



Arizona SAHUARO

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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – For Key Women Educators

Achievement Award Winner Joan Meighan



Joan Meighan (Beta) received the 2009 Omicron State Achievement Award

Joan Meighan (Beta) received the Omicron State Achievement Award at the convention's Rose Banquet. A thirty-three year member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Joan has actively served her chapter, Omicron State, and International. Her nominator wrote that she is "...a wonderfully talented and colorful woman, who develops learning through joyous experiences, yet is the epitome of a leader."

Joan has served her chapter in all offices with additional work as chair and member of chapter committees, and has numerous program presentations to her credit.

At the state level, she has served on convention committees. She has presented workshops, and has participated actively in decoration committees and Women in the Arts displays. She has attended regional conferences and international conventions. She served as

the president of the Phoenix Area Coordinating Council.

Now retired, Joan continues to return to her former school district where her experience in Early Childhood and K-8 education makes her a sought-after substitute teacher. She continues to be active in her church, where she has taught Sunday School, assisted at the food bank, and still helps to assemble the church newsletter. She also has the distinction of being half of an Omicron State mother-daughter team.

Terri Ackland (Alpha Zeta), Chairman Achievement Award Committee

Omicron State Committees

A note from president-elect Judy Strohmeyer

Thank you to all of Omicron's Dream Catchers. Seventy-two members signed up for state committees while at the state convention.

Did you know that in addition to over 20 committee chairmen, an additional 120 are needed to sustain these committees? At this time there are still 23 openings for members seeking personal growth and excellence in



President-elect Judy Strohmeyer (Mu)

education in Omicron State. To join the Dream-Catcher visionaries contact Judy Strohmeyer at judysretreat@aol.com. Do it now so you won't be saying, "I could have been part of the change I want for Delta Kappa Gamma."

We are especially in need of members from Tucson and the out-lying chapters.

Judy Strohmeyer (Mu)

Omicron State Dues Increase

Effective

2010 – 2011

Active Dues - \$25.00 Reserve Dues - \$10.00

Judy Strohmeyer Elected Omicron State President

Omicron State officers for the 2009-2011 biennium were elected at the 67th Omicron State Convention:

President

Judy Strohmeyer (Mu)

First Vice-President

Judy Vinson (Alpha)

Second Vice-President

Janet Vickers (Omega)

Recording Secretary

Rachel Wear (Alpha Rho)

Corresponding Secretary

Alice Reule (Alpha Delta)

Nominations Committee

Area I

Janet Fish (Alpha Eta)

Area II

Marge Threewit (Alpha Beta)

Area III

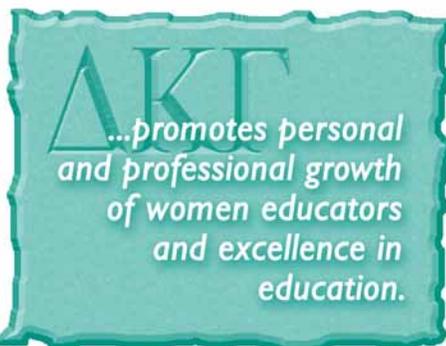
Terri Ackland (Zeta)

Area IV

Janis Parks (Xi)

Area V

Phyllis Sue Sword (Epsilon)



Walk The Talk With Dena



Dena Martin (Zeta)
Omicron State President

It is hard to believe that the State Convention is over and a part of the past. I want to thank each and every one who took the time to come and be a part of the 2009 State Convention.

The Workshops had good reviews. The General Session, Luncheon, Banquet, and Lei of Friendship Breakfast also had positive comments. We were told that the hotel served too much food. However, the food was delicious. All in all, the convention was a success.

The international guest, Carolyn Pittman, from Little Rock, Arkansas, was a delight. She fit in with the Arizonans just fine. Her wit, humor, and the wisdom she shared with us was enjoyable. Once you met her you felt you had known her forever.

Carolyn serves on the International Administrative Board as a member-at-large. A special thank you to past state president Donna Reynolds (Epsilon), who served as hostess to Carolyn while she attended the convention.

If you have not signed up for the Southwest Regional in Reno, Nevada, you need to do so right away. All the registration forms, tours, and hotel information can be found on the Delta Kappa Gamma website (deltakappagamma.net). The Thursday night Arizona dinner will be filled with fun and a chance to meet with our friends from Costa Rica and fellow Arizonans. Come join us in Reno. ♥

Nominations Committee

The Omicron State Nominations Committee presented the slate of nominated Omicron State officers for the 2009-2011 biennium at the General Session meeting at the state convention. Nominations were requested from the floor. There were none, and the slate was accepted as presented.

