
jbeckmanmoorhead@hotmail.com

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## News from Northwest Regional Meeting of DKG

By Ann Braaten

The Northwest Regional Meeting of DKG in Spearfish, SD, June 28 - July 1, 2017, was an interesting meeting at a beautiful part of the world! It was fun connecting with North Dakota DKG sisters and it made me proud to be a part of.

Each member of DKG is encouraged to log into to the DKG International website to create a personal membership profile for ourselves using an email address that is not school-related. This will allow electronic communication to continue if you change jobs or retire. It took five minutes for me to create my profile. You need to have your member number to complete the process. The website has an amazing array of information available to us as members.

The DKG leadership repeatedly expressed concern for the decline in membership numbers and encouraged us to make membership relevant for today's women. If something seems cumbersome or outdated, it is okay to omit it. Proposed changes to the DKG Constitution will be presented via newsletter and will be discussed and voted on at the International Meeting, July of 2018 in Austin, TX. One proposed change was to re-name our organization to International Women Educators, making it less sorority-like and more appealing to younger women. I tried using this phrase when talking to others about DKG and people seemed more receptive than when I used Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Maybe it is time for a change like that to be implemented? What do you think?

There were inspiring keynote speakers each day. One was Dr. Sheryl Feinstein, dean of the College of Education, University of Nebraska at Kearny. She gave a fascinating talk on the secrets of the brain, encouraging us to be active learners so we continue to develop our synapses and enrich our neurons to keep us intellectually sharp. She shared how important it is to overcome emotion in order to open the door to learning and to develop strategies to lower the impact of stress by shifting our thinking to the frontal lobe of our brain rather than our amygdala, or lizard brain, with which we react emotionally. Check out her book "Understanding the Teenage Brain" to learn more about the brain.

Another interesting key note was Constance Walter, Communications Director - Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead, SD. She told about this world-class physics laboratory in an 8,000-foot deep abandoned gold mine that filters out the rays that bombard the surface of the Earth. In the absence of these rays, scientists can study dark matter and neutrinos, and other mysterious things, to better understand our universe.

At this meeting, I gained a deeper appreciation for the amazing women that make up our organization and for all it provides. I encourage you to continue being active to make our organization the best it can be. Take the opportunity to attend a regional or international meeting in the future. You, too, will be empowered and inspired.



# Get Connected!

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

September/October 2017

## Creating Graphics

**A graphic conveys a thousand words...so create one!**

If you are creating a newsletter, blog, or web post and need a hard-to-find graphic, Canva helps you build your own work of art.



Learn about Canva from the [August 6, 2017, post from Communications and Publicity](#). Click the picture above to see samples of what Canva can do for you. This free tool allows you to create your own copyright-free graphics for print and the web.  
<https://www.canva.com/>

## Videos to Inspire

See this collection of half a dozen videos about DKG and the pride you can feel as a member. Videos provide a great way to share DKG with potential members.

### Videos to Inspire Key Women Educators



These videos are also great for celebrating Founder's Day and orientations. [See the blog.](#)

## Best of the DKGSI Blog

Founder Annie Webb Blanton (i.e., a voice representing Blanton's perspective) and six international committees are blogging with gusto to reach out to inspire all members to connect and engage. The DKG Society International (DKGSI) blog was born in 2015 and gained steam in 2016. In 2017, the number of blog posts more than doubled. Currently, close to 100 posts are available to view and spark your thinking. **Control + Click on the pictures or links** anywhere on this page to see examples of the outstanding blog posts available.

### Why We Founded DKG



[Annie's Blog](#)

### 45 Publicity Ideas to Create Buzz: Part 1



[Communications and Publicity](#)

### PROPOSE TO ME –The JOY of De-Cluttering



[Constitution](#)

### Focus on Finance: Dues Collection



[Finance](#)

### EEC Inspiration



[Educational Excellence Committee](#)

### New Resources Foster Chapter Health



[Membership](#)

**To follow the DKG blog**, click on the blog button on the home page of [dkg.org](http://dkg.org). To be notified when a new blog is posted, go to the blog page as noted above and enter your email address in the "Follow by email" box to the left. Hit submit. You will receive an activation message from "Feedburner"; complete that activation in order to be notified of updates!



