



Arizona SAHUARO

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – For Key Women Educators



Lambda chapter members and Dr. Beverly Helms congratulate Mary Ann Liddle, Omicron State's 2016 Achievement Award winner. (l-r) Denise Durazo, Shelley Smith, Sharla Torchia, Dr. Beverly Helms, Mary Ann Liddle, Evelyn Craft, Patricia Rendon.



Mary Ann Liddle (Lambda)

Mary Ann Liddle receives highest honor

Mary Ann Liddle (Lambda) was named the recipient of the 2016 Omicron State Achievement Award at the 2016 Omicron State Convention. This award recognizes members who have contributed significantly to state DKG activities.

At the chapter level, Mary Ann has taken on many Leadership roles and has served as President, Finance Chair, and Recording Secretary.

Our Achievement Award winner has served in many capacities at the State level. She has been a presenter at several workshops, served on several state committees, and currently serves as chairman of the Scholarship Committee. In 2011, while serving as Omicron State Achievement Committee Chair, she designed a new pin that was awarded in honor of Omicron's 75th Anniversary.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Liddle for being a key member of Omicron State!

Evelyn Craft, Lambda, Achievement Award Committee Chair



Omicron honors state representative

Marilyn Duerbeck (Alpha Iota) and Lori Good (Alpha Alpha) present Rep. Ackerly with a check representing volunteer hours by Omicron state members valued at \$751, 706.26

See related story on page 7

Is change a choice?

Being cautious but flexible as the Society faces changes in our futures was the advice from Dr. Beverly Helms, Past International President and guest speaker at the Convention Rose Banquet. As we age we, like our Society, may lose flexibility and find comfort in status quo, tranquility in inertia, but there is need to revitalize purposefully and engage meaningfully, she said. Change may seem to be no more a choice for an organization than it is for an aging individual. Yet both regularly make and avoid making choices.

Dr. Helms offered cautions. She said choosing not to do actions that lack purpose or are unsustainable is different than choosing to do nothing. She also pointed out the difference in effect between changes forced upon us, like high stakes testing mandates, versus change that results when members are involved during the process. A key way to alleviate feelings of forced change comes when concerns are addressed prior to implementation of the changes, and this strategy also can overcome resistance based on fears of being unable to adapt or of losing something of value.

Her recommendation is for mindfulness. She said members should be aware that, on the one hand, clarity and reassurance make us feel safe and secure, while on the other hand, generations differ on how to balance consistency with flexibility. While older members may prefer focus on appreciation, wanting to be valued and needed, younger members are attracted to a focus on empowerment. These generational differences need not lead to opposition. DKG showed such mindfulness by taking ten years to fully implement Focus 2000, yet the implementation did happen because all generations basically want things simultaneously to stay the same, yet get better.

Most importantly, Dr. Helms asked members to be mindful that we who wear the key are Gatekeepers. She encourages us to become familiar with the new Recruitment Model and to invite others to join the "golden circle." Each of us can determine who may share the space, the benefits and the honor.

The Seven Purposes attract new members, but engaging both old and new is the key to a meaningful Society, she said. "If we had only Purpose #1," said Helms, "I'd be a member."

Janet Vickers, Omega



Dr. Beverly Helms, Past International President

AKT
...promotes personal and professional growth of women educators and excellence in education.



KEY THOUGHTS FROM Joye

As we continue to look at the Arizona bi-ennium goals under the theme *Keys for Success*, in this issue we focus on the key goal to **Enhance Programs**. Good programs bring members to meetings. Some members want value for time invested, and a strong program is worth meeting time.

When planning programs, ask members what they want. Members are more likely to attend programs that offer information of use or interest. Have different members or pairs of members plan a program. With the planning committee approval, these members can make arrangements for and present the program they planned.

As I have reviewed chapter plans for the year, these program topics often appear: raising money for scholarship or grant-in-aid, World Fellowship, and a speaker on current legislative issues. Technology and copyright issues may provide programs worth considering. The Educational Excellence Committee at dkg.org offers program topics such as STEM, anti-bullying, autism and other sensory disorders, tests and standards, immigration and education, and women in the workplace.