This is an important part of the democratic process followed in the governing and conducting of business in Delta Kappa Gamma. Each and every member has the opportunity to nominate and vote for officers at all levels of the Society. All that is required is to be registered at the respective meeting (chapter, state, or international), be a member of that chapter or state, and to vote.

Likewise, every member has the opportunity to nominate someone to an office at all

levels and every member has the opportunity to run for an office. True, there are some requirements of prior service/experience to the Society at the state and international levels but these are not difficult to meet, especially at the state level.

Every one is encouraged to become involved.

Jan Rosenberg (Nu), Chairman
Omicron State Nominations Committee

A Note from President-Elect Judy...

As an explorer, I have a passion for travel and for meeting outstanding educators throughout the world.

Now a new honor and challenge are ahead of me, but I know with your support the next two years are going to be filled with many changes that will enrich and strengthen our Society.

It is one of my goals to involve the many members who have not had an opportunity to share their talents and dreams with us.

Starting in July, watch for current news hot off the Coyote Press, for now Dream, Imagine, Believe, and Succeed. I have D.I.B.S. on all of you . . . to create a bright future for Omicron State through your participation. My dreams for you include Project Costa Rica and The Creative Arts Retreat. Join the Dream Catchers and come on board as we begin the new biennium. Share your ideas for programs, speakers, and locations. Our future is in our dreams.

Judy Strohmeier (Mu), 2009-2011 President-elect
Omicron State



Arizona Legislator David Schapira receives the "Legislator of the Year" award from Omicron State Legislative Committee Chairman Kathi Houtcooper (Alpha Iota).

Leadership Committee

The Omicron State Leadership Committee held a one-hour workshop at the Omicron State Convention as a follow-up to the five-hour leadership training for chapter presidents given last spring.

Most of the state's thirty-three chapter presidents were in attendance. Information was presented concerning the annual and biennial reports that will be due next February 1. Presidents shared ideas about Collaborative Connections, how to help members with dues, how to increase attendance at meetings, membership, programs and projects, successes, and solutions to problems.

The presidents expressed serious concern for what is happening to so many teachers – being laid off due to cuts in education funding. They asked if the committee could help draft a petition or letter to the state legislature from the members of Omicron State that would express our concern and ask for increased legislative support for education funding.

We have spoken to the state legislative chairman and are attempting to initiate an action for the state members.

Jan Rosenberg (Nu), Chairman
Omicron State Leadership Development Committee

Friend of Education

The Legislative Committee has selected Representative David Schapira as the 2009 Friend of Education. He was nominated by two chapters, Alpha Alpha and Chi, as a strong advocate of education.

Mr. Schapira was the youngest member of the legislature, just 26 years old, when he was elected to represent District 17.

The Valley native resides in Tempe with his wife, who is a teacher. Schapira is a former high school math teacher, a political activist, and a small business owner. In addition, community service is a large part of his life, including work with the American Cancer Society as staff and volunteer, himself a cancer survivor.

His focus in the Legislature is the education of Arizona's children. In January he stated, "I think that we don't solve the state's deficit on the backs of students."

Representative Schapira was named Legislator of the Year for 2007 by the Arizona Student Association. He was also named one of the six Lawmakers Who Make A Difference and one of the five Emerging Leaders Worth Watching by the *Arizona Republic*.

Kathi Houtcooper, Chairman
Legislative Committee

Reception and Entertainment

The highlight of the Friday evening reception and entertainment was listening to and singing along with the *Old Time Hits* presented by "One A' Chord." Alpha Delta's Dr. Nancy Noll emceed and sang with the group. They also entertained with several *Rock and Roll* numbers that were popular in that era.



Dr. Nancy Noll (Alpha Delta) is the coordinator of One A' Chord

Omicron State President Dena Martin (Alpha Zeta) introduced international representative Carolyn Pittman, member-at-large on the International Administrative Board.

After the music, refreshments and socializing completed a delightful evening.

Liz Tataseo (Alpha Delta)

Financial Impact of Changes to Standing Rules and Bylaws

While the economy has been the No. 1 topic facing all levels of government, corporate, and personal budgets, it is no surprise that Omicron State is also challenged to adopt procedures and strategies that support our missions effectively. Motions offered and passed at this year's state convention relate to the financial business of Omicron State. Here is a recap of those changes.

For the fiscal support of the convention itself, \$2,000 is now the amount of seed money allocated to the planning of each state convention. If an amount over \$2,000 remains in the convention account after all the bills have been paid, those funds in excess of \$2,000 will be transferred to the Omicron State Available Fund. This will ease the strain on operational costs. This change to the Omicron Standing Rules takes effect immediately.

