

THE CONNECTICUT **KEYNOTE**



**Alpha Kappa State
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International**



Volume 74, No. 3

Spring, 2015

Joan Konareski Nominated to Lead Alpha Kappa State for the 2015—2017 Biennium



Joan has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 27 years. She is presently first vice president of Alpha Kappa State. As a member of Lambda Chapter, she served as recording secretary, vice president and chapter president. On the state level, Joan served on the membership and finance committees, as state bylaws chair, state achievement awards chair and as first and second vice president. Joan attended three Regional Conferences and five International Conventions.

Joan taught in Cheshire at the third to sixth grade levels from 1969-2003. Now retired, she is a board member on the Wallingford Committee on Aging, where she is also long-range planning chair and on the facilities committee. She was also recently elected to the Parish Council of her church and is serving on the newly formed tithing committee.



**Alpha Kappa State 76th Spring Convention - April 25th
SHARING OUR VISION - STRENGTHENING OUR CHAPTERS
Increasing Global Awareness**

Keynote Speaker: Christine Ieronimo *A Thirst for Home: A Story of Water Across the World*



Eva, Christine and
Diana

In 2008, Christine Ieronimo traveled to Ethiopia to adopt her daughter, Eva. Upon Christine's return she found her daughter drinking from a puddle in the family driveway after a rainstorm. This inspired her to write a children's book titled *A Thirst for Home: A Story of Water Across the World* to teach children here about a world beyond their borders. She visits schools and libraries sharing her story, with hopes that it will inspire them to want to learn more about this global problem.

Christine was born and raised in Naugatuck. She attended Holy Cross High School, earned her BS from the University of New Hampshire and her RN from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Waterbury. She has been a critical care nurse for over 21 years, currently working in the intensive care unit at Bristol Hospital. In addition to her daughter Eva, she and her husband Michael have three biological children, two sons and a daughter.

Christine has returned to Ethiopia several times where she and her husband have both reunited with their daughter's birth family. They have set up a project that helps to support the community called *The Gimbichu Project*.

In addition to the problems of unclean water, she is passionate about the importance of educating girls. Her most recent project will allow several girls from the community to attend school. AKS members look forward to hearing Christine's update on her new and ongoing international projects.

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A Message from Terry



Sharing Our Vision—Strengthening Our Chapters



Dear Sisters,

Many of us have endured this winter's storms and frigid weather and are looking forward to spring! Others have enjoyed the winter in warmer climates and will return by end of spring to enjoy our spring-summer weather.

Whatever your situation, we should all be anticipating our 76th Spring Convention in April. It promises to be an exciting day with an informative speaker to fulfill the Educational Excellence goal of increasing our global awareness. We will celebrate our 76th year as a state organization, honor our long-time members, memorialize our deceased members, enjoy an entertaining fine arts program and conduct our annual fundraiser for an Alpha Kappa State Fund and Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World. During the business meeting, we will ratify the 2015-2016 budget and vote on amendments to our Bylaws and Standing Rules. Please read carefully the amendments included in

this issue so that you may cast an informed vote. Also, a highlight will be the installation of our 2015-2017 state officers. Congratulations to our nominees who will lead us in the next biennium! All members are encouraged to meet the incoming officers and extend your appreciation to the outgoing officers for their service this biennium.

In addition, we will be recognizing and welcoming first-time attendees to a state spring convention. A special "voucher" will be awarded to the first-timer whose name is drawn. It will entitle the bearer to free registration and lunch at the next state conference or convention she attends. So, be sure if you are attending a state spring convention for the very first time to check the appropriate line on the registration form. Members are eligible even if they have attended a fall conference for the first time.

While compiling 2014 chapter annual reports due to International in March, it was noted that chapter presidents told of exciting and diverse programs and community service projects, many of which I have been witness to while visiting chapters. In answer to the report question about the top three issues facing our chapters, every one of the reports mentioned membership in one way or another – increasing membership, reinstating members, retaining members, declining membership, aging members and attracting younger members. To *strengthen our chapters* you are asked again to please make an effort to nominate new members or call former members to get them reinstated. It is the second purpose of DKG and one of each member's responsibilities "to honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education." Look for educators in their early careers and also those away from our immediate work and volunteer environments. Remember that members do not only have to be teachers in public or private schools but also can be paid educators in educational areas such as paraprofessionals, nurse educators, speech therapists, administrators, library media specialists, museum docents, etc. Explore all avenues "outside the box" for potential members. Help your chapters grow and be fortified by new ideas and new leaders!

