

# The Alaska Nuggets

BETA GAMMA STATE



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS



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<http://www.dkgalaska.org>

## AK State DKG Makes History!

NO! It wasn't "Pajama and Bad Hair" dress-up day Saturday, April 22. It WAS our Alaska State DKG FIRST EVER online state membership meeting. Using GTM, and panning each group as we took roll, our members were able to see each other around the state, from the comfort of our own homes or schools.

Theta chapter had a slumber party, with delicious food prepared by host Aldean Kilbourn. Beta chapter met with a view of the Chena River and geese strutting on the lawn. In fact, birds were chirping all over the state and we had to ask members to close their windows so we could hear better. Aside from that, there was very little feedback or lag-time for voices or important documents needing display.

Omicron met in their school, so we could glimpse their regular "digs". Omicron's buffet table mirrored the usual fancy fare of their dinner meetings, with food aplenty. It was wonderful to see Gara and Vicki from Ketchikan. Since distance and costs generally keep Epsilon's numbers to one or none at our state meetings, they actually doubled their attendance without leaving home.

Nu members were out in full force to support their two potential new officers. Eta and Zeta were also in homes, and it looked as if wine may have been served at lunch. We had four members log on as

individuals, even one from poolside in northern California. While unable to attend, Iota members sent greetings via President Judy. On a sad note, we accepted the dissolution request of Delta chapter, whose members are no longer able to participate.

Just as in our usual face to face conventions, we took our turns talking, adopted a budget for the 2017 - 2019 biennium, acted on information from committee chairs, voted for state officers at 11:00 sharp, heard from each president about the important and creative work you are all doing at the local level, learned about the DKG Leadership Training seminar from attendee Maryanne Allan, and ended the meeting with reminders about several other International opportunities.

Nita Scott, Membership Services Administrator, gave the Society update from Austin and then assisted President Judy with the installation of officers. In Eagle River, NU chapter had not one, but six roses to bestow on President Colleen Brown. We all listened to the words of the installation ceremony, and watched via webcam as Colleen accepted her new responsibility. In Homer, Omicron's Amy Budge happily moved up to First VP, relinquishing her Second VP position to Cynthia Miller. Because of a family emergency that morning, NU chapter will install Cynthia at one of their regular meetings when she returns. We switched locations again to Anchorage and Zeta chapter's Cherilyn Ansley, who accepted the

Recording Secretary position. Perhaps it was because of her promise to continue for a second term that Cheryl's chapter presented her with wine instead of a rose. Both the Treasurer and Parliamentarian are appointed by the entire Executive Board, and will be installed by their home chapters.

We had a moment of silence in honor of our White Rose members: Marilyn Akin, Sarajustine Black, and Betty Marksheffel, all of Epsilon and Marlys Tedin of Iota. A more formal ceremony will be conducted at the Leadership Convention in 2018.

Homer showed a PowerPoint invitation for us to join them on The Spit, April 20 - 22, 2018 for a Leadership Convention. Omicron members closed with another group webcam picture of

them in sunglasses. YES, it will be sunny next April! We were pleased to hear some of their plans, which included a credit class. Our incoming president will work closely with them to help finalize events.

Learning from the best (my student council members from years past) I extended my thanks to officers, committee chairs and all members for their support this biennium and for their participation in our historic GTM general business meeting, by giving them a standing ovation. I stepped back from the screen so they could see me stand with my hands in a big "O" over my head. With that, we all signed off via webcam, with another group look at our members around the state. What a morning it was for AK State DKG! - President Judy Jaspersen

### What's New with Nu Chapter?

In February Nu Chapter reconnected with Erin Kirkland and volunteers for "Read On the Fly" to label and box up over 1000 books for distribution at the airport. We also learned how to make tamales. Yes, they were delicious!

April kicked off with our retired sister Tanya Beck assisting in kindergarten transition meetings. She gave each family of a future JBER kindergartener an ABC book with suggestions on how to support literacy for young children.