In 2010, new state dues will take effect. Omicron State Bylaws were changed defining active membership dues at \$25.00 (an increase of \$10.00) and reserve dues at \$10.00 (an increase of \$3.00). Chapter presidents and treasurers should take special note that the 2009-2010 dues remain unchanged. Although current active membership is 874 and current reserve is 90, membership has been declining over the last several years. This increase in dues will help maintain state services in an economy where travel, printing, insurance, and other items continue to rise.

Kathy Green (Alpha Delta),
Treasurer, Omicron State

Three Scholarships Awarded

At the 2009 Omicron State Convention, the Scholarship Committee announced the winners of three Omicron State \$1,000 scholarships.

Sandra Chemsak (Alpha Iota) has been awarded the Dr. Irma Wilson Omicron State Scholarship. Sandra teaches in the Peoria Unified School District. She plans to continue studies in Administrative Leadership at A.S.U. West and desires to become an Assistant Special Education Director or Supervisor at the college level for student teachers.

Terri Matteson (Alpha Sigma) received the Alice Vail Omicron State Scholarship. Terri is the Science Coordinator at Liberty Elementary School District. Terri was awarded the Omicron State Scholarship in 1998 and in the summers of 2002 and 2004 received the Challenger Center Fellowship at Harvard University. She plans to use this year's scholarship for summer session classes, and her goal is



Omicron State Scholarship winners Terri Matteson (Alpha Sigma), Julie Holdsworth-Nagel (Alpha Zeta), and Sandy Chemsak (Alpha Iota)

to complete her Doctoral degree in 2010.

Julie Holdsworth-Nagel (Alpha Zeta) received the Isadore Munger Endowment Scholarship. Julie is presently an Instructional Specialist/Professional Development Trainer in the Casa Grande Elementary School District. Julie will use her scholarship for continued work in attaining a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership with K-12 emphasis at Northern Arizona University.

Colleen Lines (Rho),
Member Omicron State Scholarship Committee

Webpages with Pizzazz

If you ever wanted to create a chapter website that would inform members, remind members, attract members, and demonstrate a commitment to being green, this was the workshop for you.

Linda Spellman (Alpha Omega) inspired any chapter to launch into the 21st Century and begin a practical approach to using the latest technology. A chapter can post meeting information and chapter news.

Chapter web pages will save postage and printing costs. You can poll members' opinions, spotlight members' successes, post a photo gallery, and list birthdays. The green habits and cost-saving possibilities are endless.

You may contact Linda at lindaspellman@usa.net.

Cindy Ellis (Alpha Zeta)

Breast and Cervical Health

Diane Tasen, RN, BSN, MAIS, presented a workshop on breast and cervical health to women attending the 2009 state convention. She encouraged the audience to routinely look for breast changes, such as new lumps, changes in the nipple (crusting or inversion), redness or dimpling of the breast skin.

Three procedures lead to early detection: monthly self-exams, exams by physicians, and mammograms. If cancer cells are found early, there is a 98 percent five-year survival rate.

Diane described the self-exam procedure now recommended: Move across the breast in an up-and-down pattern starting underneath the arm, extending up to the shoulder and across the breast to the middle of the chest.

Cervical cancer is the presence of cancerous cells in the cervix, usually with the symptom of vaginal bleeding, though sometimes no symptoms appear until advanced stages.

Risk factors for cervical cancer include HPV infection, sexual activity with multiple partners, and smoking. Yearly pap smears are the best defense for early detection of precancerous cell changes.

Kathy Green (Alpha Delta)

General Session

Not enough chairs – what a great problem to have! One hundred fifty-two members attended the general session and Executive Board meeting on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

Merry Lewis (Mu) gave the opening thought to introduce the convention theme, "Shoes."

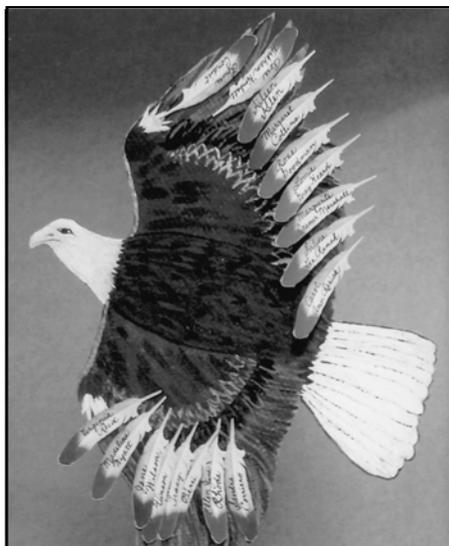
President Dena Martin (Alpha Zeta) conducted the business meeting. After some discussion about the budget shortfall, a ten-dollar increase in state dues was approved. This increase will be effective 2010.

