



ALPHA KAPPA STATE CELEBRATES 75TH Honoring our Members

It was an honor for **AKS President Terry Azoti** and **AKS Membership Chair Joan Krantz** to present 32 membership pins and certificates to members who have served Alpha Kappa State for 25, 30, 40, 50 or 60 years.



Geraldine Johnson,
Beta Chapter
60-year member

Geraldine Johnson is a distinguished retired educator, community activist, and volunteer. She was born on April 11, 1919, in Bridgeport, Connecticut – the third in a family of seven children. She grew up in the East End of the city where she attended Bridgeport schools and she later went on to lead as the Superintendent of Schools in Bridgeport.

As a member of Beta Chapter for 60 years, she served as president in the 1960's, held other officers' positions and served actively on various committees. In more recent years, Geraldine was the main speaker at a Beta Chapter meeting. She served as a mentor to many teachers, including **Past AKS President Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone**.

In 1961, Geraldine became a principal after achieving the number one score on Bridgeport's Civil Service Examination. In 1969, she served as the Assistant Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools, the second largest school system in Connecticut. She went on to become Superintendent of Schools in 1976, notably working through the 19-day teachers' strike

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Janet J. Ferraris,
Mu Chapter
50-year member

Janet Ferraris has been a dedicated member of DKG for 50 years. She was initiated into Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa State in 1964 and served as vice president and president of the chapter.

Janet taught art in West Hartford for 30 years at both the elementary and secondary levels. She was also an art education instructor at Central Connecticut State University for ten years. Janet was an active member of the CAEA (Connecticut Art Educators Association) In retirement, she juries the Scholastic Art Awards annually.

Following her retirement, Janet moved to Maine where she opened a craft shop selling her crafts and art work for 25 years. While living in Maine, she became a charter member of Upsilon Chapter.

Janet returned to Connecticut in 2008 and was reinstated as a member of Mu Chapter. She is presently serving her second term as chapter vice president and was the assistant registrar for the 2013 AKS Spring Convention.

In addition, Janet has presented art workshops for both Mu Chapter in Connecticut and Upsilon Chapter in Maine. She also designed note cards for Alpha Kappa State and did a slide presentation at an AKS convention.

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A Message from Terry

Sharing our Vision—Strengthening our Chapters



Dear Members,

This year the day of May 12th, the founding date of Alpha Kappa State in 1939, has passed with its fond memories of an extraordinary April convention birthday. The event celebrated 75 years of Connecticut Delta Kappa Gamma women! Much appreciation and thanks are extended to those of you who joined us at the convention. Kudos to the Ad Hoc Birthday Committee and its **Chair Terry Ziegler**, president of Eta Chapter, along with **AKS State Vice President Joan Konareski**. It was a grand day with special thanks to **International Second Vice President Dr. Lyn Schmid**, our keynote speaker discussing the DKG Icon Woman with wisdom, humor and grace.

The celebration day is over. We continue the biennium with our Leadership Conference on June 27 for training our new 2014-2016 chapter leaders and leadership renewal for chapter members, leaders all. We are looking forward to our prominent keynote speaker Dr. Joyce Saltman, Special Education Professor at Southern Connecticut State University. She will present *Organization Enhancement through Laughter and Learning*. Registration forms are online at our website. Please join us for an educational and joyful presentation.

Part of a state president's duties is to visit the chapters. Traveling to different parts of the state, I have met so many wonderful members and seen the diversity among chapters. Each chapter is unique in carrying on DKG traditions. Wonderful community service and projects are happening! It is the commitment, collaboration and camaraderie of Delta Kappa Gamma members, which keep the Society going strong. Special thanks to those long-time members who attend meetings like **Ruth Wilson** of Alpha Chapter and **Ruth Russian** of Theta Chapter, who inspire us to continue as members and as educators. Thanks also to chapter leaders and members who acknowledge their state president with great kindness, openness and graciousness. It lifts my Delta Kappa Gamma spirit to be among you!

Thank you to the outgoing 2012-2014 chapter officers who have led their chapters and have been excellent role models. Congratulations to the new leaders for 2014-2016, taking office on July 1. Chapter members, please support your chapter officers by joining committees and taking chair positions. You will help the chapter to run efficiently and get the business and work of the Society and the chapter accomplished, thereby **strengthening your chapters**.

Many of you will be joining us this summer in Indianapolis for the 2014 International Convention, and it is hoped that others will consider attending. Important work will be accomplished at the general sessions, i.e. voting on Constitutional Amendments which will include a proposed amendment to provide for the general election of the International Administrative Board and elected committee members, as opposed to the present system of delegate election. For those of you who are not able to attend, you are wished a happy summer to renew and replenish your vitality.