## For All Members: Be Brave

What did Annie say? "BE BRAVE. Use your voice. Use your conviction. Use your resources for the benefit of all. When you create and ensure opportunity for others, you will grow, too." With Annie as your guide, begin the conversation to strengthen your chapter and member participation. This blog post empowers you to reflect with powerful questions to ask all your members and to guide your way—forward moving ever.



[Annie Web Blanton Post, Wednesday, May 17, 2017](#)



## **A Trip of a Lifetime**

by Marybeth Lunde - Zeta

Imagine revisiting a place with fantastic family memories but 21 years later! In June 1996, after 10 years working with a health education project and living in a Chadian village with our three children, the Lunde family embarked on a trip through Europe en route to settling into a new life in North Dakota. Our oldest Aura Lee was 7, Kaia was 5 and David was just 3. We arrived in Paris, took a taxi to rue Lecourbe and were warmly welcomed by Alain and Jacqueline Danset and their three children. They housed and fed us for several fantastic days while we explored the wonders of "the City of Lights." We took the elevator to the top of the Eiffel Tower, splashed in fountains, strolled the chestnut-lined streets, and sampled French cuisine while the children had their first exposure to marvels of the modern world like escalators, elevators, flush toilets, and carousels.

Many years before the Dansets had reached out to me as a 20 year old American studying in Paris. Alain was my psychology professor. In a classroom of French university students, he appreciated that I was willing to give my opinion and analysis rather than just recording what he said. He invited me to his home to meet his family and share meals and discussions. We corresponded over the years, and when my fiancé Nathan was returning from Chad to the States, they offered him lodging as well. When we passed through Europe with our firstborn, they again opened their home. When we wrote saying we would be coming through a final time with 3 children, they invited us to stay with them. Their children, in their twenties, loved playing with our little ones and showing them the sights of Paris. In the ensuing years, their oldest daughter periodically sent us children's books in French so that the language wouldn't be lost.

Last Christmas, our three children announced they wanted to take a family trip to France the next summer. They promised to take care of all the logistics. Our son planned all the travel, planes and trains. Our oldest made lodging arrangements, finding cozy Air B & B apartments in convenient locations so we could walk to the sights and prepare our own meals. Our middle daughter was in charge of food, an occasional meal in a restaurant but most meals entailed trips down the winding staircase to the neighboring bakery, produce stand, or little grocery store to purchase food and take turns cooking. Nathan and I celebrated our 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary enjoying a home cooked meal with our 3 children around the table in our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartment in Aix-en-Provence! Unforgettable.

## A Trip of a Lifetime continued

by Marybeth Lunde - Zeta

The highlight of our days in Paris was reconnecting with the Danset family. Alain passed away of cancer several years ago, but Jacqueline, retired from many years teaching psychology at the university, welcomed us warmly. The oldest daughter, Marie Pierre, who had taken us up the Eiffel Tower 21 years earlier, now strolled through the Quartier Latin with our three children in their twenties, telling of her work with a publishing firm. We enjoyed several hours of French cooking and conversation at an outdoor restaurant adjoining a garden and the Palais de Justice. We were all able to converse in French, share stories of the intervening years, and thank this very special family for welcoming me into their midst 45 years ago and continuing the rich and rewarding friendship ever since. We never know how the kindness offered to a stranger can bring lifelong blessings. As teachers, the impact we have on our students lives can never be measured. May we continue to encourage, lead, and love each one entrusted to our care as the Dansets did for me so long ago.



