



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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## North Dakota 2017 State Convention

The State Convention was held in Fargo on  
June 13 - 14, 2017. The host was Beta Chapter.

View all the highlights at:

### Beta

<http://betachapter.blogspot.com>



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

## State Officers for 2017-2019

President: Brenda Seehafer

First Vice-President: Ann Braaten

Second Vice-President: Wanda Mehlhoff

Treasurer: LaVone Mongeon

Secretary: Sherry Heaton

Parliamentarian: Faye Miller

Immediate Past President: Lisa Olson

Editor: Judy Walter

Webmaster: Jennifer Wallender

## Upcoming Events

**Fall Executive  
Board Meeting**  
tba

**ND State Conference**  
June 20-21, 2018  
Wahpeton, ND

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

**NW Regional Conference**  
Summer, 2019  
Des Moines, Iowa

## President's Ponderings

Alpha Omicron State President, Brenda Seehafer



I want to thank Lisa Olson for all of the great work that she had done for DKG both in North Dakota and for the International Society. She will be a great mentor to me, as I lead you the next two years. (I liked the title she used for this article, so I am not reinventing the wheel.) I want to thank the Nominations Committee for all of their

work too, as it is not easy to find candidates for state offices, and you were able to find two people willing to run for almost every position that we needed to fill. Also, thank you to those who were willing to run for an office.

It seems that the time from the State Convention until now has all been a blur. The State Convention was wonderful and all the hard work was well appreciated. THANK YOU BETA CHAPTER!!! Our "Welcome" was done by a vibrant woman, Beth, Slette, who is the Assistant Superintendent of West Fargo Public Schools. (I think that DKG needs her as a member.) Our International Speakers are always a joy to hear from. We were honored by the presence of Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid, as she gave a report from International, was our Birthday Luncheon Speaker, did a session on membership, and helped with officer installation. I heard great things about all of the sessions and the Thursday morning "Out of the Box" time. It is understandable why Amanda Even helps empower women in the work force, as she has lots of energy and can think outside the box. She was an energetic banquet speaker and wowed us. I do think that DKG members also "wowed" her by all the clothing, shoes, and jewelry items that they donated for her organization. There was a new spin on the fundraising part that happens at a state convention with the "Alpha Power" project, and I think that it was well received;

money was collected for Schools for Africa, the DKG Emergency Fund, and the Golden Grant. Also, everyone who participated in the fun activity following the banquet had a blast.

Then, I attended part of my President's training in Spearfish, South Dakota. I am really sorry that I couldn't attend the NW Regional there as well, as it is a beautiful place. (I had a prior commitment to attend the NEA Conference in Boston, as I am a member of the North Dakota United Board and the chair of the ND Resolutions Committee.) Our trainer for the NW Regional President's training was Lace Marie Brogden from Ontario, Canada. This was absolutely a delight for me to have this training with her because I first met her in 2011 when our State Convention was held in Minot. I was the Lambda chapter president at the time, and she made some comment to me about being a leader and having that potential and now I am your State President; I know that I have an excellent resource in Lace as I continue this journey. I was able to briefly get to know other state presidents from the NW Region. I got to meet our International President,Carolynn Pittman. I am also learning names of more people from International, as I have received several emails in the past month from them. I am hoping to get to know others from this region and from International better along this journey, as the NW Presidents are planning to keep in touch via electronic communication and I will be kept up-to-date on everything from International.

I am looking forward to attending the International Convention in July of 2018 in Austin, Texas; it is happening July 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, where our International Headquarters is located.

I look forward to visiting all of the chapters in the next two years. I am currently getting input from others as to when and where we should have our Fall Executive Board meeting. I will also be working on updating state committees. The next state conference will be held in Wahpeton on June 20-21, 2018. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Thanks to my chapter, Lambda, for all of your support. Everyone enjoy the rest of your summer!

## Northwest Regional Conference 2017

by Faye Miller, Epsilon Mu

Beautiful Spearfish, South Dakota was the site of the 2017 Northwest Regional Conference held June 26-July 1. The Holiday Inn Convention Center was a great place to have the conference enjoyed by over 260 DKG members and guests. There were many members from outside the NW Region from such states as Arkansas, California, Arizona, and Texas and probably a few more that I missed.

