



Arizona SAHUARO

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – For Key Women Educators

Society Logo Provides New Look

From the celebration of the Society's 80th Anniversary to "Advancing the Society," graphics help tell our story and establish our image.



With this in mind, Durbin Studios of Austin, Texas, designed several items for International President Dr. Carolyn Rants and the Administrative Board.

These new graphics are now available for your use. The files may be downloaded in a variety of formats on the Society's web site.

You may use the letters DKG rather than looking for the symbol keys to find the Greek letters on your computer.



State Committees to Meet

Meeting time for state committees has been built into the Fall Workshop schedule. Rooms will be provided after lunch for committee meetings.

This time is being provided so that you can develop committee visions and the plans to activate them. Several committees have met, and most will need this time. Committee chairs are asked to contact members, reminding them of the meeting.

Raffles will take place at the end of the afternoon session.

Judy Strohmeyer (Mu), President Omicron State



Fall is Coming

Fall is coming and with it the Omicron State All-Member Workshop and Executive Board Meeting. It will be held at the same location as last year, the First Assembly of God Church, 532 W. Ray Road in Chandler.

Registration, breakfast, and set-up for the arts display begin at 7:30 a.m. The general session/executive board meeting begins at 8:45 a.m. and will be combined with an open session for sharing of up-coming events planned by your committees.

Many workshops, covering a wide range of interests for young and not so young have been planned.

Lunch will be at 12:15 p.m., followed by committee meetings simultaneously with a guest speaker. The day will end with raffle drawings, presentation of attendance awards, and a special send-off at 2:30 p.m.

Cost of the breakfast, luncheon, and the workshop is \$30.00, payable to the chapter treasurer.

Check Map Quest for directions to the church. For those desiring overnight accommodations, check the Best Western Inn at 950 N. Arizona Avenue in Chandler, the Holiday Inn at Country Club and Hwy. 60 in Mesa, and the Crown Plaza Resort on Arizona Avenue, in Chandler.

Dora Donovan (Alpha Sigma)



Judy Strohmeyer and Dena Martin carry the Arizona banner at the presidents' processional

For the Love of Books

The joy of reading is a wonderful gift, opening the world of adventure, information, and introducing us to new friends for life.

At the 2009 Fall Workshop, we will have an opportunity to share this love of reading with those who have limited access to books..

We will be presenting books to the residents at the Maricopa County Durango Juvenile Detention Center, in Phoenix, and to the students at San Xavier Mission Indian School, in Tucson.

Members attending the Fall Workshop are asked to bring at least one new book for our Hands-On-Books project for K-12 students.

Books for the detention center need to be paperbacks with no staples and appropriate for both boys and girls, ages ten through eighteen.

All types of books for the mission school, K-8, will be welcome. If you wish to make a cash donation, that will be appreciated. Anyone bringing more than one book will receive a raffle ticket.

*Mary Ann Yee (Rho)
Martha Mooney (Xi)*

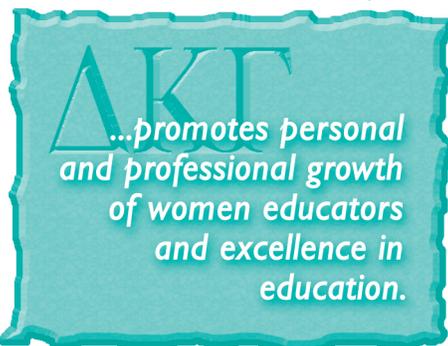
Anniversary Raffle

The 75th Anniversary Planning Committee is pleased to announce a new Raffle to be held at the 2009 Fall Workshop.

The themed "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" basket guarantees at least one genuine diamond, plus a DVD, an apron, kitchen gadgets, magnets, jewelry, and other surprises.

Plan to purchase raffle tickets for this basket at the Workshop. The basket is valued at \$150 plus. You will be supporting the 2011 Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Omicron State.

*Merry Lewis (Mu) Member,
75th Anniversary Committee*



Pura Vida!

Dream with Judy!



Omicron State
President Judy
Strohmeier

A message from Omicron State President Judy Strohmeier (Mu)

Que los sueños tengan alas. May your dreams take flight. Since transitioning into the presidency, my dreams have taken flight. Twenty-nine of us had a sensation

time in Reno with our lofty leadership training, energizing workshops, inspiring keynote speakers and the reception with our sisters from Costa Rica. Change, activating our visions and encouraging each other to expand our horizons were among the themes. Alpha Delta and Alpha Rho Chapters get gold stars for having four members representing their chapters. Tap into the resources of your members who attended the Southwest Regional as they have many interesting, some not so serious stories (such as Nevada Night) and other very pertinent tidbits that they would enjoy sharing. One of my dreams is to develop a better understanding of the culture and educational opportunities in Costa Rica and to develop a more meaningful bond with our sisters there. Their members who attended the Southwest Regional were elated that Omicron State is interested in doing a cultural exchange and supporting their state projects and chapter needs. They generated fantastic ideas, which have Project Mariposa soaring. The project will be presented at the Fall Workshop for your approval.