Sincerely,

Terry



AKS Leadership Conference Keynote Address: Dr. Joyce Saltman

Organization Enhancement through Laughter and Learning

Current research indicates that humor in the workplace improves communication, enriches corporate culture, mitigates conflict, breaks down barriers, improves performance, enhances critical thinking skills and cements worker loyalty. Group members are more willing to accept challenging goals, and as long as the humor is positive, there is no down side.

Join Dr. Joyce Saltman in this uplifting session. She will share the research and offer tips for picking up every aspect of your organization with humor, including your bottom line. She will apply the research to leading in academic and non-profit organizational settings. Dr. Saltman's message will also be insightful for everyone in improving our lives through happiness.

Friday, June 27th
Registration Form online at
www.deltakappagamma.org/ct



(Continued from page 1) *Geraldine W. Johnson* over salary contracts in 1978, which spearheaded the CT binding arbitration policy. After her retirement in 1981, she became Interim Superintendent of Schools in Fairfield, Connecticut in 1986,

Governor Ella Grasso listed Johnson as one of Connecticut's 100 Most Distinguished Women in 1976. The Girl Scouts also named her a "Woman of Distinction." She was bestowed Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University and the University of Bridgeport. To honor her work as a superintendent and her commitment to education, in 2008 a new elementary school was dedicated to her and named the Geraldine W. Johnson School. Geraldine Johnson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 29, 2010.

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



**Terry Azoti
Judy Cody
Jo-Anne Kershaw
Jeanne Morascini
Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone**

**Model UN Invitational 2014 Conference
Trumbull High School
Keynote Speakers**



(l. to r. **Anita Satriano**, chair and 25-year member of the Curriculum of Hope Committee; Kunal Jhaveri, THS Model UN Undersecretary General of Disarmament and International Security Council; and **Ann Cavanaugh Grosjean**, DKG NGO representative to the UN and CTAUN

**Spring Convention Keynote Speaker
Dr. Lyn Schmid, DKG International Second Vice President**



The more than 100 members attending this year's Spring Convention on Saturday, April 26, were provided an opportunity to hear Keynote Speaker **Dr. Lyn Schmid, International Second Vice President** and nominee for 2014-2016 International presidency. Dr. Schmid shared her excitement regarding her trip to Connecticut and conveyed her thanks for the warm welcome she received. She commented on the great work done by **President Terry Azoti**, as well as the work of **Carol Beam** on *The Keynote* and **Anita Pfluger** on the state website. She expressed her condolences at the loss of **Past AKS President Margaret Nielsen**, a dedicated DKG member.

Lyn took a moment to congratulate several members who were grant and scholarship awardees. She highlighted the fifteen World Fellowship recipients totaling \$52,300 going to Connecticut universities.

Dr. Schmid spoke on the very serious issue of declining membership and offered the help of The Membership Services Revitalization Project. She encouraged attendees to speak out, allow and encourage innovation and change and reward excellent effort. She reminded attendees that the loss of membership in Connecticut that has occurred over the last ten years can be reversed by gaining new and reinstated members.

Greetings from **International President Dr. Beverly Helms** were shared by Dr. Schmid. Remarks included congratulations on Alpha Kappa State's 75th Birthday and encouragement to attend the International Convention in Indianapolis. Additional comments from Dr. Helms centered on the creative solutions to move DKG forward. Some ideas shared included the increased variety and frequency of communication and the changes to membership recruitment and retention. Dr. Helms encouraged members to take care of current members and expand their thoughts as to the kind of educators recruited for membership.

Dr. Schmid concluded with a few favorite quotes.

If you ask what I have come to do in this world, I have come to live my life out loud. Emile Zola

If things are out of control, you are not driving fast enough. Mario Andretti

Kathleen Lozinak, Omicron Chapter



Alpha Kappa State 2014 Outstanding Service Award

Kathleen Fuller



(l. to r.) **Colleen Spieler,
Margaret Festi and
Kathleen Fuller**

Kathleen Fuller was recommended by **Margaret Festi** of Rho Chapter. Kathleen is currently the Service Unit Manager of the Somers Girl Scouts. She has been part of Girl Scouts since she was seven years old. She became involved in a Girl Scout exchange program when she was in high school and has stayed active ever since. During college, she served as a delegate from Somers to the Connecticut Girl Scouts Council. In 1982, she became an assistant leader for a Brownie troop of first graders. After college, she then became a leader of junior scouts for fourth and fifth graders and stayed with this troop through high school.

In 1990, Kathleen began serving as Somers Service Unit Manager for the Girl Scouts. At that time there were 12 troops and over 100 Girl Scouts. Currently she is not only the unit manager, but she has two troops of her own for which she provides. She has been volunteering for 30 years for Girl Scouts. As unit manager for Somers, she handles the registration for 400 hundred girls and adults. She does recruitment, plans town-wide events and organizes camporees for 500 hundred Girl Scouts. She also plans Memorial Day celebrations, as well as the retirement of American flags. In addition, she works full time, volunteers at her church and tended her ailing father until he passed away.