Hope to see you all at the Spring Convention on April 25th!

Congratulations!

Sandra Mangan, Tau Chapter Cornetet Award Recipient

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has announced that **Sandra Mangan**, Tau Chapter, has received a Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award in the amount of \$1,600. She plans to use her award to attend the International Literacy Association (ILA) Conference. The conference will be held in St. Louis in July.

Sandra is a grade one developmental teacher at Tarringford School in Torrington. In 2010, she served on the Torrington Public Schools committee which developed the Plan for Professional Growth and Evaluation of Teacher Competencies. She was selected as Torrington's Teacher of the Year in 2009. AKS congratulates Sandra!



ALPHA KAPPA STATE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2015-2017 BIENNIUM



Patricia O'Connell Buckley
Nominee for
First Vice President

Patricia, a member of Theta Chapter, was initiated in 1984. On the chapter level, she has served as president from 1996-1998 and vice president from 1994-1996. She also served on the chapter's educational grants committee.

On the state level, Pat was chair of the finance committee 2007-2011 and was the chair of the successful Networking for Children's Conference in 1992. She serves as chair of the non-dues revenue ad hoc committee and is also a member of the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World committee and Caring for Our Planet committee.

On the International level, Pat attends Regional Conferences and International Conventions. She has been both a workshop presenter and exhibitor. Pat was selected to attend the Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar in Austin, Texas, and the Leadership in the Millennium Program. From 2010-12, she was a member of the Educational Excellence International Committee. She is presently a member of the International Finance Committee from 2012-2016.

Pat was a kindergarten teacher in Mansfield for 29 years, retiring in 2009 to devote time to her family. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher.



Lisa Hudkins
Nominee for
Second Vice President

Lisa has been a member of Upsilon Chapter for 27 years. She has served locally as program chair, secretary, vice president and four terms as chapter president. On the state level, Lisa has served on the nominations committee and is currently state historian.

Lisa is a graduate of the University of St. Joseph with B.A. and M.A. Degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education. She has also completed an additional 30 credits with a major in technology in the classroom. Lisa has taught in Simsbury and Barkhamsted. She is currently completing her 37th year in education.

Lisa and her husband Paul will be celebrating their 40th anniversary this summer. Together they have two children. In their spare time, they love to take long walks with their boxer, Toby, and volunteer at Trinita in New Hartford and Lourdes in Litchfield. She enjoys gardening and cooking, especially having dinner parties with family and friends. They love to travel, especially to Wyoming where they visit their son and hike among the Grand Tetons.



Kimberly Albro
Nominee for
Recording Secretary

Kimberly was initiated into Zeta Chapter in 2008. She regularly attends AKS conferences and conventions, and she attended the 2012 International Convention in New York City as well. Kim has written several articles for the *Zeta Zone* and AKS *Keynote*, and she has also presented on her 2008 Habitat for Humanity trip to Malawi, Africa. Kim currently serves as AKS scholarship committee chair.

Kim received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Education from the University of Connecticut. She completed her Sixth Year Diploma in Educational Psychology and Gifted Education in UConn's Three Summers Program this past year.

Kim has been teaching in urban education for 15 years and has enjoyed varied teaching experiences spanning grades 4 through 9. Kim has taught in the area of gifted education for nearly a decade. In 2013, Kim was named Teacher of the Year at The Dr. Joseph Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy in Hartford. Kim has been the recipient of several grants to support classroom and school projects, and she is also a TEAM trained mentor. For the past two summers Kim has presented at Confratute, a summer conference and institute on enrichment education held annually at the University of Connecticut. Kim is currently working as the Instructional Coach for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School, also in Hartford, where she provides curricular and instructional support to classroom teachers.



ALPHA KAPPA STATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015-2019 FINANCE COMMITTEE



**Marnee Straiton
Northwest Region**

Marnee Straiton has been a member of Iota Chapter since 2001. She is currently the Immediate Past President of Alpha Kappa State, chair of the bylaws committee and Iota Chapter's treasurer.

Marnee is on the finance and investment committee of the Interfaith Early Learning Center Board and is president of the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club. She has also served for many years as the treasurer of the Interfaith Board of Directors. Marnee was instrumental in developing and implementing the investment policy and investment fund for both the Interfaith Board and the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club.



**Dianna Wassenhove
East Region**

Dianna Wassenhove, Epsilon Chapter, has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 2000. She has served as treasurer at the chapter level, and at the state level of DKG she has been on the finance and strategic action plan committees. Dianne is currently the co-chair of the archives committee.

