



# NORTH STAR NEWS

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Key Women Educators

2 0 1 3 S U M M E R E D I T I O N

Official Publication of Tau State, MINNESOTA

Volume 61 Number 3

## ***Tau State Organization Website offers Program Ideas, Strategic Plan, Latest North Star News, and much more***

Is your chapter looking for program and project ideas for 2013-2014? Did you know that the Tau State official website has 17 ideas listed for your use?

Are you looking for the names of Tau leaders? Yes, they are listed on the website.

Did you miss the video and photo tribute to Jewell Mendenhall at the Tau State Convention in April? The website will bring you the tribute. It is just a click away.

Do you have a question about Tau State's history? Do you need information about the establishment and founders of Tau State? All that information is available on the website, also.

Other items of interest include the Purposes of the Society, resources for chapter presidents and treasurers, legislative resources, executive board minutes, forms, important dates, Other Program Ideas, Strategic Plan and the Latest copy of the North Star News.

### **DKG.org/MN**

Information about the International Society is posted on the International website. Registration information for the NW Regional in late July and early August is available and downloadable.

Stay informed with up-to-date information.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**June 25-26, 2013**

Tau State Retreat,  
College of St. Benedict  
St. Joseph, MN

**\*JULY 31-AUGUST 4, 2013**

NW Regional  
Conference Cheyenne,  
Wyoming

**April 25-27, 2014**

Tau State Conference,  
Holiday Inn, Duluth,  
MN



**July 28-August 1, 2014,**

International  
Convention J. W.  
Marriott,  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## **Inside**

**President's Message** 2

**Chapter Representatives, NW  
Regional, International Direct Voting,  
Women of Achievement** 3

**Jeanette Fair Book Awards,  
Cornet Award, Education  
Foundation** 4

**Chapter News, White Roses ,  
Celebration of Life, Preventing  
Negative Teasing** 5

**Tau State Pays it Forward** 6

**Cornet Award Experience,  
Kathy Patton** 9

*To design dreams, to kindle all knowledge, and to garner all gladness*

Teachers often invite Dr. Seuss into the classroom. Please allow me to bring his wisdom to my last letter to you as Tau State President. "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

This biennium has flown by very quickly, and work remains to be done to "revitalize" our state organization. Teachers, parents and DKG officers want the best for the next generation. I will not cry because my term is over; I thank you profoundly for having entrusted this treasured organization to my care for two years. With your support, Tau State has marked some achievements and laid the foundation for continued pursuits of ways to support women and children as we impact education worldwide.

I am frequently asked what I like about serving as Tau State president—without a doubt, the best part is getting invited to chapter meetings—meeting the members and learning of all the marvelous ways you all work in your communities to help those in need, especially our youth.

What are the highlights of the organization in 2011-2013? We had a Strategic Action Plan that helped officers, chairs and chapter leaders focus on specific needs with verifiable results. We received a Revitalization Grant from International that allowed us a separate event of training for new chapter leaders, as required by our state standing rules and bylaws. We initiated, with that grant, a summer retreat for DKG sisters to focus on self in order to lead with greater confidence. We had so much fun that we decided that it needs to be an annual event.

Volunteers worked diligently to synthesize all the changes to the standing rules and bylaws over the past years into language that is consistent in both documents. The new version was

approved at the state convention and will move to International for approval. The revised version will be on the Tau State website later this summer.

Tau State addressed a request from members and installed the first-ever state-wide chapter—Alpha Meta. Now other states are asking us about the organization because we are not the only state with dedicated members who want to belong to a chapter when their own chapters are no more. International was skeptical; now they are very supportive of our initiative. Another question that I receive frequently revolves around the use of our dues—I assure you that Tau State has been frugal and worked to maximize our work with our revenue. The scholarships and grants come from designated savings accounts.

A year ago we closed the safe deposit box, saving hundreds of dollars annually in fees, and placed the documents in the Minnesota Historical Society where all members have access to them. We found a savings account that we do not need and voted at the convention to move those monies into areas to grow and strengthen the state organization's activities for members. We have saved hundreds of dollars in printing costs as the majority of the communications with members are now digital—even The North Star News and the directory. We are holding one of the required meetings for state officers via Go-to-Meeting. That is subsidized by International and costs each Tau State member about 10 cents annually in dues. Almost all of the budget is for mileage to state meetings. Remember we reimburse mileage to all members of the executive board at 20 cents per mile—including chapter leaders. We will provide \$250 each to two chapter presidents who will attend



***Dr. Phyllis E. VanBuren***

NW Regional for training to bring back to the state.

Last year we provided \$500 for a member to attend the legislative seminar in Washington, D. C. Tau State invests in volunteer leaders to attend training sessions and then expects them to return to share the knowledge across the state—personally or digitally.