Kathleen Fuller received four letters of recommendation: one from **Margaret Festi** member of Rho Chapter; another from Sarah Renzoni, a fourteen year-old Girl Scout in one of Kathleen's troops; a third letter from Sharon Renzoni, Sarah's mother; and the last letter from Karen Collins, a neighbor and close friend of Kathleen's. Sarah Renzoni stated, "Ms. Fuller is passionate about Girl Scouts and that motivates others around her to get everything they can from Girl Scouts." Sarah's mother in her letter stated, "Even though Kathy has no children, she treats and loves each one of the Girl Scouts as if they are her own."

**Colleen Spieler,
AKS Outstanding Service Award Committee Chair**



Alpha Kappa State 2014 Outstanding Service Award

Dr. Louise Loomis



(l. to r.) **Colleen Spieler,
Jeanne Morascini and
Dr. Louise Loomis**

Dr. Louise Loomis was recommended by **Jeanne Morascini** from Theta Chapter. Jeanne's words best describe the following reasons for her recommendation. "Louise for many years has volunteered her time and talents for the betterment of educational opportunities for all children, especially those who are overlooked, disenfranchised and underprivileged. She has helped create programs that have high standards to challenge students and their parents. Louise wrote the curriculum for tutors for *Connectikids*, an afterschool program in Hartford for elementary students." Dr. Lou founded Hartford Critical and Creative Thinking Center in 1989. It later became New England Cognitive Center. She has presented hundreds of programs to students, educators, corporations and organizations. At the same time she worked as a college instructor. She also helped explore, investigate, finance and teach at the Trinity Episcopal Day School which opened in 2012 with a sixth grade class of twelve traditionally underprivileged students. She currently volunteers as a science and critical thinking teacher at TEDS.

She is a volunteer and a board member of the Asylum Hill Learning Zone which provides children and their families with support to promote learning. Dr. Loomis also volunteers at the Duncaster Continuing Care Retirement Community. She is known for her enthusiasm as a wonderful resource for activities of thinking, understanding, learning and remembering. Residents and staff enjoy her lectures on brain-related topics, workshops, activities and distribution of "brain related" informational materials.

Dr. Louise Loomis received letters of recommendation from **Theta Chapter's Jeanne Morascini**; Myron Congdon, Director of Trinity Episcopal Day School, and from Linda Lawrence, RN,BSN from Duncaster Wellness Department. Myron Congdon, Director of TEDS, stated, "When observing what Lou contributes, it's hard to believe that she is about to be 85 years old. Her commitment and energy give lie to her age. She not only participates in teaching but is energetic in both friend-raising and fundraising."

**Colleen Spieler,
AKS Outstanding Service Award Committee Chair**



AROUND THE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter held its April meeting at the home of **Janess Coffina**. Janess finished her term as membership chair after doing a stellar job for many years. She will be followed by **Lynn Montanari**. **Alice Neal** has assumed the position of AKS World Fellowship chair to fill the vacancy left by **Margaret Rose Nielsen**.

Elinor Carr, Clare Harding, Lucy Galasso and Marilyn Arvoy attended Alpha Kappa State's 75th anniversary celebration which was a huge success. Alpha's annual banquet at the Waters Edge at Giovanni's in Darien was attended by **AKS President Terry Azoti** and **AKS State Photographer Carolyn Downs**. Terry wished **Nancy Wolf** well on the new chapter in her life at College State, PA. Nancy presently holds the title of past president for Alpha and most recently was the historian for AKS. She will be missed.

Three new members were initiated this spring. **Hope Polidoro** is a much sought-after special education tutor in the Greenwich Public Schools. **Carole Garinger** taught kindergarten through grade four for 38 years, most of which were in Mamaroneck, NY, and currently is a self-employed tutor. **Dina Sturtevant** (Honorary Chapter member) is vice president and general manager of Lord and Taylor in Stamford, CT. She is instrumental in Alpha's annual L&T benefit which supports the Virginia Obrig Book Grant to students who wish to pursue a career in education. The book grant award winners this year are **Alison Santiano**, who plans to major in elementary education at the University of St. Joseph, and **Nicole Giarolo**, who is planning a career in elementary education at Manhattanville College.

BETA

The chapter's final meeting took place at Gusto's Restaurant in Milford. There was a wonderful turnout, an opportunity to catch up with (old and new) friends and a delicious meal. The first collection for Beta's *Early Career Educator Program* was taken, and Stratford was selected as the recipient of the project's focus for this year. A past **Beta Chapter President Connie McMurray**, who resides in New Hampshire, was present for the occasion.

Beta continues to support many worthwhile projects. Members have embraced *Books For Beardsley*. This is the second year books have been donated to Beardsley School's media center. In the fall, the chapter will support early career educators. Ultimately, it is hoped that this project will continue to grow, and new teachers in other districts can be supported. Members are also supporting International's initiative *Schools For Africa*.