She graduated from Western Illinois University with a degree in Elementary Education and taught public school for seven years before moving. Upon moving to Connecticut, she has become active in the field of Early Childhood Education and currently holds a Director's Credential with the State of Connecticut.



**Claudia Grantham
Southwest Region**

Claudia Grantham has been a member of Zeta Chapter since 2009. She currently is serving her second term as treasurer.

She is a retired school administrator having worked for the North Haven School District for 38 years. She now spends her retirement serving on Children's Center of Hamden Board of Directors, Yale New Haven Hospital Family Advisory Board and Parent Support Board, as well as the North Haven Education Foundation Board. Claudia is working as a principal's coach for the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence in Bridgeport.

**Welcome to our New and Reinstated
AKS Members
reported as of February 2015**



**Congratulations to all the new members!
We look forward to your energy and enthusiasm.**

BETA
Sorrentino-Galello, Patti—Stratford
Acerbo, Lisa M.—Trumbull

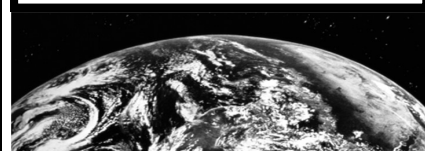
GAMMA
English, Mary E.— Norwich - **Reinstated**
Walczyk, Penny— Baltic
Yee, Sheila — New London

THETA
Phelps, Mary — Cromwell - **Reinstated**
Rowe, Catherine — Columbia - **Reinstated**

OMICRON
Ripley, Rebecca A. — Stratford

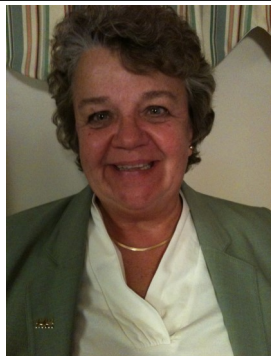
Delta Kappa Gamma
promotes
professional and
personal
growth of women
educators and
excellence in
education.

Visit the International web site at
www.dkg.org for the latest
news and information





ALPHA KAPPA STATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015-2019 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE



Joanne Brogis
Northwest Region

Joanne K. Brogis has been a member of Delta Chapter for over ten years. She is currently second vice president. She has served over 30 years as a counselor, guidance director and assistant principal in the Torrington Public Schools. She received her Ph.D. in educational leadership from the University of Connecticut. Since her retirement, Joanne is working in Adult Education in Danbury and Serves as a transitions counselor at Naugatuck Valley Community College. She also retired from the Air Force Reserves with 30 years of service at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



Susan Nadeau
East Region

Sue Nadeau has been a member of Rho Chapter since 2005. She is presently the chapter's recording secretary. Sue was Rho's first vice president and served on the nominating and membership committees.

Sue has 36 years experience as a Registered Nurse, 24 of which have been in school nursing. She received her Master's Degree in Nursing in 2006 and is currently Nurse Coordinator for the South Windsor Public Schools.

Sue serves on the Cadre of School Nurse Leaders. In Oct. 2012, she presented at a workshop on *Working with Children with Autism in the Health Room* at the EastConn Conference Center.



Gail Karwoski
Southwest Region

Gail S. Karwoski has been a member of Beta Chapter since 2003. She is currently chairperson of Beta's scholarship committee and is also a member of the early educators support committee. Retired since 2010, Gail worked as a building principal in Trumbull for 17 years and as a building principal, curriculum coordinator and classroom teacher in Regional District 18 (Lyme-Old Lyme) for 22 years prior to that. She currently serves as president of the Board of Directors for Trumbull Loves Children, a before and after-school care organization.

Get Your Membership Involved! Ask Questions! Plan Ahead! Thrive!

NOW is the time to think about next year. You're probably thinking *that's a little premature*. **BUT** because we have busy lives and hectic schedules, we can plan better when we "save the date." **AND** another way to strengthen your chapter and increase attendance at meetings is to design programs/projects based on members' interests and needs. **SO** why not distribute a questionnaire to obtain some ideas from your membership.

THEN create a planning committee for 2015-2016. Either the committee organizes all four meetings or one of four "planning teams" organizes a different meeting. Several chapters have used the "planning team" approach to involve more members because each planning team needs to find the venue, create the program and /or service project. **A chapter that plans together, grows together!**

Joan Krantz, AKS Membership Chair

Contact Joan at fdkrantz@snet.net for a copy of the sample questionnaire to assess chapter members.



