 **THE CONNECTION**

 The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

 Alpha Epsilon State Gamma Lambda Chapter

 Volume 37, Number 5 Leslie Hamman, President

 May 21, 2016 Patricia Brooks, Editor

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth

of women educators and excellence in education.

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**Thinking out loud…**

The song “A Whole New World” from Disney’s *Aladdin* came to mind as I was thinking about technology. Throughout the past month, I have received information about digital filing, website usage for obtaining forms and other resources, online financial dealings, and even read a realistic fiction book about the positive and negative effects of technology on a teenager’s life choices.

Through the internet, cell phones, tablets, and so on, we have become interconnected and easily accessible to anyone and everyone. We are bombarded with information both important and trivial. We also have so many opportunities available yet not enough time to explore and use technology’s full potential. Even so, procedures are changing, and precautions are being created and revised.

Gamma Lambda has already implemented some of these opportunities. Our phone tree has become an email tree; meeting invitations are emailed to most members; a variety of reports have been downloaded from the DKG website and submitted; and The Hoosier Newsette and The Connection can be received paperless yet in full color via email. At the state and international levels, membership information is stored in computer files; finances are logged and manipulated to provide specific details in any number of categories; online banking and computer programs help with money management; and the list goes on…

Sooooo, what can we do to use technology safely and efficiently? With the multitude of possibilities available to us, we should be aware enough to **carefully and cautiously** explore - and enjoy - this “Whole New World!”

Leslie



**Treasurer Report—**Carol Gear

* The balance at our November meeting was $ 5,040.82.
* Income received from dues refund and the Schools for Africa notebook donations totaled $220.00.
* Checks issued since November included those for dues, World Fellowship, Schools for Africa, and two Gamma Lambda Scholarships. These totaled $ 3,118.00.
* Our balance today is $ 2,142.82.

**State Executive Board/Conference Information—**Leslie Hamman

* Leslie reported that she will be attending the State Conference in Terre Haute, Indiana on April 23rd.
* Registration forms were passed out for the CCOT North meeting in Lafayette, Indiana to be held on June 16, 2016. There are training sessions for officers and an opportunity for our chapter to receive a Golden Key Award.
* To reduce mailing expenses, we were encouraged to sign up to receive *The Hoosier Newsette* electronically. A form was passed around to check our e-mail addresses and add our names to the electronic list if we had not done so before.

**Committee Reports
Membership—**Leslie Hamman

* Leslie reported that two retired teachers may be interested in learning more about our group. Future action will be taken to contact these prospective members.

**Nominations—**Sherry Crisp-Ridge

* Sherry presented the following slate of officers for 2016-2018: President, Leslie Hamman; Vice President, Bev Ellert; Recording Secretary, Betty Wagner; Corresponding Secretary, Jo Drudge; Treasurer, Carol Gear; Editor, Patti Brooks; Parliamentarian, Nancy Shambaugh.
* Judy Wolf made a motion which was seconded by Barbara DeLong that the slate of officers be accepted as presented. The motion carried.

**Minutes of April 16, 2016
Gamma Lambda Chapter
Delta Kappa Gamma**

The April meeting was held at Smith Farms Manor in Auburn, Indiana with fifteen members in attendance. Melinda Welsh and the Ligonier and Kendallville groups were hostesses. Melinda said grace and at 9:10 A.M. a delicious breakfast was served. President Leslie Hamman called the business meeting to order at 9:45 A.M. Melinda Welsh gave the opening thought reminding us to complete the tasks we are responsible for, but then take time to slow down, rest, and allow our brain to be quiet.

**Recording Secretary Report—**Betty Wagner

* The November 21, 2015 minutes were approved as read.

**Corresponding Secretary—**Jo Drudge

* Jo read a letter from Sandra Smith Bull, Executive Director of the International Administrative Board concerning the Society Logo. Bull stated in her correspondence that the International Society has the obligation to protect its logo and enforce the idea that the logo cannot be modified.
* The International Board has adopted this statement. *When creating trademarks, including logos, the words “the Society” are reserved for use by the International level of the Society only.* Leslie suggested that if we have any questions about using items connected with Delta Kappa Gamma International, we ask before we use them.
* Information for the Cole Center YMCA drowning prevention program was received.
* Vicky Jellison sent an All-IN Block Party invitation to be held in Albion to our group read to us by Jo.



**Legislation—**Patti Brooks

* A proposal to give school boards more flexibility to approve higher pay for teachers in hard-to-fill positions such as special education and science did not pass during the state legislative session.
* We were encouraged to vote in the upcoming Primary Election.

**Historian—**Leslie Hamman

* A volunteer is still needed to fill the position of Historian.

**Unfinished Business**

* There was no unfinished business.

**New Business**

* A discussion of the All-IN Block Party to be held in Albion on June 25, 2016 took place. The group decided not to be a part of this because of other events that we are involved in during the month of June. Leslie will respond to Vicky Jellison regarding our decision.

**Announcements**

* Melinda Welsh and her hostess committee were thanked for taking care of the details for this meeting.
* Our next meeting is Saturday, May 21, 2016 at Smith Farms Manor and will begin at 9:00 A.M. Helen Wappes is the hostess along with the Garrett and Butler groups.

