

The Alaska Nuggets

BETA GAMMA STATE



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS



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<http://www.dkgalaska.org>



Vitalization Through Initiations, Cultivations and Celebrations by President Colleen Brown

It is exciting that seventy-five women attended our April State Leadership Convention in Homer. I want to give a big thank-you to Omicron for hosting this event. It is exciting to know how much bonding their chapter did as they planned and prepared. They worked countless hours...thanks and thanks!

Let's initiate! It was music to my ears to hear so many chapters are working hard to initiate new members. Sitka could possibly double their membership with their recent membership drive.

Zeta shared they are initiating 12 new members. Ketchikan initiated three pearls right after the convention. Nu initiated five this past year and will hold a fall initiation. I am so grateful for my sisters who are striving to bring in new members.

During Convention, I introduced the "Order of the Rose Challenge" to bring in 5 new members in the 2017-19 Biennium: one member under age 30, one diversified member, one reinstated member, and two of any category. A second challenge is for a chapter to double their size. During our 2019 Online Convention, we will celebrate chapters who have met this challenge. Remember, "Pearls do

not lie on the seashore, if you want one, you must dive for it" (picturequotes.com). Let's find and initiate Alaskan pearls!

Let's cultivate leadership! We accomplished a lot in the short time we were together to cultivate our leaders. I am grateful to our State Leadership Team who came together providing an awesome training. Dr. Pittman shared that this is the best state leadership training she has ever seen. She was amazed with the quality of instruction and breadth of knowledge shared by our instructors. If any chapter officer needs help in their position, please contact your respective state officer, chair, or myself. We are here for you. You are not alone. Let's mentor and cultivate leaders!

Let's cultivate membership! I appreciate the depths of the relationships that were being built within chapters and with state members. It was good to see sisters who reside outside the Anchorage area. To keep building state relationships, we are starting a "State Summer Sister" relationship platform. Many women from around the state

signed up during convention to become a close and a far away summer sister. A close sister may live in your area while the distant sister lives in another area. The latter is similar to a pen pal situation. If you want a state-summer-sister, please contact Vicky Foley and myself. We will make these assignments May 19, and email your sisters' names to you. Please share on our new state Facebook the fun you have getting to know each other. Let's cultivate relationships state-wide!

Let's celebrate! We have much to be thankful at the chapter level, especially for women saying "yes" to be a chapter officer. I celebrate each and every one of our 2018-2020 officers. Thankfully, two courageous women applied for scholarships and received one this year. Congratulations to Dawn Swensen and Gara Cesefske. We celebrate members with 25 plus years. Their commitment is evident in their DKG longevity. A special thank you to Geri Benshoof for 50 years of active DKG membership. Hats off to our State Achievement recipient, Judy Jaspersen! Let's celebrate Alaska's women of excellence!



Colleen Brown
Alaska President | colleenbrown@alaska.dkg.org
DKG Alaska Order of the Rose Challenge
Challenge for each chapter:
5 new members in 2017-19 Region 4

1. One new member under age 30
2. One new district member
3. One new state member
4. One of new category
5. One of any category

Does DKG International have your up-to-date contact information? If not, please update your information in "My DKG" Account at dkg.org

At Least 25 years as a member of DKG Alaska

HOMER 2018 STATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Chapter Presidents Training

Daphne Hofschulte
State Leadership Chair

How can DKG have good followership without good leadership?

✓ The face and voice of a chapter are put forward through the role of president – the position is so important. The role can be filled by an individual, co-presidents, or any other arrangement that fulfills the duties and responsibilities as prescribed in local, state and international governing documents.

✓ Chapter Presidents promote the DKG mission, purposes and vision. What can members expect to give and get in their search for personal and professional excellence?

✓ Chapter Presidents make sure their members understand 3-tiered membership in Chapter, State, and International level organizations, and promote benefits available through the many opportunities provided by each level.

✓ Chapter Presidents are responsible for their chapters' programs and projects, but they should not do everything themselves. They must delegate, delegate, delegate. This shared responsibility not only builds strong chapters but also prepares strong future leaders.

✓ Chapter Presidents must have information at their fingertips, be organized and on top of things. A president is not alone - calendars, resource lists, contacts, friends, mentors and other executive board members will all help carry out this important office.