ALPHA KAPPA STATE PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISIONS TO BE VOTED ON BY MEMBERSHIP APRIL 25, 2015

Marnee Straiton, AKS Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee Chair

The Bylaws Committee presents a motion to approve the following amendments to the Alpha Kappa State Bylaws (April 26, 2014). All have been recommended by an affirmative vote of the Alpha Kappa State Executive Board.

Bylaws Article VIII. Executive Committee, Section B.1.

Current: The members of the Executive Committee shall be the elected officers, president, vice presidents and recording secretary.

To read B.1: The members of the Executive Committee shall be the elected officers, president, vice presidents, recording secretary *and Immediate Past President*.

- *Rationale:* The addition of the Immediate Past President will make an uneven number to avoid a tie vote on matters requiring immediate decisions.

Bylaws Article IX, Committees, Section A. Committee Structure, 1.a.

To add:

Non-Dues Revenue to the list of A.1.a. Standing Committees classified as Society Business and to the list of Appointed Committees, both under Committee Structure.

- *Rationale:* To assign the work of the state organization related to Non-Dues Revenue to a standing committee.
- The DKG International Society has a standing Non-Dues Revenue Committee and this committee should be included in the state Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Bylaws Article X Activities, Section A.

Current Section A Title: Alpha Kappa State Member Scholarships **and Loans**

To read: Article X Activities, Section A. Alpha Kappa State Member Scholarships

- *Rationale:* The words **and Loans** need to be removed from the Article Title since the Margaret H. Croft Honorary Fund is the only fund that had reference to a loan. The loan portion has been removed from the 2014 revised guidelines by approval of the Executive Board on September 13, 2014.

Current Section A.2.a: This fund shall be used to honor specified members of the Society to provide a grant **and/or loan** for purposes of personal growth or professional advancement and to provide monetary assistance for a member in extenuating circumstances.

To read: Section A.2.a. This fund shall be used to honor specified members of the Society to provide a grant for purposes of personal growth or professional advancement and to provide monetary assistance for a member in extenuating circumstances.

- *Rationale:* The words **and/or loan** need to be removed from the description of the award in the present Bylaws. In 2014 the Margaret H. Croft Honorary Fund Committee made revisions to the guidelines, originally written in 1982. One revision included the removal of the word **loan**. On September 13, 2014, the Alpha Kappa State Executive Board approved the motion to accept the complete revision of the guidelines.



Bylaws Article X Activities, Section B. Recruitment Grants, 3. High School Grants.

To add:

3.d. The Margaret Rose Nielsen Grant

- i. This grant shall be awarded to a graduating Connecticut high school student entering a planned program in science, math or technology education.
- ii. This grant shall be maintained by voluntary contributions and moneys from such other sources as may be determined by the Executive Board.
- iii. Rules governing the administration of this grant shall be recommended by the Professional Affairs Committee and approved by the Executive Board.

- *Rationale: In September 2014, Alpha Kappa State received a donation of \$25,000 from the estate of Margaret Rose Nielsen, AKS Past President. The Margaret Rose Nielsen Grant is designated to be given to a high school student entering a planned program in math, science or technology education. This motion adds this newly established grant to the current Alpha Kappa State Bylaws. It will be granted for the first time in spring, 2015.*

The Bylaws Committee presents a motion to approve the following amendments to the Alpha Kappa State Standing Rules (April 26, 2014). All have been recommended by an affirmative vote of the Alpha Kappa State Executive Board.

Standing Rules, II. Duties of Standing Committees, Section A, Society Business

To add:

A.9. Non-Dues Revenue: The committee shall plan and implement fundraising programs that will raise funds to supplement the revenue in the Available Fund and will be used by the Finance Committee to plan an annual budget for Alpha Kappa State Organization. The committee shall present plans to the President and the Executive Board for approval. All funds raised by this committee shall be submitted to the Treasurer to be included in the Available Fund.

- *Rationale: A Non-Dues Revenue fundraiser will be needed each year to supplement the operating budget as long as membership does not increase significantly.*
- *AKS cannot continue to supplement the budget with money from the Available Fund. It is not fiscally sound to keep borrowing from the Available Fund for many years.*
- *The AKS budget has already been cut and cannot continually be cut without affecting state programs.*



International World Fellowship

At the 2014 International Convention in Indianapolis, **Peggy Rupe**, International World Fellowship Committee Chair, reported that DKG members donated a total of \$79,236.97 from July 2012-July 2013. A total of \$180,200 has been awarded this biennium. Twenty-three recipients from twenty-two countries were selected to receive \$4,000 each to pursue post-graduate degrees from American or Canadian universities. Ten women received extensions to previous awards. Fields of study include education, business, crime prevention, public health, nutrition, agriculture, human rights and technology, plus the arts and sciences.

