

DELTA CHAPTER

FOR
KEY WOMEN
EDUCATORS

December 2011

October Highlights



Rita Caruso, new member, creates “teacher bags” with *Linda Bartholomeo* and *Mary Ann Harmon*. Ten bags were made in all and later donated to early career educators in several districts.



Joan Krantz, center, introduces two guests, *Michelle DeCesare*, and *Theresa DeCesare*.



Mildred Reed and *Ora Massaro* fill in the Member Profile.

Calling all for “THAT” (Teachers Helping Another Teacher)

At the October meeting, *Mary Jane Miller* relayed some shocking statistics about early career educators. According to the 2011 Educational Excellence Pre-Conference Training Manual, 10% of teachers leave the profession in the first year, 50% leave in their third year, and a whopping 70% leave in their fifth year.

Mary Jane talked about how we can help to mentor early career educators. In December she will be asking you how you may have helped another teacher, especially an early career educator, by spending time with that teacher or providing supplies or money. No amount of help should go unrecognized.



Lana Warren, Membership Chair, gives a DKG key pin to *Rita Caruso*.

President's Message

Warm holiday greetings, Delta sisters.

With the holidays rapidly approaching, our lives get more hectic and busy. Now is the time to reflect on what is meaningful in our lives and find ways to spread our passion and compassion. Delta chapter members always show a willingness to help.

What a great first meeting on October 1st. Thanks to all of you for your generosity of school supplies, diapers, money, and friendship. We had one initiation, four guests, and two new applications for membership; we made ten supply “stuffed” bags for early career educators and shared summer adventures with friends.

This message will be “taking care of business” to expedite the business portion of our December meeting. We will initiate two members and vote on two new members for a March initiation. Dr. Paula deSilva will speak about her mission to Haiti and show us how to fold, cut, and stitch diapers, beds and blankets to help her work with the Haitian Health Foundation. We will also have a silent auction of “slightly used” accessories such as jewelry, purses, or scarves and/or personal services such as a homemade lasagna or Easter bread to support our book grant while we work. I'm certain we will enjoy another busy and productive meeting.

Two items for the agenda might require some discussion – the Bylaws revision and Delta chapter's projects. I hope you have a chance to read the revisions with rationale that I sent as well as the additional information in the newsletter about the bylaws. Also, we will discuss how we “give” and to whom. With so many possibilities—early career educators, Schools for Africa, World Fellowship, the Diaper Bank—compounded by everyone's financial obligations, we need to reevaluate our priorities as mentioned at our October meeting.

Please come and be part of the discussion, the service project, the silent auction, and the holiday camaraderie.

Warmest regards,

Joan

“We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results”. – Herman Melville

Looking Forward To...

Dr. Paula deSilva will join us in December to speak about her efforts to help children in Haiti. She is a member of St. Ann Parish in Avon and has volunteered for the Mothers and Babies Sewing Project for the Haitian Health Foundation for years. Dr. deSilva has coordinated the efforts of nearly 100 women who collect donated cotton fabric, and cut and sew items used in the villages surrounding Jeremie, Haiti. Volunteers sew maternity jumpers, cloth beds for the infants, and diapers which are shipped every three months to Haiti. We will work with her at the meeting to create more items to ship to Haiti.

Wanted: AKS Executive Board Committee Members

Please consider one of these positions for yourself on the state executive board. None of these will require extensive outside meetings or time. Marnee Straiton, AKS President, is encouraging in-person meeting times after the Executive Board sessions. There will be one or two face-to-face meetings during one year.

By Committee Members,

Judy Salemme, Chair

International Funds Members,

Margaret Nielsen, Chair

Communications Committee Members,

Judy Cody, Chair

Now Accepting Nominees for Outstanding Service Award—ANY IDEAS?

Alpha Kappa State Outstanding Service Awards are presented to outstanding community volunteers who, without thought of recompense, devote time, energy, and caring attention to the children and youth of Connecticut. Recipients are not required to be members of Delta Kappa Gamma. Undoubtedly, many worthy candidates within Connecticut's individual communities deserve the recognition and honor of our Outstanding Service Awards. These awards are given at the Spring Convention in even-numbered years. Deadline is **February 15, 2012**.

Nominations may be made by chapters or by individual chapter members.

Complete the nomination form describing the nature of the nominee's volunteer work.

Include three letters of recommendation from Chapter members, youth, or community members who have knowledge of the nominee and his or her volunteer work.

Forms can be found at

www.deltakappagamma.org/CT/forms.html

International offers scholarships, grants

Due by January 3:

International Educational Foundation project grant

Due by February 1:

International scholarship for doctoral study or additional graduate degree (Thirty for \$6,000)

Due by February 1, May 1, September 1:

Lucile Cornetet Awards for Professional Development

All can be found at www.dkg.org;
www.educatoredge.org

Bylaws to be reviewed at the December meeting

If you have not received the Bylaws for review via email and would like a hard copy to review before the December 3rd meeting, please contact Joan Krantz at fdkrantz@snet.net or (203)758-2805.