Another of my dreams is to involve many of you in developing programs for our state. We are fortunate to have numerous talented members with a diversity of interest and talent. One of the best ways for us to know about our talented members is for you to brag . . . and share the BUZZ. Already many are on state committees and presenting at the Fall workshop, but I know there are many more of you who would exuberantly share your passions . . . we need to know who you are. So **brag**. We are always excited to have the names of those who have talents that can be shared. Opportunities to shine and share your talents will come in January with the Life Experience Seminar and next fall when the Arts Retreat is reintroduced. The Latin American Committee, among other things,

is planning a cultural/teacher exchange for winter of 2010 so we are in need of learning to share in Spanish. ¿Puede usted ayudar? The opportunities for you are numerous so start planning now so you will be able to take part in all of the wonderful programs being planned to foster friendships, promote personal and professional growth and for plain fun. We all have different dreams and time to share them. Our biennium theme is to **Dream without limits . . . Inspire the future through shared wisdom . . . Believe in yourself and the dreams of others . . . and Success will be yours.** I have **DIBS** on you to make this biennium a dream come true for Omicron State. Check with your president for additional information presented in the *Howling Coyote* (which is on line.)

Come share your vision with DKG and the actions you plan to activate your dreams. You can make an awesome difference. It's a wonderful world when you are a member of DKG.



Omicron State Achievement Award Nominations

It's time to be thinking of nominees for the Omicron State Achievement Award. Two awards may be given at the state convention in Spring, 2010.

The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor members who, through continuing and outstanding service to Omicron State, have promoted the purposes and policies of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Each nominee must:

- be an active member of an Omicron State chapter
- have been a Society member for a minimum of five years
- have made outstanding contributions to Omicron State

Each chapter president has the privilege of nominating one member from Omicron State for this honor. Names of previous nominees may be resubmitted.

Revised nomination forms will be available in your presidents' packets at the 2009 Fall Workshop. Nominations must be post-marked by February 1, 2010, to:

Mary Ann Liddle (Lambda)
Achievement Award Chairman
11272 N. Via Rancho Naranja
Oro Valley, AZ 85737
520-797-9084

Nominations received after the deadline cannot be considered. ♥

Collaborative Connections: T.H.A.T. Program

At the October 25, 2008, Omicron State Executive Board Meeting members approved the adoption of Collaborative Connections as the Omicron State Project.

A similar program has been created in California. Teachers Helping Another Teacher (THAT) was developed to promote visibility in support of teachers.

A workshop at the 2009 Southwest Regional, presented by three Californians, shared the five focus areas of the program: individual teachers, a particular school, a particular school district, community and local government officials, and higher education and professional development.

Members report hours spent and work done in helping another teacher each semester. Tabulation results are sent to International Headquarters. Chapters are awarded certificates at the state convention and a big check is created to show a monetary amount attached to the volunteer hours.

In 2004 Chi State reported 76,908 hours of volunteerism, saving the state \$615, 264.

What qualifies for the THAT program?

- Tutoring students
- Adopting a newer teacher
- Providing snacks for teachers
- Correcting papers
- Creating bulletin boards
- Reading to children
- Testing individual students

What does NOT qualify?

- Tutoring at Boys' and Girls' Clubs
- Serving as a school board member
- Working in a gift shop
- Working in a library
- Teaching a Sunday school class

Alice Reule (Alpha Delta)

Health and Culture Workshop

Both health and culture will be featured at the Fall Workshop. A workshop on the value of massage, with practical hands-on experience will be presented.

An interactive workshop incorporating Chinese ribbon and yo-yo exercises along with other forms of cultural physical enhancement for all ages will be available.

For those who have limited time and space, activities for chair, ball, and light weights will be incorporated into this program for students and for seniors who need to improve strength, balance, and flexibility.

Terri Ackland (Zeta)
Mary Ann Yee (Rho)

What Was the Best Part of the Conference?

Member Kathy Shroyer (Sigma) describes the highlights of the conference.

It is difficult to pinpoint the “best” part of the conference. I finally zeroed in on the keynote speakers.

Corlea Plowman’s reading of Lisa Kogan’s letter to Amelia Earhart encouraged me to remember that, unlike Amelia, we never fly solo. We have all our sisters around us for support and energy to help our dreams take flight.

Mark Hoog inspired us to make our signature, activate our vision, and never watch the game of life from a distance. His comment about the two greatest days of our life, “the day we are born and the day we find out why,” will remain with me forever.