Treasurer Training Joan Lower

In attendance at the Chapter Treasurer training were four current Treasurers, one incoming Treasurer, and two ladies who were serving as proxies (who agreed to report back to their Chapter Treasurer). We went over the required forms that a Chapter Treasurer uses, and all the deadlines that she must meet in fulfilling her duties. The fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following calendar year. By July 15, the Chapter Treasurer has an Annual Report to submit to the

State Treasurer, her Chapter President, and her Chapter Finance Chair. In this report, she provides current Chapter membership stats, reports on the number and amounts of grants-in-aid and scholarships awarded, provides fund balances, and reports the total money her Chapter received and disbursed during the fiscal year. Between July 1 and November 15, she must file the form 990n e-Postcard, online, with the IRS. The Treasurer starts collecting membership dues and fees at the beginning of the fiscal year and has until October 31 to finish. By November 10, she must send to the State Treasurer her Report of Dues and Fees collected, her Report of Members Dropped, as well as a check for the dues and fees owed to the State and International. The Chapter Treasurer's priorities are to keep an accurate record of all money received and disbursed, to safely handle the money she collects, to serve as a consultant in the preparation of the chapter's annual budget, to file all required reports, and to annually submit her accounts for audit by the Chapter's financial review committee. Each participant of this session was encouraged to take advantage of the support offered by the State Treasurer in performing any of her Chapter Treasurer duties and responsibilities. Chapter Treasurers also networked with each other, sharing useful ideas with one another. All in all, the session was a productive one.

Vice President No Second Banana

Gayle Hammons

What happens when your Chapter President cannot get to your meeting, even when it's at the last minute? Voila! It's the Vice President who swoops in like Batwoman and saves the day!

At its heart, the role of Vice President is to stand in for your Chapter President whenever necessary. As such, she should be fully apprised and made aware of the President's rules, goals, plans, methods, etc. in that Chapter, for each meeting.

She should not be a carbon-copy of the President, however. Her own personality, methodology, and talents should be encouraged by Chapter

members. As discussed at the Homer conference, many chapters assign the Vice President a role of Program Chair, or Parliamentarian, etc.

She is definitely not to be sidelined in any chapter —as a chapter officer and member, she should be an active contributing DKG sister.

SO YOU ARE THE SECRETARY

Cherilyn Ansley
State Secretary

Chapters often have a recording and corresponding secretary. Per the International Constitution, only a recording secretary is required. The minutes of your meetings are your legal, historical record. Minutes of your business meetings should be succinct and CONTAIN WHAT WAS DONE, NOT WHAT WAS SAID. Report on business items and actions on reports without discussion summaries or value judgments. If a motion was made: the motion as stated, who so moved, who seconded, and whether motion passed or failed should be entered in the minutes. Minutes should include: Heading (chapter name, date, place), Call to Order (by whom and time), Welcome/Introductions (if your chapter wants names of attendees included), Collect (who reads if your chapter does this), Correspondence (any mail received is read by Corresponding Secretary or yourself), Minutes (prior meeting's minutes for approval), Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports, Unfinished Business (not "Old Business"), New Business, Announcements & Good of the Order, Adjournment (time), and Respectfully submitted (your name). Encourage your President to provide you with the agenda in advance as it makes taking minutes much easier!

Corresponding secretary reads at meeting any correspondence received and acts as liaison between President and members for communications of chapter business. I recommend setting up a group email to make it easier for informing each member on the news/reminders of chapter business/events. If your President provides an agenda, emailing it to members in advance is helpful (a friendly reminder and they now know what will transpire at meeting).

Minutes need to be kept in a safe place and handed down to succeeding secretaries. If the chapter dissolves, the minutes will be placed in the archives in Fairbanks by the State Historian.

What is Education Excellence?

Gayle Hammons

The phrase "education excellence" is a general one, and when defined, it can mean whatever DKG members, at any level, want it to mean.