Quality programs also allow the chapter to extend meeting credit, which can be used for certification renewal. A checklist for tracking credits called "Benefits of Belonging," updated by Janet Vickers, Omega, is published on our website www.deltakappagamma.org/AZ. The checklist is matched with credit opportunities through Delta Kappa Gamma.

View programs as opportunities to increase the knowledge and expertise of chapter members. Reflect on what is important and interesting to chapter members and put this into program planning. As much as possible, involve all members in planning and carrying out the plans. All of this should help members find value in belonging and want to attend chapter meetings.

Convention attendees visit the Wrigley Mansion

The Life Experience Committee strives to provide enrichment activities for Omicron State members. This year's pre-convention tour to the *Wrigley Mansion* surpassed everyone's expectations. The mansion is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and was built in 1932. Located near the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, it sits on top of a 100 foot knoll. Visitors enjoy views of the greater Phoenix area.

Provided with a special tour guide, DKG members learned about the family, the house, the activities and present day use. Most rooms (24 rooms and 12 bathrooms) have been preserved to look as the mansion did in the days of Wrigley ownership. A demonstration of the player piano was the perfect end to the tour. Most members stayed for happy hour and socializing. Thank you to the committee for making such an excellent choice.

Merry Lewis, Nu



A painting of the Wrigley House shows the expanse of the structure.

PHOTO BY SUSAN HULSE, ALPHA RHO

Honoring longtime members

As part of the April Birthday Luncheon, a celebration of our 50 - year and 25 - year members was held. All honorees have been and continue to be an active part of DKG. The following women are celebrating their 50th year as DKG members:

Theresa (Terri) Bortin, Alpha Xi, Surprise, AZ

Ann Stephens, Lambda, Tucson, AZ

Donna Stowell, Eta, Dewey, AZ

The following members are celebrating their 25th year as DKG members:

Bonnie Waterer, Eta

Arlene Hibben, Upsilon

Sheryl Gibson, Tau

Cynthia Burson, Omega

Sandra Judd, Kappa

Ann Shubitz, Lambda

Paula Bafaro, Alpha Epsilon

Susan Hulse, Alpha Rho

Margaret Frihart, Alpha Epsilon

Rachel Wear, Alpha Rho

Diane Dudzik, Epsilon

Kathryn Payan, Rho

Gayle Graff-Case, Upsilon

Doris Chacon, Alpha Alpha

Joyce Glazner, Alpha Beta

Emilie Kanon, Delta

Jan Lewis, Chi

Congratulations to all our honorees!

Kathi Houtcooper, Alpha Iota

The way we were...

1941 (75 years ago) – A State Founders' dinner was held at the Pioneer Hotel in Tucson to celebrate the fifth birthday of Omicron State. Two chapters were not represented because unusual rains made the trip impossible.

1966 (50 years ago) – At the fiftieth state convention, a resolution was made to bestow the title "Distinguished Omicron State Delta Kappa Gamma Member" on Kathryn Young (Alpha) for her outstanding contributions to the Society.

1991 (25 years ago) - Omicron State's World Fellowship quilt traveled to Kansas City to be displayed at the Southwest Regional Conference.

White Roses

"A Moment to Remember...
A Lifetime to Honor"

Susan Denton

Tucson, AZ

Lambda

March 3, 2016

Ruth Ulman

Lakeside, California

Alpha Delta

March 2, 2016

Betty Jane Davis

Dubuque, IA

Tau

April 11, 2016

Birthday Luncheon features founder of Ben's Bells

The Birthday Luncheon at the Omicron State Convention began with a beautiful flute duet by Gloria Day (Alpha) and Patricia Rendon (Lambda). Introductions were made by Alice Reule, First Vice President (Alpha Delta) followed by a musical blessing.

