



NORTH STAR NEWS

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Key Women Educators

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

Official Publication of Tau State, MINNESOTA

Volume 58 Number 3

Leading women educators Impacting education worldwide

Imagine, Inspire, Act(ivate), and Celebrate

Dear Tau State Sisters,

WOW! What a wonderful state conference “Circle of Giving” that we just had at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis North in Brooklyn Park April 23-25. Those of you who attended were entertained, energized, and empowered by the wonderful speakers, workshops, and special events including donations for People Serving People, Second Harvest Food Shelf and packaging meals for the Kids Against Hunger. Proceeds from our very successful silent auction were donated to these organizations and also Can-Do Canines. A huge thank you to those who donated items and bid on them. The teacher giveaway tables were also successful for many of the attendees.

A **HUGE** thank you to members of Gamma Chapter, chair of the whole conference, Alpha Omega Chapter for the informational Founders program, and Alpha Rho for the inspirational Ceremony of Remembrance. For those of you who did not attend, we remembered the last of our Tau State Founders, Nyda Swanson, who passed away in February at the age of 100.

A special **THANK YOU** to Jean Knaak, Leslie Erickson and their committee; Kristi Weidlein and her committee for the Silent Auction; Rosalie and Laurie Huston for assisting with the folders and registration materials; and Diane Larson for bringing her Clavinova piano and her beautiful music during the conference. As Hilary Clinton once said “it takes a village to raise a child” and in Delta Kappa Gamma “it takes every sister to make a success.” **Thank you to all Tau State Sisters for planning and attending the conference.**

The Executive Board passed two recommendations: that the conferences and conventions from 2010 through 2013 be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and that Jean Knaak be asked to be the facilitation coordinator liaison for the next three years to assist the host chapters in their

planning. The hotel was exceptionally accommodating to all of our needs. Next year's convention will be **April 29-May 1, 2011**, so please mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss it!



Our International Guest, Glenda Reynolds, Northwest Regional Director, was so very impressed with the whole conference. We upheld the Minnesota tradition of being “Minnesota Nice!”

As the first year of this biennium is coming to a close, I want to sincerely thank the chapter presidents for serving 2008-2010. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and I commend you for keeping your chapters vital and progressing. I have enjoyed my chapter visits this year and look forward to coming to additional chapters and would like to attend another meeting of those that I did this year. Some of you may continue on for another biennium and other chapters have elected new presidents or leadership teams. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you in the coming year. Our first Tau State Executive Board Meeting will be in St. Cloud (site to be determined later) on **Saturday, October 2, 2010**, so please mark your calendar.

Please check my Blog Cory's **Chronicle** which has a link from the Tau State website www.deltakappagamma.org/MN I will be posting monthly entries.

It is not too late to think about attending the Seminar in Purposeful Living in Tacoma, WA from July 15-18 and/or the International Convention in Spokane, WA from July 20-24 with pre-convention tours on July 18, 19, and 20. Information and registration can be found on the International Website www.dkg.org.

Cory



Xin Yuan accepts Bernice Gestie Fellowship Award.

Letter of Thanks

Dear Delta Kappa Gamma Members,

Thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient of the Bernie Gestie Fellowship Award. It is definitely a great encouragement for me in my graduate studies in the United States.

Very nice meeting you at the conference, too. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

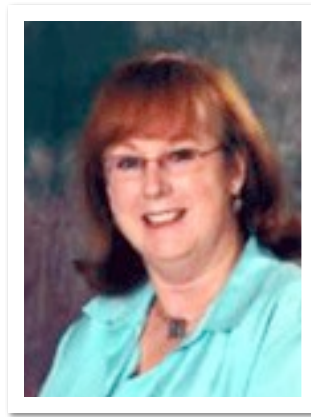
Best wishes and I will continue to study hard in my journey of pursuing my dream. Thank you.

Xin Yuan
4/26/2010

Outstanding Service Award recipient announced

Jim Hainlen, the creator of Stillwater Cares for Kids, was the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award. Every Wednesday volunteers sign in, pick up their name badges and get the work teachers want them to use with students in math, reading and writing for half hour blocks from 10-11:30 a.m. The tutoring program is in its fifth year at Oak Park Elementary in the Stillwater School District.

The students eagerly await their tutors. One fourth grader asked, "Why do all of you have white hair?" The tutors reply, "It's our favorite color."



*Glenda Reynolds
Northwest
Regional Director*

**International
Guest at the Tau
State Convention.**

Dear Tau State members,
I truly enjoyed your "Circle of Giving" conference in Brooklyn Park. The theme, speakers, and workshops were inspiring. You definitely had a vision and put that vision into action. Thank you for the Minnesota gifts. Each one is special and will be treasured. I hope to see many of you in Spokane for the 2010 International convention.