*Pic of Marybeth Lunde's family and lifelong French friends. Marybeth is fourth from right.*

## Need Money for Projects, Seminars or Professional Growth?

Go to [www.dkgef.org](http://www.dkgef.org) which connects you to the website of the:

### ***Educational Foundation of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International***

Take advantage of the opportunities to apply for funds that are available to individuals, chapters and state organizations. Deadlines to apply for the funds are on or before:

- November 1, 2017: **The Cornetet Seminar for Professional Development Award (CSPD)** is granted to organizations within The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to sponsor professional development seminars open to all educators.
- January 3, 2018: Up to \$10,000 may be awarded to groups or individuals for projects that not only benefit children and education but also encourage intercultural understanding and educational excellence.
- February 1, 2018: Members and nonmembers can apply for **Cornetet Individual Professional Development (CIPD)** Awards to participate in events and activities that occur between March 15, 2018 and October 15, 2018.

### Scholarship and Grant Opportunities

*Deadlines: February 1, 2018*

*Applications can be found on the state website*

**Golden Grants** (\$100-\$1000) are available to ND DKG members for the purpose of enhancing educational activities. Such activities include school or classroom projects, seminar or conference attendance, school visitations, & funding for educational research.

**The Hazel B. Nielson Scholarship** (\$1500) is available to DKG members who are pursuing advanced degrees in academic areas and have been members for at least two years.

**The Adeline Stevenson Nurse Scholarship** is administered by Beta Chapter, Fargo. The scholarship is available to members pursuing a graduate degree in the field of education. Application materials may also be obtained from the Beta Chapter president or the state website.

### Contact The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Mail: P.O. Box 1589  
Austin, TX 78767-1589  
Telephone: (512) 478-5748  
Toll-free: (888) 762-4685  
Fax number: (512) 478-3961



Visit Alpha Omicron-North Dakota website

<http://northdakotadkg.weebly.com>

# Chapter Communications

## ***Attention Chapters Communicators!***

The members across the state love to hear what you are doing in your area. Please continue to send your **news** to be included. Deadline goal is the end of the month previous to publication.

### ***The Nodak News***

Publication of the Alpha Omicron State Organization, North Dakota  
Published three times yearly,  
November, March, and July  
Judy Walter, State Editor  
4520 37th St SE, Minot, ND 58701  
[thenodaknews@gmail.com](mailto:thenodaknews@gmail.com)

## **Epsilon Mu**

submitted Faye Miller

The Epsilon Mu chapter met at the Community Violence Intervention Center for a Break the Silence Tour of the building and presentation by the staff.

The CVIC mission is "Preventing Violence, Promoting Safety and Building Hope".



*Pictured is Vice President Sarah Griffith presenting Jamie Bischoff, Director of special events, a*

Target gift card for \$100 to purchase supplies for Mary's Place. Mary's Place is a newly remodeled safe home in Grand Forks for victims of domestic violence. Following the tour the chapter held it's meeting in the conference room at the center.

Faye Miller recently line judged her final volleyball game after 20 plus years at Midway. She was recognized at the Homecoming Hullabaloo by the volleyball team, coaches and athletic director with an autographed volleyball and flowers.



*Pictured are Sheila Korynta, AD and Faye Miller.*

# Chapter Communications

## Sigma

submitted Tricia Lang

Sigma Chapter member, Benita Saur, recently earned the "Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce Secondary Teacher of the Year Award". Benita is an English teacher at Mandan High School. Congratulations, Benita!

The Sigma Chapter's October meeting began with a tour of the new Mandan Starion Sports Complex. The Starion Sports Complex is owned and operated by Mandan Park District and is home to Mandan Braves hockey, gymnastics, football and track & field events. Mandan pride was evident throughout the building with student sports photos on the facility walls and on the Sigma members' faces as they admired the new facility.

The Sigma Chapter participated in their annual volunteer project at Papa's Pumpkin Patch for their opening day of the season! Corby Rachel, Paulette Whitmore, Tricia Lang, Gail Mayer, Benita Sauer, Nyla Schock, Jean Thompson, and Arliss Koski were volunteers in the admissions building for the day welcoming families. Papa's Pumpkin Patch has been in operation for 35 years and has donated almost a million dollars back to the Bismarck-Mandan community during that time. We always enjoy the time we spend at the Papa's Pumpkin Patch with families!