Following a lunch of an excellent cobb salad, Liz Tataseo (Alpha Delta) gave a tribute to the International Founders and Gloria Day led us in singing the Birthday Song.

The speaker was Jeanette Maré, founder of the Ben's Bells Project based in Tucson. The mission of Ben's Bells is to inspire, educate, and motivate people to realize the impact of



Jeanette Maré was introduced by Jean Fuer-Davis at the Birthday Luncheon.

intentional kindness. The project was inspired by the death of her son, Ben, from the croup. During Jeanette's time of grieving she began to notice small acts of kindness, such as someone holding a door, or allowing another to go ahead of them at a checkout. She realized that kindness is something that needs to be taught. She speaks to groups like ours as well at schools, hoping to spread the

idea of "Be Kind" to as many people as possible. If you find a Ben's Bell, you may take it home to remind you of another's act of kindness towards you. To read some amazing stories, go to <http://www.bensbells.org>

Dana Jaeger, Alpha Iota

ven Law, questionable comments and behavior of elected officials, child abuse, and starving people. Her topics range from Arizona's adoption of medical marijuana, the good works of the Hospice of the Valley, Dreamers and their quest to obtain driver's licenses, gun control, dark money, and the right to die. Readers do not always agree with her positions or politics, but give her credit for raising public awareness of these societal issues. With her direct and often critical approach to topics, Roberts may inspire, stir to action, or in cases enrage her readers. Using a "summary zinger" as the

► SEE "MEDIA AWARDS", PAGE 8

Roundtable discussion focuses on membership

Carmen Wendt (Chi) began by introducing workshop attendees to the "big picture" in recruiting new members. Initiates should be sent a formal invitation to membership and receive orientation in a prepared program. The DKG website has video programs available for chapter membership committees. A chapter may have initiations anytime and as often as needed. One target group to focus on is the millennials, 35 years and younger. Millennials are not joiners by nature. They have an affinity for service projects, networking and learning. Meeting these needs will go far in recruiting millennial teacher candidates.

Mentoring initiates leads to success in retaining members. A few efforts in this area were mentioned including "Keeping Nancy Newcomer" or "Rose Buddies" to keep in touch with members by calling, emailing, and offering to help members. Involve new initi-



Carmen Wendt, Chi, engages attendees in a discussion on membership.

ates in communication, fundraisers and simple tasks of short duration. Consider their needs to improve attendance at meetings. To retain members, provide child care during meetings or carpool to help members who can no longer drive.

As the roundtable discussion continued, the ideas flowed. The importance of publicizing the successes of chapters was also noted. Make contact with the local newspaper and submit articles. Be sure to place contact information at the end of each article. Use social media to bring awareness to the chapter and the innovative ideas implemented.

Priscilla Hall, Tau



The 1989-91 World Fellowship Quilt was displayed at the 2016 Omicron State Convention.

Convention attendees generous

Omicron State members contributed \$1133 to the World Fellowship Fund at the Lei of Friendship Breakfast. In addition, the World Fellowship Committee made a plea to members to help preserve

the centerpiece of the morning's program, the quilt made during the 1989-91 biennium. The jar quickly began to fill up and the final tally was \$390. Depending on the final cost estimate, the work on the quilt could start as soon as this summer. A huge thank-you to those members who dug deep into their pockets for these two great causes.



Shelley Smith (Lambda) asked members to contribute to the quilt restoration project.

Shelley Smith, Lambda, World Fellowship Chair

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2016 MEDIA AWARD WINNER

Readers of the *Arizona Republic* are probably familiar with the articles by award-winning columnist Laurie Roberts, Omicron State's 2016 Media Award winner. Her columns appear prominently in the Arizona news sections, in multiple online postings, and in the Valley area inserts.

Her direct style of writing immediately puts

the reader on the alert to some facet of Arizona life that does not (or perhaps will not) serve Arizona citizens well. On the other hand, she is quick to highlight some action or situation deserving of our appreciation.

