

The Alaska Nuggets

BETA GAMMA STATE



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS



Fall 2013 Volume XXIX No. 2

<http://www.dkg-ak.org>

Cheyenne Northwest Regional



photo by Jacqueline & Associates

Alaska was represented with quality, not quantity, at Cheyenne. Geri Benshoof, Judy Boelts (now living in Nebraska), Marlin Collins, Daphne Hofschulte, & Judy Jasperson, Beta; Gayle Hammons, Tau; & Judy Ireton, Eta, made up our group. Judy B's mom was there with her from NE for a few days, & Judy Jasperson's husband *totally* surprised her on Wednesday. He brought his golf shoes, so was entertained during the day, & then joined the ladies for dinner in the evenings. Other spouses & guests did the same with their DKG member. It is nice that guests are accommodated as much as possible at both Regional & International events.

The Alaska group split up to attend sessions & each person wrote something about her workshops. Because of length, one person is featured now, and others will be featured at a later date.

Workshop 1.1 Nominations Know-How by Dr. Margie Nowak and Rose Ann Moore

Nominations for International elected positions were discussed and tips on submitting a well-written nomination form were given. Alaska needs to have people on International positions because it will give us voice at International and it will strengthen bonds between International and Alaska membership.

Workshop 2.2 Meetings Move with Motions by Dr. Donna Niday and Dr. Carolyn Rants

This session was a discussion of business meetings at the Chapter level, mostly with some talk of state meetings. The Parliamentarian is not to speak or vote

before the body, but answers questions from the President. There was a review of procedure and a practice business meeting. This is a good idea for a sectional at Beta Gamma State 2014 workshop for the incoming Chapter Presidents and parliamentarians.

Workshop 3.7 Regional Conferences through a Microscope by Barbara Whiting

Discussion was held both with the whole group and in smaller subgroups, with a focus on what could be changed about DKG Regional Conferences. One suggestion was to have it a day shorter and end on Friday night. A problem was given that during the Presidents' breakfast there is nothing for the other members to attend.

Workshop 4.5 Secrets of Survival by Edna Thayer

Edna Thayer is a storyteller extraordinaire! She told story after story about her friend Lydia. It was a delightful time. Edna authored *Feisty Lydia: Memoirs of a German War Bride*. Judy Jaspersen purchased four of these books & they are available for interested persons.

Workshop 5.2 Speak Up! Speak Out! By Dr. Carolyn Rants and members of the Ad Hoc DKG Election Process Committee

International Officers are now elected in a representative manner, because State Presidents vote and the votes are weighted by membership numbers. If the general membership votes for elected International officers, how will it work? Should the election be through the internet? The Committee is to present to the Constitution Committee any changes to the International Constitution necessary to make these changes. Members were encouraged to take the electronic voting survey.

In addition to the five workshop sessions, there was time to exercise together in the morning & to shop in the "marketplace" in the afternoon. Cheyenne kept the flavor of the West alive in decorations & actual entertainment. There was a Rodeo Information Fair where sisters learned about DKG through roping, tossing horseshoes, & the like. Similar to Homer's "Boots Made For Walking," Cheyenne used cowboy boots for centerpieces. We sought 8-foot cowboy boots around town for a photo contest & watched horses canter in the paved parking lot (not an easy task for them because the little bit of rain made things slippery). Daphne & Judy B

attended Choir practice & entertained us at the Presidents' Banquet.

There was lengthy training for state presidents & secretaries as well as half-day trainings for several other state positions. We sent someone to every possible session, & Judy Jaspersen was also given the training information on a jump-drive. This was the fourth regional training session in as many weeks, & the presidents from our N.W. Region were the **first** to have 100% of us prepared for a paperless training session. We received notebooks after all, but **each** of us had her laptop or iPad at the ready! You may remember Nita Scott reading off her iPad at our April convention & that's what all the International Administrative team modeled. Remember that using computers saves printing costs.

Tradition was also evident. It appears that every level of DKG meeting has similarities. The three general sessions & various meals contained some things similar to what we do here in Alaska. From calling roll & listening to guest speakers, to the marching in of presidents & singing the DKG Song as the last item of the Convention, we were in familiar territory. The food at every meal was scrumptious, door prizes proved interesting, & chatter & laughter filled the rooms. Serious occasions were sprinkled with tours & fun. Every *sister* left Cheyenne knowing she had experienced an outstanding conference.

BETA Chapter News

In September 2012, Beta members learned about the role & mission of the League of Women Voters from its state president (and Beta chapter member) Linda Witt. Most of the League's activities are local; however, state & national organizations are also very effective.

The purpose of the League is to encourage & facilitate community members becoming registered & informed voters. The League is political but non-partisan. It studies issues & takes positions, & has a good track record for fair & efficient presentations. The local chapter provides public information at the Tanana Valley Fair, moderates candidate forums, & sponsors broadcasts of Borough Assembly meetings. Linda encouraged us all to become informed voters.