The 2009-2011 biennium officers were elected. Closing thoughts were given by Jean Fuer Davis (Alpha Rho).

Sally Carter (Alpha Epsilon)



Merry Lewis (Mu) gave the opening thought at the General Session. The theme for the thoughts was, "The Right Shoes Can Take You Anywhere"



Above, Bernell Drake (Alpha Delta) was the flautist at the Ceremony of Remembrance.
At left, Eagles were soaring at the Ceremony of Remembrance.

Eagles Soar at Ceremony of Remembrance

Sunday morning at the state convention is the traditional time set aside to remember and honor members who passed away during the past year.

At this year's ceremony, 17 treasured Omicron members were recalled in a reflective service featuring readings and songs with imagery of soaring eagles in graceful flight.

Under the direction of Omicron State Second Vice-President Judy Vinson (Alpha), the program included both musical and narrative selections.

Readings entitled "Stairway to Heaven," "From Heaven's Doorway," and "Hurt Hawk" were delivered by members of the Membership Committee.

An original composition by Judy Vinson entitled "Her Flight" was read in memory of the deceased members, but especially for Judy's mother, June (Upsilon).

Adorning the room was a painting of an eagle soaring over a mountain. An outline of a second eagle provided the focal point of the ceremony. As the names of the honored members were read, a feather was placed on the wings of the eagle.

Musical contributions included Bernell Drake's flute solo, "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," Betsy Cary's (Alpha Delta) accompaniment on the keyboard, and Gloria Day's (Alpha) song – "When I Get Where I'm Going."

Kathy Green (Alpha Delta)



Navajo Reservation Education

Helen Thomas (Alpha Iota) started her teaching career in 1951 in a government boarding school on the Navajo reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico. Along with her husband, who was to be a principal/teacher, Helen was excited about the opportunity until she saw her first assignment.

Their school was at Red Rock, and when they arrived they found the dormitory and classrooms in complete disarray. No teaching materials were to be found, and the community not trusting of these two new teachers.

Undaunted, Helen and her husband got help from Save the Children and were able to get needed supplies.

Two years later when they moved to a new reservation school, they had learned to love their Navajo children and families and served the reservation schools for a number of years.

Kathi Houtcooper (Alpha Iota)



Women in the Arts Chairman Pearl Nancarrow (Delta)

Lei of Friendship Breakfast

A conch shell was blown by Gloria Day (Alpha) to summon Omicron State presidents to march in the traditional Lei of Friendship procession. The presidents, colorfully adorned in chapter leis, strolled around the ballroom accompanied by familiar Hawaiian melodies.

Omicron State World Fellowships Chairman Sharon Modi (Alpha) presented a progress report on the achievements of World Fellowship recipients who have attended college in Arizona. She also shared greetings from Maria Paz Gomez, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in special education at the University of Arizona.

Former recipient Precious Thabisile (Zulu translation, "she who has brought us joy") Biyela, from South Africa, was the breakfast speaker. She will be awarded a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering in 2010 from Arizona State University.

The program ended with an enthusiastic group singing of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

Omicron State members continued to "walk the walk" of a commitment to make the world a better place for all by contributing \$858.86 to the World Fellowships Fund.

*Sharon Modi (Alpha), Chairman
Omicron State World Fellowships Committee*



World Fellowship recipient Precious Biyela and Omicron State World Fellowships Committee Chairman Sharon Modi (Alpha) share a moment at the breakfast

Women in the Arts Show a Success

Ten chapters in Omicron State, representing perhaps 50 artists, participated in the recent art show held at the state convention on April 24 – 26, 2009.

There were beautiful quilts, a quilted jacket, drawings, paintings, photography, hand-made jewelry, greeting cards, and dolls.

There were altered fabric books and a teddy bear, too! The cut and painted soda cans that were transformed into large colorful insects were something that perhaps should be for sale at the Fall Rose Boutique.

Attendees could cast a vote for the chapter they felt was "Best of the Show." This honor was won by Chi Chapter.

*Pearl Nancarrow (Delta), Chairman
Omicron State Women in the Arts Committee*

Put a Little POW into Your Chapter Programs

The state Program of Work (POW) Committee designed this workshop to help chapter first vice-presidents with their program planning. Judy Strohmeier (Mu), chairman of the committee, assisted by two of her committee members, Virginia Ptuyac (Sigma) and Diane Henry (Alpha Sigma), presented the workshop.

Omicron State Professional Affairs Chairman Virginia Ptuyac gave several suggestions for programs. Speakers from the Professional Affairs Committee will be glad to come to your chapter and talk about Collaborative Connections, the recently approved state project. Virginia also talked about featuring prominent women from history. A chapter could feature one each month with a short statement or devote an entire chapter meeting to one or two women. Chapter members could do this or Sigma Chapter would provide the speakers.