Additions to the Revisions of the Bylaws/Standing Rules

In addition to the changes, please add the following under Article IV. Rationale: The addition would be in line with both the International and State.

4.10 The officers, treasurer and parliamentarian shall perform the duties as prescribed and applicable in the Constitution, Article VI and as authorized by Alpha Kappa State Bylaws and/or Standing Rules.

Don't forget to bring your cancelled stamps to the December meeting. They help to stamp out world hunger!

Welcome, new Delta sisters

At our October 1st meeting, we voted in two new members who will be initiated in December.



Megan LaPorta is a first year teacher at Shelton High School. Megan holds her M.S. in Secondary Education: English. She was selected Student Teacher of the Year at the University of Bridgeport, where she was also the recipient of the Excellence in English Education Award. She finished the program with a 4.0 Graduate GPA. In addition, she was a presenter at the Connecticut Reading Association Conference in November this year.

Megan's community involvement includes the position of volunteer music director at Middlebury Congregational Church, as well as being a member of VOCE singing group of Hartford. She is also involved with Songs for Smiles Charity Concert Organization.



Kelly Raimo is an English Teacher at Watertown High School who has been teaching for nine years. Kelly holds a B.A. in English and is currently a member of many professional organizations, including the National Council for Teachers of English, Modern Language Association, and the Trinity Club of Hartford through Trinity College. Her current professional activities involve the WHS Book Club, co-advisor of

the Pseudo-Science Organization, advisor, and instructor of Interdepartmental Publishing, which produces the school newsletter, *Indian Info*.

In the past, Kelly advised the WHS Film Club, and served as an advisory to the Freshman Class. Former committees include the Professional Development, Curriculum, and WIST (Watertown Intervention Strategy Team), Committees, all at Watertown High.

Kelly is also involved in her community as a member of the Girls Scouts of USA, Connecticut Trails. Additionally, she is active at Terryville Congregational Church as a member of the Food Drive and Prayer Shawl Committees, as well as donating to the Clothing Ministry and Operation Christmas Child.



Stacie Broden read "The Power of Teaching". Her "thought of the day" was an inspirational way to start a new school year.



Joan Krantz calls the meeting to order with a bell, not a gavel.



With teacher supplies, 10 overstuffed bags all went to "early career educators".

October by the numbers

- 1 new member initiated; welcome, *Rita Caruso!*
- 4 guests in attendance
- 5 dollars donated to the Golden Gift Fund
- 7 dollars donated to the Rheta A. Lange Recruitment Grant
- 7 dollars donated to the Margaret H. Croft Honorary Fund
- 7 dollars donated to World Fellowship (International)
- 8 dollars donated to Alpha Kappa Gamma State Recruitment Grants
- 9 containers of wipes donated to the Greater Waterbury Diaper Bank
- 10 teacher supply bags assembled
- 15 dollars donated to Curriculum of Hope
- 17 dollars donated to the International Emergency Fund
- 18 dollars donated to Schools for Africa
- 23 Delta chapter members attended the meeting
- 50 dollars donated to the Greater Waterbury Diaper Bank
- 51 dollars donated to World Fellowship
- 55 dollars collected for early career educators, or THAT
- 117 dollars collected for the raffle that funds the Book Grant
- 561 diapers donated to the Greater Waterbury Diaper Bank

Support the Book Grant

Tau chapter will be holding its **annual Vendor Fair** again this year to support its book grant.

Delta chapter member *LMAnn Coglisier* will be selling her “one skein scarves” at the fair to support our book grant. Come support both chapters!

Your favorite vendors will be there, like

- Silpada jewelry
- Mary Kay
- Barefoot Books
- Essential Oils
- Avon
- Pampered Chef
- Longaberger Baskets
- and a used book table

Last year, the chapter raised \$1200.00 from this event. Like Delta chapter, Tau gives the grants to worthy students who plan to pursue a career in education.

Saturday, November 19

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Litchfield Fire House

258 West Street

Litchfield, CT

Minutes of October 1, 2011 meeting of the Delta Chapter

The meeting of Delta was held at the Watertown High School Library. Twenty-three members attended. The meeting began at 10:30 am. President Joan Krantz began the meeting by thanking several people, including those who attended the planning meeting in July and those who wrote articles for the newsletter. Four guests attended the meeting and they were introduced. Paulina Auclair introduced Nicole Knott; LuAnn Cogliser briefly reintroduced Kelly Raimo, who had attended a meeting last year; Joan Krantz introduced Michelle DeCesare and Theresa DeCesare who were recommended by their college professor at Albertus Magnus.

Stacie Broden read the thought for the day about “taking pride in the big picture”.

Rita Caruso was initiated as a new member of the chapter.

Secretary-Terry Doyle - As Terry was absent, Paulina Auclair took notes.