The week begins with incoming president training attended by Brenda Seehafer, EEC (Educational Excellence Committee) training attended by Ann Braaten and Lisa Olson, member of the International EEC was on hand to help with training and present a workshop later in the week.

ND members arrived on various days and some were early enough to take advantage of the tours offered. Many members also took the tour to Mount Rushmore on Friday evening for the lighting ceremony.

The conference kicked off on Wednesday evening with opening ceremony of flags and presentation on the incoming and outgoing state presidents. Lisa Olson, Gamma, and Ann Braaten, Beta (standing in for Brenda Seehafer) were part of this ceremony. The flags of the United States, South Dakota and the Society were placed on stage and welcomes and introductions continued. NW Regional Director Dr. Rhonda Anderson, SD, opened the session with introductions. Opening session speaker was Nancy Koupal, Director of the SD Historical Press and she spoke about Laura Ingalls Wilder: From Pioneer Girl to Bestselling Author. The evening finished with music by Kenny Putnam and Paul Larson.

Thursday could begin early at 6:45 am with Connecting Body Movement to Health or with the second general session at 8:00 am. There were welcome speeches again and as it was raining this morning, the Nu Notes were right on cue with *Singing in the Rain* as one of their numbers. The keynote this morning was by Constance Walter, Communications Director at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, a fascinating project. The morning closed with the Canadian and US Forums.

The Birthday Luncheon opened with an inspiration and music by the Nu Notes. International President Carolyn Pittman was the featured speaker and the Educator's Book Award was announced. The afternoon was filled with 10-minute takeaway sessions and breakout sessions. Marketplace opened for shoppers and we all returned after dinner to hear the music of the Hegg Brothers.

Friday's general session was highlighted by the Emergency Fund collection of over \$3600. The speaker was Dr. Sheryl Feinstein, Dean of Education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She was sponsored by the Eunah Temple Holden Fund. More 10-minute takeaway sessions and breakout sessions finished the afternoon before the busses loaded for the Night on The Town to Mount Rushmore.

Saturday opened with the Body Movement session at 6:45 am and continued with the general session. Invitations to the 2018 International Convention and to the 2019 Northwest Regional at Des Moines, Iowa were issued by video. The collections for the Artemis House were presented by State Presidents to Mary Koens, Director, who spoke about her program. The keynote address was given by Holly Hoffman of Eureka, SD, Holly was the fourth place survivor on the reality series Survivor Nicaragua. She was entertaining and had a great message about never giving up. "A setback is a setup for a comeback!" was my favorite quote from her message

The afternoon had more breakout sessions and the third choir practice, Sandy Starr and Faye Miller were part of the conference choir directed by June Bowers, IA.

The evening concluded with the Banquet, Choir presentation and keynote address by Sandra Smith Bull, TX, Executive Director. Retiring of the flags and closing remarks topped off a wonderful week of networking.



The South Dakota state tree, the spruce tree decorated with dazzle and clear lights, served as a reminder that we represent the light of knowledge, and a steady light of diversity with our members and to the people we serve.



ND group that attended the NW Regional Conference in Spearfish.

## More NW Regional



NW Regional Director  
Dr. Rhonda Anderson, SD



The Nu Notes perform, "Singing in the Rain"



Executive Director Sandra  
Smith Bull and Regional  
Director Dr. Rhonda  
Anderson



International  
President Carolyn  
Pittman



Lisa Olson, ND, and Cynthia  
Moore, Saskatchewan,  
members of the EEC  
committee pose before their  
workshop.

## More NW Regional



Lisa Olson, pictured center, presents supplies from ND members to the Artemis House



Sandy Starr, Sherleen Lang and Wanda Mehlhoff take advantage of the awesome hospitality room area to refuel and rest.



US Forum Rep, Jeannie Sovak giving the ND report at the Forum session



ND members at the US Forum

### More from the NW Regional



At the Sat eve banquet the conference choir performs. Sandy Starr and Faye Miller are in 3rd row.