Glenda Reynolds
Northwest Regional Director 2008-2010



Jim Hainlen, recipient of Outstanding Service Award from Tau State, and Principal of Oak Park Elementary Dawn Wiegard.

The program has now been organized in three other school districts and has sparked interest in other local churches and organizations as a way to give back to the community.



By Phyllis VanBuren

May 27, 2010

They say (whoever they are) that hard times test the mettle of a society. Times are tough for many, but I saw bounteous giving in action a month ago.

First, who am I? I am “Flat Annie.” I came to Minnesota from North Dakota on my way back to Texas. I am similar to “Flat Stanley,” created by author Jeff Brown in a 1964 children’s book. (Stanley Lambchop was a normal kid who was flattened by a bulletin board that fell on him. Now he is mailed around the world or travels with friends and family — just like the St. Cloud Times featured in its Sunday Travel pages.)

I, Flat Annie, visited the Tau State (Minnesota) conference of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International of key women educators. “Wow!” was my word all weekend.

Wow! — for all the boxes and bags that were taken into the main meeting room. I quickly saw their conference theme in action — Circle of Giving. It was not the traditional conference. These women were focusing on making life easier for those in hardship.

Wow! — for all the hugs. They are sisters, you know.

Wow! — for the food donated for the Second Harvest Food Shelf. Donations quickly filled the tables and overflowed to the floor.

Wow! — for the personal care items for People Serving People, an agency to assist people as they face homelessness. Of the nearly 1,000 residents at the downtown Minneapolis facility, two-thirds are kids. No wonder it touched the heartstrings of teachers.

Wow! — for the many tables covered with personal creations, care baskets, sports paraphernalia for the silent auction. Maybe it was spring cleaning. No, I suspect it was purposeful planning of what might cause another “sister” to bid up the item for a good cause. That event alone raised some \$2,285 Kids against Hunger, People Serving People and Can Do Canines.

During three hours on a Saturday afternoon, some attendees packed more than 1,872 bags for Kids Against Hunger. Each bag contains six servings of nutritional dehydrated food that

when boiled will feed six children with all the vitamins and minerals that they will need for a day.

At the banquet that evening, I had a reunion of sorts. All my founding sisters were there — in the form of their star on a bag filled with more for the food shelf. The bags for others were better than a birthday cake.

No, it was not my birthday, rather the 81st birthday of DKG, founded to promote the professional and personal growth of key women educators engaged in providing excellence in education. After 10 years of planning, DKG became a reality. We are now more than 103,000 members in 17 countries.

The next day the sisters gathered to remember the giving of their sisters who had died that year — their giving in the classroom, to the organization and throughout the community.

Guest speaker Ann Zemke used a personalized quilt to honor her own grandmother and to share her story as a survivor of the orphan train during another period of economic hardships in this country when drastic parents placed their own children on trains, giving them to other families who could give them a better life.



The gift of song ended the celebration as the Happy Warblers, their singing group, reminded the attendees of all the things that we can give and share for free. Many of the best treasures are in the Delta Kappa Gamma song that Cora Martin and I wrote. We demanded that each teacher consider the needs of others and come to their aid. We challenged them to unite and to fight for liberty in their efforts to further education in a circle of sisterhood.

Wow! — for all the leading women educators who serve others before self.

After visiting Eta Chapter in Central Minnesota, I was again placed in an envelope and sent back to Texas.

I enjoyed my visit to Minnesota and to St. Cloud.

Wow! — am I proud of the organization that I helped found 81 years ago. The struggles were worth it. My dreams are coming true as I see these women as leaders in education and as servants in their communities.



Joanne Lockner, Professional Affairs Chair and Emily Cowan recipient of Grant-in-Aid are welcomed at Tau State Conference.

Emily Cowan awarded the Grant-in-Aid at Tau State Conference

Tau State presented Emily Cowan, a junior at Mankato State University majoring in elementary education, with an award of \$500 Grant-in-Aid payable to the college for part of her senior year tuition.

Tau State Book Awards Nominations now being accepted

Nominees now being accepted for Jeanette Fair Award for outstanding book by a Minnesota author for children.

Books published from 2006-present are eligible for consideration.

Send nominations to the Communications Chair, who will soon be posted on the state website.

Congratulations to Christine M. Schultz and Tara G. Mahin from Minnesota for recently receiving the Cornetet Professional Development awards.

Tau State Scholarship applications available for members pursuing a graduate degree.

Members of Tau State Delta Kappa Gamma who are pursuing a graduate degree are eligible for consideration of scholarship money from Tau State. Applications are available on the web site or from:

Robbie Johnson, 3426 Willow Avenue, Lake MN 55110 or at robbie @pmlink.com. Deadline for application is January 1, 2011.