There are several prospective members who, upon acceptance, will be initiated in the fall. Beta Chapter welcomes new member **Lisa Acerbo**, English teacher at Trumbull High School and published author.

This year a \$500 grant will be awarded to a graduating senior from Jonathan Law High School in Milford who plans to enter the field of education

Janis Isenberg will continue as president of Beta Chapter, as will the other officers. There are several new people joining the board, and the chapter looks forward to

their input in the next biennium. Beta Chapter's board meeting will take place on June 26th to plan our next year's activities.

GAMMA

On March 18th, at the Brickview Inn on the Norwich Free Academy campus, Gamma Chapter celebrated its 70th birthday. In a room festively decorated with flowers, balloons, and hanging paper lanterns, both guests and Gamma members celebrated the occasion. A delicious meal was prepared and graciously served by NFA's restaurant management class supervised by Janelle O'Neal. **Elaine Porter** coordinated all the site requirements with the NFA staff, and **Leonille Kadambaya** served as our hostess for the evening. Guests included **AKS President Terry Azoti**, as well as **AKS Past Presidents Marnee Straiton and Jeanne Morascini**. Also present were DeCarol Davis and Joe Walczyk, this year's Sonier Grant recipient and his mother.

Chapter President Regina Tate thanked the celebration committee for the work they had done in organizing the festivities. She presented guests from AKS with flowers and thanked them for helping to make the occasion even more special by their presence.

Incoming Gamma President Janis Sawicki assumed much responsibility for planning this occasion in preparation for her leadership role. At the heart of the program, **Dr. Faye Ringel** recalled some of the illustrious women associated with Gamma by citing the first speaker 70 years ago, **Dr. Alice Hamilton**, and by noting that Gamma's current **Honorary Member Marilyn Lowney** heads the Hatian Health Foundation. Faye's guest, DeCarol Davis, a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and a winner of a Truman Fellowship, spoke briefly but with great passion about the importance of teachers and of education. She noted how blessed her own family is because so many of the women in it were or are educators. Finally, it must be mentioned what a beautiful gesture Faye made in bringing two bouquets of roses as door prizes for the evening. And who can forget the spirited musical entertainment provided by Faye and **Roslyn Etra**.

At its May meeting Gamma Chapter in a ceremony led by **Elaine Porter** proudly installed the officers for the next biennium. They are **President Janis Sawacki, First Vice President Regina Tate, Second Vice President Roslyn Etra, Recording Secretary Linda Shea and Corresponding Secretary Geraldine Transue**. **Barbara Kosgarten** was appointed treasurer.

Gamma members were excited to welcome two new members after a vote to accept them into the Society was taken. **Shelia Yee** and **Penny Walczyk** will be initiated during our first meeting in the fall.

Sue Danilowicz and Karen D'Aria made the meeting especially festive by providing favors and



NUTMEG STATE

refreshments, including a scrumptious cake to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Day. After routine business was conducted and before members put together this month's tray favors for patients at Backus Hospital in Norwich, **President Regina Tate** wholeheartedly thanked all members for the support extended to her during the past two years. In keeping with her generous spirit, she gave lighthearted remembrances to officers and committee chairs. As members worked on the service project, which all agreed was one of the best yet (thanks to **Vicky Baker**), **Incoming President Janis Sawacki** gathered up the toiletries collected for Madonna Place.

Finally, Gamma Chapter wished a happy retirement to **Roz Etra**. A date was set for the Executive Board meeting in July.

DELTA

Delta Chapter members gathered at P-Sam's in Torrington to celebrate the chapter's 70th birthday. Flo Goodman chaired the event which was a time to look back at Delta's 70 years and to honor those who contributed to its success. Members were able to reflect on how the teaching profession has changed since 1944. Flo read a recollection from the Wolcott Historical Society records. It was written by a teacher who taught in the Old Stone Woodtick schoolhouse in 1914.

Dorothy Martino, a retired Plainville educator, was initiated into membership. Officers for the 2014-16 biennium were installed: **President Monica Kruezer**, **First Vice President Paulina Auclair**, **Treasurer Rose Marie Mikasauskas**, **Recording Secretary Mary Lou Kuegler**, **Corresponding Secretary Rita Caruso** and **Parliamentarian June Legge**.

Professional Affairs Chair Claudette LaFlamme presented Delta's 2014 Book Grant to Casey Stevens. She is a senior at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls and has been granted admission to the Academic Center for Exploratory Students as a Pre-Teaching major at the University of Connecticut, Waterbury campus. Members were impressed with Casey's achievements and recommendations. It was an honor to have Casey and her parents at the chapter meeting.