## Beta

submitted by Jolene Beckman

<http://betachapter.blogspot.com>



"Impacting Education Worldwide" is our emphasis for this year's programming. We started the year hearing from *Vonnice Sanders*, a Fargo educator who specializes in English Language Learners.

In November we visited a mosque, and later in the year we'll be hearing about education in Cuba and China. We are also adding a service project to this theme. Fargo has a center for New Americans called the New American Consortium for Wellness and Empowerment which offers informal tutoring on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Our chapter will be dropping in to help our new neighbors become more fluent in English and extend a friendly welcome to them as they get used to our area.



Hearing *Dr. Lynn Bab Schmid* talking about new member recruitment this summer inspired us to try the methods she presented at our state conference. We completed prospect cards in October and November. In January we'll use the presentation "Pride in the Big Picture" to explain DKG to our prospects. We're looking forward to the results that might come from this!

# Chapter Communications

## Gamma

submitted Cindy Neuharth

In September our state president, Brenda Seehafer, gave a presentation to the joint meeting of the Gamma and Nu sisters. Brenda presented goals and thoughts about the upcoming year.

During the meeting the DKG Emergency Fund was discussed and a collection of \$431.00 was collected from the Gamma sisters to assist members in need of hurricane relief.

Our chapter is also very involved with the Backpack Buddies program.

During September and October volunteers helped organize and inventory food supplies. Having our members volunteer helps maximize the grant money awarded to the United Way.

During the September meeting our chapter collected supplies for the Students in Transition program at Minot Public Schools.

Carol Bellew traveled to several National Legislative Conferences this past summer, one of the conferences was held in Taiwan.

Kathy Hintz had two articles published this summer, one on elementary social studies teacher beliefs and was published in the *Journal of Social Studies Research*. The second article was about first year education pre-service teachers and was published in *Learning Communities Research and Practice*.



*Lisa Olson* (Immediate Past State President) was re-elected to the Minot City Council.

On November 11th our sisters will be entertaining the residents of the Wellington Assisted Living Center with a Veterans Day Program.

We will also be having a Wine and Cheese Social in November to collect money in support of our Holiday Special Project, which is to adopt a family for Christmas.



# Chapter Communications

## Nu - Minot

submitted by Rochelle Feldner

Kathy Haskins is the recipient of the Minot Public Schools Excellence in Leadership Award.

Mary McNally was awarded a North Dakota United Member Grant to gain Level II Orff skills through NDSU this past summer. She teaches at Edison Elementary School. Orff skills allow teachers to help students become independent musicians by incorporating literature, poetry, speech, song, art, drama, movement, dance, culture and drumming in their classrooms.



*Sara Medalen* a Title I Reading and Math teacher, inspires students to read as she braids their hair in her “Salon” (her classroom). Before their school day even begins, she braids their hair to relax the students as they read to her out loud. Sara calls it “Books & Braids.”

Melissa Stanley has assumed the position of Minot Public Schools District Professional Learning Coordinator.



*Rochelle Feldner* was a chaperone for the 2017 Northern Ambassadors of Music trip to Europe in July. The 16 day trip included students from North Dakota and Montana and performed 5 concerts abroad. Countries visited were England, France, Switzerland, Austria, Lichtenstein, Italy and Germany. The trip had 405 travelers. Teresa Hargrove had several students on this trip.

Teresa Hargrove performed at the 2017 North Dakota State Fair in a duo called “Guy and a Girl.”

Nu chapter held its Annual Scholarship Fundraiser & Social at LaVone Mongeon’s home in September. Past presidents provided food, and attendees invited prospective members.



# Chapter Communications

## Nu continued - Minot

Cheryl Nilsen, Terri Rubbert and Paula Simonson were involved in the production of the Western Plains Opera Company's production of Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach.

Co-president Jeanne Sovak went on the Viking River of the Czars Cruise. She cruised from Moscow to St. Petersburg and also visited several small villages in Russia.



*Kelli Flermoen*, Minot's Fire Chief was the speaker at our October meeting. She is the first female fire chief in North Dakota's four largest cities.

Teresa Hargrove and Beth Rasch had students participate in the 2017 Northwest International Festival of Music held at Minot State University.