Roberts writes frequently on topics that key women educators care about: educational funding, child welfare programs, the Safe Ha-

STATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NAMED

Omicron State Scholarship Committee Chair Mary Ann Liddle (Lambda) presented \$1000 endowed scholarships to two DKG members at the Convention's Saturday night banquet.



Mary Ann Liddle (center) with scholarship winners Tammy Kohli (Omega) and Beth Carbone (Alpha Epsilon)

Karen "Beth" Carbone, (Alpha Epsilon) was awarded the Phyllis Steinman/Wings Endowed Scholarship. She plans to use her scholarship money to pursue a reading specialist credential at NAU. She is a 22-year career teacher and currently teaches third grade at the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Arizona State University and Masters at Northern Arizona University.

Tammy Kohli (Omega) received the Alice Lang/Kay Fischer Endowed Scholarship. A teacher in the Scottsdale Public Schools, Kohli currently teaches fourth graders in a Title I school. She plans to use her award money to continue her pursuit of National Board Certification. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Arizona State University and Masters in International Management at Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management.

Both scholarship award winners received outstanding letters of recommendation from co-workers and DKG members. At Saturday night's banquet presentation Beth and Tammy agreed to write notes of their progress to the Scholarship Committee.

Mary Ann Liddle, Lambda, Scholarship Chair

World Fellowship Breakfast

Omicron State members gathered on Sunday, April 17 for the World Fellowship Breakfast. As members entered the ballroom a slide presentation of the World Fellowship recipients was played along with the music "It's a Small World After All." Charlotte Kraus (Alpha Epsilon) gave the opening thought and read a beautiful piece entitled "I Am a Teacher." Corresponding Secretary Susan Halliday (Alpha Delta) presided and introduced World Fellowship Committee Chair Shelley Smith, (Lambda), who explained the items on the tables and invited chapter presidents to wear their leis of friendship. Following breakfast World Fellowship Committee members Sorale Fortman (Xi), Judy Lewis, (Omega), Heather Johnson, (Alpha Rho), presented the program which focused on Omicron State's World Fellowship Quilt (1989-1991) displayed for the first time in many years. Each block was created by a different chapter and represented a country of a World Fellowship recipient of that biennium. Donations were requested to take necessary measures to preserve the quilt for the future. Members were also asked to donate money to the International World Fellowship Fund, which is one of the main purposes of the breakfast.

Kathi Houtcooper (Alpha Iota) announced the Convention Attendance Awards with seven first-timers in attendance and 27 chapters represented at this year's convention.

Closing remarks were made by Immediate Past International President Dr. Beverly Helms who stated that, "The Omicron State Convention was the most enjoyable convention she ever attended!" Omicron State President Dr. Joye Sterrett officially closed the 2016 Omicron State Convention after which members joined hands for the Delta Kappa Gamma Song to conclude the convention.

Dr. Sandy Breece, Alpha Chi

Leadership Training Seminar prepares incoming chapter officers

Twenty-five incoming chapter presidents attended the full-day Arizona Leadership Training Seminar, on April 15. The seminar, presented by the Leadership Development Committee, included afternoon sessions for first and second vice-presidents, secretaries and treasurers. The Committee felt the day was a true success.

International Representative Dr. Beverly Helms kicked off the first segment of the presidents' training. Her enthusiastic, "down to earth" approach to the current DKG happenings ignited an upbeat atmosphere among the presidents, which continued throughout the day. Key topics covered were leadership responsibilities, the value of thorough communication, time management, developing a strategic action plan, an overview of parliamentary procedure, using an agenda and techniques to use in writing articles for the *Saburo*. The presidents were encouraged to be inclusive, to delegate and to strengthen the feelings of acceptance and appreciation among new members.

Over 90 presenters, trainees and special guests attended the "Everyone Is A Leader" luncheon. Speaker Diana Hutchinson (Beta) spoke on "The Power of One in Relationship with Others." She asked that the new officers practice appreciating and including each other. "Can we better understand ourselves and the officers with whom we work in our DKG chapters?" she asked. Hutchinson ended her remarks with a special request, "Let us help build a better you, build a better us and build a better DKG."