In October 2012, Beta members enjoyed hearing from their own Maryanne Allan, who gave a follow-up to her Ph.D. dissertation, “Young Native Fiddlers.” In their 17th year, the group now numbers 42 students from kindergarten through high school. The project encourages individual & cultural resilience, emphasizing each young person’s part in his/her community. Outcomes include empowerment of Native Alaska children & cultural connection through music performance. Maryanne’s doctoral program was partially supported by a DKG International Scholarship.

The Beta Chapter donated purses stuffed with life’s essentials to the Fairbanks Women’s Shelter December 2012. Wendy Ward found the idea for this charitable



activity on the DKG International website. Beta members brought new & no-longer-used purses to the annual Christmas Tea. Items inside these purses ranged from shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes, & toothpaste to gloves, gift cards, and cell phones. The Fairbanks Women’s Shelter was thrilled with the donations; many women’s winter days were made brighter.

Beta combined business & pleasure at their February 2013 meeting at Gambardella’s Restaurant in Fairbanks. Reports were given to update April convention plans & each of us was asked to stump for more registrations.

President Judy Jasperson reminded members to become familiar with proposed Bylaws & Standing Rule changes. Program Chair, Wendy Ward, led us through a “Dr. Phil personality assessment.” We all claimed pleasing personalities; however, individual scores were kept secret.

BETA GAMMA STATE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS - April 2013

BETA members were happy to see long-distance chapter members Judy Boelts (NE) & Susan Stitham (OR). We shared many memories and laughs. And, yes, it’s true, we all LOVED our door prizes.



BETA members Judy Tolbert & Wendy Ward received 25-year certificates & Cleone Hambright (seated) received her 50-year certificate.

Daphne Hofschulte (L) presented Gayle Hammons (R) with the T2T fundraiser quilt.



Marlin Collins “techied” everyone through convention meetings.

BETA CHAPTER DISPLAYS ITS CULINARY TALENT

A tradition at Beta Chapter’s Holiday Party and Silent Auction each December is to offer special gifts at auction which display the individual talents of its members. Talents offered have been gourmet course meals, trips to family cabins, berry picking followed by jam/jelly making, knitting lessons – to list just a few.

Beta member Judy Harris outdid herself with her homemade fireweed, blueberry nut and lemon scones (complete with lemon curd and crème fraîche) and her mouth-watering, hand-picked blueberry pie. These silent auction items were complimented by napkins handmade by her grandson.



Now one can truly say that a way to Beta's Heart is through its stomach!



It is with regret that a photo of Marcy Kuntz's two dozen homemade cinnamon rolls is not shown. So instead, imagine now the aroma of a hot

freshly baked cinnamon roll, oozing with a combination of melted butter, cinnamon & confectioner's sugar icing. Ah, life is good – and tasty.

TEACHER TO TEACHER

THANK YOU, Beta Gamma State, for renewing your commitment to TEACHER-TO-TEACHER: Alaska to El Salvador (T2T) as our Literacy Project for the 2013-2015 Biennium. Your encouragement and financial support are so important to us.

Remember that volunteers are at the heart of the workshops, and we'd love to have more of you! 2013 workshops are Nov. 26-Dec. 13, & there's still time to join the team! Contact Dianne or Daphne for more information: dkcoursey@alaska.edu or machof@hotmail.com

T2T Co-Directors Dianne Coursey and Daphne Hofschulte in typical position in their B&B "office" in San Salvador -- late at night and a little weary, but still doing what teachers do: preparing!



Can't be a volunteer but still want to be part of the Project? Donations are used to purchase books and supplies that are used in the workshops & then sent home with the teachers for use in their own classrooms: everything from dictionaries and copy paper to pencils and puppets. Donations also provide a small daily stipend to help participating teachers cover the costs of their food and transportation.

The project has tax-exempt status under IRS 501c3 so donations are tax deductible. Checks may be made out to TEACHER-TO-TEACHER and sent to Treasurer Dianne Coursey, P.O. Box 80485, Fairbanks, AK 99708

DELTA CHAPTER

Delta Chapter decided during the annual August planning meeting to try to have our 2013-2014 meetings coincide with Spenard Builders' "Bon Appétit" program (cooking class). We made the decision to subsidize the dues of new teachers who might be joining us through a special fund we have set up with the sale of jellies made by member Carolyn Ward. Possible new members are being invited to the Mini-grant Breakfast.