On the train ride from Keystone to Hill City. L to R: Jeannie Sovak, Teresa Hargrove, Leslie Barney, Sandy Starr, Rochelle Feldner, all Nu; NormaTheis, Gamma; Faye Miller, Epsilon Mu.

F a y e  
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M o u n t  
R u s h m o r e



At the Mount Rushmore lighting presentation on Friday evening, June 30. R to L: Sandy Starr, Nu; Madeline Herr, Rosemary Hanson, Wanda Mehlhoff, Sherleen Lang, all Phi; Ann Braaten, Beta; and (down 2) Faye Miller, Epsilon Mu.



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## Viewing and Obtaining Pictures from the NW Regional Conference

Dear DKG - NW Regional Members,

Pictures of the 2017 NW Regional Conference taken by Gene Smith can be viewed by clicking on the website. Look for the hot key below. (control + click to follow the link)  
[geneseenz.smugmug.com](http://geneseenz.smugmug.com)

Once you get to the site, if you click on the DKG Sign that was hanging outside of the Holiday Inn, you will find about 200-300 or more pictures under this picture. The same goes for the other pictures of the totes, pianists, spruce tree with butterflies, etc. on the opening page.

Gene has over 1,000 pictures posted on his site. Please share this site with others who were unable to attend the NW Regional Conference so they can get a look at some of the people who were there.

Please also encourage your chapters to use the pictures in one of their first meetings of the year to get members excited about going to Austin, Texas for the International Convention in July 2018. Use the pictures also as an enhancer when offering membership to new members.

You might suggest that members submit a proposal to present breakout sessions, to sing in the choir, or play the piano. Get involved (connected) It is fun!

Thanks again for the Wonderful Conference. Please stay connected with one another and also help share our professional organization with others!

Let's keep in touch (connected)!

Warmest regards,

Rhonda

P.S. See picture information below. Click on the hot key in blue to get to Gene's website. 2017 NW Regional Conference photos taken by Gene Smith of Sioux Falls, SD, can be viewed and ordered online at [geneseenz.smugmug.com](http://geneseenz.smugmug.com)

\*Images will be available to order within 24 hours of being taken.

\*Prints are available in a variety of sizes in luster, glossy, or metallic finish.

\*All online orders will be mailed to the address requested when orders are placed.

\*Special discounts until July 16, 2017

## Final Thoughts

by Lisa Olson

### Immediate Past State President

As I was considering what to write, I first thought that I could record all of the great activities that I have enjoyed in the two years, but the events fade in comparison to the people. During my biennium, I have met and made friends with so many special women. DKG is a great gathering spot for kind, funny, intelligent, caring women. It amazes me that 72,000 women can have so many similarities! I love the fact that I can have a conversation with a fellow chapter member and the International President at the same time. I am proud of the good work that DKG women perform across the globe. We are making a difference!

I was reminded again recently that North Dakota DKG members get it. We are involved and we strive to lead women educators across our state. At regional and international events I have been told that we are used as shining examples in other areas. Thank you ladies.

Although my biennium is complete and we have elected a fantastic new state president, my involvement in DKG will not wane. I will continue to serve at the International level on the Educational Excellence Committee and hope that DKG will afford me some more opportunities after that. Best of all, I will remain part of my chapter, which is where it all started.

## Stay Connected!

### Contact The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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Austin, TX 78767-1589

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

Fax number: (512) 478-3961



## Important Websites



**DKG International website** is up-to-date and full of information. Please refer to the website for answers to many questions you may have.

### *Alpha Omicron - ND website*

<http://northdakotadkg.weebly.com>

### **The NoDak News**

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# Chapter Communications

## Sigma

Submitted by Jeanne House



Sigma co-president's granddaughter, Maya, points out the basket of goodies sent to Artemis House from the Mandan chapter. Sigma member Kristi Paris decorated the basket of "sunshine" with sunflowers and butterflies. Sigma thanks outgoing state president Lisa Olson for delivering the basket to Spearfish.