Nu Chapter participated in the first ever GTM Convention held April 22nd. It was grand to hear so many voices sharing. We quickly jotted down many of the exciting activities so kindly shared by other chapters. We hope to incorporate some in our future programs. Our great joy was being able to participate in the initiation of our sister Colleen Brown as Beta Gamma Alaska State President for 2017 -2019. We look forward to initiating Cynthia Miller as Beta Gamma Alaska State 2nd V.P. at our May meeting.

One last note, multi-taskers that we are, while participating in our GTM Convention, Nu sisters were able to label and box an additional 1000 + books for "Read On the Fly". They were delivered before we met with our Anchorage Area Council sisters for an evening of Bunco.

"We do not remember days. We remember moments. " - Cesare Pavese Nu Chapter has many marvelous moments we will long remember.





## Nu Chapter Retreat - A time to reflect and refresh

Let's start long ago in a dark snowy wood, on a dark and snowy night, in a magical place. Sixteen sisters gathered January 20, 2017 for an overnight retreat during a snowstorm at nearby Birchwood Camp.

We were nourished with fabulous meals from the camp cook and grand fellowship with each other. In our new setting it was quite evident how much we hungered for both food and fellowship. We shared time with an informative speaker from "Read on the Fly"- the Ted Stevens Airport bookshelf program, spotlighted two sisters in our Chapter, giggled our way through line dancing in the Mess Hall with three very patient pro line dancer sisters of ours (Dee, Lois, and Linda), sang songs around the crackling campfire led by our amazing Lesa Morrison, roasted perfect marshmallows for our fireside s'mores, hiked around the lake with flashlights while



snowflakes tickled noses, snuggled in our bunk beds to reminisce about some of our camp adventures, and then it was Saturday. Another warm, delicious meal was prepared for us, creative card making with Dawn Swensen sharing her talents was next, and a surprise birthday song and treat rounded out the day.

Nu sisters experienced a truly wonderful winter wonderland retreat with time to reflect, refresh, and refocus. We thank Tanya Beck for all her labor orchestrating our energizing event.

Here are just a couple parting comments by DGK sisters:

Tanya: "This was a magical and inspirational weekend. Being in the woods restores my soul. Being with my sisters, especially those amazing ladies in their seventies and eighties dancing like teenagers, gives me hope and joy!"

Julie: " While the snowflakes quietly fell and the campfire softly crackled, our voices lifted up in melodic unison, as our souls were bound together in sisterhood".



**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

**Attend an International Convention!**

**Approve the proposed election amendments to the governing documents!  
As a Convention Attendee in 2020 you would be able to cast YOUR vote for international officers.**

**As a result of a motion at the Nashville International Convention, President Carolyn Pittman appointed an ad hoc committee to review the work of the 2012-2014 Ad Hoc Election Process Committee and propose amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules to enable convention attendees to vote for officers. In order for attendees to vote for the officers in 2020, the governing documents must be amended at the upcoming 2018 convention in Austin, Texas.**

**Attend a chapter meeting about the election process. Learn the difference between Delegate, General Election and Convention Election options.**

**Cast your vote for the proposed amendments! (2018 in Austin)**

## **ETA SPOTLIGHT ON BARB SELL**

Born in Meridian, Idaho, in the Boise Valley, Barb is the oldest of three children. Her dad was the City Clerk and Municipal Judge and her mom was an Elementary teacher. They were both very active in the community. Her brother, sister and Barb grew up involved in many organizations. Her family enjoyed lots of outdoor camping experiences such as fishing, rock hunting, and traveling. As the kids got older, her parents bought a small trailer which was used to do weekend and summer trips. This is probably what was the basis of her love of traveling in the Sell motor coach.

