

# The Alaska Nuggets

DKG ALASKA



THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS



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<http://www.dkgalaska.org>

## Important Vote Requires Discussion!

DKG Alaska needs to make a major overhaul of the way we do our conventions and workshops. Members have suggested having only one weekend meeting during each biennium. The following members met in Anchorage for this important discussion: Barb Sell, Gretchen Van Hove, Judy Jaspersen, Geri Benshoof, Judy Ireton, Daphne Hofschulte, and Joan Lower.

The proposal we will all be discussing is to have an **online convention** (using Go-To-Meeting) for all members in 2017 to elect new state officers, approve the budget for the biennium, and to do any other business as determined by the Executive Board.

A Leadership Convention would be held in 2018. This would be a weekend meeting hosted by a chapter, as in the past. Leadership and State business (including changing Bylaws and Standing Rules) would both be done during that weekend.

Executive Board meetings would still be held in both the spring and fall, but they would be held separately from the

membership meetings (using Go-To-Meeting).

We request that all chapter members be asked to vote at one of their first chapter meetings.

**Should the sections of the Bylaws and Standing Rules related to State Executive Board meetings, Conventions and Workshops be *waived* until we can vote on wording changes at the Leadership Convention in April of 2018.**

**Yes or No**

This vote needs to be tallied, and the **result reported at the Executive Board Go-To-Meeting on *October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:00 pm.***

We will not vote on changes to our meetings at this time. But voting to waive the current wording concerning meetings will allow us to try something new. Hopefully, the discussions we will all be having during these next couple of years will help us streamline and improve our meeting schedule.

## **To Change Or Not To Change... That Is The Question**

School starts in my district around this time of year – I don't know the exact date. I try to control my glee at NOT having to get up with the alarm clock and answer the school bell. I will smile as the yellow buses pass my bedroom window. I will go by the playground of my old school on my way to the post office, on purpose at noon, to feel the relief that I'm not the teacher on duty. I'm retired.

I'm also a DKG member.

DKG – an organization of professional women educators, active and retired. I used to be a professional woman educator ... am I still? What is my connection to those in the trenches – those still carrying on every day? What, now, is my connection to education?

I hope my retired colleagues and I will be as one with those still employed and take advantage of our group strength to further the DKG mission: to promote personal and professional growth of women educators and excellence in education. I want to do that. I am still an educator in mind and spirit.

As a retiree I can focus on my sister educators instead of my students. I can help DKG fulfill our mission by encouraging us to open our minds to change and waive some of our current state Bylaws and Standing Rules to allow immediately for a new structure to conduct our Society business, a new structure to offer professional and personal growth, a new structure to include more members in purposeful activities.

When you meet with your chapter this fall and discuss the Rules Committee's request for this waiver, please approve it as a change that will enable us to better meet the needs of both working and retired members – to help us better connect. Please say, "Yes."

Daphne Hofschulte, Chairman  
DKG-Alaska Leadership Committee

## OMICRON CHAPTER LATEST NEWS

This is the 9th year that the Omicron chapter in Homer collaborated with the Homer Community Food Pantry, in helping families outfit children with school supplies for a new school year.

In addition to Omicron Chapter's thirty members, many local people have joined in



to make it a community outreach. Rotary, the local churches, Lions, Emblem Club, the local stores and concerned people in the community have all contributed time and finances to make this a successful outreach for kids.

As a result, this year 90 supply-filled backpacks bearing a specific student's name were distributed to families needing help from Ninilchik to Nanwalek.

## REMEMBER TO "OPT IN"

International has asked all DKG members to log into their website and register. Log in under My Account, using your membership number. Contact your chapter president for the password or our webmaster, Maryanne, at [dkgallan@gmail.com](mailto:dkgallan@gmail.com).

Click on My DKG to Set up your account and create your profile page and change your password.

Click on My Participation.

Scroll to Communication Preferences and click the share option to "Opt In."



## THETA CHAPTER LATEST NEWS

Finding out ways to search for ancestral information was part of Theta Chapter's summer activities. Members visited the local Family History Center, run by Fairbanks volunteers from the Church of Latter Day Saints. They also learned how FamilySearch is indexing scanned documents world-wide that include census records, birth certificates, marriage certificates, military registrations and more. They told us how anyone can volunteer to help build this index of family history or come into the center for help or just to use their computers. Afterwards, we lunched together on a member's deck

### 2017 Regional Conferences

Northwest – June 28-July 1 – Spearfish, South Dakota

Southwest – July 4-7 – Honolulu, Hawaii

Northeast – July 12-14 – Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Southeast – July 19-22 – Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Europe – July 26-29 – Tallinn, Estonia

**CONSIDER AS PART OF YOUR VACATION!**

in beautiful sunshine & enjoyed socializing which really helps build strong relationships within our chapter. All too often, we have little time in our busy lives for this getting-to-know-you time!