Sigma Chapter initiated Hannah Cahoon as a new member of our chapter in April. Hannah is an English teacher at Mandan High School and advisor for the Courier student newspaper. Sigma will initiate three other members in September.

## Theta

submitted by Kim Weismann

Theta is working on fundraising for Williston's Imagination Library. We have a couple fun fundraisers planned for the fall including a Vino with Lino (painting and wine fundraiser with the Art Instructor at the

College) and a LuLaRoe back to school fundraiser with LuLaRoe Kim Weismann.

We have our potluck planning meeting scheduled for fall and are super excited to work on implementing Lyn Babb Schmid's recruiting plan for new members!

## Gamma

Submitted by Cindy Neuharth

In April the Gamma sisters initiated 8 new members into our chapter.



In addition several Gamma sisters shared their successes with being involved in various service projects during the year.

In May our chapter had a fun silent auction with members donating gently used or new summer items. The money collected from the action was donated to the DKG Schools for Africa Initiative. Gamma sisters also donated personal hygiene products that were collected and given to The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry.

# Chapter Communications

## Nu

Submitted by Rochelle Feldner

Sandy Starr, LaVone Mongeon, Rochelle Feldner, and Co-presidents Jeannie Sovak and Tami McNally attended the State DKG Conference in Fargo. Sandra Starr was elected to the State Nominations Committee and LaVone Mongeon was appointed to serve as the State Treasurer.



Tami McNally prepares for the Remembrance Ceremony.

Nu Co-president Jeannie Sovak was the Mistress of Ceremony at the Banquet.



Nancy Pearson, assistant professor of communication arts, presented on five panels at the Central States Communication Association Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN in March. The panels were "Trigger warnings: Creating balance within higher education," "Traditional goes high tech: Creating learning opportunities via technology," "Building the Basic Course: Creating community in face-to-face in online classrooms" and "Retention and success of Comm 110 students." She also presented on the North Dakota Showcase panel, "State of North Dakota Showcase - Technology 2.0."

Kathy Thiel and her husband, Terry spent the summer in Great Falls, MT as ECL Mission

Builders to help build a new Synod Office building.

Brenda Demke, first year Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) advisor, had students compete at the State Conference in Jamestown. Five students qualified for the International Conference in Orlando FL. At the HOSA International Conference the categories the students competed in were Medical Careers, Bio Medical Careers and State Leadership. Approximately 5,000 HOSA students from around the world competed. Her students qualified in first, second and third places in various categories.

Kathy Haskins organized the "Multi Cultural Festival - Celebrating Our Diversity," held at Magic City Campus in April. Attendees got to sample food from 9-12 countries, listen to cultural music, and review student displays. This is the second year of the Multi Cultural Festival.

Holly Eidsness and Cindy McKay both Minot Public School educators, and Nancy Pearson a Minot State University educator were celebrated upon their retirements at the May meeting.

Jazmine Schultz, Nu Chapter member and Pangea House member, wrote a kids' musical for the Minot Public Library Summer Reading program. The musical's theme was Build a Better World, the summer reading program theme. The cast wrote the songs and script, and created the completely mobile set. Two performances were held, one at the Build a Better World Community Fair hosted by the MPL and one performance at 62 Doors Art Gallery and Studio. The performances lasted approximately a half hour each. The story involved a shape-shifting bad guy whose goal was to close libraries and ruin books and two teenage super girls who try to thwart his evil plans with their brain power and might! Jazmine and the cast are considering taking the show on the road later this fall.

# Chapter Communications

**Nu** continued



Jeannie Sovak, Leslie Barney and Teresa Hargrove sign the guest book at the registration table.

Rochelle Feldner was a winner of one of the door prizes. Goodies in the bag were beautiful hand made cards and a hand beaded bracelet. She also enjoyed chocolate covered cherries on the 1880 Train Ride.



Robbi Jo Morgan received her Masters in Education with a Concentration in Cognitive Science from Minot State University in May 2017. Her thesis is entitled, Understanding Educational Neuroscience: A Teacher's Perspective. It's research looking at what teachers believe about neuroscience and its application to education. Teachers took a survey regarding their understanding of different "neuro" myths. It also took a look at what teachers want to know. It gave information on possible professional development opportunities. Neuroscience and education need to communicate to provide best teaching practices and procedures for optimal learning.



