

THE NEW OREGON TRAIL

An Official Publication of
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators
Oregon State Organization --- Alpha Rho State



Mission: *The Society promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

Vision: *Leading women educators, impacting education worldwide.*

Vol. 43, No. 4

March 2015



MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR ALPHA RHO STATE 2015 - 17 POSITIONS



**FOR PRESIDENT
DR. CINDY RYAN**

Dr. Cindy Ryan, Alpha Epsilon/5 Vice President, is currently Oregon's Vice-President and Convention Chair. Cindy worked for over 15 years as an early childhood special educator in inclusive programs before moving to special education administration and then into higher education. Cindy received her BS in Early and Exceptional Education, her MS in Special Education, and her EdD in Teaching and Learning with a focus on early childhood. Cindy is an Assistant Professor and Early Childhood Program Coordinator at Western Oregon University.

Cindy joined DKG in 2008 while living in Minnesota, where she worked to

connect her chapter to families with young children living in crisis. After joining Alpha Epsilon chapter when she moved to Oregon in 2011, Cindy built connections between WOU Early Childhood Education pre-service teachers and DKG through the La Casita project, the College of Education Bridge Program, and the Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute.

As Cindy has grown in her role in DKG, she looks forward to working to grow membership through intentional connections with early career educators, while maintaining strong relationships with current members.



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DID YOU KNOW? THIS YEAR--2015--HAS 8760 HOURS!

Could you spare **8**, yes, eight, hours from those 8760 to contribute to a DKG committee? That is 0.1 percent of a year and would be distributed between two meetings: usually one to organize work for the year and the other while you are already attending a convention or conference. That means minimal travel.

Two committees that are vital to Alpha Rho State need members-- **Finance** and **Nominations**. Committee work looks good on resumes and applications. This work provides you with knowledge of the inner workings of DKG in Oregon. You gain leadership knowledge and skills by participating on either committee and will have the opportunity to **spend time with other key women educators**.

Do you have those 8 hours to spare this year?

If so, contact President Kathy Martell at kkm4dkg@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*Kathy Martell, President
Oregon State Organization*



Working Together: Building Early Academic Readiness

SUPPORTING OUR EARLY-CAREER EDUCATORS

As I think back over my teaching career, I remember those first years of how hard it was to balance all aspects of a school day and still make sure you met the needs of each student. We come out of college with high expectations for ourselves, and when we face that first classroom of 25-32 students, it is overwhelming. It takes time for teaching styles to develop and for new teachers to become familiar with curriculum and ways to develop rapport with students. Over time, confidence increases, you find yourself collaborating with colleagues, and then you are ready to really be part of the staff and to help develop programs that lead to "Educational Excellence" for all students.

Teachers never stop learning. Education is a field that continually changes, and we must change with it. Before you know it, you are thinking about retiring and it is time to "pass the baton"! How do you do that gracefully and successfully? At Alpha Epsilon Chapter's February meeting, it became clear to me that the field of education

is in good hands. New teachers are well qualified, but still benefit from a little encouragement and support to know that what they are doing is right. Hearing this from an experienced teacher helps them build confidence. Chapters participating in the S.E.E. program sponsored by International are providing the support needed to maintain these new teachers past three to five years.

Below is a picture of **Alyce Yoshikai**, a founding member of Alpha Epsilon Chapter. She was an outstanding teacher and administrator who has a school named after her in Salem. With her in the picture is **Erin Streuli**, a first-year teacher at Yoshikai Elementary School. Erin opened her first grade classroom to our chapter for our February meeting. Besides Alpha Epsilon members, there were other S.E.E. teachers the chapter has been sponsoring over the last three years; colleagues from the school, including one male teacher; the school's principal; and Salem-Keizer District's new superintendent.