The chair of the EECommittee at the chapter level should ask the members to define the phrase for themselves. Does it encourage and reward excellence in classrooms in their area? Does it offer training in the latest and best education methods to local educators, both women and men? Does it further existing education excellence by supporting or volunteering at events celebrating education excellence, such as speech contests or field trips? Or can it be exemplified by just offering all new teachers a little emergency kit on the first day of school, which might include white board markers, band-aids, aspirin, and a phone number of a DKG member who could offer a suggestion or just a listening ear to a harried first-year or veteran educator?

The answer to each of these questions must be found and discussed in each chapter. Advertising these resulting efforts will spread the name of DKG around the community, and state, at the least, and the world, at most.

Communications

Gara Cesefske

At the 2018 Convention, I presented information about using social media and integrating information in multiple places such as the Nuggets, State website, and social media. Our new Facebook group is up-and-running and is searchable as "DKG Alaska." At the beginning of the Convention, we had 42 members who had joined the page; we now have 63! A very important question was asked during our session, "Can we have a Facebook page that is shareable with the public?" This led to a great group discussion

about the grey area of privacy settings on social media. The most important take-away from that discussion is that chapters should have their members sign the website release form (available in the “Forms” section on dkgalaska.org) and keep the signed release on file because it covers “other websites of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society.”

Another topic discussed was the use of email. One important comment was that members should consider creating a gmail account because that will enable members to have access to Google Docs to share ideas and Google Drive to store files digitally. This comment inspired me to create a gmail and create a Google Drive folder shared with communications related positions. We are working on creating “In case of an emergency” documents that detail what we do in our positions incase we have to step-down from our position or to help transition when someone else takes on the role. Another comment concerned the outdated digital files that chapters might have. Technology evolves quickly and the preferred file type of today might become obsolete tomorrow. Chapters should do an occasional check to make sure their digital documents are still working and convert files to another file type when necessary. I’m willing to help anyone who needs help doing this and I have technology to open most of the dated file types as well.

My top five priorities to remember as Communications Chair are:

- Share information and keep track of the ideas - so much of what I’ve done has come from ideas presented by my DKG sisters. When I start talking to someone, we bounce so many ideas off one another it is easy to forget something or miss details. I’ve got a notebook that I keep with me all the time now (great idea from Colleen).
- Pursue the ideas - a lot of things seem like they are a huge undertaking but can easily be accomplished. It is rarely as consuming as they seem at the idea stage.
- Stay prompt on responding and accomplishing tasks - emails and tasks can accumulate, so take action right away.
- Ask for help when you need it - there are so many of us who have amazing skills who are willing to

- help! Sometimes just talking to someone else helps get things moving again on the right track.
- Learn that things don’t go perfectly - there are always glitches, especially in a position that relies heavily on technology. Roll with it and learn from it!

As Nuggets editor, Aldean Kilbourn presented a few slides on how to send photos and articles, and she also passed out a handout on the same information. She asked that those present make sure everyone in their chapters is aware of how to take photos that are to go into the Nuggets and how to send them to Aldean. The same for writing articles in simple text and sending as an email.

As Webmaster, Maryanne Allen said that her goals for the website are:

1. To have it be responsive to members; to contain information that members find helpful.
2. To keep it updated – this falls into a couple of areas - things that are sent to her from members to post and things sent to her by International to post. The right-hand column on the front page is where notices change fairly often. If you want something posted for all to see quickly, that is the location where you may want your information posted. Recently, she added two new pages, Celebrations and Member Photographs (password protected). Both pages can be found under the link “About”.

Celebrations is a page on which you might want to share the wonderful things that happen to you, or that you are learning, or that one of your “sisters” has done that needs celebration. You are invited to send in any information that deserves celebrating!

Member Photographs is a page on which we can put member names with faces. As our face to face meetings are being changed to GTM meetings, it is harder to learn who our statewide members are, both by name and by sight. All chapters are invited to send group pictures to Maryanne that identify the members so that members from other chapters can learn who your chapter members are.

Note - When it comes to pictures, Aldean should be your first consideration. If you aren’t going to use a picture for the Alaska Nuggets, then they

might be just right for this page. These might be pictures of last year's activities or pictures that have already been in the Nuggets, whatever shows your chapter's personality. I think this addition to the website will enable us to see the fun that you have in your chapter. It reminds me of what Colleen said about pearls in her article on our website; "Each pearl on the strand lusters more brilliantly in relationship to another, united in a circle of unity." Learning more about each other through seeing what you are doing brings us closer in the circle of unity.