Other program ideas:

(1) Highlight a member each month by describing her through cryptic clues that relate to her identity.

(2) Combine occasional meetings with another chapter in your area to hear an especially good presentation.

(3) In consideration of the need for new members, print small cards (the size of business cards) with sayings such as "You are the apple of my eye for dedicating yourself to teaching" or "You are one smart cookie" (with cookie attached) – and deliver them to potential members with time and place of next meeting.

Diane dealt with the personal growth and service aspect, and, as an example, cited a visit by her chapter to a battered women's center followed by collection of personal items that chapter members gift-bagged and presented to the women as a holiday surprise.

*Virginia Ptuyac (Sigma)
Anne Palazzo (Chi)
Diane Henry (Alpha Sigma)*

Judy's Reminders...

Saturday – May 30, 2009

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Property in Casa Grande

Incoming and outgoing state officers and incoming and outgoing state committee chairmen

June 12 – 14, 2009

Dream Team Retreat

Munds Park, Arizona

July 8 – 12, 2009

Southwest Regional Conference

Reno, Nevada



Past State Presidents Jo Regenold (Lambda) and Sally Switzer (Rho) sold raffle tickets for the Breakfast Bash Basket

75th Anniversary Celebration

The 75th Anniversary Celebration of Omicron State will be held at the 2011 State Convention. Omicron State was founded January 25, 1936, at the Pioneer Hotel in Tucson.

The 2011 State Convention will be held in Tucson. We have honored mother/daughter members in each of the past four issues of the *SahuarO*. In this issue we are honoring another four members. The committee continues to search for more mother/daughter members. Please contact the 75th Anniversary Committee Chairman Berneil Drake if you know such members.

At each Fall Workshop and State Convention, the past state presidents will be offering special-theme baskets in a raffle. Money from these raffles will help defray the extra expenses of the anniversary celebration.

Were you born in 1936? The committee would like to feature Omicron State members who were born in this special year. Do you have pictures or memorabilia from 1936? A display will be featured at the 2011 convention. Share your findings with committee chairman Berneil Drake

*Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta), Chairman
Ad Hoc 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee*



Alpha Beta Chapter members were responsible for the registration at the convention

Birthday Luncheon

The 2009 Birthday Luncheon was a jam-packed affair enjoyed by all. Dr. Nancy Noll (Alpha Delta) continued the "shoe" theme with her opening remarks.

Kathi Houtcopper (Alpha Iota) presented the Friend of Education Award to Representative David Schapira. Schapira spoke eloquently about the state of education in Arizona and indicated that the legislature should focus more on education.

Judy Vinson recognized fifty-year members Jo Regenold (Lambda), Vera Workman (Rho), Henrietta Fernandez (Delta), and Judy Scarborough (Delta).

Twenty-six members with 25 years of membership were featured on a convention display board. Those present at the luncheon were recognized.

Scholarships were awarded. The 75th Anniversary raffle baskets, "Mama Mia" and "Breakfast Bash," were presented to Florence Foster (Upsilon) and Joyce Geranis (Chi).

Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta) closed the luncheon with more "shoes for thought."

Liz Tataseo (Alpha Delta)



Above, Florence Foster (Upsilon) won the "Mama Mia" 75th Anniversary raffle basket which was provided by past state presidents Jean Davis (Alpha Rho) and Jo Regenold (Lambda)



At left, Membership Committee member Ruth Hintz (Zeta) presents a rose to 50-year honoree Vera Workman (Rho)

Alpha Beta in Leadership Role at Convention

Alpha Beta Chapter members were in leadership roles at the 2009 Omicron State Convention. Sharon Willy was registrar and Marge Threewit was the business manager.

The week before the convention, chapter members Mona Gillum, Carol Miller, Nancy Frank, Maureen Felcyn, Judy Weber, Estene Tarber, and Sandra Murray put together the folders with meal tickets and name badges.

At the convention, Peggy Yale, Diane Sheets, Bev Combs, and Carol Morse assisted them at the registration table.

Nancy Frank was a timer for the Executive Session, Diane Sheets gave the "opening thought" at the Rose Banquet, and Diane Tasev presented the workshop on cervical and breast health.

Thank you, Alpha Beta.

Marge Threewit (Alpha Beta)

Helen Thomas Diana Jaeger Alpha Iota Mother/ Daughter

Helen Hawley Thomas (Alpha Iota) was born in Pueblo, Colorado. After graduating from high school, she put herself through two years at the local junior college. With the help of a scholarship, she attended Colorado State College of Education in Greeley, graduating with a B.A. degree in Education and a kindergarten endorsement.