Applications for the 2014-2015 grants continued to challenge the committee as the personal stories and stated goals were inspiring. Nineteen recipients from seventeen countries will receive \$4,000 each with four extensions of \$1,000 being awarded. Recipients will be taking a variety of skills back to their home countries. DKG continues to impact education worldwide.

Connecticut members can be proud of their role in helping these women pursue their goals. From July 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014, members donated either through individual, chapter or state contributions a total of \$1,462.00. You have much for which to be proud. We may be a small state, but we do mighty work on the International scene.

Nancy M. Roy, Alpha Kappa State World Fellowship Chair



AROUND THE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter's executive committee met in January at the home of **Lucy Galasso** to plan for upcoming events. The April 9th business meeting will include the children's book author, Marty Bodash. She will be discussing her newest book, *The Story of My Totem*, and will comment on the publishing process. New members will be recommended at this time, and **Car Westbrook** will present her Alpha portrait where she will tell about her educational journey. Alpha's annual banquet will take place on May 19th at The Water's Edge at Giovanni's where Alpha's Book Grant Awards will be presented. Congratulations to **Clare Harding**. NASCO, a supply catalog for teachers of mathematics, featured and published her cut and post posters of quadrilaterals. These posters are designed to be used as part of classroom discussions. Clare's first publication was in 2014, and NASCO has published an additional set of isosceles and right triangles in January. **Elinor Carr's** photograph with Steven Hawking appeared in the *Greenwich Time* where she was interviewed regarding her meeting with Hawking in the summer of 1994. She was on a trip to England and journeyed to Cambridge in hopes of meeting him, and she did!

BETA

Beta Chapter held its second meeting at Madison Middle School on March 18th. At that time, President Janis Isenberg led a yoga demonstration for members and guests. After refreshments and during the business meeting, the chapter's many ongoing projects were discussed, i.e. scholarships, Helping Hands of Bridgeport, Schools for Africa and the status of the early educators' project.

The final meeting of the year will take place at Gusto's Restaurant in Milford on May 6th. Several new members will be initiated.

GAMMA

On a beautiful autumn afternoon, Gamma Chapter met to initiate two new members. The chapter welcomes **Penny Walczyk** and **Sheila Yee**. Both women teach at the Norwich Free Academy. Penny teaches business, and Sheila teaches math. **Elaine Porter** presided over the ceremony, assisted by **President Janis Sawicki**, **Regina Tate** and **Barbara Dombrowski**.

Sadly, the meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of **Jeanne Morascini's** daughter Marianne. Hopefully, the donation which Gamma voted to send to St. Jude's Children Hospital will provide some measure of comfort to Jeanne who has done so much for Gamma.

During the business meeting portion, members voted to continue two Community service projects. Tray favors will be made for the Backus Hospital in May. In addition, members will help Norwich Social Services at some point in the summer to fill backpacks for needy Norwich students.

After the regular business issues were completed, including preparation for the AKS Fall Conference, Gamma's guest Beryl Fishbone, author of *Legendary Locals of Norwich*, shared her knowledge of the special people who have helped weave the unique fabric of this area.

The January executive board meeting had to be postponed. Nevertheless, plans for the March 10th dinner meeting at the Brickview Inn on the Norwich Free Academy campus were completed. **Faye Ringel** arranged for Dr. Ellen Jukoski to be Gamma's special invited guest and speaker. Dr. Jukoski was installed as president of Three Rivers Community College last fall.



Gamma Chapter initiation: (l. to r.) Initiates **Sheila Yee** and **Penny Walczyk**, with **Elaine Porter**, **Regina Tate** and **President Janis Sawicki**.

DELTA

Delta members held a successful fundraising meeting on March 18th at Nuchie's Restaurant in Bristol. Members and guests participated in this 'antique roadshow' by bringing items to be appraised by Tom Chapulis of Tim's Auctions for \$5 each. Profits benefit the chapter's Book Grant. Congratulations to **Joanne Brogis** who has been nominated to the AKS nominations committee for 2015-2019!