ETA CHAPTER

Eta Chapter has had a busy and successful, though challenging two years. In October of 2011, we decided to support the homeless during Christmas by making “Beanie Boxes” – holiday wrapped shoeboxes filled with personal items for the patrons of Beans Café. Eta members scoured their own and friends’ closets for shoe boxes with removable tops, wrapped them in colorful paper so the tops could be opened, and sorted the gathered items to make sure each box contained everything suggested. Eta donated 42 filled boxes to Beans in December 2011- definitely a successful project.

Chapter members visited the Anchorage Museum of History and Art in March of 2012. Our own Louise Gallop, a long-time docent, gave us a guided tour of the Alaska Gallery. Everyone loved it, especially when she showed us one of the gold nuggets she had found! We all learned interesting facts from her behind-the-scene stories! Her historical knowledge was a wonderful gift she shared, and we were fortunate she guided us that day, as Louise died this last August of 2013.



ETA fall Initiation 2012 at Lynn McNamara's Girdwood home



ETA chapter spring 2013 Initiation @ Lynn McNamara's Girdwood home

hosted our December meeting for many years. She and her daughter would decorate absolutely everything in the house with her extensive Christmas decoration collection, and for years, a core group of hostesses made sure the food for this special meeting was done just so. As a chapter and as individuals, we supported the successful effort to name the College Gate Elementary School Library for her the following year. We will miss her very much and for a long, long time. Our September 2012 meeting was just after a big windstorm that knocked out electricity over a huge area. Although the meeting was at a home without power, our hostess said her gas stove worked just fine, and so we were

Our April 2012 meeting took us to Forget-Me-Not Nursery in Indian to make hanging baskets & then on to a Girdwood member's house for lunch & the business meeting. It had been a big year for snow, & seeing walls of snow taller than any of us (still in her yard near the end of April) was a real eye-opener. Our annual May Garage Sale to support our Grant-in-Aid to a student teacher was once again a great success, thanks to the hard work of our members.

Losing our cherished member, Nina Prockish, in June of 2012 was extremely sad. An energetic, constantly involved, and generous ETA member, Nina

able to warm up food, plus make coffee and tea. The fire in the fireplace wasn't really needed, as the sun was still shining when the meeting adjourned!

For the first December meeting, without Nina, we decided on a new location and a potluck dinner and were delighted to have our State President, Gayle, join us. For many, many years at the December meeting, Eta has taken up a collection from members to support the Child in Transition Homeless Project. The director (a member of our chapter) uses these funds to provide Christmas gifts for the families of her clients. This year, in addition to taking up a collection, she said she needed someone to sew pillowcases for gifts. Several members met a few days after the meeting, bringing sewing machines, thread, and scissors to start working. After just a few minutes, all work halted to assist one member who had dropped her very sharp scissors on her foot & was bleeding profusely. Despite the quantity of blood, a trip to the emergency room was not needed. By the end of the evening, the pillowcases were sewn & ready to be delivered to the CITH Director.

We are looking forward to initiating

one new member in April 2013 & two more in the fall of 2013. The annual Garage Sale is again being planned for the last weekend in May 2014. The Executive Board is getting ready to plan another full year.

OMICRON CHAPTER

Last Fall we filled 103 backpacks for kids with the combined help of our members and our Homer Rotary. These were given to the Homer Food Pantry and distributed in time for the first day of school.



Reader's Theater Play,
Hats Off
Omicron Chapter

Founders' Day, Omicron Chapter



September Musings from your State President
Hello Beta Gamma State *Sisters*,

[My President's letter](#) is posted on our website. I hope you'll take a look. In it I spoke about my experience at N.W. Regionals in Cheyenne. How I met a challenge and spoke (for 2 brief minutes) to a breakfast gathering of about 150 women. While I *didn't* realize there would be such a crowd, I *did* realize I could do it!

I'd been encouraged to take the presidency because of my experience, been promised mentorship and assistance by past state presidents, and been trained an entire week by international leaders. I'd prepared and practiced my little speech. Most importantly, I delivered my response to *Sisters*.

With long-time DKGs, brand new members, officers at the local, state, or international level, and “worker bee only” types, I shared the camaraderie of *sisterhood*. There were no strangers in the room, even though I didn't know everyone, and didn't meet all 323 ladies at the conference. Yet at every occasion, we had a bond. It was easy to talk to sisters. 😊

I'd always been told to “**get involved at the State level**” because you learn so much more about DKG and see things differently. It's true! You meet *even more* like-minded women with marvelous personalities and ideas, striving to advance our mission and purposes, while having fun in the process. Beta Gamma State ladies are amazing. 😊

If that's the look at our state level...you can only imagine the energy at our regional gathering in Cheyenne. It was Beta Gamma State Workshops and Conventions *expanded, multiplied, and intensified!*

There was a clear message and overall genuine feeling of *sisterhood*. The ladies were just like us. They shared and learned & stepped out of their comfort zones. Ideas flowed & concerns showed: the *Sisters of our Region* care for one another & for the growth of DKG at all levels. Be a part of DKG *beyond your chapter*. Plan now to attend a state or international meeting.