Things to know/remember:

- Your new/best pictures go to Aldean
- Please send captions with your members' names
- Remember that some members might not want their pictures on the site even though it is password protected
- Maryanne will do some editing on size so that the files are very small

Class in Using Technology

Gara Cesefski

I am currently finishing a master's degree in Educational Technology and my capstone project is teaching a unit on the use of technology such as Facebook and Google docs as an organization. Lessons will include privacy, online safety, lessons of how to use these technologies, and more. I am opening my class to all DKG Alaska members who wish to take the class online over the summer. I cannot offer the class for credit at this time, but hope to run the class for credit next year. Please email me at dkgcesefski@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

REMINDER: Any active DKG member (over a year as a member) is eligible to apply for the \$3000 Beta Gamma State Education Scholarship. <https://www.dkgalaska.org/scholarshipsgrants-in-aid.html> (deadline to apply October 1, 2018)

Members of the Scholarship Committee are chair Tanya O'Brien (dkgtobrien@gmail.com), Mary Ann Curtis (macurtis@gci.net) and Gayle Hammons (jimkatclassy50@gmail.com)

Graduate Class a Success at Conference

Gayle Hammons

"Stop taking yourself so seriously" is just one of Benjamin Zander's rules discussed in his wonderful book *The Art of Possibility*.

At Dr. Carolyn Pittman's suggestion, many of us read this book, and it was of prime importance in the 1 credit graduate "Growing Educational Excellence Now" class offered at this spring's Leadership Conference in Homer.

We jigsawed each of Zander's rules in our small class, enabling us to discuss these rules, and provide examples how they can be applied to our DKG lives, as well as to our personal and other professional ones.



Additionally, Daphne Hofschulte offered a Leadership Survey, and class members were enthused about its contents, asking for further access to it to use in their DKG chapters.

We concluded the class with just a few techniques proven to help resolve conflict in all aspects of life, a theme found in Zander's book, and one we all agreed was definitely a need in today's world.

We were all energized by class' end!!

Writing for DKG Publication

"Women of Principle: A Call to Action in Today's Political Climate" by our very own Daphne Hofshulte was selected for inclusion in the 2017, Volume 84-2 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma*

Collegial Exchange (If you haven't read it, it's available online on International's website).

Visiting International DKG President's Message

Dear Alaska State Organization members,
Your energy and power as women educators epitomize the strength of DKG membership. Your convention in Homer was one of the best I've attended. You highlighted the crucial connections of chapter-state-international as well as the most significant connections of person to person.

Congratulations on the training of new chapter officers, the moving remembrances of members gone, needs acknowledged and goals set, and the recognition of achievements. I am very encouraged by your revitalization in numbers and enthusiasm—"getting your zest back."

Thank you for the beautiful accommodations at Land's End, the rhubarb cookbook, the "salty" salt and pepper set, an especially for new friends and new courage. YOU are truly LEADING WOMEN EDUCATORS IMPACTING EDUCATION WORLDWIDE.

May we meet again on this DKG journey,
Carolyn Pittman

Proposed Amendments for July 2018 International DKG Convention in Austin Now Available as Video

Go to: http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Resources/2018_Proposed_amendments.aspx
Then look down to the right for a red box that links out to the six short videos regarding the 6 "stories" about proposals.

In early April, all amendments were sent out in a booklet to International DKG members.

Share your thoughts about these with Colleen and other attending Alaska Beta Gamma State members because voting may be very close on several changes in the by-laws.



THETA



ETA



OMICRON



Zeta

ATTENDEES HOMER 2018



ETA Chapter News/ Cyndee Hill

What a treat it was to be in beautiful Homer, surrounded by water and mountains, for our biennial leadership convention!

Eta Chapter was represented by a group of stalwarts: Judy Ireton, Lynn McNamara, Cynde Hill, Joan Lower, Barb Sell, and Gretchen Van Hove. We braved some wild weather as we drove down on Friday – winds, hail, snow, and rain – until we finally hit the sunny Homer area. Land’s End offered an idyllic spot far from the hectic life of Anchorage, and we were in the company of our wonderful DKG sisters from all over the state who joined us from near and far.