I have noted that in many organizations past leaders seem to disappear. But not so in DKG. I really appreciated the past presidents who ALL served as my mentors in the biennium. They shared their cumulative knowledge with me to guide Tau State; they encouraged me; they reminded me of traditions and the reasons "why." I look forward to joining their ranks and continuing to advocate for teachers and learners and to support leaders.

Please join me in welcoming Kathy Patton, president; Sally Nyhus, first vice president; Ann Vanvick, second vice president; Michelle Dahlby, recording secretary; Kate Pearson, nominations chair and the rest of the executive board that Kathy will recruit this summer. I am confident that you will volunteer when asked. DKG sisters always help DKG sisters.

I am smiling. We followed our quest. Ours is The Possible Dream. Thank you all!

## ***From the Bottom Up***

DKG is only as strong as the chapters. That is the message on page 1 of the May/June 2013 issue of **DKG News** and in the letter from International President Dr. Beverly Helms. At each of the regional conferences this summer, two chapter representatives will attend a special session, *It Doesn't Take Barbells to Strengthen Chapters*. Tau State's representatives will be Diane Wippler, (Kappa) and Barbara Muellerleile, (Nu.) They will "identify chapters' levels of skills, examine strategies to move their chapters forward regardless of size, location or history." They will share their training with all the chapters in Tau State—venue to be determined.

The Tau State executive committee voted to use \$500 of the revitalization funds, as per the vote of the general assembly at the 2013 convention, to be split between the two leaders to help with their travel costs to the regional conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming in early August.



## ***Women of Achievement Awards Given***

Several "sisters" were honored as their chapter's Woman of Achievement at the banquet, Saturday, April 20 at the Tau State Convention. These women have been nominated by their chapters for outstanding contributions and service to Delta Kappa Gamma, the teaching profession, and their communities.

The awardees for 2012 were: Nancy Krupa (Sigma), LaDonna Schultz (Chi), Deanna Manteufel (Alpha Gamma), Darlene Cuddigan (Alpha Nu), Carol Ann Stockman (Alpha Pi), Karen McCulloch (Alpha Rho), Mary Snorek (Alpha Meta, and Avonne Anderson (Beta Alpha).

The awardees for 2013 were: Barbara Bloomer (Eta), Jan Lippitt (Kappa), Kate Pearson (Mu), Sue Feyereisn (Pi), Karen Hyers (Sigma), Kimberly Moen (Chi), Kathryn Hultgren (Alpha Gamma), Barbara Strommer (Alpha Pi), Kristi Weidlein (Alpha Rho), Rosalyn Henrickson (Beta Alpha). Tau State Organization is proud of these women of achievement.

## **International Wants to Hear from YOU**

Following a vote of the members at the 2012 International convention, an ad hoc committee studied the advantages and disadvantages of having all members nominate candidates and vote directly (electronically or by mail) for all elected officers. The report, questions and answers and a survey are on the DKG website.

The ad hoc election process committee (EPC) wants your recommendations. Go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org), click on committees and then on the EPC link near the bottom of the page. Based upon your input, the committee will have a recommendation for an amendment at the 2014 convention. If there is a change in voting, it would become effective in 2016.

## **NW Regional is Calling You**

Pack your suitcase with wisdom and wellness – but you may want to leave your worn out hat at the door – the NW Regional conference will be full of western flair and surprising elegance at the Little America Hotel & Resort Cheyenne, July 31 to August 3, 2013!

The 2013 NW Regional Conference promises personal and professional development through a variety of workshops and general sessions and... a focus on wellness. Plan to begin your day with energy and vitality with aquacise, walking groups or yoga on site at the conference venue.

To register electronically with credit card (preferred method of registration), select registration on the left-hand side. If a printed form of registration is needed, select the [registration form](#). As you know we need to encourage our members to attend.

The Northwest is small, but mighty and we want to be well represented.

## *Jeanette Fair Book Award Given at Tau State Convention*

The Jeannette Fair Committee received nominations for and reviewed several children's books this year. A variety of stories, most of which were targeted for the younger child were filled with illustrations. We also had a selection which was aimed at a much older audience, with few illustrations and a much more complex story.

Traditionally, only one book receives our award, however, the committee broke with tradition and gave two awards this year. One was for a wonderful story about moving from a house to an apartment in a tall building. This story, **Windows with Birds**, was both written and illustrated by Karen Ritz. The illustrations are magnificent and tie into the story leading the reader from page to page following the transition of a boy and his cat to their new home.