Dr. Beverly Helms’ story of the young prince and the old sage inspired me to remember that our visions, like the dove in the young prince’s hand, are what we make them.

Helaine Jesse had some wonderful concepts for marketing DKG. I loved her idea, “We taught people how to read and write so they dream of a better world. DKG helps keep that dream alive.”

And finally Valerie Boer, using stories and beliefs from her Lakota heritage, educated all of us on how to preserve ourselves and our precious mother earth.

Kathleen Shroyer (Sigma)

Southwest Regional Opens with Pizzazz

The first general session of the Southwest Regional Conference gave attendees a hearty welcome from hosting state Nevada and Regional Director Kathy Flynn: “We’re Glad You’re Here!”

Special presentations followed, including “Finish Strong,” an inspirational pictorial by Simple Truths. We were reminded that many famous people have faced adversity before achieving greatness, among them Ray Kroc (founder of McDonald’s) and Ben Hogan (professional golfer).

Executive Director Corlea Plowman, delivered some thoughts entitled, “Amelia, Did You Eat Eggplant?” in which she emphasized that Delta Kappa Gamma members should face challenges with the support of our sisters rather than fly solo.

Nevada Night entertainment followed the opening session with a variety of performers. Larry Maurice, “Cowboy Poet of the Year,” hosted the evening as Nevada talent took center stage with cowboy music, Basque dancers, a Puccini aria, and a night club song.

Just when members thought the evening could not get better, Elvis walked on stage!

Dressed in his traditional white glittering suit, Elvis, a.k.a. impersonator Johnny Thompson from Las Vegas, sang such hits as “Love Me Tender,” “Hound Dog,” and “Heartbreak Hotel.”

Thrills ran through the room when Elvis walked through the audience presenting several members with roses in exchange for kisses. (Ask Berneil Drake for details.) Elvis had the audience stirring with excitement when he mopped his brow with a blue scarf asking, “Is it hot in here?” In true Vegas style, show girls dressed in red boas accompanied Elvis for the last number, “Viva Las Vegas.” The King lives on!

Kathy Green (Alpha Delta)



PHOTO BY JIM, FLORESVILLE, TX

“Elvis” and Berneil Drake celebrate Nevada Night

Southwest All-States Breakfast

One of the traditions of the Southwest Regional is the All-States Breakfast enjoyed by all the members in the region, including our Latin American friends.

Texan Sandy Whitney, Regional Director 2000-2002, presided over the morning’s agenda.

Members from Hawaii performed a Hula dance to the “Hukilau Song” and all members had a chance to practice their hula moves. The generosity of Delta Kappa Gamma members was acknowledged with the announcement that over \$6,700 was collected for the Emergency Fund.

Past Regional Directors were recognized, including Arizona’s Berneil Drake and Dr. Nancy Noll. Humorous reminiscences were presented in an original poem by Janey Brainard, TX, when she described one of her school years with the challenge of 35 students

and 29 desks. More original work followed with the song, “Hand in Hand,” created by Kathy Flynn, Suzanne Foster, and Gail Fray, all from Colorado.

The breakfast closed with invitations to the 2011 Southwest Regional in Denver and the 2013 Regional in Missouri.

Kathy Green (Alpha Delta)

Arizonans in Leadership Roles at Southwest Regional

Ten Arizonans were in leadership roles at the Southwest Regional Conference.

Jo Regenold (Lambda) represented fifty-year members with a presentation at the Birthday Luncheon.

Donna Reynolds (Epsilon) “Shared A Vision” at the Past/Present State Presidents’ Luncheon.

Dr. Nancy Noll (Alpha Delta) presided at the Fourth General Session.

Workshop presenters, presiders, facilitators, and recorders included **Jo Regenold**, **Dr. Nancy Noll**, **Berneil Drake** (Alpha Delta), **Rachel Wear** (Alpha Rho), **Diane Sheets** (Alpha Beta), and **Donna Reynolds**.

Info-Fair exhibitors included **Jo Regenold**, **Berneil Drake**, and **Dr. Nancy Noll**.

