

# The Alaska Nuggets

ALASKA STATE ORGANIZATION

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL for KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS



WINTER 2021 Volume XXXVI No. 1

[www.http://www.dkgalaska.org](http://www.dkgalaska.org)

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## ACTION ITEMS

**SAVE THE DATE!! DKG Alaska State Organization Spring Online Convention, April 17th**

**SAVE THE DATE!! DKG US Forum Presents on Zoom**  
**Legislative Issues for Our 117<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**February 24, 2021 7p.m. ET**

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DKG NUGGETS?

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## AK STATE ORGANIZATION

President, Cynde Hill

1st Vice President, Gara Williams

2nd Vice President, Cherilyn Ansley

Secretary, Gretchen Klein and Marlin Collins

Treasurer, Joan Lower

Happy New Year 2021, DKG sisters!

Last year was certainly full of changes and challenges, and I am impressed by the way you all have risen to these situations with grace. Change isn't comfortable, especially when it occurs at a rollercoaster pace and when there are risks to those you love. For these reasons, I want to thank you heartily for reaching out to your chapters, making changes that help each other, and continuing to serve. As my own chapter has met on the Zoom platform, it has enabled members who are out of state to even join us, so there are silver linings to be found.

In the coming year, it seems that things may not be returning to all we used to know and love. Please be vigilant, be safe, and be your usual caring selves in your efforts to be aware of each other. We are all learning new ways to meet our goals and needs, so use all your teacher creativity and flexible thinking!

This Spring we look forward to our online Alaska State conference on April 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be held on Zoom and will feature our fabulous international speaker, Connie Rensink. We will also have society business that will take place during our general membership session. Please mark your calendars for this event and plan to participate. More details will follow. I really love seeing and hearing everyone during these meetings, and I'll be creating conversation times to help us stay connected with each other.

I hope that some of you will be able to take advantage of the 2021 International Conference in Portland, Oregon, "DKG: A world of Opportunities, Contributions, Impact." They are cooking up some terrific events and workshops for the conference. Here's the site: [https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events/2021\\_International\\_Conferences/2021\\_International\\_Con\\_Portland.aspx](https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events/2021_International_Conferences/2021_International_Con_Portland.aspx)

As we move into the new year, let's stay true to our 7 Delta Kappa Gamma Purposes. Building on this foundation will keep our state and chapter organizations balanced, satisfying and relevant.

Virtual hugs and elbow bumps to each of you!

Cynde Hill, Alaska State President

## BETA

## Chapter Report



## EPSILON

### **Chapter Report**



The Iota chapter in Sitka has adjusted well to the Zoom format for meetings. We do, of course, miss in person communication, but we are thankful for the ability to take care of chapter business, share meaningful program presentations and catch up with each other. The dilemma for us was how to adjust for the annual Santa Sale. The Santa Sale is when we all bring crafts, gifts, food items and fun stuff to the December meeting and silently bid for the items. This event serves as the fundraiser for our scholarship fund and has served us well. As usual a practical solution was devised by some of our sisters. We were all advised to donate a sum approximate to our usual expenses and /or purchases by the December Zoom meeting date. We found out that we raised above our usual amount thanks to the consistently generous spirit of our sisterhood.

An added bonus was that we took time for all the members to share favorite holiday stories, family customs or traditions or special memories. We always say we don't take the time to learn more about each other and this was definitely a wonderful time to sit back and enjoy hearing something special about and from each of our sisters. We all left feeling very much in the spirit of the holiday and are looking forward to 2021.

## ETA

### **Chapter Report**



## NU

### **Chapter Report**

Submitted by Helen Harmon and Barb Kovarik

NU kicked off our September meeting zoom style with a book study of *A Gentleman in Moscow* hosted by sisters Jane Lister and Vicky Otte. Due to COVID, the lovely hostesses' themed lunch and snacks were not able to be enjoyed. It was also during this meeting, that our chapter unanimously voted to honor our chapter's founding sister, Wyoaka Baumgardner with reserve membership and paid dues.

## IOTA

### **Chapter Report**

Submitted By Jan Love and Marcia Hirai

In October, our sisters met via zoom (once again) to participate in viewing the DKG International Convention’s Forum Event: “Embracing Diversity” presented by Greg DeShields and Nita Scott. This presented sparked some great conversation afterwards both within our chapter for the members that were present, but also to others within our professional and social circles. During this meeting, we also set plans for Thanksgiving Blessing volunteering. During this event on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, NU sisters who volunteered were able to assist in getting 310 turkeys and food boxes to Eagle River area families as well 126 leveled book bogs with 3 books in each bag!