Lucile Cornetet Award for Professional Development

An award is available from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for professional development. Funding may be used for the registration fee. Further information is available at the International website under Library; applications. The deadlines are September 1, February 1, and May 1.

<http://www.dkg.org/site/c.meJMIOOwErH/b.5841687/k.9664/Applications.htm>

Lucile Cornetet Award for Professional Development Seminar Award

An award is available from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to plan a seminar to address specific needs of your community. Both members and non-members are able to attend the function. Money can be made available to pay presenter fees/ expenses, rental of a facility, rental of audio-visual materials, publicity, printing, postage, food and drink, except alcohol, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Applications are available online from the International website and the deadline is November 1, of each calendar year.

<http://www.dkg.org/site/c.meJMIOOwErH/b.5841687/k.9664/Applications.htm>



Entertainment featured
Diane Larson.



**Members help package foods for
Kids Against Hunger program.**

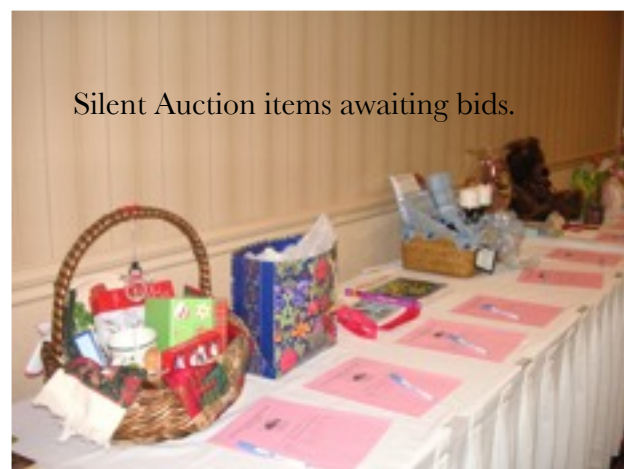
2010 Convention Highlights



**Ceremony of Remembrance
performed by Alpha Rho Chapter
members.**



**Jewell Mendenhall and the Happy
Warblers performed at the Sunday
Brunch at the Tau State
Conference in April.**



Silent Auction items awaiting bids.

SAVE THE DATE

Seminar in
Purposeful Living
July 15-18, 2010
Tacoma, WA

2010 International
Convention July 20-24
Spokane, WA

2011 Northwest Regional
Conference July 27-30,
Edmonton, Alberta

2012 International
Convention July 24-28,
New York,
New York

**Former Tau State President,
Jeanne LaBlonde, dies on
May 23, 2010**

Dr. Jeanne LaBlonde, 92, died May 23, 2010, at Willows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Sun Prairie, Wis. During her teaching career, Dr. LaBlonde was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She held positions at the international and state levels as well as in her local chapter. She served as state president from 1983-85.

She was also a member of the Retired Educators of Minnesota, the American Legion and Sierra Club of Winona.

Dr. LaBlonde's commitment to Tau Sate was boundless. Her enthusiasm and her strive for excellence will be long remembered by those who knew her and worked by her side.

Condolences can be sent to: www.bradleyfh.com

Attention Snowbirds

by Barbara Whiting

Were you a snowbird this past winter? I was and yet I attended two chapter meetings. One with a new group and one with my own chapter! Magic? Almost- here's how I did it.

In February my husband and I were in Las Cruces, New Mexico. I sent an e-mail to Yvette Moore, state president who lives in Las Cruces, asking if there was a chapter meeting in March. She invited me to go with her and even picked me up for the meeting. It was wonderful to meet her chapter members, enjoy the camaraderie, and have a chance to be in a member's home, which incidentally had outstanding art collections.

While I was in Arizona in March, my chapter Beta Beta went to an elementary school to learn about state of the art use of technology in today's classrooms. It was a meeting I hated to miss and I didn't miss it. I connected by Skype using my laptop. Beta Beta member Lynn Haanen brought her laptop to the meeting and Skype connected us, free. As Beta Beta members gathered I got to greet several friends. When the meeting started Lynn turned her laptop to face the speaker and I didn't miss a thing! I was able to see the screen, hear the presenter, and even add comments. I felt connected to home.

Rotary members and Lions members attend meetings when traveling. Why shouldn't DKG members connect and meet members anywhere in the USA or other 16 member countries. It's a joy to experience the instant connections and warm welcome you receive. Give it a try on your next trip.

Editor's Note:

Chapters who are duplicating copies of the newsletter for members who do not have access to the electronic version:

To save ink, make one copy and duplicate the others in black and white format.