Musicians were instrumentalist **Berneil Drake**, and choir members **Dr. Nancy Noll**, **Jan Rosenberg** (Nu), **Connie Myren** (Lambda), **Rachel Wear**, **Merry Lewis** (Mu), and **Marge Threewit** (Alpha Beta). ♥

29 Omicron State Members at Southwest Regional Conference

Alpha – Judy Vinson

Beta – Joan Meighan, Kim Meighan

Epsilon – Donna Reynolds

Zeta – Terri Ackland, Ruth Hintz, Dena Martin

Lambda – Connie Myren, Jo Regenold

Mu – Merry Lewis, Judy Strohmeier

Nu – Jan Rosenberg

Rho – Suellen Brahs, Colleen Lines, Sally Switzer

Sigma – Kathy Shroyer

Omega – Joye Sterrett, Janet Vickers

Alpha Alpha – Lori Good

Alpha Beta – Diane Sheets, Marge Threewit

Alpha Delta – Berneil Drake, Kathy Green, Nancy Noll, Alice Reule

Alpha Rho – Jean Davis, Darby Downs, Bea Olivas, Rachel Wear ♥

Honoring Our Fifty-Year Members

Jo Regenold (Lambda), one of the 125 members of the Southwest Region celebrating 50 years as a Society member, represented this distinguished group with remarks at the Southwest Regional Birthday Luncheon.

She stated that this milestone has been an incredible journey, collectively representing 6,250 years of dedication and commitment. She reminded us that fifty-year members have served in many capacities, giving the best of their knowledge and expertise, and will continue to be an ongoing force in strengthening the Society's foundation upon which members can continue to build.

In return, they have availed themselves of opportunities for personal and professional growth and made lifelong friends.

Pointing out that no organization is self-made, Jo challenged members to be interconnected as we expand our visions that will evolve into action and advancement. She stressed that our dedication to the Society must be entrenched in the fact that we do have a purpose in the world society and we can make a difference in the lives we touch.

Jo Regenold Lambda)

First-Timer at Southwest Regional

Activate your vision, inspire and enrich, and dare to live the dreams. These challenges were spinning in my head as I departed the 2009 Southwest Regional Conference. The commitments and many working hands were most impressive and encouraging to this first-time attendee.

The conference opened with a fun-filled Nevada Night, which included much about the history and traditions of a beautiful state. I especially enjoyed the performance of a terrific Elvis Presley impersonator, and watching all the women educators go crazy over him.

Southwest Regional continued with workshops, speakers, getting to know each other, sightseeing, shopping, and wonderful music. I was most touched by two speakers, Mark Hoog and Helaine Jesse.

One of the most rewarding experiences at this conference was meeting new friends from many states and countries. I do not think one fully understands Delta Kappa Gamma until she attends a conference of this magnitude.

As we all know, change can be challenging, but change can be powerful. I was impressed with International President Carolyn Rants and her vision to make progressive change in the Society, while maintaining its long-standing traditions. I am excited to help "Create the Buzz" in my chapter and Omicron State and to participate in the new DKG.

As the song says, "Create tomorrow, make a choice! Create tomorrow, raise your voice!"

The challenge of our future lies in what we choose today. Create tomorrow!"

Darby Downs (Alpha Rho)

The U.S. Forum

Southwest U.S. Forum Representative Wally Turner, Oklahoma, and U.S. Forum Chairman Dr. Mary Ann Roldan, Colorado, led the all-member U.S. Forum. Information on progress of the Healthy People 2010 Oral Health Objectives and how states are meeting the National Call to Action to Promise Oral Health were discussed.

Guest speaker Laurie Nickles, of the Nevada State Health Division, presented facts about gum and periodontal health and disease. She said, "Dental health (cavities) is the worst children's disease today and that dental neglect is the same as child neglect."

Ms. Nickles explained the effective water fluoridation programs, school-based dental sealant programs, and the importance of oral health at all ages. There are 53 million people in the United States who do not have dental health care.

Participants were given a survey to help form the 2009-2010 Advocacy Platform. The National Legislative Seminar will be held March 14 – 17, 2010, in Washington, D.C. All members may attend.

Keep current with Issues and Legislation!
Let Your Opinion Be Heard!

Federal: www.thomas.gov

State: www.azleg.gov

*Lori Good (Alpha Alpha), Chairman
Omicron State Legislative Committee*

Pre-Conference Training Session For Editors and Webmasters

"Create the BUZZ – Advance the Society" was heard many times during the all-day pre-conference training session for state editors and webmasters at the Southwest Regional Conference.

Twelve state editors and webmasters attended. Guest presenter was Jim Miller, the official photographer for the conference.

Hints for writing articles for the state or chapter newsletters:

- Keep sentences and paragraphs short
- Write sentences that require few commas
- Use columns when possible
- Write simply for fast reading.
- Include contacts
- Simplicity: Use small words
- Ask a question
- Visualize
- Consistency matters
- Credibility is as important as philosophy

*Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta), Editor
Omicron State*



Helaine Jesse from Western Nevada College, was the keynote speaker at the Third General Session

The Banquet at Southwest Regional

The Southwest Regional Banquet was the culminating and defining event of the 2009 Southwest Regional Conference. The conference theme was eloquently articulated by the keynote speaker, International President Dr. Carolyn Rants, who challenged us to "Activate Your Vision: Live the Dream."