**Program—**Sherry Crisp-Ridge

* An interesting game in which we gave ourselves points for twelve questions that involved what had happened in our lives since our November meeting was played. Patti Brooks, with 21 points was the winner of a Delta Kappa Gamma Keychain.
* Judy Wolf made a motio, seconded by Barbara DeLong that the slate of officers be accepted as presented. The motion carried.

**Educational Excellence—**Bev Ellert

* Bev reported that $160 in donations had been received from the decorated notebooks that Dortha King, Kayleigh Mann, and Bev had made for the Schools for Africa Project. This made it possible for Gamma Lambda to send $260 to UNICEF for Schools for Africa.
* Nancy Shambaugh and Leslie Hamman shared how much family members to whom they had given the decorated notebooks appreciated these gifts.

**Personal and Professional Growth—**Sherry Crisp-Ridge

* Sherry asked for the feelings of the group in continuing the new teacher baskets for the SEE (Support for Early-career Educators) Project.
* Nancy Shambaugh made a motion that was seconded by Bev Ellert to continue the project. The motion carried.
* Sherry will again head the project. Members are to bring in school supplies or cash donations for this project.

**Grants-in-Aid—**Betty Wagner

* Betty announced the names of the two recipients of the Gamma Lambda Scholarships of $500 each. Patti Brooks made a motion that was seconded by Sherry Crisp-Ridge that the Committee’s choice for scholarship recipients be accepted. The motion carried.
* Jo Drudge and Bev Ellert volunteered to present these awards at the Senior Awards Programs in May held at the recipients’ high schools in Noble and Dekalb Counties.



**Closing and Adjournment**

* Jo Drudge did the closing centered on the value of “hugs.” Hugs cost nothing but can make the giver and receiver feel so good. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M. with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Betty Wagner Leslie Hamman
Recording Secretary President

Legislation

Patti Brooks, Chair

**EDUCATION BILL (ESSA) SUMMARY**

To see a summary of the new education bill go to

 [http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/every-student-succeeds-act/index.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-**RM**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/every-student-succeeds-act/index.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-RM).  Two facts are concerning:  (1) There will be a new U.S. President in 2017, and (2) there will probably be a new Secretary of Education in 2017. With the new law taking effect in the 2017-18 school year, will there be adequate time to see that all states have their plans in and approved?  (That is probably only a six-month window of time to carry out all that goes with such a large change in all states.)

Source: **US Forum Connection #148, April 2016**

Educational Excellence

Bev Ellert, Chair

"You are as welcome as the flowers in May." - Charles Macklin

When I first read this quotation, I immediately thought of how welcoming our membership is at every meeting. It doesn’t matter how often we see each other, we always feel the warmth of fellowship when we get together. We share the common bond of teaching and so much more – accomplishment for DKG projects, socialization and “catching up”, ideas to make our lives more fulfilled, companionship, and support through the years.

Hopefully, we all feel as welcome as the flowers in May and make others feel the same way.



If you know of any changes that need to be made in our program book, please let me know by phone (908-1671) or e-mail bevellert@hotmail.com.

**Grants-in-Aid**

Deb Landa, Chair

The Grants-in-Aid Committee is happy to announce the recipients of our 2016 Grants-in-Aid: Abigail Simon of Garrett and Katrina Kistler of East Noble.

The Committee was very pleased to have so many outstanding applicants this year. Many thanks to the members of the committee for their input in making the decisions.



**Founders’ Day**

On being a Founder

I’d like to be a Founder

And with the Founders stand

The Key upon my shoulder

A program in my hand.

I’d smile upon the members

Who give me free applause;

I’d try to look superior

(with very little cause)

I’d like to be a founder

And wear a Founder’s pin

But no more Founders can we have

Now all the states are in

I wouldn’t be a president,

Or treasurer—God forbid!

They do the work and take the raps

I’d rather be a Founder,

For lots of those I know

Have never done a single thing

Though they are grand, I know

But when we mark our Founders’ Day

To honor them, our aim

I’d like to be a Founder,

If I’d earned that sacred name!

From the 1944 Bulletin (like the Int’l News of today) Stored at the library at the Ohio Historical Society (Thought to be written by Annie Webb Blanton)

Publicity

Betty Wagner, Chair

This past year, news of our meetings appeared in the local newspapers a number of times.  A big thank you goes to Helen Wappes, Leslie Hamman, and Jo Drudge for photos they have given me.  The photos combined with a short article seem to give us an "edge" on having the article published.  In any case, we are getting recognition for they great things we are doing for education.



 Red Roses to…

Melinda Welsh and her committee for organizing our April meeting

Melinda Welsh and Jo Drudge for giving the Opening and Closing Thoughts

Sherry Crisp-Ridge and the Nominations Committee for submitting the slate of officers for the next biennium

Deb Landa and the Grants-in-Aid Committee for selecting our 2016 recipients

Sherry Crisp-Ridge for presenting our April program

Leslie Hamman, Bev Ellert, Betty Wagner, and Carol Gear for their leadership throughout the last biennium



 ***Coming Events:***

June 16, 2016 North COTT

 Lafayette, IN

June 22, 2016 Gamma Lambda

 Summer Picnic

 Rieke Park Lodge

Sept. 17, 2016 Gamma Lambda

 Smith Manor Farms

Oct. 15, 2016 Kendallville Public Library

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