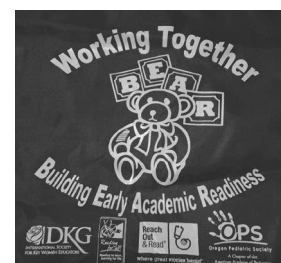
Goals for the evening were to hear Erin talk about her first few months of teaching in the district, to offer our support to all early-career educators present, and to hear from Christy Perry, superintendent, what new things are happening. What an enlightening experience! Although their jobs and experience are totally different, we learned that Erin and Superintendent Perry had many of the same feelings

in their first few months of their new positions. They also saw their confidence increase as they learned to deal with the demands of their positions. Exciting things are happening for Erin in her classroom, and Superintendent Perry shared how the Salem-Keizer District is changing and what interesting new things will be happening next year. We definitely bridged the gap between the generations by opening conversations for sharing expertise, offering each other encouragement in a nonthreatening environment, and doing our part to advance Key Women Educators.



As I took Alyce home that night, she shared how exciting it was for her to be part of the discussion. She was very proud of Erin and her efforts in the classroom. The physical appearance of her classroom encouraged learning, and Alyce

was ready to jump right in and offer support to Erin. Our discussion took Alyce and me down memory lane, as Alyce was my mentor, friend, and principal when I first started my career. We each felt good about how we "passed our batons" to the next generation of outstanding educators, and we are willing to support them in any way we can!



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EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Ideas? Questions? Concerns?
Comments? Contact us!

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**FOR VICE PRESIDENT
KELLY McINTYRE**



Kelly joined Delta Kappa Gamma in May 2004, in Epsilon Chapter, Hawaii. While in Hawaii, she was Chapter President and State Editor. Now in Oregon, she is a member of Psi Chapter where she is both current Chapter President and current State Membership Chair. In 2009 she received a Lucille Cornet Award. Kelly used it for National Board Certification (NBCT) that she received in 2012. She is the only National Board Certified School Counselor in Oregon.

In 2014 Kelly was selected for the Leadership Management Seminar Golden Gift Fund. She has attended several State, Regional and International conferences and conventions where she has spoken as well as presented workshops. Kelly works at Oakridge Elementary as a school counselor and is an adjunct professor at Chaminade University of Honolulu in the Behavioral Sciences Department. She is working with OEA to create the NBCT Network to increase the number of NBCTs in Oregon and to improve benefits offered by the state and districts.



**FOR SECRETARY
SANDY WATTS**



Sandy Watts, Alpha Rho State's current secretary, would be proud to continue serving in this role. Sandy has been an active member of Alpha Omicron Chapter in Scappoose for 29 years. She has served as chapter president, vice-president, and recording secretary for four years each. She is the editor for her chapter's newsletters and has set up and maintains their web site. Sandy is active at the state level, having attended many state and international conventions and regional conferences. She served as timekeeper on minutes review committees, as District 4 Coordinator for two biennia, as Membership Committee chair for two biennia, and on the Alpha Rho State Financial Awards Committee.

After earning her BS degree from Portland State University, Sandy taught elementary grades in St. Helens for 31 years. She was named "Head Teacher" in her building and filled in for the administrator in his absence. She wrote curriculum for her district in math, language arts, and social studies. Following her retirement, Sandy substituted for several years, and now enjoys volunteering in the district as part of her S.E.E. contribution.

TOURING THE NOBEL PEACE PARK

The Nobel Peace Laureate Project is the very first in the nation to honor as a group and to educate about the American winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. While most Americans can name five American generals (Grant, MacArthur, etc.), few can name five US winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Nobel Project hopes to eventually reverse these results through two unique programs. One is the Peace Park that displays individual plaques for each US Nobel Peace Laureate. Each plaque shows a photo of the Laureate, a quote by him/her or the organization, and a short description of what each did to merit the Peace Prize. These are Americans who have ended wars, prevented wars, aided the victims of war, and reduced the causes of conflicts.

The other program is the creation of the first-ever educational materials describing what each Peace Laureate did for peace. Written by experienced Oregon classroom teachers, since 2009 they have been downloaded in every state in the union and in some foreign nations. This fills a gap in American education. In standard US history school textbooks, only about a third of Nobel laureates are mentioned --even in the index.