Presiding at the evening's festivities was Southwest Regional Director Kathy Flynn, from Colorado. The opening thought, "Sharing a Vision for the Society," was given by Ana Isabel de Aguilar, one of Omicron State's very dear friends from Costa Rica.

Omicron State was represented by a contingency of beautiful voices in the Southwest Regional Choir and by our Judy Strohmeier in the State Presidents' processional.

The table decorations were complemented by two sure-to-be treasured banquet gifts at each attendee's place: an artistically designed DKG lapel -pin and a gold-framed keepsake of the convention theme, "Activate Your Vision."

The evening drew to a dramatic poignant close with our singing of "As We Leave This Place," written by Conference Music Director Terre McPheeters of Missouri, the retiring of the flags, and the traditional hand-in-hand singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma Song.

Jean Fuer Davis (Alpha Rho)

Putting the Pieces Together

The year was 1982! That was the last time the Society's international governing documents – *Constitution* and *Standing Rules* – were revised. What has prompted the decision to revise them again? A combination of things, but the “bottom line” is; periodically it becomes necessary for an organization to revisit its governing rules in light of the needs of members, societal changes, and scientific/technological advancements. Whenever an organization outgrows its governing rules, it's time for a revision.

The Constitution Committee and the Ad Hoc Revision Committee comprise the Revision Team.

The team is not rewriting the documents, they are revising and improving them to bring the Society into the 21st Century. The goal is to put “the pieces together” in a document that is user-friendly, comprehensive, understandable, and concise.

The Revision Team needs and wants member input. Share your ideas and concerns with Jo Regenold (Lambda), Revision Team Member. jojohnreg@cox.net

Jo Regenold (Lambda)

Discovering The Leader Within

Omicron state members Darby Downs and Rachel Wear (Alpha Rho) kicked off their 2009 Southwest Regional Conference experience by attending the “*Discovering the Leader Within*” Seminar July 7 along with 43 other women from ten states and Mexico. Dr. Elizabeth Turner, of Turner Associates in Maryland, and a dynamic Delta Kappa Gamma member facilitated the Seminar.

There are outstanding leadership skills within us all. We have only to discover our unique style and then utilize it for effective leadership. This was the overlying message that echoed throughout a seminar of non-stop leading, learning, and sharing.

Everyone learned the importance of projecting a professional image as a leader in order to transform knowledge into action.

A good leader must discover where she can use her leadership skills in order to serve effectively and support others in their own leadership development.

The class members ended a most rewarding seminar filled with ideas to improve their own leadership skills, which is bound to enhance the productivity in their home states and on the international level.

Audience members were asked, as lead-

ers, to keep in mind that team members prefer to be consulted – not simply told - regarding organization happenings.

*Rachel Wear (Alpha Rho)
Omicron State Recording Secretary*

First Vice-President Training at Southwest Regional Conference



*Omicron State
First Vice-President
Judy Vinson*

Gregory (Texas), Kathleen Boyer (Utah), and Dorothy Todd (Nevada) presented the materials.

They reviewed the role and responsibilities of the state program chair and the duties of each of the committees of the Program of Work. While facilitating the sharing of leadership and program ideas, they emphasized communication and programs.

Creating action plans with the international theme as a guide will help build leadership and strengthen all levels of the Society.

Each participant received a manual and other materials for help in fulfilling the requirements of the position and for advancing the Society.

*Judy Vinson (Alpha)
Omicron State First Vice-President*

Ten state first vice-presidents or state program-of-work committee chairmen met at the Southwest Regional Conference for an all-day training session.

Southwest Region representatives on the International Program of Work Committee, Marilyn

Leadership Committee

The Omicron State Leadership Committee, composed of Diane Sheets (Alpha Beta), Kathy Green (Alpha Delta), Suzanne Crumrine (Alpha Eta), Terri Ackland (Zeta) Mary Holloway (Alpha), and Chairman Dena Martin (Zeta) met recently.

The committee has the responsibility of training incoming chapter presidents at the 2010 Omicron State Convention. This training will take place Friday, April 23, 2010, at 4:30 p.m.

The committee will meet and work with the incoming chapter presidents, who are asked to bring concerns, ideas, and experiences to share.

Dena Martin (Zeta)

2010 Omicron State Convention

Mark your calendars! Spring will be here before you know it. Spring would not be spring without the annual Omicron State convention.

The 2010 convention will be held April 23-25 at the Hilton East in Mesa, Arizona.

You can look forward to great classes, fun activities, and time with old and new friends. New chapter officers should plan to attend leadership training meetings on Friday evening. The convention committee will utilize space to the max, incorporate the Rose Boutique, and provide interactive opportunities.

We hope to see all of you in beautiful Mesa, Arizona, next April.