Carmen Wendt (Chi) and Susan Halliday (Alpha Delta) train the new chapter secretaries.

New first vice-presidents were trained in their many duties in a session conducted by the state Educational Excellence Committee.

The Membership and Expansion Committees conducted a training session for the incoming second vice-presidents. Dr. Helms led a discussion on the maintenance of strong chapter membership by focusing on

recruitment, retention, reinstatement and the mentoring of new members. The second vice presidents reviewed their responsibility of honoring deceased members and reporting deaths to state and International. All were asked to invite the state KARE team to visit their chapters.

Instructional workshops were also conducted for chapter secretaries and treasurers, given by their state counterparts.

In response to numerous requests for follow-up training sessions, the Leadership Training leaders will be planning workshops for the Omicron State Fall Workshop in October 2016.

Rachel Wear, Alpha Rho,
Leadership Development Committee



Marge Threewit (Alpha Beta) works with chapter treasurers.

Training chapter treasurers

Twelve chapter treasurers attended the pre-convention training. Information discussed included these topics:

- If the chapter has new members this spring, the treasurer needs to mail the Initiate form with the \$5 initiation fee for each new member. Initiate names sent to International before July 1st will appear on chapter membership forms in August. After July 1st, keep initiates' fees and forms to send in with the rest of the membership dues.

- The annual report Form 15 is due to the state treasurer by July 15th.

- IRS 990 e-postcards are due Nov. 15th.
- Each active member pays \$66 and reserve members pay \$31 for state and International dues and the scholarship fee.

Omicron State Treasurer Marge Threewit thanks all chapter treasurers for the work they do.

Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta,
Omicron State Treasurer

BookPALS and PencilPALS

Members who attended the 2016 Omicron State Convention had the opportunity to learn about two successful programs in the Phoenix area where volunteers make a difference.

Ellen Dean, program coordinator, introduced **BookPALS** (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools). Actors, theater students, teachers and community members volunteer their time to visit schools each week and read to students in K-5 for a one half hour session per classroom. Their goal is to reach disadvantaged children and develop the love of books and reading. A lesson was modeled which gave insight into the training that volunteers receive to help build literacy. Attendees



Karen O'Keefe and Ellen Dean present a workshop introducing methods used to promote literacy.

were engaged as they listened and responded to questions about the story being read

The second part of the session was presented by **PencilPALS** coordinator Karen O'Keefe. The goal of **PencilPALS** is to promote literacy and enhance reading and writing skills. After an orientation to the program, questionnaires are filled out and volunteers are paired with a third or fourth grader with similar interests. Students learn how to communicate through writing letters using the correct form as they develop editing skills. Volunteers are encouraged to read the books that the student is reading so they can share ideas to help improve reading skills.

Gail Gentry, Alpha Rho

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER TELLS HER STORY

Like many DKG educators, Jenny Lichtsinn (Alpha Rho) is an over-achiever. Not only is she an International \$10,000 scholarship recipient, she is journeying into an interesting and ambitious partnership with her daughter. She shared her story in a session at the State Convention in April.



Jenny Lichtsinn, Alpha Rho, shares her story.

While juggling work and family during the day and attending classes during the evening hours, Lichtsinn earned her master's degree. Her exceptional writing ability encouraged her to pursue a PhD in Early Childhood. She became a mother in 1991 and after completing 40% of the classwork, she had reached her breaking point and dropped out.

She taught pre-school for thirty years and became intrigued with pre-verbal and non-verbal children. Even though some three- to five-year-olds lacked the ability to converse, she discovered other communication modalities. Using a certain gaze, a particular physical movement or a technological device could empower the children to become participants in their own care and learning.

After a twenty-two year hiatus, Lichtsinn is currently working towards completion of her PhD while her daughter is working towards becoming a pediatrician. They plan to write a book on pre-verbal and non-verbal infants, ages

three to fifteen months. This ground-breaking research will allow families to participate in their child's journey to discover his/her "voice."