Marriage to Hadley Thomas followed graduation and the couple took positions at a government boarding school on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. Two more boarding schools and three children later, Helen and family arrived in Tuba City, Arizona. During her 13 years there, Helen belonged to Epsilon Sigma Alpha, a professional service organization, and served as its president twice.

When daughter Dana was five years old, Helen opened a kindergarten with 24 Navajo, Hopi, and Anglo five-year-olds at the local community center. Two years later, the State of Arizona decided to add kindergarten to the elementary schools and Helen was one of the first teachers. She also helped husband Hadley develop a book on teaching English as a second language for the Economy Company of Oklahoma. They presented their work at an ESL conference in New Orleans.

The family later moved to Chandler and Helen taught for four years at Sacaton on the Pima reservation.

A subsequent move to Glendale took Helen to the Pendergast Elementary District, where she taught second grade. At Westwind Elementary, she taught second and third grades and spent several years as grade-level chair. She retired in 1988.

In 1998 Helen was invited to join Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Iota Chapter, as an honorary member. She usually hosts the first meeting of the year, and she sells RADA knives to help support the Grants-in-Aid program. Free time is spent by drawing or sculpting and always includes reading and movies.

Dana Jaeger was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, while her parents were teaching on the Navajo Reservation at Wide Ruins Boarding School. She grew up on the reservation at Tuba City until her family moved to Chandler prior to her senior year of high school. After graduating from Chandler High School, Dana put herself through Mesa Community College by working in the fruit-packing sheds in Queen Creek.

After two years at MCC, Dana graduated from ASU with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She taught fourth grade for six years



Dana Jaeger (Alpha Iota) with her mother Helen Thomas (Alpha Iota)

and third grade for ten years at Heritage Elementary School in the Peoria Unified School District. She moved to Santa Fe Elementary when it opened and taught fourth and fifth grades before returning to Heritage four years later. While Dana was at Heritage, Mom Helen helped with the reading groups. Dana served as treasurer on the Executive Board of the Peoria Classroom Teachers Association. She was grade-level chair four times. Dana retired in 2006 after 29 years in the district.

Dana is married to Ken, a retired high school music teacher, and they have two daughters. She occupies her time with web-design classes, collecting dragons, and attending her husband's various musical performances at Phoenix College and the Glendale City Summer Band. Dana is currently the Alpha Iota newsletter editor and webmaster. ♥

Tucson Coordinating Council

Saturday, May 2, 2009, at the Viscount Suite Hotel in Tucson, the Tucson Area Coordinating Council initiated seventeen members, all seven chapters being represented. After a time of ceremony and roses, members adjourned to a beautiful breakfast setting at the hotel

We entered to the uplifting music of the Wildflowers musical trio. A Grant-in-Aid was presented to Cassandra Alvarez, Nogales High School senior who will be attending Arizona State University, majoring in education with a focus on special education.

James Deem, life-long learner and teacher shared his experiences from an apprehensive but imaginative student, who didn't enjoy reading, to author of haunted suspense literature for children. A fitting tribute to our Founders was offered.

The 90 members who attended this event celebrated the careers of five 2009 retirees: Gloria Day (Alpha), Kay Wilson (Alpha), Vicki Shroeder (Alpha Rho), Tina Thompson (Nu) and Patricia Thompson (Nu).

Lambda Chapter served as hostess for this event. *Jennifer Lichtsinn (Alpha Rho)* ♥

Ellie Clauson Gwen Clauson Hogan

Ellie Clauson (Alpha Iota) was born in Minnesota and graduated from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota. She married Robert Clauson in 1949 and they have four children, Gwen, Craig, and Barbara (all teachers) – and Brad, who manages business parks. Ellie and Robert have six grandchildren.

Ellie was a social worker in Minnesota and began teaching in the Roosevelt District in Phoenix in 1961. She then taught visually impaired students in the Washington School District after attending San Francisco State University. After receiving an M.A. in Special Education from ASU, she continued teaching until retirement in 1986.

Velda Dale sponsored her when she joined Beta Chapter in 1968. She transferred to Alpha Iota Chapter when it was formed in 1969 and has served in every office except treasurer. As a member of the Omicron State Legislative Committee, she attended a National Legislative Session in Washington, D.C. in 1999.

Her daughter, Gwen Clauson Hogan, was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and earned a degree from Arizona State University in 1971. Gwen is married and has one son. She began teaching in 1993 and in 1997 joined Alpha Iota Chapter, where she has served on many committees. ♥



Gwen Hogan (Alpha Iota) with her mother Ellie Clauson (Alpha Iota)

Marana District Celebration

Alpha Chapter members sponsored the Marana School District New Teacher Celebration on April 22. Members supported these new teachers and introduced them to Delta Kappa Gamma.