ZETA

Zeta Chapter celebrated its 66th birthday with a pizza luncheon at Giulio's Pizza and Restaurant in North Haven on March 7th. There was much socialization along with news to pass on as members had not met since the chapter's very successful auction held in November.

Jamie French, director of the Step I and II Program at Gateway Community College, delivered thanks to Zeta for its contribution made to the program earned through the November auction. This program provides a variety of services to students 18-21 with mild cognitive disabilities.



NUTMEG STATE

Zeta members **Lynn Pastore** and **Margaret Hrabchak** reported on their attendance at the CTAUN Conference held at the U.N. January 30th. Both were very impressed with the speakers, programs presented and the overall agenda for the day with the special recognition as the U.N. celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. They encouraged more Zeta members to attend next year with the possibility of staying overnight and to take in other sights of the city.

Zeta sisters were full of pride with **AKS President Terry Azoti's** announcement that two Zeta sisters have been nominated for major roles on the AKS executive board for the next biennium. They are **Kim Albro** for recording secretary and **Claudia Grantham** for an elected position on the finance committee. It is an honor to have these Zeta sisters committed to the betterment and growth of the Society at all levels, and they are wished good luck as they pursue these new roles.

Members were given registration forms to complete and return at the meeting to encourage another great attendance at the AKS Spring Convention on April 25th. The chapter receiving the greatest percentage of membership registering for the convention will earn reserved seating. Zeta Chapter members enjoyed reserved seating for the highest number attending for the 2014 Fall Conference. Percentages of chapter members attending will make the honor fairer. Four Zeta members are eligible for Years of Service Awards: **Carol Sbabo** (40), **Elayne Canter** (30), **Mary Janeczek** (25) and **Ruth Meinsen** (25).

The continued generosity of the chapter was shown as members brought colorful paper bags in which to place book/reading materials for Books for Babies project and contributions of \$1.00 toward a gift card to donate to the AKS Spring Convention scholarship/grant drawing. Membership Committee handed out Recommendation for Membership form 11 from International, so that members would have them readily available when they invite an outstanding woman educator to join Delta Kappa Gamma. These recommendations will be voted on at the June meeting in readiness for initiation in October. Members were also encouraged to reach out and keep in touch with our newest members, as well as with those members who are unable to be as active as they once were for whatever reason. This can be done in a variety of ways. **International President Lyn Schmid** put a reminder in the Jan/Feb issue of the *DKG News* that members want to feel included and part of the chapter sisterhood with a feeling of being an insider, not just a person who was part of a recruitment drive. We look to our newest members to be our future chapter leaders. Zeta remains strong!!

THETA

On a bitterly cold January 31st Theta served over 100 meals at the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. **Monique Brown** organized the annual event, made possible by 20 volunteers and contributors.

For Valentine's Day, **Susan Salesses** and **Barbara Ziraksadeh** arranged the delivery of special cards containing Claire's gift cards to girls at Journey House in Mansfield. Also, **Sharon Bartlett** has instituted an ongoing monthly games afternoon with them.

Karen Anger, Karen Dibala, Ann Grosjean and **Millie Ramsey** attended the CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) Conference at the UN on January 30th. Besides learning some history of the now 70-year-old UN, they enjoyed an evening on the town!

Brain Gym will be the focus of Theta's March 23rd meeting in Columbia. Carrie Holman, a Mansfield Middle School teacher trained in Brain Gym, will demonstrate how movement strategies can be used in classrooms and personally to challenge memory and attention, as well as to improve focus.

The late **Catherine Wade's** legacy for young musicians continues through the chapter's efforts. An ad hoc committee was formed to plan the distribution of Catherine's Theta Instrument Lending Library and use of the Ann Burns Instrument Repair Fund. The committee notified all school music departments in northeastern CT of the inventory of instruments. **Linda Tracy** reports high interest, and that the distribution, which will occur at Eastern Connecticut State University, is scheduled for April. The balance of the Ann Burns fund will cover necessary repairs on a first-come, first-served basis.

Theta sadly lost a third member since the fall. **Marjorie Grant** of Columbia, a Theta member for 28 years, passed away on February 17th. She will be greatly missed.

Susan Salesses, CARE chair, has set up a Theta Facebook page. So much to LIKE!

LAMBDA

Lambda Chapter held its *Welcome Back* meeting at Serafino's Restaurant in Wallingford on September 15th. An initiation of officers ceremony was conducted by Lambda member and **AKS First Vice President Joan Konareski**. Following a delicious meal, members were treated to a talk about *Fall Gardening* presented by Christine Burbank.