Barb knew at an early age that she wanted to be an elementary teacher. After graduating from college, she and her friend moved to Enumclaw, Washington, to begin teaching careers. Two years later, in 1970, after hearing from friends about the wonderful experience they were having teaching in Anchorage, Shirley and Barb decided on an adventure. They caravanned their cars up the ALCAN, a move that changed both of their lives. They both met their husbands who were in the Air Force in Anchorage!



Two years later, Scott and Barb got married and decided to move to Wisconsin where he grew up. They spent an additional two years there while Scott joined his father and brother in a carpentry business and Barb did some substitute teaching. It wasn't long before they realized that Alaska was where they wanted to be.

In the summer of 1974, they again drove the ALCAN to Anchorage where Scott got back into carpentry work. Barb was able to start teaching 1st grade again at Chinook, the school she left two years earlier!

In 1977, Barb was invited by a friend at her school to join Eta Chapter. Her son was 4 months old when she was initiated. Barb always thought that the monthly meetings were her chance to "be with grown-ups"! That also allowed Scott to spend one on one time with their three children. At every meeting, topics discussed were ones that Barb could share with others during the next few weeks. Because the members of her chapter were educators from many schools in Anchorage, they were able to share ideas and discuss common issues affecting ASD. She is very happy that she was able to develop life-long friendships with so many talented educators!

As with most of the members, Barb has served in many positions in Eta Chapter. At the state level, she has served as Scholarship chair, 1st Vice President, and Rules Committee chair. She was very honored in 2014 to be selected as the recipient of the State Achievement Award.

Since her retirement in 2002, Barb has become a member of CARTA (Central Alaska Retired Teachers) and has been busy serving in several positions. She was also asked to serve on the Executive Board of Anchorage Youth Court. It was exciting to work with older students and watch them grow into leaders as they fulfilled their court duties. Barb also attended statewide meetings with them as a chaperone.

Barb and her husband travel Outside in their motor coach a couple of times each winter. They travel to visit friends and family in the western part of the country. They spend plenty of time soaking up the sun! In the summer, they enjoy their cabin on the Kenai River. Life is good!

### **Anchorage Area Council**

Following our groundbreaking GTM April 22nd Convention, sixteen Delta Kappa Gamma sisters from the Anchorage/Eagle River area met for an evening of gaming. Thanks to the terrific teaching techniques of Jane Lister, our group quickly became skillful "Bunco Babes". New friendships developed, lots of laughter filled the room, and of course yummy food was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Judy Ireton for securing the venue, and Cherilyn and Gretchen for gathering the tools we needed to play. We look forward to sharing more events in the future.



## THETA CHAPTER NEWS

Could you use an extra \$500 to spend on a special project in your classroom or school? Have you been wanting to purchase swaying stools for antsy students? Would you like to enrich the lives of your inner city children by taking them to a local symphony to study the music and instruments and give them a phenomenal cultural experience they may not normally have received? Maybe you need new equipment to boost your “stream team”



program at the local technical high school where sports and graduation videos are produced and broadcast to the military parents serving our country overseas? These kinds of projects are made possible by the “Mini-Grant” program of Theta Chapter in Fairbanks



Schools provide a lot, but so much has to come right out of educators’ own pockets. Therefore one of the programs Theta Chapter loves to do is give out

“mini-grants” for projects throughout our Fairbanks schools. These grants enhance teaching and provide funds for innovative, up-to-date, and fun projects, supplies, programs and field trips.

Teachers and staff can apply for these grants for innovative projects for any age classroom or even a school wide activity. Up to \$500 per classroom or teachers choose to finance a much less expensive ropes for the physical education program. With get ready for warm ups much more quickly than

ropes. In another incidence, a had no supporting non-fiction libraries when they studied geographical subjects. So their helpful books to have on hand for their students.



project is given, but many project like retractable jump these jump ropes, students can having to untangle regular jump group of third grade teachers books for their classroom amphibians or other scientific or grant was simply to buy these



Many years in the past, up to approximately \$6,000.00 in “Mini-grants” was given to provide help because teachers already spend more than the necessary amount to make their classroom or program student friendly. Anywhere from 12 to 21 grants are

given each year. Requests are innovative and varied, some bringing absolutely new and different materials or projects to a classroom, and some simply making a classroom contain more resources than it had, to enhance the learning of students.