*Jan Smith and Pattie Vincent (Alpha Epsilon)
2010 Convention Co-chairs*

Women in the Arts at 2009 Fall Workshop

The Omicron State Women in the Arts Committee invites members from each chapter to display their art at the 2009 Fall Workshop, October 24, 2009.

This is a unique opportunity for talented individuals to display artwork of all kinds: paintings, photography, graphic or fabric art, fine arts, collections, crafts , , , the list is infinite!

The display will be in the former “Rose Boutique” room in the church. We cannot hang things on the wall in that room. Participants will need to bring their own easels.

It would also be nice to have some examples of literature, short stories, novels, and poetry.

Please let the committee know what you will be displaying. Contact Suellen Brahs, 3655 N. Fifth Ave. #104, Phoenix, AZ 85013-3709, sbrahs@hotmail.com by September 25, 2009.

Name _____

Chapter _____

will bring an entry for the Women in the Arts Display October 24, 2009.

My entry(ies) will be _____



Alpha Chapter presented back-to-school materials to the Salvation Army. Pictured are Alpha members; Gloria Day, Lisa Jackson, and Kay Wilson with Salvation Army Chaptain Kauffman.

Alpha Chapter Project

The Salvation Army Tucson Amphi Corps and Youth Center, offers a full-time summer program as well as an after-school program. The program offers rotations in homework, snacks, game room, and gym.

Alpha Chapter gathers donations of back-to-school materials and clothing for the students in need who attend the summer program. Alpha members presented the donations to the center and to Captain David Kauffman of the Salvation Army on July 28. A picture of the event is on their website: www.tucsonamphicorps.com

Chapter members fill out a questionnaire to be cleared as volunteers. Alpha members will continue to assist with after-school tutoring and with donations to school supplies and the food bank.

Gloria Day (Alpha), President
Alpha Chapter

Pura Vida

Pura Vida! Costa Rica sisters taught us this popular phrase from their country that can be found everywhere on T - shirts, billboards, heard in passing, on TV, or over the radio

Pura Vida!, which translates into Pure Life or the Good Life! Costa Rica State President Flor Maria Perez said, "How can you be sad or down when you say it? Pura Vida! You just have to smile; you can't help but be happy".

Omicron State members met with our six Costa Rica friends at the Southwest Regional Conference to discuss ways Omicron State could build a tighter relationship with them through a long-time service project. Some ideas given were: 1) provide uniforms and/or books to those students who cannot afford them; 2) Initiate e-mail pen pal relationships with students and/or teachers and, 3) a teacher exchange program.

Remember, Pura Vida! Smile and enjoy the pure good life of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Kim Meighan (Beta)

How Did the Arizona – Costa Rica Bond Begin?

In 1983, Costa Rica had been a state in Delta Kappa Gamma for three short years. Two members attended the 1983 Southwest Regional Conference held at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix. Ilse Leer was one of the members. A strong friendship began.

A special Fund, called the Latin American Fund, was established with Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta) as the chairman and Ruth Ulmen (Alpha Delta), the treasurer. At each Omicron State meeting, articles (memorabilia) would be sold with the profits going into the Latin American Fund. This money was used to assist Costa Rica members with the expenses of attending regional and international meetings.

Eventually this "Fund" became an official Omicron State committee and the money continues to be used to assist their members. – usually paying the registration fee and some meals for "X" number of members.

The Costa Rica members have attended our state meal functions and at times been included in the Arizona state picture. They have been guests in our homes and enjoyed special sight-seeing adventures.

In 2006, Bette Ruth Simmons (Alpha Delta), Nancy Noll (Alpha Delta), and Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta) attended the Costa Rica state convention. We were guests in their homes, visited their schools, and enjoyed the fantastic sights of Costa Rica.

Omicron State and Costa Rica have enjoyed a very rewarding 26 year relationship. May it continue for another 26.

Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta)



PHOTO BY JIM, FLORESVILLE, TX

Six members from Costa Rica attended the Southwest Regional Conference.



At the Exchange meeting, Jo Regenold installed Alice Reule as the 2009-2011 Corresponding Secretary

Biennial Exchange Meeting

The Omicron State Exchange meeting took place May 30, 2009, at "The Property," in Casa Grande. After a continental breakfast and a greeting by incoming state president Judy Strohmeier (Mu), Jo Regenold (Lambda) installed Alice Reule (Alpha Delta) as state corresponding secretary.

Jan Rosenberg (Nu) gave an overview and purpose of the exchange meeting. Incoming President Judy Strohmeier inspired us with her theme, "Don't Forget to Dream – and Share Your Dreams."

Kathy Green (Alpha Delta) reported on finances. She spoke of the dues increase and how it may impact membership; but that increase will not take effect until 2010.