Just before school began, Theta members & guests met up again to visit the Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery. Colin McKenzie, Hatchery intern, gave us a well-organized tour & explanation of how the various sport fish are cultivated & raised in a state of the art system which utilizes modern recirculating aquaculture technology. Essentially 95% of the required water is recirculated, & the water of all phases of the production comes from two on-site wells. The idea for the hatchery is to

produce fish which can reduce pressure on wild stocks, increase opportunities for sport fishing, & provide diversity in sport fisheries throughout the Interior of Alaska. That allows the Arctic Char, Rainbow trout, Chinook (king) & Coho (silver) salmon produced to stock 137 landlocked lakes located within the Fairbanks, Nenana, Delta & Glennallen



regions. None of these lakes allow for interaction between stocked & wild fish. The hatchery is 100% funded through various user fees, including federal excise taxes on items used in recreational boats & state sport fishing licenses. After this informative tour, we adjourned to another sunny potluck lunch on a member's deck.



## BETA WAS A COPYCAT

For several years now, Beta Chapter members have spent a few hours in the sun at Judy & Claudia's cabins on Harding Lake each July.

However, after hearing of the success of Zeta's Retreat at Girdwood, Beta officers decided to try an overnight retreat this summer.

We gathered early in August. Fifteen of us chatted, laughed, ate, played games, roasted marshmallows, & talked into the night, while we became even better friends. Somewhere in there, we talked a little



We had a wonderful facilitator, who ended up knowing everyone except the host. She came with fun ways to get us to talk about what we need from Beta & to work

together. Picture five groups of women dropping eggs off a high deck. Object: use the materials given so the egg doesn't break when it lands.

Musical

paper bags were another learning experience. Similar to musical chairs, bags scattered on the floor kept disappearing when the music stopped and we raced to stand on one. Now picture one person carrying her bag with her or six of us trying to stand on one grocery bag. The instructions had been "both feet" and near the end, we were happy to get a "big toe" on the few remaining bags! We learned after the game that nothing had been said about keeping the bag the same size. We could have ripped it open, thus having more

room to stand. What a perfect way to remind us to "think outside the bag, I mean box"!



bit about our goals for Beta Chapter for this next Biennium. However, the main focus was to renew friendships.

While neighbors had been recruited to help house us, several plans changed and only a handful remained for the sleepover. The next morning, we took the ideas from the previous evening and discussed each one. The executive board will present the findings at our September meeting, and we'll be off and running. We're looking forward to an outstanding new biennium and mini-retreats in summers to come. Thanks Zeta, for your grand idea!



## **THE LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT SEMINAR (GOLDEN GIFT)**

**BY MARYANNE ALLAN**

When then International President, Dr. Lynn Schmid, spoke to me about the Leadership Management Seminar (LMS), also known as “Golden Gift”, as she was mingling at Nu’s Eagle River conference, she predicted what I would say after her class at the very end of the seminar. “This has changed my life!” That is what attending LMS is doing. For two weeks at the end of July this summer, I spent all day & into the evening with twenty-nine bright, positive & extremely capable women. Our all-day coursework included topics such as leadership presence, interpersonal communication, emotional intelligence, situational leadership, leading across generations, conflict resolution, & many more topics. The instructors from the McCombs School of Business were truly outstanding! There was so much support from other local DKG members as well as from International. Did I mention the cost of all of this, including food, lodging and airfare? \$500.

The thirty of us Golden Gift recipients became a special group of friends, a caring and supportive cadre. Now that we’re home, we continue sharing with each other online. I suspect we’ll be doing so for years to come.

I share this information with you because I didn’t know anything about LMS except that Eleanor Houts (Beta) kept telling me that I needed to apply. Judy Ireton (Eta) offered her support as well. I am grateful for their support & want to pledge my support to any Beta Gamma member who want to give this a try two years from now. The gift is truly golden. And it has truly made a difference in my life.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

What a summer! Class reunions, family reunions, DKG reunions, and The Olympics! Preparations begin for each of these events months, and sometimes years, in advance. Work is done by many together & by lone individuals. Depending on the event, it might last a few days, one to two weeks, or 10 seconds! I'm an Olympics fanatic & loved watching as many events as I could, while taping others for later viewing. It was a stupendous showing of athleticism, determination, joy & sorrow. I'm sure each of you had at least one favorite, or were drawn in to see history in the making.