The October 15th meeting was held at Cheshire Academy. Karen Smith, Southington's acting superintendent of schools, was the guest speaker. She presented an excellent program entitled *The Myths and Truths of the Common Core*.

In December, Lambda members enjoyed their annual holiday sing-along and cookie swap fundraiser. Member **Nancy Maynard** hosted the event this year. It was a wonderful time to share good music, good food and good cheer.



FNE ARTS SPRING CONVENTION
Come Hear the Music Play.
Life is a Cabaret, Old Chum.
Come to the Cabaret!

Roz Etra, a member of the AKS Fine Arts Committee, is pleased to announce that Melanie Kane and two Bacon Academy seniors will present a musical cabaret-style performance at the Spring Convention. They will perform a variety of selections of Broadway's finest music.

Melanie Kane, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island Theatre Department, lives and works in Rhode Island. She appeared in Chelsea Players' Broadway Cabaret at Prime 82 and on tour. Most recently, she was one of the Christmas ghosts in the Courthouse Center for the Arts production of *A Christmas Carol* featuring the Big Nazo puppets. She has appeared in Shakespearean, as well as musical theater.

Tucker Noniewicz, a senior at Bacon Academy, is a member of the Bacon Academy Chamber Choir. Last spring Tucker received the Outstanding Vocalist Award at the Virginia Beach Music Festival. In October, he earned his Eagle Scout award. Tucker has been involved with music his entire life, including performing with the Colchester Community Theater. He will attend Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall.

Mitchell Hallee, a senior at Bacon Academy is an exceptional musician and scholastically talented student. He has been named a Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. With tremendous leadership skills, he sits on the Colchester Board of Education as a student member. Mitchell is an active member of the Student Council, Debate Club, STEM Club and Concert and Jazz Band.

Reminder to all Chapters!!

There will be the annual fundraiser at the Spring Convention. It will be similar to ones held in the past. Each chapter will be responsible for sending an item, such as a gift basket, afghan, gift certificate or the like to the Spring Convention. These items need not be expensive, but rather appealing and fun to win. It is hoped that many Society members will attend the convention and support the fundraiser.

We would also hope that individual chapters will collect money from their non-attending members for purchase of tickets at the convention. The proceeds will go to support the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee and an AKS fund, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Terry Azoti
Alpha Kappa State President



**A special thank you to the reviewers for
 The Keynote:**

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Terry Azoti | Jeanne Morascini |
| Judy Cody | Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone |
| Joan Konareski | Nancy Roy |

**AKS Communications Committee
 activity for the
 2015 Spring Convention**

A special 'communications' table will be set up at the Spring Convention. Each chapter is asked to gather a variety of communications/communiques developed or used since the 2014 Spring Convention. These may include newsletters, meeting notices, chapter trifold, special event notices such as for a sale, auction, birthday/chapter meeting speaker announcement, copy of article/photo printed in local newspaper, 'welcome back' (late summer/fall) letter from new chapter president, articles/ideas sent to International, special chapter materials prepared for prospective members, 'flyers' to leave in schools where allowed, invites to chapter social activities other than scheduled meetings, to name a few.

Place variety of samples in a red or clear file folder (either pocket type or one with brads that allows for page turning). If this 'display' was not brought to the March AKS Executive Board meeting, please bring to the Spring Convention on April 25th by 8:30 a.m. ready for table display.

Please provide a cover page that includes your chapter name in large letters. Suggest you also add, in smaller letters, if desired, 2015 Spring Convention Communications Materials beneath your chapter name.

Please direct any questions to **AKS Communications Committee Chair Judy Cody** at YDOC37@aol.com. We look forward to 100% chapter participation.



ALPHA KAPPA STATE 76th SPRING CONVENTION

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Courtyard by Marriott, 4 Sebeth Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416 Phone: 860-635-1001

SHARING OUR VISION: STRENGTHENING OUR CHAPTERS *Increasing Global Awareness*

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 7:45 a.m. | Registration, Coffee, State Fundraiser Sales |
| 8:30-9:00 a.m. | Ceremony of Life |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m. | Introductions, Welcome, Flag Ceremony |
| 9:30-10:15 a.m. | Thought for the Day, Business Meeting |
| 10:15-10:30 a.m. | Break, State Fundraiser Sales |
| 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Christine Ieronimo: <i>Why Educating Girls in Ethiopia and Around the World Can Change the World</i> |
| 11:30—12:10 p.m. | Break, Fundraiser Sales, Communications Display |
| 12:10-1:10 p.m. | Lunch, Birthday Celebration, State Fundraiser |
| 1:10-1:40 p.m. | Fine Arts Presentation-- <i>Come to the Cabaret</i> |
| 1:40-2:05 p.m. | Installation of 2015-2017 Alpha Kappa State Officers |
| 2:05-2:20 p.m. | Achievement Awards |
| 2:20-2:40 p.m. | Honoring Our Members: Service Pins, Scholarships |
| 2:35-2:50 p.m. | Closing Remarks, DKG Song |