Sabuario Editor Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta) reported that the recent edition of the *Sabuario* had 45 articles and 25 photos.

Membership Chairman Janet Vickers (Omega) informed attendees that chapter meetings and some conference, convention, and workshop hours can count toward the 180 hours required for recertification. Proof of attendance is required.

Members were reminded of the Southwest Regional Conference in Reno, Nevada, on July 8 – 11, 2009. The Omicron State Fall Workshop will be October 24, 2009, at the First Assembly of God Church, in Chandler.

Introductions of the new committee chairs to the outgoing committee chairs were made. The sharing of materials, ideas, and the "how to" of the various responsibilities was completed after a break for lunch.

Pearl Nancarrow (Delta)

Educator Award

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educator Award was presented to Dr. Lois Easton of Boulder, Colorado. At the Birthday Luncheon, she spoke about her book, *Engaging the Disengaged*.

The book is based on the supposition that schools can help struggling students succeed. It gives clear steps in applying strategies based on her research with disenfranchised students. She questions:

What is desirable and what am I willing to do to be the change needed for these students?

Judy Strohmeier (Mu), President, Omicron State



PHOTO BY JIM, FLORESVILLE, TX

International President Dr. Carolyn Rants,
Dr. Nancy Noll, and Berneil Drake
in a serious discussion

Ad Hoc Task Force

At the Southwest Regional Ad Hoc Task Force meeting in Reno regarding restructuring Society committees, the following recommendations were made by members. Replies from each of the regions will be forwarded to the Revisions Committee for their recommendations.

Revision Committee members are meeting with the Constitution Committee for items which might be presented at the 2010 International Convention

Diane Sheets (Alpha Beta) has been the Arizona representative on this committee and Jo Regenold (Lambda) is a member of the Revisions Committee.

1) There should be face-to-face meetings at least once per biennium for all committees.

2) Consider changing the title of the Program of Work Committee to Program Services Committees.

3) Program of Work Committees change of name should still include the following subcommittees:

- a. Program of Work
- b. Personal Growth and Services
- c. Professional Affairs

4) Professional Affairs Committee responsibilities should be expanded to include research aspect of committee work, thereby eliminating a separate Research Committee.

5) The international president could appoint an Ad Hoc Committee for specific research when needed.

6) Program Committee should include

Fine Arts component of committee work rather than having a separate Fine Arts/Music chairman.

7) A Non-Dues Revenue Committee should be named – which would include the elements of Society insurance.

8) The current responsibilities of the Personnel Committee should be reviewed. Acquire a professional PR/Consultant/Marketing individual to work with the Communications Committee for members and nonmembers. This would necessitate a revision of the Communications Services Administrator position.

*Nancy Noll (Alpha Delta), Chairman
Southwest Regional Ad Hoc Task Force Committee*

Attend Regional and International Conventions for Credit

Yes, you may earn credits by attending Regional and International Delta Kappa Gamma conventions.

I used thirty hours each year, under the category of professional (education-related) conferences and workshops, for my teaching certificate renewal. Enrollment is through a web-site, www.paec.org, and enrollment must take place before the convention starts. Directions for enrolling are given in *The Delta Kappa Gamma News* prior to the convention. The site also accepts your answers to the activity questions and then prints a certificate for you upon completion.

Questions to complete the course can be downloaded ahead of the convention. The questions usually ask the registrant to apply information learned to our personal and professional lives and are somewhat specific to the information given at the convention. The questions are thought-provoking and interesting to answer.

I found that I need to set aside a minimum of six hours to complete the questions, as well as attending sessions and workshops and taking some information from them.

I hope you will join me next year at the International Convention in Spokane, Washington, and enroll for credit.

Dr. Joye Sterrett (Omega)

Casa Grande Members

Members who live in the Casa Grande area, check the zip code on Society mailings you receive. If your zip code is not correct, please notify International Headquarters.



Nancy Nicholson (Epsilon) has been appointed principal at Colonel Johnson School, on Ft. Huachuca.

Lisa Holland (Epsilon) has been appointed principal at Lowell School, in Bisbee.

Janet Blum (Omega), Scottsdale's fine arts coordinator, was honored by Tavan Elementary School's dedicating its fifth annual Fine Arts Summer Program Finale to her for her support of the arts. The celebration included a visual arts gallery and presentations in drama, music, dance, yoga, and technology.

Diane Sheets (Alpha Beta) has been elected president of the Phoenix Symphony Friends. **Sally Switzer** (Rho) was elected vice-president. This group staffs and manages the lobby gift shop at Phoenix Symphony Hall.

Ann Stephens (Lambda), **Annji Craig-Wooten** (Kappa), and **Berneil Drake** (Alpha Delta) are members of the All Arizona School Retirees Association Education Foundation Board of Directors. The Association awards scholarships to future teachers at the three state universities.