We made our own DKG history in Nashville in early July. While our International



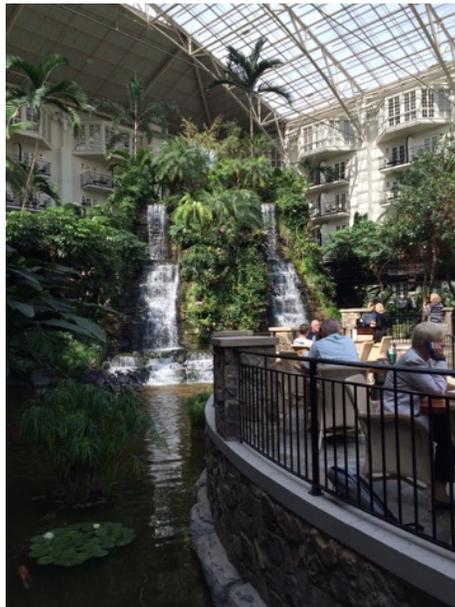
Convention was smaller, with about 2,200 participants vs. the 11,000 athletes at the Olympics, it was monumental for those who were on hand & for those at home who could stream in live, or hear all about it when their chapter delegates returned. Some of us arrived early for training & Executive Board meetings. Our opening ceremonies began Tuesday evening, when flag bearers presented 17 Flags representing the countries of the 75,000 women in DKG.

The week revolved around Music, Guest Speakers, Tours, General Membership Meetings, Breakout Sessions and The Marketplace. Each of these was the high caliber activity we expect at our Conventions, both state & International. However, innovation abounds. For each session, Dr. Lyn asked two of our sisters to speak from their hearts about one half of our **Biennial Theme . . . either 85 Years and Beyond or Advancing Key Women Educators for Life**. Women of all ages & years in DKG were chosen for these three-minute vignettes. I was inspired by each speaker & thankful for the emotion they shared & commitment they showed to DKG. I am hopeful the International committee will put these talks on the website for all of us.

A second “new item” was something called **Hot Topics**, possibly used to replace prior Info Fairs. There were 10 – 12 tables set up for about 8 – 10 members. With many more than that in attendance, it was standing room only! In a round robin atmosphere, we moved after 20 minutes of questions, answers, & conversations on all number of topics that empowered women & promoted educational excellence. The atmosphere was light & the **Hot Topics** ended with a bang! Or should I say “B O N G,” since a huge drum was struck when it was time for us to move.

A third “new item” was a feature to aid us in learning more about technology. DKGnext! (our younger set) & members of several international committees joined forces to cover **The Cyber Center**. We were invited to bring our “devices” or just stop by & watch live demonstrations. Open every day, the center was established as a “technological, speed-learning experience”!

Once again, International Convention had something for everyone, during the process of conducting the important business of our Society. All of this at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, encompassing 52 acres of “wonderful.”



Some ladies didn't even leave the area. Some of us did, which is another story altogether 😊

**SOMETHING TO CONSIDER** . . . You can apply to be a speaker at a Convention in any State, Province or foreign Country. Think about what you might be “expert” in and offer it to your other sisters . . . The International Speakers Fund (ISF) Committee is seeking applications for members to participate in this program. An interactive Speaker’s Application Form is available on the website as a download. Return your applications by email attachment to International Headquarters at [isfapp@dkg.org](mailto:isfapp@dkg.org) by September 15.

Established in 1984, ISF facilitates exchange of Society speakers among member countries and helps unite women educators of the world. The ISF Committee selects speakers from among the applicants. ISF speakers have gone to Iceland, Costa Rica, Pennsylvania, and Alberta in 2016.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**PLEASE DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN YOUR PHONE RINGS AND YOU ARE ASKED, WOULD YOU CONSIDER RUNNING FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT OR PRESIDENT OF DKG ALASKA FOR THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM. THE COMMITTEE IS STILL LOOKING FOR TWO OUTSTANDING WOMEN TO FILL THESE VERY RESPONSIBLE JOBS.**

**DON'T WANT THE JOB? NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU THINK WOULD DO A GOOD JOB SO THE COMMITTEE CAN ASK HER.**

## ZETA CHAPTER LATEST NEWS

Zeta Chapter has big news that we are super proud of and would like to highlight Cherilyn Ansley! Cherilyn retired this year after teaching 26 years in the Anchorage School District! During her time with ASD, Cherilyn touched the lives of countless students across all elementary grade-levels! After her last day in May, Cherilyn and her husband flew to Texas to then drive their new motor home on a road trip back to Alaska. They spent the rest of the summer relaxing and traveling all around the state. In celebration of retiring, Cherilyn and her husband will be taking a trip to Asia in September where they will go on a cruise to Japan and South Korea. The soon-to-be first time grandma will remain active in Delta Kappa Gamma as our Beta Gamma State Secretary and Finance Committee Chair, President of the Area Council, and Corresponding Secretary for Zeta Chapter. Congratulations, Cherilyn, and thank you for your commitment to excellence in all you do!



**Deadline for January Nuggets is January 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 did anyone from your chapter attend a regional convention? Write up the experience and send photos!**