The special guest at the meeting was Lili Negron and her mother, Marisol Negron. Lili is a 12-year old student from Waterbury who has established Lili's Little Free Library in Fulton Park. A Little Free Library is 'take a book, return a book' gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. Lili's Facebook quote, "I built this library because reading has helped me overcome some of my disabilities and I want to share the benefits of reading with everyone in the community. This is the first Little Free Library in the Greater Waterbury area. I hope that it will encourage others to read more, dream big and spend a little extra time in Fulton Park. Like my page on Face

Book: Lili's Little Free Library, to get updates or keep in touch with me." Delta Chapter members donated over 200 books to Lili's Little Free Library and hope to continue supporting this worthwhile project.



Lili Negron with some of the books donated by Delta Chapter members

ZETA

Zeta Chapter held its final meeting of the year, the annual Sundae Social, at the Whitney Center in Hamden on June 4th. New officers were inducted: **President Anne Brandt**, **First Vice President Anne Murphy**, **Second Vice President Nancy Tingley**, **Corresponding Secretary Carole Franceschet**, **Recording Secretary Rosina Hurley**, and **Treasurer Claudia Grantham**. Recommendations for five new memberships were presented and approved. **Cynthia Schneider** and **Jay Palluzzi** were recognized for their 25 years of service. Zeta Chapter's Memorial Grant was presented to Vincent Madar, a senior at West Haven High School who plans to major in education at the University of New Haven and is enrolled in the five-year Master's Program in History Education.

Paperback books were shared for light summer reading. There was much buzzing about members' summer plans, attendance at the International Convention in Indianapolis in July and plans for the upcoming biennium starting in September! A special thank you is extended to outgoing **Chapter President Roz Gambardella** for her leadership this past biennium. Her enthusiasm and positive outlook have been inspirational!

THETA

Theta Chapter has had a very busy spring. Members met in March at the Willington Public Library; and prior to the business meeting, members were fortunate to hear Beth Usher speak about her experiences at the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor. Beth is a very special young woman whose life struggles began at age five when half of her brain was removed by Dr. Ben Carson. Her experience was recorded in his book, *Gifted Hands, The Ben Carson Story*. Beth was a student of several members, and everyone enjoyed her presentation. Theta is thankful to Beth and her parents for joining us. Several weeks later, a lunchtime dinner was provided by members of Theta Chapter at the local Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.



AROUND THE NUTMEG STATE (continued)

The annual May Banquet was held at the Freedom Green Clubhouse in Mansfield Center. Members were honored to have **AKS President Terry Azoti** present as two new members, **Carol Phelps**, a fourth grade teacher at Vinton Elementary School in Mansfield; and **Felicia O'Brien**, a math teacher at W. B. Sweeney School in Willimantic, were initiated. New chapter officers were installed. That evening two chapter members were also honored: **Incoming First Vice President Marie Desautels** on her retirement and member **Joan Haffey** for her years of service to the chapter as treasurer. The recipient of Theta's annual grant is Sarah Hodge, a student at the University of Connecticut, who was present at the meeting. The grants to a student for Laurel Music Camp and Laurel Girls State were announced. **Outgoing President Susan Salesses** thanked her officers and others who have assisted and supported her during her two bienniums as president.

Theta Chapter continues its ongoing projects of Books for Babies for the summer, and members also brought a number of gift items for the Summer Splash for the girls of Journey House. Members will meet at the end of June to plan programs for the 2014-2015 school year.

LAMBDA

Lambda opened the 2013-2014 "season" in September with a "Welcome Back" dinner meeting at Serafino's in Wallingford. In addition to food and fellowship, **Educational Excellence Chair Joan Roczynski** presented plans for the chapter's service project, donating reading packets to area classrooms.

The October 22nd meeting took place at the Cheshire Academy. Speaker Carol O'Donnell was the former long-time director of Lit Links for the Connecticut Community Foundation in Waterbury. Currently she works part time for the Office of Policy and Management in Hartford and is very active in advocating for creation of a state Early Childhood Agency. In addition, Carol is the director of the Lever Foundation, a charitable trust that awards grants to worthwhile community projects such as the brand new charter school in Waterbury. Carol discussed a wide variety of topics, including preschool education, certification efforts for preschool teachers and all-day kindergarten.

A small group of members came together in December for a fundraiser cookie swap and holiday sing-along at the home of **Joan Roczynski**. Those in attendance also enjoyed socializing and sharing a variety of delicious appetizers. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience the magic of the season while contributing to a worthy cause.

The January 22nd birthday dinner was held at Gaetano's Tavern on Main in Wallingford. The after-dinner entertainment of high school singers was cancelled because it was a snow day. Chapter business was conducted, and members celebrated the chapter's 57th birthday.

The March meeting took place at the home of **President Mary Ellen Ulatowski**. After the business portion of the evening, members enjoyed a corned beef and cabbage dinner and a concert of Irish music. This event raised over one hundred dollars for the chapter's grant fund.

On May 4th, the chapter held its "Flapjack" fundraiser at Applebee's in Plainville. **Sharon Manley** has been coordinating this event over the past few years. It was great fun and very helpful in raising hundreds of dollars for our high school grants.