The other award given was for **Shadow on the Mountain** by Margi Preuss. In this story we follow a boy in German occupied Norway during World War II. He got involved with some spy activities, which led him into some danger. Even with few illustrations the reader is able to clearly his surroundings were like. Although this is a fictional account of those times, it is based on fact. Following the completion of the story, the author included some photos of the man whose story she told.

Both of these books were very well written and deserving of the award. Neither of these books was better than the other as they were aimed at entirely different audiences.

## *Society's Cornet Award Given to Minnesota Applicant*

Jill Rost of Minnesota has received a Cornet Professional Development Award in the amount of \$695. She plans to use her award to attend Yoga Calm Certification.

Please help encourage (members and non-members) who need professional development assistance to check the Society's Educational foundation's website at [dkgef.org](http://dkgef.org) for the Cornet Award information and application, and to apply as did Jill.

## *Education Foundation Celebrates 50 Years*

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation invites you to help us celebrate our 50 years by adding a lighted candle to our celebratory cake. When you contribute \$50 to the fund, your name will be placed on this website with a lighted candle. Take a look at [who is helping](#) the Educational Foundation make a difference in the lives of educators and students.

Would you like to celebrate with us and leave a positive lasting influence by contributing funds for projects that support and encourage intercultural understanding and educational excellence around the globe? Light up the cake and light up educational opportunities by using our [Online Contribution Form](#). View a [sample form](#).

Celebrate the anniversary by applying for a \$1,000 project grant. The Educational Foundation will award 50 \$1,000 grants. Click [here](#) for information and application form.





**Kappa Chapter welcomed Joanna Walters and Dr. Insoon Han to Delta Kappa Gamma Tau State on May 7 at Barker's Island in Superior, WI. Joanna is dean of students in Duluth public schools. Insoon is a professor at UMD in Education.**

## Celebration of Life Honors 6 Members

Six Delta Kappa Gamma members were remembered during the Celebration of Life Ceremony at the Tau State Convention:

Betty D. Parker ( Mu)  
 Karen Waden (Kappa)  
 Judith Ann Ford-Lorington (Kappa)  
 Dorothy F. Henrickson (Alpha Rho)]  
 Harriet L. Green (Iota)  
 Lorraine Losinski (Iota)

## Preventing Negative Teasing

During Edna Thayer's presentation at the Sunday Brunch of the the Tau State Convention, she shared ways to prevent negative teasing. She stressed the need to **change the stimuli:**

- C** Create opportunities to do good
- H** Help children help themselves
- A** Apply zero tolerance rules thoughtfully
- N** Nurture empathy
- G** Give lots of hugs, smiles, good humor
- E** Enhance self-esteem
  
- S** Support children in making good choices
- T** Teach friendship skills
- I** Involve self in efforts to make differences
- M** Monitor exposure to electronic media
- U** Unite others in the efforts
- L** Live in a way you teach; be a role model
- I** Instill a mirthful spirit

## What is teasing and what is taunting?

Teasing is like a knife...it can provide benefits or injuries...depending upon whether it is grasped by the handle or the blade.

Teasing is lighthearted, playful, and fun; Taunting is hurtful and harmful to one.

Teasing is intended to get persons to laugh WITH each other; Taunting is one-sided where laughing is AT another.

Teasing maintains dignity and a spirit of reciprocal mirth; Taunting humiliates, is cruel and demeaning to one's self-worth.

Teasing stops when one senses it is not perceived in a playful way; taunting causes distress and continues and increases from day to day.

When a person perceives taunting is happening a person must confront the taunter and stop the behavior from happening.

# Tau State Pays It Forward



Thanks to all who participated in the silent auction at the Tau State convention in April. Kathy Patton and Barbara Whiting distribute \$140 gift cards from Lakeshore Learning Store to five delighted teachers. What a joy to deliver gift cards to the early career educators at Palmer Lake Elementary!

## Recruitment Grant Awarded to MSU, Mankato Junior

Brianna Marie Nelson was awarded the \$500 Recruitment Grant at the Tau State Convention. She is a junior at Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a major in elementary education and a minor in child development and family studies.



Brianna Marie Nelson



Sister at Tubman Center accepts gifts of toiletries' donations from Tau State convention 2013.

## Letter of Thanks Received from the Tubman Center for In-Kind Gift of Toiletries

Thank you for your in-kind gift of toiletries to support the women and children we serve at Tubman.

In the coming year we will help more than 40,000 people right here in our community and across the state by providing safe shelter, legal services, mental and chemical health counseling, elder care resources, youth programming, and education.