Jan Rosenberg-Noe (Nu) is the co-vice-president/program chairman of the Casa Adobes Branch of AAUW for the 2009-2011 biennium.

Merry Lewis (Mu) and **Joan Meighan** (Beta) took our pictures at the Southwest Regional. One, taken at the Info-Fair, will be on the Society Website. Look for it!

Alpha Epsilon Chapter members provide backpacks and school supplies for youngsters who are clients at the Child Crisis Center in Mesa. ♥

Legislative Forum

Advocacy on Behalf of Children

This workshop was highly interactive as we reviewed the legislative issues of each of DKG's Southwestern states and their use of Federal stimulus money.

Discussion focused on anticipated legislation and the impact it may have on education and children. Strategies that can be implemented to connect with legislators and chapter members were reviewed.

—Continued on page 8



White Roses
*"A Moment to Remember...
 A Lifetime to Honor"*

LaRue Hubbard Alpha Alpha
 May 14, 2009 Phoenix, AZ

Frances Dowdle Zeta
 July 9, 2009 Casa Grande, AZ

A Twist on Travel

The future belongs to those who dream and have a vision for the future.

Are you a visionary, part of the changing future . . .

Or are you content living in the past?

Challenge your comfort level and come along on an exciting journey in

Omicron State and see where the future takes us.

This could be the trip of a lifetime!

The adventure is yours by participating.

*Judy Strohmeier (Mu), President
 Omicron State*

New Brochures Available

Two new brochures were distributed at the regional conferences. *You & Us* is designed to explain who we are and the honor of belonging. It is a great way to invite others to join us in our mission and purposes.

One & All highlights the opportunities of members, their role in making a difference and in being the progressive voice for women educators worldwide.

Both brochures are free and available from international headquarters. You only pay shipping costs.

Copied from August 2009 BUZZ

2010 International Convention

During the five regional conferences this summer, International President Dr. Carolyn Rants issued an invitation to all members to attend the 2010 International Convention. The personal and professionally recorded messages included the four reasons to attend the July 20 – 24, 2010, meeting in Spokane, Washington.

- **Challenge** – you by voting on the revised *Constitution* and *Standing Rules*.
- **Empower** – you with learning and vision.
- **Enrich** – your life through speakers and the arts.
- **Enjoy** – our genuine spiritual fellowship and hugs all around.

Activate your vision for the future. Make the convention a priority and reserve and dates. Discover Spokane's parks, unique history, nature preserves, and shopping. Take pre-conference tours or the cruise to Alaska after the convention. Be there! 2010 International Convention. ♥

Chapter Yearbooks

A reminder! Each chapter should bring four (4) copies of their Yearbook to the 2009 Fall Workshop. The state president, first vice-president, second vice-president, and the editor will be referring to these Yearbooks often.

Thank you. ♥

LEGISLATIVE FORUM CONTINUED

Five constituent contacts will cause a legislator to pay serious attention to a given issue.

Need more information? How did your congressmen vote? Try these links:

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/110/bills/>

To receive DKG's free legislative newsletter: Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu

*Lori Good (Alpha Alpha), Chairman
 Omicron State Legislative Committee*

Dates to Remember

October 24, 2009

All Member Workshop & Executive Board Meeting
 First Assembly of God Church
 523 W. Ray Road, Chandler, Arizona

April 23-25, 2010

Omicron State Convention
 Hilton East-Mesa
 1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa, Arizona

July 15-18, 2010

Seminar for Purposeful Living
 Tacoma, Washington

July 20-24, 2010

International Convention
 The Davenport Hotel and Tower
 Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, Washington

April 29-May 1, 2011

Omicron State Convention
 Westward Look Resort, Tucson, Arizona

June 27-July 2, 2011

Southwest Regional Conference
 Hyatt Regency Tech Center
 7800 E. Tufts Ave., Denver, Colorado

July 24-28, 2012

International Convention
 Syracuse, New York

Change!

What change did you notice in the *Sahuaro*? Be the first to let me know and you get your name in print and a prize to be presented at the Fall Workshop.

Do you know why Pura Vida? Ask someone who attended the Southwest Regional Conference or your chapter president.

Pura Vida! It is my wish for you.

*Judy Strohmeier (Mu), President
 Omicron State
 judysretreat@aol.com*

SAHUARO

Publication Deadlines

Winter Issue	January 15, 2010
Spring Issue	May 1, 2010
Fall Issue	August 15, 2010

Berneil Drake, Editor
 3426 E. Elm St., Phoenix, AZ 85018-3430
 e-mail: berneild@aol.com



Delta Kappa Gamma-Omicron State
 3426 E. Elm Street
 Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Phoenix, Arizona
 Permit No. 1152