Denise Durazo, Lambda

Dr. Helms discusses leadership

International representative and International Past President Dr. Beverly Helms spoke about *The Leader Within*. She addressed the competencies, characteristics, and/or skills essential to success as a leader. To be a good leader one must be a good conductor. You must have the art to influence others. Be an inclusive leader. Show commitment. Be courageous, cognizant, curious, and culturally intelligent.

Leadership, like education, is a never-ending process. One needs to define challenges and set realistic expectations. Strive to be a leader not a boss. Empower others through mentorship and succession. Use the opportunities you have to get to know yourself, and apply your knowledge, skills and experience to become a leader and a mentor.

Realize who you are. Do not compare yourself to someone else. Try not to create stress for yourself. Learn to say no. Be a trusted leader; listen, show enthusiasm and empathy. Try to be a communicator, be passionate, and be a relationship builder and a hard worker.

Find someone you can lead/mentor and encourage them. Tell them how much you appreciate their work. Also, it is important you are in the moment; enjoy who you are. God put you where you are so be grateful.

Jane Holdcroft, Alpha Sigma

Using technology for Educational Excellence training and planning

State training for new first vice-presidents replicated the format used in International trainings. Trainees received materials via e-mail prior to the session. After key topics were addressed, trainers presented a flashdrive with the session's materials as a thank-you to each member attending. The trainers enjoyed member participation and accepted positive feedback for using this approach.

In pursuit of Educational Excellence, the committee encourages the new first vice-presidents to do the following: Review the "Role of First Vice-president" on the flashdrive. Assist their chapters in selecting pertinent programs and projects. Update the chapter yearbook using the new "Yearbook Checklist" form, and bring four yearbook copies to the Fall Workshop.

Vice-presidents should also continue this work for Omicron's state *Collaborative Connections* project: Fill out volunteer checklists and send them to Patricia (Sue) Tennant at patriciastennant@gmail.com or call 978-726-7857. Publicize "Monetary Contributions" as a new category for those members who are unable to volunteer at a school setting but who do contribute monetarily to a school or an educational project. Keep a record of volunteer hours and submit them from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

Finally, on behalf of their chapters, vice-presidents should nominate a member for the *Spotlight Award*, using the new rubric as a guideline. An honoree planning to attend any portion of the convention must pay the registration fee and the cost of the meal attended unless the chapter opts to treat the honoree.

Alice Reule, Alpha Delta, Educational Excellence Committee Chair

Reflections of a First-timer

I left my class in the capable hands of a substitute and as I drove across town I felt a bit like I was playing hooky. That feeling didn't last long. I was heading to the Delta Kappa Gamma Omicron State Convention where I would receive training to be our chapter's secretary, serve as a hostess, and attend meaningful sessions presented by experienced educators. The weekend would be my chance to "Sharpen the Saw" (in the words of Steven Covey).

The first event on my agenda was a luncheon, followed by training for chapter secretaries. Due to some comedic miscommunication, I arrived a few hours early. I also realized that I would be the only member from my chapter attending that day. I plunked myself down to look over my bag of goodies. Here is where I

Red Roses



Jessica Jaeger (Nu) received a Cornet Professional Development Award from the Educational Foundation. She attended the Eleventh Annual Teacher Leadership Institute: Making a Case for Leadership.

Donna Reynolds (Alpha Epsilon) authored an article "Just What Is the DKG Educational Foundation" which is included in the 2016, Volume 82-4 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Collegial Exchange*.

Ginny Mountain (Chi) was chosen by Scottsdale Presbyterian church to receive a Senior Service Award. The award was presented in March at the Grand Canyon Presbytery luncheon.

Alpha Rho Chapter honored 25 year member, **Susan Hulse**, at its annual May Fellowship Dinner. President Darby Downs presented Past President Hulse with a plaque depicting her years of chapter service as treasurer, newsletter editor, finance chair and mentor of "shut-ins" and new members.