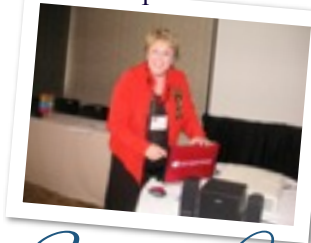
Please know how much it means to have your support. The words of Harriet Tubman still echo today: "Keep **Going**". Because of you, our clients can! On behalf of the board, staff and those we serve, thank you for joining us in lighting the way to hope for thousands of families.

With gratitude, Tammie L. Follett, Chair Resource Development Cabinet and Jennifer J. Polzin, Chief, Resource Development



Jewel's Tribute

Corlea's Plowman's workshop



Rosalie Huston's workshop



Celebration of Life

# Tau State Convention Revisited

Tau State convention welcomed over 100 members and guests to its convention April 19-21, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Brooklyn Center.

A local Girl Scout Troop presented the Minnesota State flag and the Delta Kappa International flag at the opening of the convention. Brooklyn Center Mayor Tim Wilson gave welcoming remarks, Phyllis VanBuren presided and DKG Executive Director Corlea Plowman gave a welcome from International.

The general session followed with Tau State conducting a business meeting.

The first session of workshops was given. Workshops on high standards for high school mathematics, alternative schools, data base management, and a state chapter meeting were conducted before lunch.



Robert Pontious directed the Mahtomedi High School Varsity Choir of over 70 singers who entertained members and guests with "Music to Inspire".

## SATURDAY

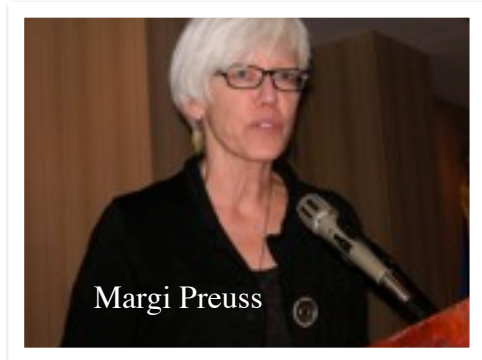
Executive board meeting was held while Joni Polehna gave a presentation on increasing mental acuity.



Alternative Schools

## LUNCH

Jeanette Fair Awards were given, and the Recruitment Grant was awarded.



Margi Preuss





Keynote speaker was Dr. John Hoover from St. Cloud State University who addressed the topic of the Midwest Bullying Research Project.



Women of Achievement 2012 and 2013 were honored. (See page 3 for names of awardees.)

## AFTERNOON

Two sessions of workshops were given and members then met for refreshments prior to the evening session.



Card Making



Chapters Kappa and Delta welcomed members to attend the Tau State conference in Duluth on April 25-27, 2014 at the Holiday Inn.

## EVENING

Following the parade of past state presidents, newly-elected executive officers were introduced, welcomed by International Executive Director Corlea Plowman, and Tau State President Phyllis VanBuren, and accepted their requirements for office. Kathy Patton, president; Sally Nyhus, first vice president; Ann Vanvick, second vice president; Michelle Dahlby, recording secretary; Kate Pearson, nominations chair





## SUNDAY

ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER presented the Ceremony of Remembrance. Brunch followed with a tribute to Jewell Mendenhall, and a humorist presentation by Edna Thayer.

### **Hosts of 2013 Convention, Thank You! Sigma, Alpha Gamma, and Alpha Nu**

#### ***Cornetet Award Winner Attended National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference***

*By Karen Hyers, Sigma Chapter*

I attended the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference in Denver this spring, using a Delta Kappa Gamma International Cornetet award. As funding has decreased in my school for professional development, I would have been unable to attend the conference without DKG's sponsorship.

I enjoyed every minute of the conference. The opening session was by Mayim Bialek, actress and PhD in neuroscience, who spoke about the power of one teacher and how that one teacher at the right moment had inspired her to enter the field of science. I attended several sessions on equity, assessment for learning, teaching proof and hands-on calculus. I especially enjoyed a session on teaching proof using manipulatives that I will try with my students next fall. I also gave a session on a week-long calculus project that I use in class that was well received.

Beyond the workshops and sessions, I had the opportunity to meet with other educators from across the country. The one-on-one discussions about our shared challenges and victories gave me so many ideas to bring back to my classroom and my colleagues.

I would encourage all of my sisters in Tau State to consider applying for a Cornetet Award. The professional development opportunity is priceless.



**Mayim Bialek leads a session on teaching with graphing calculators at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference in Denver.**



**Kathy Patton accepts the Tau State President's pin at the Tau State Convention in April**

#### ***Kathy Patton is elected as 2013-2015 Tau State President***

Kathy Patton will serve as the Tau State Organization president from 2013-2015. She will receive her president's training in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the NorthWest Regional Convention in July 2013.

Kathy is a resident of Minnetonka MN, and is a member of Beta Beta chapter.