For more specific information about the Nobel Project, see our website: www.nobelpeace laureates.org For photos of the Peace Park, search for Nobel Peace Laureate Park in Eugene. Several sources on the Web display photos.

John Attig, Founder,
and Former President
Nobel Peace Laureate Project



BASKET DRAWINGS

Just a reminder that this year's theme for our chapter baskets to be entered into the drawing is "My Hometown." The money earned on this project will again be divided into two funds: (1) The fund started last year to pay the first year of state dues for new members who are early-career educators with one to three years of experience and (2) Alpha Rho State Scholarships. Please label your baskets with your chapter name, hometown, and a list of contents.

BOOK COLLECTIONS AT CONVENTION

B.E.A.R. PROJECTS

We will collect new books for pre-school to sixth grade (PK-6) at convention for the following chapters who are supporting a school in their area with the B.E.A.R. Project:

NEW BOOKS

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District 1

Iota – Weston
Zeta – La Grande

District 2

Alpha – Klamath Falls
Omega – Josephine County—
Manzanita Elementary

District 4

Alpha Omicron – St. Helens
Alpha Omega and President Kathy met with a school in Seaside March 6, 2015.

District 5

Alpha Epsilon – Salem (School is in Willamina)

District 6

Pi – The Dalles

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES



https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTtJqhRvfzYTVLqM_xhjhDmzEbjSXMGMymy64izEZA5pMfID9aFA

Please bring used (or new) books, preschool through high school (PK – 12) for the two chapters who have been stocking books for a "Little Free Library." In this program, you bring a book to leave in the Little Library and take a different book from it to read.

District 3

Sigma – Madras

District 5

Beta Beta - Tigard

WHAT SHOULD CHAPTERS DO?

Boxes decorated by individual chapters will be available at registration for you to put your books into. If you are from one of those chapters and want to just donate at a chapter meeting instead of bringing books to Eugene, please do. Other chapters not participating in these two projects, we would love you to help support the chapters who are by donating books at convention.

A special **thank you** to all chapters for other literacy projects you are doing in your area! Keep up the good work!

Kathy

UPDATES ON CHAPTER PERSONNEL

Alpha Nu has a new president as of December!

Congratulations to **Shirley Gidley**
sgidley@mac.com

Beta Gamma correction

Suzi Gordon's e-mail is
sgsnooze@gmail.com

Epsilon updates

- Natalie Garrett - no e-mail now
- Andra Hollenbeck - andra.hollenbeck@medford.k12.or.us
- Luetta Miller - luettamm@gmail.com
- Sue Nelson - no e-mail now
- Joy Reich - new address - joyreich0@gmail.com

Omega update

Kimberly Watson-Roberts, Treasurer, has a new e-mail: kimberly.roberts@threerivers.k12.or.us,

COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

District 4: Colleen Menze



As Chapter Treasurer of Alpha Omicron in St. Helens, Colleen brings fiscal experience to the job, as well as a dedication to education evidenced by her presentations for her own chapter.

District 5: Donalene Biller

District 6: Will it be you?

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

District 4: Will it be you?

District 5: Will it be you?

District 6: Janice Jesse

STATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DKG AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Since 1995, DKG has maintained non-governmental organizational (NGO) status with the United Nations Department of Public Information. The

Society was also granted consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council in 2003. This reinforces the international scope of DKG and fulfills the "7th Purpose: "To inform members of economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society."

The DKG@UN newsletter highlights the most recent activities of DKG representatives with the UN. Last August six DKG representatives attended the 65th NGO Conference at the UN where representatives from over 2,500 NGOs worldwide discussed the theme of 2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda. The opening session include a welcome from Conference Co-Chairs and the DKG representative, Anne-Marie Carlson, Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee.