Highlights of the weekend for me included the conclusion of the leadership credit class many of us have been taking this spring, rhubarb treats and cookbook gifts from our Omicron sisters in Homer, and the very special necrology on Sunday morning remembering the lives of some of our dear friends who are no longer with us.

Of course, our International President, Dr. Carolyn Pittman, gave us many nuggets of wisdom and direction in her discussions about “Leading Change.” President Colleen Brown’s messages to

“Initiate, Cultivate, and Celebrate” also inspired us to move our members to new heights as we respond to the changing needs of our colleagues and chapter organizations.

Speaking of changes, we also participated in some changes to our standing rules and bylaws that have been in the works for a while. We appreciate the hard work and forward thinking of our sisters on the Rules Committee who tirelessly poured through the bylaws to effect changes to our general State meetings and to the way we are organized.

As a new Chapter President, I am grateful for the vision and experience of being with DKG sisters from our state, as well as our International President. The training I received in our group of newly initiated presidents has given me greater insights to the scope of the work before me. I appreciate the support we all receive in our various roles of leadership, whether in our chapters, our state, or the broader organization of Delta Kappa Gamma.

I continue to think of the examples of the DKG sisters who have left this mortality in the past two years. Their rich lives were full of efforts to be excellent educators who shared their passion for learning and serving in a multitude of ways

throughout their lives. The strength of Delta Kappa Gamma rests on each of our shoulders to lead change and embrace opportunities to grow, following the examples of many who have led the way for us.



Ashley J. Smith has recently been selected by the nominating committee to represent Alaska and receive the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award from The National WWII Museum. Ashley was nominated by her former teacher, Tammy Duff, member of Eta Chapter, Anchorage.

The Billy Michal Student Leadership Award is given annually to one student from each state who demonstrates the American Spirit in his or her community. The values of leadership, teamwork, tolerance, creativity, and perseverance can and should be learned and lived by all Americans regardless of age. During World War II, when six-year-old Billy Michal from Zimmerman, Louisiana, helped his one-room school win a statewide scrap-metal collection contest, he understood that every citizen, no matter their age, could contribute to our victory in the war.

Ashley is a well-rounded 9th grader at South Anchorage High School who excels in her studies, participates in sports, and volunteers hundreds of hours a year to her favorite non-profits around Alaska.

Ashley is an attorney for Anchorage Youth Court (AYC) which is a juvenile justice system that empowers students to serve as defense attorneys, prosecutors, and judges in cases involving their peers. It gives students accountability, education, and the opportunity to have a positive influence on

others' lives while providing the community with an effective and comprehensive alternative justice system.

Her leadership role is vital and her compassion helps her peers make positive choices in the future. AYC focuses on tolerance. The panel of peers work together to assess the punishment for the crime the teen has committed. The youth team from AYC works through the issues with the defendant and his/her family for a second chance.

In 7th grade, Ashley was the President of her Junior Achievement Company, Rest in Fleece. She chronicled her journey in the publication, Alaska Business Monthly Magazine early in 2018. She led a team to sell stock, produce blankets, discipline fellow classmates, liquidate the company, and pay dividends. Her leadership encouraged her classmates to participate before school, at lunch and after school. The program was not taught during normal school hours. The teamwork required was astronomical and not one student left the business. She spoke about her experience to over 600 professionals at a Junior Achievement Hall of Fame dinner asking for support, so her friends and siblings would have the same opportunity through Junior Achievement. Ashley's "call to action" raised the most money JA Alaska has received to date. Ashley was a finalist for Alaska's Spirit of Youth along with her classmates for their effort, dedication, and teamwork.

Ashley volunteers weekly with different organizations whose volunteers are made up of different ages and skill levels. Teamwork is essential. Ashley joined the South Anchorage High School yearbook team midsemester and adapted quickly to the team and their deadline in March. Her advisor has suggested a more impactful leadership role for her in 2019. Ashley was selected as Miss Alaska High School Hostess in 2018. This was a role she had not considered until approached by a leader in the community. She realized winning the title would help her promote the non-profits that are important to her, especially those that empower teens. Community service is Ashley's passion and her platform will enhance her ability to reach out.