Joyce Alme & her husband Joe, took a 2 week Baltic cruise that started and ended in Amsterdam. Some of the sites visited were the Kronberg Castle (Hamlet), the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Peterhof (Romanovs), the Hermitage, the Palace of Catherine, and the Church of the Spilled Blood. They also visited areas known as Schleiswigholstein in Finland and Sweden. They toured a former military school for boys, that Joyce's Great grandfather attended. Before docking, they visited the Viking long house settlements from 980 AD.



*Kathy Thiel* and her husband, Terry, hiked 500 miles from the St. Jean Pied-de-Port in France to Santiago de Compostela on the western coast of Spain and added an additional 60 miles to Finisterre, also known as the end of the world.

# Chapter Communications

## Delta

submitted by Donna J. Knutson

The Delta Chapter July social was held at the Buffalo Commons Brewery in Mandan. Along with socializing, ideas for upcoming meetings were discussed.



*Brewmaster Ted Hoffman shared the brewing process with nine Delta sisters*

Delta chapter secretary and North Dakota State secretary, Sherry Heaton attended the State Executive Board meeting held in Rugby.

Boneshakers coffee shop was the site of the Delta Chapter Executive Board meeting in August. Treasurer Bev Patch-Larson gave a financial update and the 2017-2018 program was reviewed and edited. Officers present were co-presidents Diana Schneider and Dotti Schmeling, treasurer Bev Patch-Larson, secretary Sherry Heaton and vice-president Jane Beauclair.

Delta's September meeting was held at Bismarck's newest high school, Legacy High. Angie Edinger, Dean of Students, presented her role in school leadership which especially involves building relationships with students.

She also conducted a tour of the school which is a model in collaboration for learning.



*Angie Edinger answers questions posed by Sherry Heaton, for members.*

Donna J. Knutson and Lorraine Lutjens shared highlights of the North Dakota State convention in Fargo and the Northwest Regional in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Renee Feist was welcomed back to Delta Chapter and was presented with a red rose following re-instatement of membership.



*Renee Feist with co-presidents Diana Schneider and Dotti Schmeling.*

# Chapter Communications

## Delta continued

submitted by Donna J. Knutson

Pam Baker, Beth Romfo and Erica Hofman, Delta's newest members, hosted the October meeting at Will-Moore school. Diana Schneider led the program "We Are Delta Members." Each Delta sister was provided with a laptop and shown how to use the different tabs, on [dkg.org](http://dkg.org), for resources, forms, programs, etc. Profiles were also updated.



*Pam Baker demonstrates how to find music for DKG songs*

All members are looking forward to North Dakota State's President Brenda Seehafer's visit in November.

The 2017-2018 program and membership booklet was given to each member present.

Delta Chapter hopes to have a very successful year.

## Xi

submitted by Esther Eustice

Xi Chapter toured Baukel-Noonan Mine near Center September 12, 2017.

*The highlight of the tour was a ride in the gigantic*



*crane that removes surface dirt above lignite coal*

After a delicious supper at Golden Age Club, produce was auctioned to raise money for Xi Chapter's scholarship fund.

Several Xi Chapter members assisted area Lions Club members using the Sight 4 Kids Program to screen children's vision in New Salem, Center, Hazen, and Beulah.

Melissa Plesuk, New Salem, accepted membership into Xi Chapter at the October 10, 2017 meeting. Karen Fenster, Center, was reinstated as a member. Xi Chapter Charter.

Member Evelyn Conitz died August 14, 2017 at Elm Crest Manor in New Salem. Evelyn's active involvement and vibrant personality are greatly



# Chapter Communications

## Theta - Williston submitted by Kim Weismann

Theta Chapter held a fundraiser on October 27 called Vino with Lino. We worked with 26th St Liquor, Williston State College, and Lino Azevedo (art instructor at WSC) to host a fundraiser. We raised about \$750 by having people come try wines and paint a fall landscape.



We are getting ready for a couple more fundraisers and our Christmas party. We are also working on major recruiting efforts.