Samantha Powers, US ambassador to the UN, praised progress toward 2000 Millennium Development Goals and reminded participants that, to continue the momentum, it is important that the 2015 Goals focus on sustainable energy, climate change, and relevancy to all countries and that goals must be "transforming, enduring, and measurable." The 2000 Millennium Development Goals are to end in 2015; they include eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

To learn more, explore the following website: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

Darlene Cook and Jennifer Cole
Alpha/2

ALPHA RHO STATE COMMITTEE REPORTS



READ ALL ABOUT IT! STATE FINANCIAL AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE!

Jill Lang, State Scholarship Chair:
jaceel@comcast.net

State Level Scholarship Applications:
www.dkg.org

STATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Due Date to State Scholarship Chair:
Aug. 1, 2015; Dec. 1, 2015; Mar. 1,
2016

- Hazel Fishwood Award for graduate programs
- Emma Henkle Award for graduate work
- State Founders/Presidents Award for graduate studies
- Commemorative/Personal Enrichment Award

Past awards have been granted for:

- Help with lodging, airfare, registration and other costs for workshops and conferences
- Master Gardener Program
- National Board Certification
- University program for administrator's license
- Personal pleasure trips within the US or to a foreign country
- Personal trips to trace family history
- Chaperoning for school travels
- Language immersion programs
- Volunteer projects to help others
- Institutes for further learning
- College programs of study

Visual above from

https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTtJqhRvfzYTVLqM_xhjhDrnzEbjSXMGmy64izEZA5pMf1D9aFA

OREGON LEGISLATURE

The Oregon Legislature is working hard in Salem, and education issues are high on their list. With the change in governors, it will be interesting to watch how priorities might shift, but Early Childhood Education will probably remain at the top. Be watching and listening to what bills the House and Senate will address on education concerns.

Starting in 2015 – 16, Oregon is requiring **full-day kindergartens**. Do you know how your district is dealing with this issue? Do you have specific questions or issues you would like DKG to watch on this issue? Let President Kathy know your questions or concerns. E-mail her at kkm4dkg@gmail.com.

HB 2015 will help low-income families with employment-related childcare. It aims to ensure that working families who qualify for subsidy-based childcare do not have to worry about losing it for a year if their job or salary changes. If passed, this bill would change the recertification of parents to 12-month eligibility instead of month-to-month, thus providing more continuity.

On Tuesday, February 24, the House Committee on Education held a public hearing on **HB 2928**. This bill was to create a task force to study class sizes, to decide what is an appropriate size, and to determine the cost to make this happen. Those still in the work force might want to follow this bill. Keep an eye on **SB 642** also. This bill proposes \$8 billion to be spent on K-12 funding.

Remember, promoting “Educational Excellence” is part of DKG’s Mission Statement, and to do that, we need to

know what is going on at the legislature and what bills to support or oppose.

US FORUM REPORT

As NW Regional Representative, I sometimes hear, “What exactly is the U.S. Forum? Who are members? What role does it play in our Society?” The purpose of the Forum is to select major issues affecting women, children, and education. By providing current information and supporting non-partisan federal legislation pertaining to these issues, the Forum helps members become effective advocates in the political arena. This service facilitates DKG Purpose 4: “To support legislation in the interests of education and of women educators.”

At the 2014 Int’l Convention, members identified the following issues: non-educators, especially corporations, controlling education; detriments of connecting test scores to teacher evaluation/performance pay; human trafficking impacts on the lives and education; performance levels of US students; and safety issues for students and educators. These and other concerns will be discussed at regional U.S. Forum sessions, then at the National Legislative Seminar on March 13-16, 2016, in Arlington, Virginia.

As a US DKG member, YOU are a member of the Forum. Attend NW Regional Forum sessions and join me in Washington, DC, in March at the National Legislative Seminar. **Let’s make DKG the voice of education!**

*Darlene Cook, Alpha/2
NW Representative to the U.S. Forum*

NORTHWEST REGIONAL IS IN REGINA!

Photo by Ron Garnett

SASKATCHEWAN OR BUST IN 2015!!!