Special Olympics Alaska is one volunteer opportunity that stands out with a focus of tolerance. She and her family have been volunteering at the Summer and Winter Games for years. It started by distributing lunches, guiding athletes to the podiums and now Ashley volunteers with the Kids Program. She was selected as one of 30 students to partner with an athlete summer 2018 for two weeks at Camp Shriver.

Ashley is being honored as one of the top student leaders in her school, community, and state. Billy Michal's example, and the actions of millions of other students on the Home Front during World War II, remind us that service to country and community helps create active, engaged citizens.

Ashley will be flown to New Orleans, Louisiana, along with a parent or guardian, to receive her award this June. During her tenure there, she will be an active participant in the leadership forum.

Epsilon Chapter News

On April 28, we initiated three new members in Epsilon chapter; Julie Landwehr, Peaches Wallin, and Penny Ranniger. Julie teaches Biology, Marine Biology, and Oceanography at Ketchikan High School and coaches the school's National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB) team. Peaches works as a Special Education Paraprofessional at Ketchikan High



Back (left to right): Pam Christianson, Vicky Newlun, Angie Taggart, Pat Shaner, Gara Cesefski Front (left to right): Peaches Wallin, Julie Landwehr, Penny Ranniger

School. Penny is the librarian at Houghtailing Elementary School. A fourth initiate, Kathleen Yarr, has paid her dues, but she was unable to attend the initiation ceremony. We plan to have another initiation in the fall.



An exciting event this year was the baby shower we hosted for Angie Taggart! We had the privilege of celebrating this new addition to our group. We shared a morning of snacks, cake, and lots of presents for Angie. Epsilon is





Local Educator Receives \$6,000 Scholarship

Gara Cesefske has received the Mary Frances White Scholarship from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The honor Society for women educators promotes excellence in education and personal and professional growth of women educators, leading the field of graduate scholarships given to members and emphasizing leadership development for its more than 60,000 members in 17 countries. A member of the Society's Epsilon Chapter in Alaska, Cesefske is attending Western Governors University, where she is majoring in Education - Learning and Technology.

Riitta-Liisa Arpiainen of Finland, International Scholarship Committee Chairman, announced the recipients following the committee's recent meeting at Society Headquarters in Austin, Texas. "We granted 4 scholarships of \$6,000 for the 2018-2019 academic year," Arpiainen said.

Recipients must have earned a Bachelor's Degree, be enrolled in a recognized graduate program and be an active member of the Society

at the time of application if pursuing other graduate studies to qualify for scholarship consideration. Since its scholarship program began in 1940, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has given 1132 women educators \$5 million in scholarships.

In addition to the international scholarships, many state organizations and local chapters have scholarship funds to assist members pursuing graduate study. In 2017, all three levels of the Society provided approximately \$428,005.06 in scholarships for members.

The honor organization of key women educators was formed in Austin, Texas, on May 11, 1929, by Dr. Annie Webb Blanton from a nucleus of 12 founders representing all levels of education, kindergarten through university, from various parts of Texas. Professor of rural education at the University of Texas, Dr. Blanton was elected president of the Texas State Teachers' Association in 1916, the first women to hold office. Blanton was also the first women to serve Texas as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, having been elected to that post in 1918.

Theta Chapter News

Since February, Theta Chapter meetings have included presentations on mini-grants that various educators in the Fairbanks area received from our chapter in December. These ranged from robotic kits, bus transportation to a radio station, stereo eye testing equipment, beading and sewing equipment, materials for constructing air quality monitoring gadgets, to books, medical hands-on models, fencing jackets and equipment, Mr. Muscle life-sized puzzles, headphones to help students listen better, and building materials for a picnic table and bat house. Our hope is to create some public service announcements this summer to showcase DKG Theta Chapter and our FNSB innovative educators in the fall. A graduating senior from Hutchison Career Center volunteered to film our last meeting to help with creating the Public Service Announcement (PSA) for tv. We also initiated a new member, Betsy Smith, at our April meeting. Born in Philadelphia on Flag Day, she was thus known as Betsy Ross. She grew up in the country outside of Philadelphia and had a wonderful childhood enjoying nature, peace and solitude. She has lived in Pennsylvania, Germany, Okinawa, Kansas City, MO, Iowa and 40 years in Fairbanks. She has four undergrad degrees from Park College in Missouri and a Masters degree from UAF. She has taught twenty-one years in Fairbanks, two in Missouri, one in Iowa, two at Boys and Girls Home