The process for earning a “mini-grant” is simple...a one-page request including a description of the project or supplies needed, and a simple, but visual budget is emailed to a Theta member. A committee reviews all of the applications and awards the grants as a group.

Then the final step is a win-win for the Theta Chapter members. The grant winners have to come to a meeting for the chapter and make a 3- to 10-minute presentation describing the project. WOW, do we all have a pleasant experience listening to all the “mini-grant” winners explain how they spent our money.



The chapter has been giving out these helpful checks since Theta was formed. This year funds were given out for something as simple as replacing old and worn recorders for a music program...to helping provide swimming lessons for young children because Alaska has the sad statistic of having many drownings among young people. The variety over the years has been endless!



These grants are so helpful and so much fun to give out that Theta has decided to change their name from “mini” grants to “maxi” grants. We are sure that more than \$120,000.00 has been cycled into our educators’ programs over the years. The benefit from these grants for schools and classrooms, and to our membership, has grown and blossomed so much that they are “MAXI” special!!!

## Beta Chapter News

### Mother plus Daughter = A Valuable Opportunity for Children

Are you able to speak in front of large groups and remember what you plan to say, while avoiding looking like a deer in the headlights or tripping over your words? That is a difficult task for any of us but that is what the children who participate in the Fairbanks Speech Contest are learning to do, thanks to our own Beta Chapter mother-daughter duo. Mother - Bonnie Roberts and daughter - Becky Zaverl head up this annual Beta-sponsored event. This year the competition was held Saturday, May 6. Over 25 judges, timers and room hostesses were recruited from Beta chapter and community dignitaries. School competitions were held during the second semester in district elementary and middle schools, then on May 6th the district competition moved to Anne Wien. The semi-finals started at 9:30 a.m. followed by the finals at 12:30 p.m.

Classrooms at Anne Wien Elementary School were set up with tables for the judges and rows of chairs for the speakers, parents and guests. A pre-contest continental breakfast as well as a salad luncheon was provided for the volunteers.

This outstanding program was started by Leslie Campbell, DKG member in the 1980s and has

continued annually. During these many years Bonnie's three children have been willing and successful participants. This is Bonnie's fifteenth year sharing the helm. When she retired in 2002, she became involved and was later joined in the leadership by her daughter, Becky. Their responsibilities are different but mesh beautifully.

Becky's leadership skills are well-known in Fairbanks, especially in the "Fight against Cancer" community. Recently Becky received the prestigious "Women of Distinction" award which is sponsored by the Farthest North Girl Scouts.

We are proud of our Beta Chapter mother-daughter team, Bonnie and Becky. We applaud their gifts to the school district, the Fairbanks community and to the many students who are getting a valuable chance to learn public speaking, a skill that will benefit them all of their lives. Bravo Bonnie and Becky!



**Deadline for Fall Nuggets is September 1, 2017. Please send photos as well as write up an article from your chapter. You can highlight someone in your chapter, talk about a project your chapter has undertaken, introduce your latest inductees, or describe a regional convention one of your members may have attended. Write up the experience and send photos! (Please do identify who is in the photos, l to r. Please send as an email/plain text so Aldean can manipulate it for the Nuggets; a Word document is not plain text and is difficult to use as it contains formatting.)**

**Mark Your Calendars  
Plan To Attend**

**Fall Executive Board GTM  
October 5, 2017 at 5:00 P.M.**

**Spring Convention—Homer  
April 20 - 22, 2018**

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

**DKG International Scholarship  
Information 2017**

**My name is Alice Hartness-Reichle, and I am a member of the DKG Oregon Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. I live in Portland, and my local chapter is Alpha Phi. I am currently the Northwest regional representative on the International Scholarship Committee, and I am your contact member to serve you on this committee.**