Jeannie Sovak, the North Dakota State Representative to the US Forum gave a report on the top concerns in the state of North Dakota.

Seven initiates were honored into the Nu Chapter during the April initiation ceremony.



*L-R Candace Windsor (Schiermeister), Laurel Weight, Laurie Verbitsky, Sara Medalen, Natalie Haagenson, and Kathrine Fimreite. Not pictured is Melissa Nasland.*

Candace Windsor married James Schiermeister in June in the Black Hills of South Dakota. She is also the new music teacher at Memorial Middle School at Minot Air Force Base.



Alyssa Palmer and Candace Windsor (Schiermeister) enjoy sisterhood time after Initiation at the April meeting.

# Chapter Communications

**Nu** continued



Sara Medalen presented a presentation on "Little Libraries." Nu chapter held a book sale at this meeting.

The Nu Notes were chosen to perform for the Breakfast and Luncheon meetings at the



Regional DKG Conference in Spearfish, SD.

Nu Note members Sandy Starr, Brenda Demke, Holly Eidsness, Jeannie Sovak, Colleen Schwan, Dawn Freeman, Leslie Barney, Teresa Hargrove, Julianne Bonner, Laurel Livingston, Cheryl Nilsen, and Rochelle Feldner.

Jana Fjeldahl was appointed to fill out the remainder of the school contract as a counselor at Jim Hill Middle School.

Spring is always a time of Music and Speech festivals. Leslie Barney, Colleen Schwan, Teresa Hargrove, Terri Ruppert, and Rochelle Feldner had many students perform in various music festivals. Cheryl Nilsen was the manager of the Region 8 Speech festival and judged various other speech contests.

Sandy Starr, Dawn Freeman, Joyce Alme and Rochelle Feldner judged various Class B regional and State Music contests in Spring.

Jeannie Sovak and Sue Ellen Johnson had wonderful fun and working days in Medora volunteering!! Sue recommends a trip to Magical Medora this summer ..... the musical - as always - is wonderful under the ND Badlands sky!!



Amy Neal had a great time as a 2017 NEA Global Fellow on her trip to China. Highlights included walking 3 miles on the Great Wall near Beijing, China. She also traveled to Xi'an, China, and saw the Terra-cotta

Warriors. 9 days of sight seeing and touring with 35 educators from across the US was an awesome opportunity provided by the NEA Foundation.

# Chapter Communications

## Delta

Submitted by Donna J. Knutson

Delta Chapter held a special "membership brainstorming" meeting February 27, 2017. The result was an invitation to perspective members to attend the March meeting at the Broadway Grill in Bismarck. Four perspective members were guests. Co-presidents Diana Schneider and Dotti Schmeling presented a "Welcome to Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International" program. Each current Delta sister then shared why DKG membership is important and how it has affected her life. Business of the chapter included an update of the Delta Chapter webpage by Fay Bergley and a report on the ND Legislature by Pat Herbel.



Three new members were initiated into Delta Chapter. They are Beth Romfo, Pam Baker and Elicia Hofmann.

The Apple Creek Country Club was the site of the April chapter meeting. Diana Schneider gave a history of the founders of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and Delta chapter celebrated its 76th birthday. The following were recognized for their dedication to DKG: Letha Lewis - 50 years, Beverley Nelson - 50 years, Jane Beauclair - 40 years, Fay Bergley - 25 years and Dotti Schmeling - 25 years.

Delta sister Donna L. Knutson participated in The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Atlantic Sea Scallop Survey in June of 2016. She shared her experiences on board the University of Delaware ship the "Sharp" working off the coast of Boston. This was Donna's second adventure with NOAA as she previously helped survey whales and dolphins. Usually a person is accepted only once into the program so Delta members are especially proud of her work.



# Chapter Communications

## Delta continued

Seven Delta members attended the North Dakota DKG State Convention in Fargo, June 14-15.