Teacher Survival Bags included tokens to brighten their day and show them we care. Inside the bag was a copy of the official Delta Kappa Gamma "Who Are We?" brochure.

All teachers filled out a card with their contact information. These cards were collected and drawn for door prizes. Two gift certificates to Barnes and Noble, several children's books, and five one-hour coupons for a chapter volunteer to work in their classroom.

Refreshments were provided by Alpha Chapter members.

Gloria Day (Alpha)



Sandy Chemsak (Alpha Iota) and **Kellie Hernandez** (Alpha Iota) were the co-chairmen of the 2009 Omicron State Convention.

Jean Larson (Lambda) was recipient of the Pima County Retired Teachers Association Service Award for 2009.

Judy Lewis (Omega) received the Charros Teacher of the Year award. She is a teacher at Pima Elementary School in the Scottsdale School District.

Lucia Raz (Alpha Iota) was awarded the Rodel Exemplary Teacher's Award. She received a \$10,000 US Savings Bond and has committed to supervise and mentor six Rodel Promising Student Teachers over the next three years. She is a sixth grade teacher at Emerson School in the Phoenix Elementary School District.

Mary Lou Taylor (Omega) is currently serving as the president of the Tempe Union High School Board.

Mindy Whalen (Alpha Alpha) has been honored as a recipient of the 2009 *Lamp of Learning Award* for the Washington School district.

Nancy Putman (Alpha Alpha) has been re-elected to the Arizona Education Association Board of Directors.

Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (Alpha Alpha) is one of 20 elected officials nationwide selected for the Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership Program and has attended a seven-day leadership Seminar in the Middle East. Kyrsten's first book, *Unite and Conquer: How to Build Coalitions that Win and Last*, will be released in July, 2009, by Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Jackie Thrasher (Alpha Alpha) has received the 2009 *Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award*. She will attend the two-day Symposium on Music in Schools in New Haven, Connecticut, in June. Jackie serves on the Board of Ear Candy Charity (a non-

profit devoted to creating, supporting and sustaining music programs in our schools), Arizona Citizen's Action for the Arts, and was appointed by former Governor Janet Napolitano to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names.

Alpha Omega Chapter is an official certified chapter website for 2009. Linda Spellman is the webmaster.

Terri Millison Ackland (Alpha Zeta) is Dean of Arts and Social Sciences at Central Arizona College. She was featured in a full page article in the *Pinal County Lifestyles*. A quote from the article: "The bottom line is that community is what it's all about for Ackland."

Alpha Epsilon Chapter had the most members at the convention from "in-area."

Alpha Zeta Chapter had the most members at the convention from "outside the area."

Florence Foster (Upsilon) won the "Mama Mia" raffle basket. She is "thinking of having a neighborhood pasta party."

Joyce Geranis (Chi) won the "Breakfast Bash" raffle basket at the state convention.

Alpha Iota Chapter is an official certified Delta Kappa Gamma chapter website for 2009. Dana Jaeger is the webmaster.

Desi Raultson (Alpha Rho) is the principal of Sopori School in Amado which has been selected as an A+ School of Excellence by the Arizona Educational Foundation which has honored exemplary public schools in the state through the A+ Award since 1983. A+ Schools are evaluated on student focus and support; active teaching and learning; curriculum; leadership; community and parent involvement; and assessment data.

Merry Lewis (Mu), **Sally Switzer** (Rho), and **Pearl Nancarrow** (Delta) contributed convention photos for this issue of the *Sahuaro*.

Ginny Mountain (Chi) presented a workshop featuring the Phoenix Zoo Special Needs Program at the Association of Zoo and Aquarium docents (AZAD) Southwest Regional convention.

Beth Swanson (Rho), **Dena Martin** (Zeta) and **Ginny Mountain** (Chi) proof read this issue of the *Sahuaro*. ♥

The Educational Foundation Awards Grants

(Copied from the *March Tip of the Month*)

The Educational Foundation awarded nearly \$135,000 in grants to projects for 2009. \$78,498 was awarded to 50 renewal projects and \$56,395 to new projects.

It is amazing what good ideas there are for how we can advance excellence in education.

Be watching for information about these projects in the **ΔΚΓ NEWS**. ♥



Merry Lewis (Mu) and Rachel Wear (Alpha Rho) presented the workshop "A Golden Opportunity"

A Golden Opportunity: A Gift of a Lifetime

The Golden Gift Fund was established in 1974 to commemorate the Society's 50th anniversary. The Fund's investments finance a Leadership/Management Seminar in even-numbered years.