The final meeting of the season was on May 8th at Monticello's in Meriden. **Kathy Hanisko** presented grants to high school seniors from Cheshire, Meriden and Wallingford. The Vivace Singers (a co-ed group from Lyman Hall High School) provided entertainment under the direction of Lambda member **Jayne Haffner**. In addition, members voted on officers for the new biennium and also voted on a budget. It was a wonderful time to reflect upon the year and recognize the efforts of Lambda's many members.

MU

Mu Chapter has been jumping at the sight of spring. At the meeting in March, **Jan Ferraris**, retired art teacher, showed the sisters how to dye eggs using silk scarves, white cloth, boiling water and vinegar. All the eggs were unique and beautiful. Members also learned how to make "perky bows" using heavy paper ribbon. Sisters brought donations of food for the Canton Food Bank. About 20 bags of groceries were donated, and the Food Bank was very appreciative.

On May 15th new and returning officers were installed: **President Patricia Faulkner, First Vice President Carolyn Hallifax, Recording Secretary Jan Schley, Corresponding Secretary Shelley Lloyd and Treasurer Ann Newbury**. In other news, Courtney Kendrig of Farmington received a \$1,000 grant from Mu Chapter, as she prepares to go to Wheelock College in Boston and major in elementary education. She also plans to then work on a Master's Degree in Reading. With her background in Spanish, she hopes to be a bilingual reading consultant. Courtney is wished the best of luck from Mu Chapter.

RHO

Rho Chapter held its final meeting on May 15th at Crandall Pond Lodge in Tolland. Members enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner followed by the initiation of two new members; **Mimi Saidi**, a grade two teacher, and **Elizabeth Arcouette**, a kindergarten teacher. Both teach at Phillip R. Smith School in South Windsor. New officers for the 2014-2016 biennium were installed: **President Margaret Festi, Vice President Ellen Festi, Secretary Sue Nadeau and Treasurer Dottie Shackway**. **Karen Newcomb** will serve as Membership Chair. Rho's popular teacup raffle was held with items donated by those in

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8) *Rho Chapter* attendance. This generated \$45.00 for the treasury. Members collected 25 nonperishable items that were donated to Champ's Place, the Somers food pantry. A planning meeting will be held in July at the South Windsor Public Library. The chapter will also be holding a tag sale at the Willington Green Flea Market on Saturday, Sept. 6th. If you are in the Willington area during Labor Day weekend, please stop by and peruse the donated "treasures." This will be Rho Chapter's major fund raiser for 2014-2016.

An Invitation to Serve Alpha Kappa State

The AKS Nominations Committee will be preparing a slate of officers for the 2015-2017 biennium for first vice president, second vice-president and recording secretary. The committee is also accepting nominations for three candidates each for the finance committee and for the nominations committee to serve from 2015-2019. A nominating form needs to be filled out for each candidate, and permission of the person must be secured before her name is recommended for nomination. The nominations form can be found on the Alpha Kappa State website.

Be thinking now if you or members in your chapter are interested in serving in one of these capacities. Nominating forms are due to the Nominating Committee Chair by December 1, 2014.

Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone, AKS Nominations Chair
607 Juniper Court
Oxford, CT 06478
spcdkg@comcast.net

Kudos to Beta Chapter's Anita Pfluger Award Recipient

Congratulations to **AKS Webmaster Anita Pfluger**. Anita is the recipient of the 2014 Irene Kwidzinski Service Award from the CT Association of School Librarians. The award is given to honor a person who has made an outstanding contribution to CASL and/or educational media programs. Anita and her Beta Chapter sisters have spent almost two years acquiring books for the Beardsley School Library in Bridgeport. Members have purchased books through Linda's Story Time, an independent book store in Monroe; and individual members have purchased and donated books on their own. This has been one of Beta Chapter's major community service projects. Anita is to be commended for her dedication to the project and for the time and effort which she has expended to organize the library.



Anita Pfluger and book fair at Beardsley School Library in Bridgeport



Join Your AKS Sisters at the International Convention in Indianapolis July 28th to August 1st

Workshops will be presented by the following AKS members:

Creative Assessment Alternatives—Cartoon and Comics
Ellen Festi and Margaret Festi, both members of Rho Chapter

A Book Can Make A Difference - A Book Can Change A Life
Award-Winning Author Rachel Adams (*Raising Henry: A Memoir of Motherhood, Disability, & Discovery*)
International Educators Award Committee Presenters, including **Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone**, Beta Chapter

Global Peace Roundtable: Worldwide Educational Initiatives
Patricia O'Connell Buckley, Carol Kraus, Ann Grosjean and Anita Satriano, all members of Theta Chapter



IN MEMORIAM

White Roses

"Every good life leaves behind the fiber of it interwoven forever in the work of the world."