Corresponding Secretary – Mary McVerry – As Mary was absent Joanne Chenkus read three thank-you notes: from Aurilie Thivierge, thanking the chapter for sending her 40-year pin and certificate; from Christine Ieronimo thanking the chapter for the donation to her cause; and from Marisa Brogis thanking the chapter for the scholarship money.

Treasurer – Rose Marie Mikasauskas – As Rose Marie was absent, Joanne Chenkus collected membership checks and shared the current status of the checking account.

Report of Officers

President – Joan Krantz reminded members about the Fall Conference on November 5th. The theme this year will be “Embracing Our Vision: Designing Our Future, Increasing Global Awareness”.

First Vice President – Mary Jane Miller reported on THAT, or Teachers Helping Another Teacher.

Second Vice President – Monica Kreuzer absent, no report

Standing Committee Reports

Educational Excellence – Sondra Macdonald, Loretta Teevan absent, no report

Membership – Lana Warren led the chapter in a vote on Megan LaPorta and Kelly Raimo, to be initiated in December. Both were accepted by the chapter for membership. Lana also updated the chapter on the “12 x 2012” initiative. In order to meet our goal, we will need to initiate seven more members by the end of 2011. She also reminded members to update their information in the “green box” at the meeting and said she would make available to each member a roster with all members’ names and information.

Parliamentarian – June Legge, Mary Lou Kuegler absent, no report

Fine Arts – Peg Goranson absent, no report

Legislation – Carol Wakefield absent, no report

Professional Affairs – Claudette LaFlamme In Claudette’s absence, Joan reported that the committee worked on a rubric for the book grant. The rubric will be attached to the bylaws.

Historian – LuAnn Cogliser asked the chapter to submit any photos or newspaper clippings they might have, to add to the album.

Finance – Rose Marie Mikasauskas absent

Nominations – Joanne Chenkus reminded the chapter that we are now in our second year of the biennium for which our officers serve. She is now taking nominations for leadership roles within the chapter.

Communications – Paulina Auclair no report

Scholarship – June Legge Since June was absent, Joanne Chenkus reminded the chapter that three scholarships in the amount of \$700.00 are available to members with a minimum of three years of membership to the chapters. These scholarships are available by application to anyone who is earning credits at a higher institution, or for members who might want to attend a conference or workshop.

World Fellowship & International Fund – Sondra MacDonald Since Sondra was absent, Flo Goodman reported on women in Kenya.

Curriculum of Hope – Colleen Spieler, Deborah Flaherty no report

Old Business – Joan Krantz reported on some changes taking place to DKG in the bylaws and standing rules. Bylaws will reflect changes that DKG International has made. Duties for officers will be appended to our bylaws.

New Business – Joan talked about ways to reach out to former and prospective members.

Joan recognized chapter members Stacie Broden and Paulina Auclair. Stacie will be teaching parents how to use technology at the Connecticut Association of Math Teachers. Paulina is presenting to teachers at the Connecticut Reading Association Conference about how to use technology in the classroom.

Colleen Spieler is the AKS Chair for the “Outstanding Service Award” and she’s looking for nominations for individuals who might qualify.

At the November Fall Conference, Zeta chapter will be selling pouches to put your pin in. LuAnn will be selling her “one skein scarves” to benefit our Book Grant, and is looking for display items that she might use.

Angela Stortz mentioned that with all the initiatives that our chapter supports, we might be more effective if we narrowed our focus a bit and just chose some of them to support.

Respectfully submitted by **Paulina Auclair**

Following the meeting, members ate a box lunch and filled the new teachers supply bags, which were then raffled off to members who took them to give to new teachers.



Delta Chapter December Brunch Meeting

Saturday, December 3, 2011

(Snow date: December 10th)

East Street Eatery (Farmingbury Golf Course)

141 East Street

Wolcott, CT 06716

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Cost: \$26.00

10:00 Hospitality
10:15 Initiation
10:45 Meeting
11:15 Brunch
11:45 –1:00 Speaker, Dr. Paula deSilva and service project

DIRECTIONS:

From I 84 East, take Exit 28 (Rt. 322) to Wolcott. At end of exit take a left onto 322 and go to top of Southington Mt. Take a right onto East Street (Route 322) and Golf Course/Restaurant is on right about a mile up the road.

From I 84 West, take Exit 28 (Rt. 322) to Wolcott. At the end of exit take a left onto 322 and go to top of Southington Mt. Take a right onto East Street (Route 322) and Golf Course/Restaurant is on right about a mile up the road.

Send checks payable to Delta no later than November 23rd to:

Sondra Macdonald, 178 Hunters Lane, Newington, CT 06111 or call (860)878-6941

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NAME: _____

Email address: _____

_____ I will attend. Check for \$26.00 is enclosed.

_____ I cannot attend the meeting, but am including a donation to support the “Greater Waterbury Diaper Bank” or early career educators.

_____ I cannot attend the meeting, but I would like to purchase a raffle ticket(s) for \$1.00/ticket or \$5.00 for an arm’s length. Raffle winner will receive a membership for one year.