Fairbanks, and four years at ICS where she is currently teaching Physical Education. Volunteering is a big part of Betsy's life, and she does as much as possible for many organizations including St. Matthew's Church, Santa's Clearing House, Ice Park Fairbanks, Health Fairs, Friends of Creamer' Field (she was on its first Advisory Committee), The Alaska Bird Observatory, Audubon Society, and Best Friends Animal Sanctuary among various other organizations.

She is an avid animal lover and is now owned by a permanent foster Lab named Sashi, who is her best friend and constant


companion. The past 3 years Betsy has spent a week volunteering at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah and finds the "working vacation" the best of all possible worlds.

She played steel drums for 12 years, is a vegetarian and a firm believer in daily exercise. She formerly taught exercise at FMH for their Wellness program.

Hobbies include traveling, snowshoeing, birding and walking every day with her dog, and just enjoying nature.

She says she is looking forward to a new chapter in her life with joining DKG.

Nu Chapter News

DKG Nu Chapter held its 2nd annual Retreat at Birchwood Camp in Chugiak, Alaska January 12 - 13, 2018. Sixteen sisters attended this most memorable event which included; initiation of 3 new members, jazzercise, bonfire and walking around the lake, spectacular "Spa Night", cozy bunks, and creating 14 polar fleece blankets for Project  Linus. Truly a weekend to remember!



NU Retreat: Initiation, Spa night, Project Linus, cozy bunks



Nu Chapter welcomes L to R: Nichole Pieper, Sue Petersen, & Sarah Gotschall; Colleen Brown totally transformed Caribou Cabin into a spectacular Spa. We were so pampered! Chris Howard enjoyed a serene moment with her facial mask, candle light, soft music, and lavender diffuser. Helen, Mary, Tracy, and Jane enjoy a foot soak. Clea Loudermilk says, "Good night." Fourteen polar fleece blankets completed for Project Linus.

2018 Proposed United States Forum Operational Guidelines

The chair of the 2016-2018 US Forum Steering Committee, Carmela DeMarco, appointed an ad hoc committee to revise the 2011 US Forum Operational Guidelines.

Members can find the proposed guidelines on the US Forum website <http://www.usforumdkg.org/operational-guidelines.html>.

All United States DKG members attending the 2018 International Convention are eligible to vote on the proposed Operational Guidelines at the Forum. The Forum will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Friday, July 20, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Austin, Texas. Amendments will be considered during deliberation of the proposed guidelines during the Forum.

Beta Gamma State Achievement Award

By Claudia Hall

Judy Jaspersen, Beta Chapter, was presented this year's State Achievement Award at the State Leadership Convention in Homer, Alaska on April 21, 2018.

Being born and raised in Fairbanks, Judy loves the fact she taught Business Ed for 28 years at Lathrop High School, her alma mater. She's still subbing after retiring ten years ago. In addition, Judy was in student government at Lathrop and was the student council advisor and leadership class teacher for 18 years. Perhaps she was destined to be an officer for DKG.

Judy, has been a member of Beta since 1995. Beginning in the mid 2000s, she served our chapter as both recording and corresponding secretary. In 2010, she began a 4-year tenure as co-president. During this time she showed her innovative spirit and dedication to Beta chapter as one of four founding members of our Beta Educational Scholarship Foundation (BESF) in 2016. She has served as treasurer and president of this foundation.

Judy was state 1st vice president for the 2011-2013 Biennium when Fairbanks hosted the State Convention. She then moved up to president of Beta Gamma State for two terms from 2013-2017. She created and was instrumental in implementing the first ever, State Convention via Go-to-Meeting in April 2017. She has also been a presenter at regional conferences with fellow Beta members.

Congratulations, Judy, on an honor well deserved.