*L-R Diana Schnieder, Sherry Heaton, Donna L. Knutson, Dotti Schmeling, Lorraine Lutjens, Pat Herbel, Donna J. Knutson*

Delta sisters had an active roll in the first general session. Pat Herbel presented the state Membership Committee report and Diana Schneider gave the state Citation Award Committee report. Motions for changes to the Alpha Omicron North Dakota State bylaws wordings were made by Dotti Schmeling.

Co-presidents Diana Schneider and Dotti Schmelling visit with Dr. Lyn Schmid, immediate past president of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.



Sherry Heaton was sworn in as the new ND State secretary.



Dr. Schmid, Lorraine Lutjens and Donna J. Knutson enjoyed the after-banquet fun activity.

# Chapter Communications

## Delta continued



Delta Chapter was represented at the Northwest Regional Conference in Spearfish, South Dakota by Lorraine Lutjens and Donna J. Knutson. They are shown holding the North Dakota bag for the Artemis House Donations.

They brought with them items collected from Delta Chapter members that were presented by ND State president Lisa Olson to Mary Koens, Director to the Artemis House.



Both Delta sisters were impressed with the take-a-ways, breakout sessions, presenters and keynote speakers. They were especially intrigued by Holly Hoffman, who participated in the tv reality show Survivor Nicaragua, Dr. Sheryl Feinstein, Dean of the College of Education at Nicaragua and Dr. Sheryl Feinstein, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Nebraska Kearney.



Donna J. Knutson, Kearney alum. and Dr. Feinstein.

## Phi

submitted by Wanda Mehlhoff

The Phi Chapter has had a very busy past few months. In the winter months, we had several presentations from local groups. Michelle Candy, a teacher at Missouri River Correctional Center spoke to us about teaching in China and Hawaii. We also donated hygiene items to Ministry on the Margins. The Community Action Program informed members about their services and the backpack program in Bismarck/Mandan area. They were very thankful for the generous donations from Phi Chapter.

In May, we met at Wing to remember our purposes and founders along with planning for State Convention and the Northwest Regional.



# Chapter Communications

## Phi continued



Five members attended the State Convention



Dr. Lin Schmid, Immediate Past International President, initiating newly elected Wanda Mehlhoff to the state executive committee as the Second-Vice President.

The Northwest Regional Conference was held on June 28 to July 1 in Spearfish, South Dakota. Madeline Heer, Sherleen Lang, Wanda Mehlhoff, and Rosemary Hanson were able to attend this year.

The NW Regional proved to be a great experience filled with sessions on leadership and empowerment, opportunities to meet DKG sisters from other states, and get reacquainted with old friends. The ladies were impressed to see so many ND members, and

glad we were able to visit with so many of them. We found that the international guests were friendly and down to earth, especially International President Carolyn Pitman who took the time to visit with us at breakfast.

The most dynamic speaker was Holly Hoffman, a SD native that starred on the reality show, Survivor.

The Phi ladies enjoyed the conference and glad they attended. Phi members were able to take in the sites of South Dakota while there. We visited the D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery, the High Plains Western Heritage Center, and took the evening bus tour to Mount Rushmore. All were great sites to see. Wanda and Sherleen were first-timers to regionals, and agree with Rosemary and Madeline that it is an addicting conference to attend.



# Chapter Communications

## Epsilon Mu

submitted by Faye Miller



Epsilon Mu members met at the GF Library and learned of a reading list for s u m m e r vacation.

Sue Fristad, pictured left, nominated Jocelyn Britton for the Nora Serbo Grant from Epsilon Mu chapter.



Treasurer Mary Mitchell, pictured at right, awards her the check at the May meeting.



Epsilon Mu members, Sarah Griffith, Kathy Ashe, Linda Simmons, Yvonne Hanley and Faye Miller, dress the part to present the International Founders Day ceremony at the Birthday Luncheon at the state convention.



Wednesday night after the banquet at the State Convention, there was dress up fun. Epsilon Mu members Linda, straw hat and purple scarf, and Kathy Ashe, on her right, got into the fun of dressing up!



Sarah Griffith places the Epsilon Mu flag in opening ceremonies at the state convention in Fargo.