Eta members guard against fraud

Terri Alexon, Investment Education Coordinator for the Arizona Corporation Commission since 2002, spoke to Eta Chapter members at the May meeting. Focusing on Fraud Prevention, she said information is power. Investments must be registered with the Arizona Corporation Commission and potential investors should ask about the legitimacy of the financial advisor and then check with the commission before investing. Arizona has very tough laws and is one of six states with an investigator to make sure securities comply with state law. Some of the common features of scams: creative, always changing; using disaster relief, green energy, bio fuels, and terrorism and use of digital currency. The new distribution is through seminars, email and internet, direct mail, phone messages, and social media. Prevention tactics to reduce exposure include developing a 'refusal script'. Use statements like "I don't make any deals without contacting a law enforcement agency." "What is your registration number so I can check this with my financial advisor?" ASK and CHECK!

Joyce Moore, Eta

Omicron members in the spotlight

One of the highlights of the state convention has been to "spotlight" DKG members who not only work for the Society, but are active in other areas of service. Each of the following members were featured in a PowerPoint program and recognized for their achievements with a special certificate. The new rubric for making nominations for the 2017 State Convention is posted on the Omicron State website.



Katherine Epp
(Rho)



Marilyn Ludwig
(Upsilon)



Barbara Westover
(Alpha)



Becky Shields
(Eta)



Betty Holt
(Chi)



Kay Wilson
(Alpha)

Nu Chapter hosts potential members

The invitations offered food, fun, prizes and fellowship. Nu chapter provided a brunch for prospective members. State membership committee member Jessica Jaeger (Nu) spoke to the group and showed a prepared power-point that served as an orientation program. One attendee won a makeover at Gadabout. Door prizes had been provided and all guests received bags of supplies to use in their classrooms or their volunteer work. The pride of membership shared by Nu chapter members was contagious. The concept of providing a planned program to welcome potential new members was very successful.

Merry Lewis, Nu

Alpha Xi has long-term members



Alpha Xi Chapter is proud to honor four 50+ year members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The members are: (Seated l-r) Terry Bortin and Elizabeth Richardson. (Standing l-r) Barbara Burnham and Kay Drake.

Reflections

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met a couple of ladies who were from a colder part of the state. They were drawn to the sunny area near the pool, so we basked in the sun, sharing stories of families, teaching, and travels. At the luncheon, I met several other new acquaintances and picked up some tips for places to eat when traveling around the state. The secretary training was definitely helpful, but chatting with new friends was the highlight of my first day.

Day two found me with friends from my own chapter and duties as a hostess. Here was another opportunity to make new friends. I had the privilege of meeting a few of the presenters before the sessions and to introduce them. Throughout the day, I enjoyed seeing familiar faces and continued to "Sharpen the Saw" in the breakout sessions.

I returned to my class on Monday feeling refreshed and enriched thanks to Delta Kappa Gamma.

Cinda Wood, Alpha Sigma



Alice Reule (Alpha Delta) and Susan Tennant (Iota) at a workshop.

Omicron honors state representative

Representative Chris Ackerley (R-Tucson) was recognized as the 2016 Omicron State Friend of Education during the April State Convention. Lori Good (Alpha Alpha) and Marilyn Duerbeck (Alpha Iota) presented the plaque to Ackerley at the State Capitol.

Representative Ackerley decided to serve in the Arizona Legislature because he wanted to make a difference in education policy. During the 2016 legislative session he was instrumental in repealing the cuts that were made to JTED (Joint Technical Education District) and restoring funding to the program. He serves on several committees: Children and Family Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure and Government and Higher Education where he is the Vice-Chairman. He is completing his first term as a member of the Arizona State House of Representatives.

An Arizona native, Ackerley attended Greenfields High School and Northern Arizona University. A high school physics and math teacher with 15 years of classroom experience, he currently teaches at Amphitheater High School in Tucson and is a member of the Arizona Education Association. Representative Ackerley lives in Sahuarita with his wife Melissa and his two children and represents Legislative District 2.