Geri Benshoof Honored with 50-year Pin

By Maryanne Allan

Geri Benshoof, a member of Beta Chapter in Fairbanks, Alaska, has accomplished what few other Delta Kappa Gamma members have or ever will. Geri has been a very active member of DKG for 50 years! Recently, at our DKG Alaska State Leadership Convention, Geri was honored with her 50-year pin.

Geri has served DKG, in about as many ways as any member can, at the local, state and international levels. She was our DKG Alaska President 2007-2009. Geri also involved herself at the International level on an International Task Force and as a member of the International Professional Growth Committee. She shared about her involvement, "I have had many, many wonderful experiences on all levels. I hold very dear my friends on every level of the organization."

Professionally, Geri was a pioneer. She entered the field of speech therapy just as it was being newly added to school districts. Starting out in Spokane, Washington, Geri often had to explain what a speech therapist did due to the newness of the profession. After a few years of getting a strong program going and making many lifelong friends, Geri and her husband moved to Alaska. She earned her elementary

certification and taught Kindergarten, but returned to speech therapy as soon as it became available in Fairbanks. She worked in education from 1962 – 1999, at which time she retired.



Another word that describes Geri's career is innovative. Besides working in many special-needs classrooms, Geri started and directed many other programs such as a Kindergarten Classroom Listening and Speaking program and a Story Grammar program in the primary classrooms. After retirement, she started her own business.

We Alaska Delta Kappa Gamma members are grateful for Geri's gifts to our organization. We have learned from her, accepted new challenges because of her, and have grown as leaders with her assistance. She is admired because of her intellect, her commitment, and her kindness. Thank you, Geri, for all that you have shared with DKG in the past 50 years. We honor you on this very special occasion.



Omicron Chapter News

- 1. Debbie Piper, Deb Schmidt, Elaine Chalup and Sue Brass.
- 2. Ceil Manchester, Gloria Hensen, Esther Ashment and Pat Wise
- 3. Sharon Thompson, Shirley Gribble, Debbie Piper, Deb Schmidt, Elaine Chalup, Sue Brass
- 4. Vicky Peters, Elaine Chalup and Ceil Manchester
- 5. Esther Ashment Pearl Lady.

6. Amy Budge and Rebecca Paul

7. Sharon Thompson, Shirly Gribble, Ceil Manchester

Omicron was thrilled with the turn out for the State Leadership Convention in Homer. There were 80 attendees and 13 people taking the 1 credit class. It was worth the preparations!

April 2018 - Executive Board Approves Projects

by Marie Smith

DKG's Executive Committee approved three great literacy projects for the 2017-2018 and the 2018-2019 school years. These three projects will touch students all over the world.

DKG will support "AK on the GO" by supplying gently used or new paperback books for all grade levels. These books will be distributed to reading stations located at the Ted Stevens International Airport this summer. During the next school year, in addition to the Anchorage effort, donations may be made to chapter committees in Ketchikan and Fairbanks. Contact Marie Smith at maries@gci.net for information regarding Anchorage book donations for this summer.

The second literacy project involves funding literacy bags for immigrants receiving support from Catholic Social Services. The Refugee Assistance and Immigrant Services (RAIS) Anchorage program will receive \$200 for each of the two years. Along with providing funding for the literacy bags next year, DKG volunteers will be recruited to assist in English language acquisition with immigrants during the 2018-2019 school year.

The third project provides two years of tuition for a student in Burkina Faso (Africa) at a cost of \$300 per year. The name of this literacy project is the "Boaz Operation."

Dates to Remember - Consider attending!

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

Northwest Regional Conference, Des Moines, Iowa
July 10-12, 2019

Southwest Regional Conference, Costa Mesa, CA
July 17-20, 2019

Northeast Regional Conference, Mashantucket, CT
July 30-Aug 1, 2019

Southeast Regional Conference, Asheville, NC
June 27-29, 2019

Europe Regional Conference City TBD, Iceland
July 25-27, 2019

DKG Alaska State Executive Board Meeting is
October 4, 2018 at 5 PM - GTM

DKG Alaska State Executive Board Meeting is
April 9, 2019 at 5 PM

GTM Alaska State On-line Conference is April
27, 2019 at 10 AM



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ADDITIONAL
HOMER
ATTENDEES



BETA

Deadline for Fall Nuggets is September 1, 2018. 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, I 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.)