REGISTRATION FOR THE CONVENTION

Please send form below with meal choice(s) and check made to:
Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Kappa State
Mail to: Toni Cartisano, 43 Coachman Drive, Branford, CT 06405
tcart1@comcast.net (203) 481-2765

DIRECTIONS TO COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

Traveling North or South: I-91 North or South to Exit 21, turn right at end of exit. Turn right before Burger King onto Sebeth Drive. Hotel is on the right.
Parking is at front, side and back of hotel.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 9, 2015

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COFFEE and TEA available from 7:30-9:30 a.m. (no breakfast available)

Check your choice(s) below:

| | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citrus Grilled Salmon topped with a Citrus Mint Beurre Blanc | \$36.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Roasted Sirloin served with House Demi-Glace, Horseradish Chive Cream | \$36.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Fresh Penne Primavera | \$24.50 |

(All entrees include: Garden Salad, Seasonal Vegetables, Fresh Rolls, Dessert, Coffee/Tea)

Attending an Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention for the first time? Check here _____.

Former Alpha Kappa State Achievement Award recipients check here _____.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| CONFERENCE COSTS: | Registration fee <u>per person</u> | <u>\$ 5.00</u> |
| | Late fee (Postmarked after 4/09/2015) | <u>\$ 5.00</u> |

Guest Name/s: _____ Lunch Cost/s (see item/s checked above) + _____

Choice _____ GRAND TOTAL _____

PHOTO RELEASE: By your attendance at this event you are granting permission to be filmed, videotaped, audiotaped, or photographed by any means and are granting full use of your likeness, voice, and words without compensation.



SAVE THE DATES

2015

April 25, 2015
Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention
Courtyard by Marriott (Cromwell)

June 13, 2015
Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting
Griffin Room, Meriden Public Library

July 8-11, 2015
Northeast Regional Conference (Baltimore MD)
The Hyatt Regency

Photography for *The Keynote*
contributed by
Carolyn Downs
Alpha Kappa State Photographer

**THE CONNECTICUT
KEYNOTE**

Alpha Kappa State
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Carol Beam, Editor

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NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINES:

May 27, 2015
September 4, 2015

Send information to
Carol Beam
267 Ivy Drive
Bristol, CT 06010-3308
or e-mail to <d.w.beam@snet.net>

Alpha Kappa State
Connecticut
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
For more updated news and information
check out the AKS website:
www.deltakappagamma.org/CT/

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International invites YOU to
the 2015 Northeast Regional Conference
in Baltimore, Maryland
July 8th—11th**



What a great opportunity—Baltimore, MD, is only 302 miles from Hartford, CT (about five hours drive)!! The DKG Northeast Regional Conference at the Hyatt Regency is located right on the exciting Inner Harbor. Take in spectacular views of the harbor, downtown Baltimore and the famous National Aquarium, the city’s most popular tourist attraction and one of the biggest aquariums in the United States. Shopping, museums and fabulous restaurants are just steps from the hotel. Take advantage of the Charm City Circulator, the FREE bus service for downtown/harbor Baltimore. There is also the

Baltimore Water Taxi, a great way to visit historic neighborhoods and unforgettable museums, such as Fort McHenry. For those who enjoy gaming or sports, there is the new Horseshoe Casino, and Oriole Park is within walking distance.

As always, outstanding speakers will highlight the conference. National Teacher of the Year Sean McComb will address *Advancing Education* on Thursday morning. The honorable Judge Susan Hazlett, a senior trial attorney in the child abuse/sex offense division and specialist in cases involving young child victims, will speak on Saturday. Her topic will be *Advancing Children*.

Pre-conference leadership sessions will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday for state officers to learn about new strategies, discuss challenges and share ideas with their international counterparts. The conference breakout sessions will offer a variety of workshops. There will also be an Info Fair and the Marketplace. Be sure to check your March/April 2015 issue of the *DKG News* or visit the DKG website *dkg.org*.