Marilyn Duerbeck, Alpha Iota, Legislative Chair

Alpha Alpha has active year

September 2015 brought chapter members together to plan and prepare for the Fall Workshop Registration at Metro Tech in October. Elementary schools were contacted and approval was gained to support six new teachers with gift cards for classroom supplies. The month of December members joined with Rho Chapter for an initiation luncheon at the Beatitudes Retirement Facility. Three chapter members attended Legislative Day at the Capitol in February.

Our March chapter meeting featured two speakers who addressed Proposition 123. In April our chapter again joined Alpha Beta for brunch and game day at the Deer Valley Airport. Also in April ten chapter members attended and took part in the Omicron State Convention and were delighted to greet and meet Dr. Beverly Helms, Past International President (2012-2014).

Karen Carney, Alpha Alpha



Gloria Day (Alpha) and Patricia Rendon (Lambda) perform at the Birthday Luncheon.



Above, Liz Tataseo (Alpha Delta) is laden with roses for the chapter presidents.

CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

The business meeting opened with a tribute to Dr. Barbara Baker, Berneil Drake and Connie Myren who passed away since last Convention. All were valued members of Omicron State and are sorely missed.

The FRIEND OF EDUCATION winner was

announced. Chris Ackerly, a State Representative from District 2 in Tucson is the recipient.

The MEDIA AWARD went to Laurie Roberts of *The Arizona Republic*.

Dr. Beverly Helms, Immediate Past International President, spoke about concerns that membership has been declining and the need to attract young teachers and think outside the box. She also mentioned some of the state members who have made contributions to International in the past.

Committee reports were given and correspondence was read. The Our Treasured Past committee is working on Volume 5 covering 2007-2017. The Executive Board was convened to approve the proposed Omicron State budget for 2016 – 2018. The General Session reconvened and members were invited to attend the 2017 State Convention in Tucson. The meeting was adjourned on time. Congratulations to President Joye Sterrett.

Fran Seiffman, Alpha Delta



There's a lot going on at this workshop.

Delta Kappa Gamma-Omicron State
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Convention Attendance Awards

Most members in attendance:

In area: Alpha Beta
Out of area: Eta

Best percentage:

In area: Alpha Delta
Out of area: Eta

First Timers:

Mary McGraw (Alpha Rho)
Heather Johnson (Alpha Rho)
Jenny Gendreau (Alpha Beta)
Susan Nafziger (Gamma)
Barbara Panunzio (Upsilon)
Nancy Putman (Alpha Alpha)

Media Award Winner

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closing sentence, she often writes in a tongue-in-cheek style, posing a question or making a comment that pinpoints her position.

Omicron members, unfamiliar with her work, may Google her name to look for blogs and online postings. Reading her work will quickly explain why the Communications and Publicity committee chose Roberts for the Media Award this year.

Kathy Green, Alpha Delta

Dates to Remember

July 5 – 9, 2016
International Convention
Gaylord Opryland Resort and
Convention Center
Nashville, Tennessee

October, 2016
Omicron State Executive Board Meeting/
All Member Workshop
Metro Tech High School
1900 W Thomas Road
Phoenix, Arizona

July 4 -7, 2017
Southwest Regional Conference
Sheraton Waikiki Hotel and Resort
Honolulu, Hawaii

July 16 -20, 2017
International Convention
JW Marriott Austin
Austin, Texas

Fine arts display at 2016 convention

Thank you to those members who took the time to bring some of their art work to the convention for display. It is sincerely appreciated. The display was open for several hours and many members visited. Those sharing their work were: Donna Betz (Alpha Eta), Denise Crocket (Kappa), Janet Fish (Alpha Eta), Merry Lewis (Nu), Judy Weber (Alpha Beta), Diane Gara-Weiner (Alpha Delta), Pearl Nancarrow (Delta), and Sharon Witt (Chi). Consider sharing your artistic talents at another state event.

Diane Gara-Weiner, Alpha Delta



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