Regina has no tour agency, but DKG members have prepared a list of exciting tours so that you may explore the city and surrounding area via coach buses. For Canadians, prices are the daily prices. For others, paying with US dollars, the tours are a bargain--the US dollar is stronger and that means even more savings at the NW Regional. You can check the exchange rate at <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/exchange/usd-can-summary/> ; for example, on January 30, the US dollar was 1.27 compared to the Canadian!

More information will be in the next issue of the *DKG News*, on the NW link on the International Webpage, and in the upcoming newsletters. Experiential learning packed with fun for all is guaranteed.

ARE YOUR STUDENTS LEARNING KEY ATTRIBUTES FOR FUTURE WORK?

Check out this web site for some interesting perspectives uncovered by Hart Research < <http://www.hartresearch.com/>> In a survey done for the Association of American Colleges and Universities <<http://www.aacu.org>> in 2013, Hart Research asked 318 employers what they wanted from employees. Students learn these attributes at all levels of education, and the earlier, the better. The results are in this pdf:

***IT TAKES MORE THAN A MAJOR:
Employer Priorities for College Learning and Student Success***

https://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/2013_EmployerSurvey.pdf

Anticipation is high...almost ready for launch!!

Do you know your membership number? It is your username to register for our regional conference. I know it's around the corner...test group and in the last week... Register

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE NW REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN REGINA!
<https://www.dkg.org/content/nw-registration>
 (Have your member number handy, as you'll need it to register.)

our registration...and so is attendees at all five regional conferences. If you encounter any difficulties, call Headquarters in Austin and the staff will cordially answer your questions and aide you in the process.

If you have visted dkg.org and clicked on the regional websites, you already know that you may now make your hotel reservations and select the pre-conference tours—again, please, please, read the instructions on how to register for tours.

As you compare the costs of the NW Regional with other regional conferences within the USA, please note that prices are in Canadian dollars, and the US dollar is very strong against the Canadian dollar at this time. That means that Canadian attendees will pay the face-value of each event. Attendees from the States will have an advantage of almost 20% on all published costs and the rate of exchange that the credit card registers. This is an economic conference. Time to register!!

Oops--typos happen Regular registration ends on June 29, not July 29. The festivities begin with Saskatchewan night on July 29.

Leadership Development Training begins on July 27.

Tours begin on July 27. Come ALL!



courtesy of Phyllis E. VanBuren

Excitement to the Max!
 SK members are fabulous. They contacted and confirmed exceptional keynote speakers. On Wednesday evening at Saskatchewan Night, Chief Superintendent Lafrance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will share her experiences as the Commanding Officer, Depot Division. At the opening session on Thursday morning, Lt. Governor Schofield, the Queen's representative in Saskatchewan, will extend the formal welcome to our DKG conference. At the luncheon, Ruth Smillie, CEO of the Globe Theatre will address the conference about their special projects for youth and invite the attendees to a special Back Stage tour (at no cost, donations appreciated) just blocks from the conference hotel. The first Aboriginal, Chinese-Canadian elected to the legislature in Ottawa will speak at the conference brunch on Friday morning. On Saturday the newly appointed Deputy Minister of Education at the provincial level, Julie McRae, speaks to us. On Saturday evening at the President's dinner (smart business to dressy) our International DKG President, Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid will address the group.

Dates to Remember
 June 1 - postmark date to register for the pre-conference tours / mail a separate check for each tour
 June 29 - last date to make hotel reservations at the block price
 June 29 - last date to register for the conference at the regular rate
Phyllis

Delta Kappa Gamma Spring Tea

*Join The Beta Beta Chapter
of the Delta Kappa Gamma
Society International*

Saturday, May 16, 2015

at

1:00 p.m.