Our October meeting also included setting plans in motion to start collections for our CIT clients in the Anchorage School District, of pillow cases and

restaurant/grocery store gift cards. This chapter project was able to provide \$510.00 in gift cards and 18 made or purchased pillow cases. This was a wonderful way to demonstrate the spirit of giving for some of our most needy students within our school district. Our last topic of discussion was one regarding one of our favorite projects, Project Linus. Many thanks go out to our sisters Clea Loudermilk and Sandy McKinnis for finding 14 polar fleece tie blanket kits with their coupons and discounts! On January 10<sup>th</sup>, our chapter presented Michelle Hoyt, AK State Coordinator for Project Linus with 14 fleece tie blankets. This was a fun

project that many sisters were able to complete over the winter break.

Our sisters did not meet in November or December to be assured to practice COVID mitigation protocols by staying warm and healthy to meet in January. Our January meeting, via zoom (again!) provided us the opportunity to hear from Michelle Hoyt and share information about the Project Linus and how the blankets benefit the children to whom they are given.

As the promise of children returning to the school buildings on January 19<sup>th</sup> draws nearer, the few of us still working in school buildings are getting everything ready for their return or some are continuing the distance learning for their virtual classrooms.

Our chapter is looking forward to hosting an induction ceremony soon for our newest member, Maya Dunham. Additionally, we are looking forward to voting in another new member by our next business meeting and planning for two inductions, hopefully in person. But if we cannot be in person, we will persevere and use the powers of zoom (AGAIN!) to create a ceremony. The New Year brings promises of hope, renewal, and joy. We may not be able to do things as we once had, in the good old days of 2019, but we will still be able to be joyful and hopeful regardless of our social distance restrictions.

## OMICRON

### Chapter Report



## THETA

### Chapter Report

Submitted By Aldean Kilbourn

November's program was a Zoom Presentation by Peggy Merritt Lund on her book "Roshier H. Creecy: A Black Man's Search for Freedom and Prosperity in the Koyukuk Gold Fields of Alaska."

The story of Roshier H. Creecy is a portal into a reformative and rapidly changing era in America's history. Born in 1866, he was among the first generation of African Americans who were free to migrate. The societal obstacles Roshier encountered one hundred years ago, and his strategies to circumvent them, are still present for men of color today. Escaping southern culture intent on retaining a racial hierarchy, Roshier joined the U.S. Army's Ninth Cavalry, known as the "Buffalo Soldiers." Following discharge, Roshier married in Washington, D.C. and had a son, but chafed at the indignities of daily life under "Jim Crow." He joined the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 and became the owner of a roadhouse at which the North-West Mounted Police billeted. In 1906, he mushed his dog team to Alaska, bound for the Koyukuk gold fields where he remained the rest of his life. Roshier's wanderings were prompted by the search for freedom and prosperity, but his journey led him to discover personal growth and a sense of belonging in a wondrous wilderness hinting of gold.

Peggy was generous enough of her time to present to Theta member Joy Grubis's class on Alaska History at West Valley High School.

Those present watched the presentation on the big screen TV at Aldean's and had snacks provided by the Golden Apple Committee while the other Theta members watched at home via Zoom.

Due to so many saying they would not be attending due to COVID concerns, for the first time ever, the Christmas social meeting always put on by Sandy Buhite at her beautifully decorated home was cancelled.

We don't usually meet in January due to often extremely cold weather and ice fog.

February and March are Mini-Grant awardees presenting for five minutes each about their use of the Theta awarded funds.

April we hope to have a presentation by the Georgeson Botanical Gardens.

## ZETA

### Chapter Report

By Abby O'Neill

Zeta members dropped off 72 cases of water to Forest Park Trailer Park on December 17, 2020 to help families who are without water. This is the first of two pallets



paid for with the DKG donation of \$500. The other pallet will be delivered in January.

We aren't sure of the current status of the many people living there except they must be out by May. We have had two families successfully relocate from there and the water was provided for

10 of our very large multi-generational families at Fire Lake.



The Carol Kajikawa memorial scholarship provided funds to 13 teachers preparing for students to return to the classroom. These scholarships assisted teachers in purchasing supplies for Covid mitigation and social distancing.

## SCHOLARSHIPS



**SAVE THE DATE!!**



**DKG Alaska State Organization  
Spring Online Convention**

**Saturday, April 17th**

## Alaska Chapter Presidents 2020-2022

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**DKG US Forum Presents on  
Zoom**

**Legislative Issues for Our  
117<sup>th</sup> Congress**

**February 24, 2021 7p.m. ET**

**Dr. Sylvia Johnson**  
Lobbyist for the National  
Education Association (NEA)  
Registration Link Available  
February 5

For more information:  
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**Save the Date!**