Our N.W. Region is one of five. You can attend any or all of the meetings, which start in early July and continue through mid-August. If you can't attend our N.W. Regional, consider another. Combine a DKG event with your family vacation. Want to go to Europe or South America? Find out where the next DKG Regional is. Judy Ireton went from N.W. Regionals to European Regionals. She spent extra days abroad with a DKG member she met at the conference, getting the royal treatment & private tours. Talk about *sisterhood!*

Remember too, that **Regional Conferences** are in *odd* years and the overall **International Conventions** are in *even* years. I'm eager to go to Indianapolis in July 2014 & be part of our DKG *sisters* from around the world. It will be my first time. Please join me. 😊

There are needed changes coming in how DKG functions. I'll talk more on that later. For now, **consider where you are in DKG & where you can go**. Stretch yourself a bit...small increments of involvement at each level will help DKG reach its goals for all our *sisters*.

Consider too, the remarkable women around you with whom you feel a bond. Do they have time to be a *sister*? **Invite them and see!** Call a *current member* who doesn't attend often, or a *former member* who may be ready to return. Even if they still aren't able to join in, they will appreciate the call & show of friendship. Your interest in them & a little nudge, may be all they need to say “Yes” again, to our bond of *sisterhood*. Happy contemplation. 😊 jj

THETA CHAPTER

Because our meetings are full, we schedule a summer social activity so we can enjoy one another's company. This summer, we visited the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum, a 30,000 square foot antique auto & fashion museum that displays more than 55 American-made antique automobiles. Each illustrates a significant or unusual development in American automotive technology or design. There are over 100 fashion exhibits from the 1890s to the 1930s, which currently includes a display of feathered hats & their history. We were treated to an engaging talk about the fashions by



intern Abigail Cucolo, Historic Fashion Consultant. She has also been a Costume Curatorial Intern at Daughters of the American Revolution Museum and a Costume Preservation Intern at Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History. We learned how yesterday's women were much more petite, and as such, the mannequins that are used to display must be shaved down to fit the clothing, & how & why styles changed dramatically from the tightly corseted, restrictive clothing at the turn of the century to the relaxed frivolity of the Roaring Twenties & the sophisticated glamour of the 1930s. Afterwards we enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch on the deck at Aldean Kilbourn's home.



ZETA CHAPTER

Zeta chapter has had another successful year & are looking forward to the next one! Our membership continues to grow with over 30 active members & an upcoming initiation with 3-5 more in November! We have a wonderful mix of both current & retired educators. We had a big group at the conference in Fairbanks & were able to kick off the 2014 workshop that we are currently planning with Delta chapter. We continue to support AWAIC, Claire House, & Covenant House as our service projects. We also support two scholarships for aspiring teachers & have added professional development grants for our own members. Zeta Chapter is going strong!!

In Memoriam:



Louise Gallop of Eta Chapter passed away August 6, 2013 at the age of 90.

Florence Holmes of Beta Chapter passed away May 19, 2013 at age 95

DATES TO REMEMBER

Beta Gamma State Executive Board Meeting, October 3, 2013 (Thursday), 5 P.M. to 6 P.M., Go-To-Meeting

January 1, 2014 Next *Nuggets* deadline

Beta Gamma State Workshop, April 11-12, 2014
Downtown Anchorage at The Hilton Hotel

June 29-July 11, 2014, Seminar in Purposeful Living in
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

July 28 - August 1, 2014 International Convention ~
Indianapolis, Indiana at the JW Marriott Hotel

2015 Northwest Regional Conference in Regina,
Saskatchewan

SAVE THE DATE!!

2014

Alaska Beta Gamma State Workshop

Dates: Friday-Saturday, April 11-12, 2014

Hosting Chapters: Zeta and Delta

Location: The Hilton Hotel in downtown Anchorage. One of Anchorage's premier hotels, The Hilton is within walking distance from shopping, fine dining, the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, the Anchorage Museum and many art galleries.

Meals: There will be a continental breakfast prior to the morning session, lunch buffet, and our evening banquet all at the Hilton. All meals will be included in your workshop registration fee.

Workshop Activities: Besides regular workshop business, the incoming chapter officers receive training, we will host fun and informative sectionals, provide time to explore the city, have entertainment at lunch and dinner, and enjoy great food and fellowship.

Transportation: Alaska Airlines, Era Alaska, or the open road if you enjoy driving! The Hilton is a 10-minute cab ride from the Ted Stevens International Airport or you can also rent a car for the weekend.

Registration and Workshop details will be on the website in January. However, you can make your airline reservations at any time. Please contact Judi Westfall at westfall_judi@asdk12.org if you have questions.