Both presenters, Rachel Wear (Alpha Rho) and Merry Lewis (Mu), have at different times been recipients of the award. They agreed that their experience at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas had given them the priceless gift of everlasting new friendships. Training in areas such as communication, decision making, teamwork, spirituality, and thinking on your feet was invaluable.

Their closing theme was, "Don't be afraid to get involved."

Peggy Scott (Alpha Epsilon)

Got a Webwatcher?

from *Create a Buzz with April's Tip*

Many chapters have "webwatchers" to keep them up to date and enhance the content of their websites. If members know they can get the latest information, they will visit often.

As of March 12, 2009, there were 202 chapter websites linked to international. Two chapters in Arizona have websites. Dana Jaeger is the webmaster of the Alpha Iota Chapter site, and Linda Spellman, of the Alpha Omega site.

The webmaster for the Arizona State site is Liz Tataseo (Alpha Delta).

Washington Education Foundation

The Washington Education Foundation is an independent non-profit community foundation that works to enhance the educational programs of the Washington Elementary School District.

The Foundation funds teacher, student, and school mini-grants in amounts of \$50 - \$500 and professional development grants in amounts up to \$2,000. The program is made available through generous donations by individuals, community services, and corporate organizations.

— Continued on page 8



Kellie Hernandez (Alpha Iota) and Sandy Chemsak (Alpha Iota) were co-chairman of the 2009 Omicron State Convention



Aileen Allen January 4, 2009	Sigma Prescott, AZ
Merylann Pierri January 11, 2009	Alpha Tucson, AZ
Carol Ann Rerick January 18, 2009	Omicron Phoenix, AZ
June Vinson January 28, 2009	Upsilon Tucson, AZ
Lomie Gray Heard February 5, 2009	Sigma Payson, AZ
Beatrice Kell Tracy March 5, 2009	Upsilon Tucson, AZ

International President's Scrapbook

(Copied from February 2009 You "Tip" of the Month)

International President Dr. Carolyn Rants continues to add to her scrapbook at International Headquarters. Would you like to be a part of this project? Here's how:

1. Write a press release about a chapter activity and take some photos, or highlight an accomplishment of a member with a photo.
2. Send this information to your local media: newspaper, district newsletter, retired teachers' newsletter, or other outlet.
3. When the story is published, send the clipping to Dr. Rants for inclusion in "The Scrapbook."

WASHINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The Foundation's Board of Trustees includes President Virginia Ptuyak (Sigma), Vice President Nancy Putman (Alpha Alpha), Member Linda Aarons (Rho), and Member Mary Lou Palmer (Alpha Delta)
Lori Good (Alpha Alpha)



Carolyn Pittman (Arkansas) spoke at the birthday luncheon. Omicron State President Dena Martin (Zeta) is on the left and Omicron State Recording Secretary Janet Vickers (Omega) on the right.

A Note from International Representative Carolyn Pittman

Dear President Dena and Omicron State members:

I am proud that I was a part of your excellent 2009 Omicron State Convention. You attended to Society business with efficiency and understanding and you had the ultimate pleasures of finding new friendships and re-newing others.

I shall remember you with great warmth and comfort. Your hospitality and friendliness made me feel welcome and a part of the Omicron family. Thank you for that.

Thank you also for including me in all the events of the convention. I especially want to thank you for the lovely and precious turquoise and silver pendant necklace and matching earrings. Several of you told me that turquoise goes with everything: it's a good thing because I shall wear these pieces often and with you in my heart.

Fondly, Carolyn Pittman

SAHUARO

Publication Deadlines

Fall Issue	August 15, 2009
Winter Issue	January 15, 2010
Spring Issue	May 1, 2010

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Dates to Remember

- July 6-11, 2009**
Southwest Regional Conference
John Ascuaga's Nugget
1100 Nugget Ave., Reno, Nevada
- 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, 2001**
Southwest Regional Conference
Hyatt Regency Tech Center
7800 E. Tufts Ave., Denver, Colorado

2009 Southwest Regional Conference

July 8-11, 2009 — Reno, Nevada

**Register On-Line Interactive
Delta Kappa Gamma Website**

Conference attendees will enjoy the opportunity of staying in the conference headquarters of John Ascuaga's Nugget, a northern Nevada entertainment landmark in Sparks near the Reno city line.

Prior to the opening of the regional conference, training for the following leaders will take place: state organization presidents and in-coming executive secretaries, state organization program chairs, membership chairs, treasurers, editors, and webmasters.

The session for state organization presidents and in-coming executive secretaries takes place Monday night through Wednesday afternoon. All other leadership sessions are held on Wednesday. ♥



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