

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA AT THE UNITED NATIONS: A FACT SHEET

Fall, 2010

[Beginnings](#). In August of 1993 it was proposed by Anne-Marie Carlson of New York that The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International apply for Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations (UN/DPI) to especially help advance the Society Purpose #7: “To inform members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.” This proposal was supported by the Professional Affairs Committee, in September 1993 it was approved by the Program Committee, and an amendment to the International Standing Rules was submitted to the Constitution Committee. At the International Convention in July 1994 the membership in attendance approved that this amendment be added to *International Standing Rules—Part 1. Affiliations*. In June of 1995, Delta Kappa Gamma was granted NGO status with UN/DPI. Anne-Marie was appointed as the Society’s first primary representative, followed by Doris Salagi of New Jersey (1998-2000), Phyllis Hickey, then of Connecticut (2000-2006) and Dr. Rita King, New York (2006-2010). The current primary representative is Grace Murphy of New York, also an *ex officio* member of the Educational Excellence Committee.

In July of 2003, the Society was granted consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This allowed our representatives to attend its conferences and also to expand our member involvement with the UN so that we now have seven official representatives. All are entitled to attend policy briefings and other meetings held by DPI specifically for NGO representatives on a wide variety of subjects. In addition, Anne-Marie Carlson was elected in 2009, and re-elected in 2010, as Vice-Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, which represents over 1500 NGOs around the world associated with DPI (See www.ngodpiexecom.org and click on Committee).

[Delta Kappa Gamma Partnerships with UNICEF](#). For almost fifteen years, directly after achieving NGO status, the Society has partnered with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF in support of education in developing countries. In 1996 the Gambia Project, which assisted girls to remain in school by providing funds for their education, was launched. In November 1999 we joined in the Pro-Maya Project to assist children and their schools in Chiapas, Mexico. In July 2003 the Society was invited to support a partnership for teacher education in Afghanistan. By June 2009 the final total raised for the Afghanistan project alone was \$203,124, and altogether members have raised over \$273,000 in support of UNICEF-related projects.

In 2009, then International President Dr. Carolyn Rants appointed a committee to recommend how we would next move forward for a new Society project. Committee members Cathy Daugherty (Virginia), Morag Gundy (Canada), Dr. Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir (Iceland), and Phyllis Hickey (Texas) reviewed about thirty recommendations from members, and after detailed study they proposed UNICEF’S Schools for Africa campaign, “a joint campaign funded by UNICEF and the Nelson Mandela Foundation to promote education for children in Africa. The campaign will increase access to quality basic education for children with a special focus on girls, orphans and vulnerable children.” This was approved as an official Society project at the International Convention held in Spokane in July, 2010.

[The Formation of CTAUN](#). In 1996, Anne-Marie Carlson was invited to join a small group of educators representing different NGOs to focus on ways to teach about the United Nations. An organization named the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations

(CTAUN) was formed as a result, which is made up of members of various NGOs with an interest in education, such as Delta Kappa Gamma, Kappa Delta Pi, AAUW, Rotary International, SOS Kinderdorf International, and UNA/USA. CTAUN consists of an Executive Committee of ten members and a larger group of people who work on a volunteer basis to help support conferences and other activities. In 1998 CTAUN cooperated with other groups to organize a conference at the UN, but Anne-Marie became convinced that CTAUN should organize its own conferences. The first of these was held in 1999. Anne-Marie was Co-Chair of CTAUN from 1998-2002, and has been Chair since 2003.

To date CTAUN has organized eleven conferences held at UN headquarters based on global issues of concern to the United Nations, with another planned for January 14, 2011. Three satellite CTAUN conferences have been held in Atlanta, Georgia, with another planned for February 5, 2011. A conference was held in January, 2010, at Rutgers University in New Jersey, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education and Rutgers University. Another conference, co-sponsored by Kappa Delta Pi, is scheduled to be held in Indianapolis on Saturday, November 6, 2010. A conference co-sponsored by Delta Kappa Gamma is scheduled to be held in Austin, Texas, on Saturday, April 2, 2011. See the new CTAUN website (www.teachun.org) for additional information about CTAUN, summaries of the past several conferences, announcements of future conferences, and links to teaching resources for educators.

[Academic Impact Initiative](#). In the Spring of 2009, CTAUN was invited by UN/DPI to be a charter member of their group of “partner organizations” for a new venture known as Academic Impact. This initiative involves universities and other academic institutions around the world in advancing the purposes of the United Nations, including specifically the Millennium Development Goals. Participants in this initiative are expected to undertake one new activity each year that will address at least some of the ten basic principles of Academic Impact. These principles, along with other background information and an enrollment form, may be found on the website www.academicimpact.org. Society members with a connection to an academic institution may wish to encourage the institution’s membership in Academic Impact. A formal launch event for members is scheduled to be held at the United Nations in November, 2010.

[The Delta Kappa Gamma UN Liaison Network](#). At the 2002 International Convention, the International Executive Board voted to establish a UN Liaison Network. This means that each state organization president appoints a UN Liaison to be kept up to date on Society involvement at the UN and to receive and disseminate important information, including the *DKG@UN* newsletter, to members through email to chapter presidents. Names and email addresses of state UN Liaisons should be sent to Margaret Anzul, Newsletter Editor.

[Your UN Representatives](#)

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International listed below are your official representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council. We are also all working with CTAUN. You may email us for further information.

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