**Please help this international committee promote our international scholarships at both the state and chapter levels. You can do this through a variety of communication and publicity tools within the Society. At the state and chapter levels you can promote the international scholarships through your websites, Facebook pages, twitter accounts, and newsletters. Please work with your members and your state communications & publicity committee chairs to promote scholarship information at state meetings. I also encourage you to direct members to the scholarship committee page on the Society website at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). More information and resources are available on the page.**

**At this time it is especially important to remind your members of the annual international scholarship application deadline which is **February 1**. There are up to 30 scholarships that may be awarded. The scholarship award for an advanced graduate degree is \$6,000. For a doctoral degree, it is \$10,000. Please, encourage your members to start preparing their applications now.**

**Criteria information and scholarship applications are available under the **Forms** link on the top of the homepage of the Society website at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). On the website, click on **Forms** and then click on **Applications**.**

**Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at [dareichle@comcast.net](mailto:dareichle@comcast.net)**

**I am here to help you in any way I can.**

**Yours in DKG,  
Alice Hartness-Reichle  
2016-2018 International Scholarship  
Committee**

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**

## What's a MOOC?

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is a term that emerged in 2008 for a particular type of open online course format.

**M**assive – 100 - 100,000 enrollment. Focus on scalability, community and connections.

**O**pen – Open registration, open content, free of charge or affordable.

**O**nline – Internet connection, local cohorts, real-time interaction.

**C**ourse – Self-paced, start/end dates, college credits, personal growth, badges (credentialing), learning community, scripted assessments and feedback.

## MOOC Providers

Below are some open source platforms that provide diverse university MOOC courses. MOOC-list.com is a directory of MOOC courses from different providers.

- <https://www.class-central.com/>
- <http://coursera.org>
- <https://www.edx.org/>
- <http://opened.eu/>
- <https://www.mooc-list.com/initiative/canvasnet>
- <https://www.mooc-list.com/initiative/futurelearn>
- <https://www.mooc-list.com/initiative/open-education>
- <https://www.mooc-list.com/initiative/udacity>

# MOOCs: Educational Opportunities for DKG Members

Did you know you can participate in free courses at Harvard, Stanford and MIT among others? These institutions and other prestigious universities in the United States and around the world offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for the public. If you would like to refresh your specialization, retrain, or gain new knowledge, you can find courses to meet any need. MOOC courses are currently offered in 13 languages, the vast majority in English (80%), followed by Spanish (8.5%), French (4%), and Chinese (3.5%). The subject breakdown for MOOC courses has been fairly consistent over the last several years. The humanities, computing science, and business administration are the leading subjects, accounting for roughly half of all courses in 2013 and 2014.

A typical MOOC course might take place over 4 to 10 weeks, with the average time dedicated by a student averaging 2 to 6 hours a week. Course applicants can number in the thousands, while those who complete and obtain certificates are usually numbered in the hundreds.

Coursera.org and edX.org are two of the many open source platforms where you can find suitable MOOC courses. You can search for a subject, e.g. education, and the outcome will be a list of diverse courses from different providers. With a click on the course title, all information about the course will appear: where you can enroll, when the course starts, the commitment, the language, how to pass, etc. You must sign up to be able to participate in a course for free, or you can pay a small fee to get certification if you finish the assignments. In most courses, e-mails are used regularly with information about the syllabus and tasks. When you have finished the course, you will receive e-mails from the service provider from time to time offering new interesting courses.



## How Does a Student Participate in a MOOC?

MOOCs allow any student to enroll in a course as long as he or she is able to access the course materials online. MOOCs take advantage of various Web-based technologies, including learning management systems, conferencing session tools, video presentations, computer-based assessments, online communication forums, blogs, online multimedia, social media, and mobile technologies. These varied technologies allow thousands of students to have access to all the course content, formative and summative assessments, and support from their fellow students.