Katherine Connerty, Tau August 23, 2013

Katherine graduated with degrees in education from the University of Vermont and Western Connecticut State University. She held teaching positions in Meriden and Woodbury, CT and Mountain View, CA. She served as a U.S. Peace Corp volunteer in Malaysia from 1963-1965 as a teacher-trainer at the Malay Women's Training College.

When she returned from Asia, she accepted a teaching position in New Milford until her retirement in 1990. She served on the Washington Democratic Town Committee and was chair for a number of years. She also served on the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Washington Planning Commission.

Katherine enjoyed history and was a Mayflower descendant of John Howland. Known as Kay to her Tau sisters, she held many positions and was a charter member who helped form the chapter in 1980. She remained an active member until she was no longer able to drive.

Helen "Polly" Wetherbee, Epsilon December 20, 2013

Helen graduated from Hartford Public High School and Mount Holyoke College. She earned her master's degree from the University of Hartford. Helen taught biology and ecology at South Windsor High School.

In addition to being a member of Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, she was a former board member of the Lutz Children's Museum, a member of the League of Women Voters and a member of the West Hartford Art League. She was an artist throughout her life and did many one-woman art shows.

Helen was proud of the fact that she was a direct descendant of the John Bissell family of Windsor and the Storrs family of Mansfield.

Margaret "Mardie" Ford, Iota February 4, 2014

Margaret graduated from Smith College and from Western Connecticut State College with majors in history and education. In 1975, while on sabbatical in Edinburgh, Scotland, she received a certificate for her studies in anthropology.

Mardie taught eighth grade for 31 years at Bethel Middle School. In 1990, she received the Sarah Mass Award as Bethel's Teacher of the Year. She was also the chair of the Social Studies Department. For many years she worked as an enthusiastic mentor with new teachers through the University of Bridgeport.

As a Bridgewater resident for 40 years, she volunteered at the town library and was an active and devoted participant on the Bridgewater Scholarship Committee. She served on the Board of Education for 12 years and loved being a part of the Bridgewater Community.

Margaret was initiated into Iota Chapter in 1978. She served as chapter program chair, first vice president, chair of World Fellowship and Scholarship Chair.

She was an avid bird watcher. Mardie also loved to travel, enjoyed nature, reading, music and art.

Antoinette DiMartino, Beta March 15, 2014

Antoinette received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Bridgeport, a master of arts and a master of arts plus thirty credits from the University of Bridgeport.

She was an accountant before becoming an elementary teacher and a reading consultant for the Bridgeport Public Schools. During her 20 years, she was involved with leadership training, workshop presentations in reading; and she also served on several Board of Education Committees. She was recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education and the Right to Read Program for her services to the program.

She was initiated into Beta Chapter in 1980. In addition to her Beta membership, she was active in the Italian community with church work and volunteer projects. She also volunteered at the gift shop at St. Vincent's Medical Center for many years.



**Welcome to our New and Reinstated
AKS Members
Reported as of May 23, 2014**



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

**DELTA
Dorothy Martino Farmington**

**THETA
Felicia O'Brien Columbia
Carol Phelps**

**NU
Kristin Colonies Trumbull
Lauren LaRusso Stamford
Allyson M. Power Fairfield**

**RHO
Elizabeth Arcouette Vernon
Michelle Saidi Glastonbury**

Membership: To Grow or Not to Grow?

That is the question! Whether it is safer to keep quiet and suffer the lack of active involvement or work together to find new members and invite them. Yes, the "readiness is all" and I ask, are you ready?

Now is the time to have member-to-member conversations about what has been happening in your chapter. During the membership report at your next meeting, why not raise questions about your chapter's health. A few simple questions should ignite a lively discussion:

- How have we grown as a chapter?
- Why are we losing members?
- How do we create interesting programs and activities?
- How do we share the responsibilities?
- How has our chapter kept up with changes made by International?

Talk about and create a plan that will work for your chapter.

Taken from the DKG International May/June Membership Memo:

"Before any goals are written or action steps are defined, chapter members should engage in a discussion regarding the vision for the chapter. Consider what is going well and what can be improved. Determine what areas need to be strengthened. Imagining what a healthy chapter would look like can be an effective tool to guide your planning."

Good Luck!

Joan Krantz, AKS Membership Chair



ALPHA KAPPA STATE CELEBRATES ITS 75TH BIRTHDAY



**Dr. Lynn Schmid,
International Second Vice President
and
Terry Azoti,
AKS President**

Each and every table in the room at the Cromwell Courtyard by Marriott was decorated with a colorful Mylar birthday balloon, the perfect centerpiece helping to create a festive mood for Alpha Kappa State's 75th Birthday Celebration. Individual boxes of Hershey Miniatures were at each place setting representing the year 1939, the year both Hershey Miniatures and Alpha Kappa State were created.

AKS President Terry Azoti proudly read excerpts from two celebratory proclamations from Governor Malloy and the State Assembly. These proclamations recognized the members of Alpha Kappa State DKG International as outstanding women educators who maintain advanced high standards of education as well as for their countless hours of service. These proclamations were proudly exhibited for all chapter members to see.

A congratulatory message was read from New Jersey sisters. Massachusetts and Rhode Island representatives at the meeting gave their personal remarks of congratulations. The original charter from 1939 was presented to all as part of the celebration. The charter had been framed as a gift to AKS through the generosity of **President Terry Azoti** and **Past President Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone**.

It was a day to celebrate membership exclaiming "You are the society." Members born in 1939 were given special gifts prior to singing the *Happy Birthday* song by all attending. Sisters were encouraged to bring bells from home by the Ad Hoc Birthday Committee for a special way to "ring in our anniversary." On a signal from **Birthday Celebration Committee Chair Terry Ziegler**, all picked up their bells from the table and rang them continuously for 7.5 seconds. There would be more ringing later. The committee distributed sheets with music selections from 1939 and all happily joined in singing verses of *Back In the Saddle Again*, *Over the Rainbow*, *When the Saints Come Marching In* and *God Bless America* accompanied on the piano by **Roz Etra** of the Fine Arts Committee. The Ad Hoc Birthday Committee, which consisted of sisters from all the chapters, certainly went above and beyond to not only celebrate such an important milestone but in an educational, sentimental and fun way.

Prior to the luncheon, the "Flaming of the Cake" was held as all sang *Happy Birthday Dear Friends*. The bells rang once again for 7.5 seconds. Soon after lunch, the committee presented a special edition of Jeopardy and provided questions on such topics as politics, everyday things and entertainment from the year 1939. The tables of members competed against each other as contestants. The room was filled with excitement, competition and the yelling out of answers. All of us were winners in the end.

A delicious birthday cake decorated with beautiful red roses was enjoyed. AKS sisters observed celebrations of Outstanding Service Awards and Member Honors, including recognition of membership milestone pin recipients, Connecticut's first member to exhibit in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts, a state honorary member in attendance and Alpha Kappa State past presidents. Members listened to the president's conclusion that brought this remarkable birthday celebration to a close. With members joining hands, *The Delta Kappa Gamma Song* rang out.

Nancy Tingley, Zeta Chapter



Head Table at Spring Convention, Solemn during Ceremony of Life



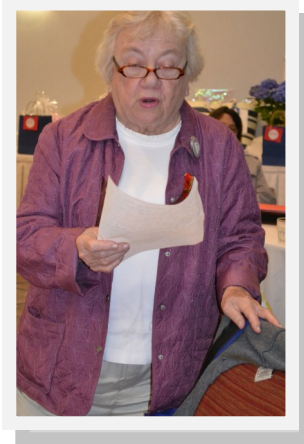
Spring Convention Photos



Ad Hoc Birthday Committee Fundraiser for Curriculum of Hope



Kudos to **AKS 75 Birthday Celebration Chair Terry Ziegler** and her assistant, **Alma Peterson**, both from Eta Chapter



Alpha Kappa State Past State Presidents



Ceremony of Life (Delta Chapter)



Registration Table (Epsilon Chapter)



Christine Niedermeier,
AKS Honorary Member



Roz Etra, Gamma Chapter
Alpha Kappa State's Musicmaker



Alpha Kappa State Schedule

**Sharing Our Vision—
Strengthening our Chapters**

Friday, June 27, 2014
Alpha Kappa State Leadership Conference
Whitney Center, Hamden

July 28—August 1, 2014
Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana

Thursday, August 14, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Chapter Presidents' Meeting
with AKS State President
Meriden Public Library
105 Miller Street, Meriden

Saturday, September 13, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Executive Board Meeting
Meriden Public Library

Saturday, November 1, 2014
9:00 a.m.

AKS 75th Fall Conference
Courtyard by Marriott
4 Sebethe Dr., Cromwell

Saturday, January 10, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Executive Board Meeting
Meriden Public Library

(Snow Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015)

January, 2015
CTAUN Conference
United Nations, New York

Saturday, March 14, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Executive Board Meeting
Meriden Public Library

(Snow Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015)

Saturday, April 25, 2015
8:30 a.m.
AKS 76th Spring Convention
Installation of 2015-2017 Officers
Courtyard by Marriott, Cromwell

Friday, June 13, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Executive Board Meeting
Meriden Public Library

July 8-11, 2015
DKG Northeast Regional Conference
Baltimore, Maryland



Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference
Saturday, November 1st
Courtyard by Marriot
Cromwell

We hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for a very special event to take place at the Fall Conference for AKS members and for The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. This will be a wonderful completion of our 75th year celebration.



Photography for *The Keynote*
contributed by

Alpha Kappa State Photographer
Carolyn Downs

NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINES:

September 3, 2014
December 1, 2014

Send information to **Carol Beam**
267 Ivy Drive
Bristol, CT 06010-3308

or e-mail to <d.w.beam@snet.net>