at

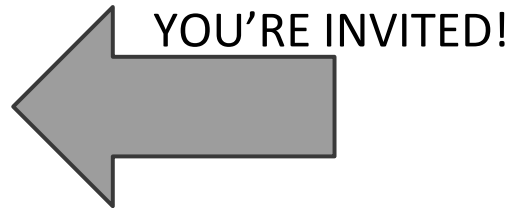
Tigard Christian Church

(13405 S.W. Hall Boulevard, Tigard, Oregon)

*\$30 per person**

*(\$10 of the purchase price of your ticket is
tax deductible. Tax ID#30-071262)*

**To purchase tickets, please contact Eloise Gibson
at 503-635-5026.*



**BETA BETA FOUNDATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The Beta Beta Education Foundation (BBEF) had its annual membership meeting March 9, which replaced the regular DKG meeting so members could attend. We elected four at-large board members. Two other board members notified us that they would not run for the Board again, having served four years. The following members agreed to be candidates for election to the Board of Directors: **Catie Thurber-Brown, Stevie Viaene, Marian Ewell, and Nancy Lewis.** It is very worthwhile to serve on the BBEF Board. **Eva Miller** continues as a chapter vice-president and member of the BBEF Board. She plans to run for the Foundation Board as an at-large director when her term as Second Co-Vice-President is over.

Membership approved changes to BBEF By-laws at this meeting and adopted a 2015-16 budget. We are still adjusting to make our 501(c) (3) status work smoothly.

With great support for our fund raising projects, now we need equally strong support for giving projects. It can be fun to give away money! How can we make it easy for everyone? That challenge was discussed on March 9, but we know that the best ideas happen when we put our heads together.

Nancy Lewis

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
SATURDAY, JUNE 20!**

That's the date of the **Leadership Transition Meeting** to be held at the Historic Gentle House at Western Oregon University. Flyers and further information will be forthcoming at convention in April.

ANOTHER DATE:

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Fall Leadership Conference and
Executive Board Meeting**

Location TBA for now . . .

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Website Challenge: Okay, for those of you who did take the challenge and started creating a chapter website, you know it takes more than a couple hours even though using Weebly.com does make it much easier. Weebly.com has easy-to-follow tutorials that really help. I have started on Psi Chapter's website. It's still in the building stage but you should be able to view it before convention. (<http://dkgpsichapteroregon.weebly.com>).

Right now Oregon has two chapters that are linked to International: Alpha and Alpha Nu. Let's get five more with paperwork submitted so we have a total of seven chapters (about 25 percent of our state) by the end of this biennium. It is possible. Spring Break is coming. Use just two days to put your chapter online. The prize drawing at convention will be for a Boutique gift card. If you haven't started your chapter website, at least take a look at Weebly.com to see what it will require to do so. If you have a chapter website and it's not linked to International, check the requirements on International website, and then submit the paperwork. It's easy and it's free. Let's get Oregon represented!

For those chapters with websites, make sure you look for the drawing box at registration. Complete the information on the form, which will include chapter name and website address. Only one submission per chapter, please.

Regional Conference is just around the corner. Make sure your passport is current, and start finding a roommate to help cover expenses. Better yet, bring along a first-timer and room with her! What better way to show

other states that Oregon supports women educators than by having 50+ women show up in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada! Connect your chapter members to the big picture at NW Regional.

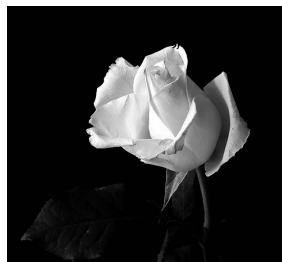
And next year we'll connect them to the bigger picture at International in Tennessee. I plan to be there and hope to see you too.

*Kelly McIntyre/Psi
Oregon Membership Chair*

2014 – 15 WHITE ROSES

Those whose names are spoken and written are never gone forever, so it is that we celebrate the passing of our dear Alpha Rho sisters . . . with joy and remembrance for the deeds that they have done.

*Edith Aanderud, Eta
Diane Cowan, Epsilon
Lois DeCoursey, Omega
Corrine Humbird, Alpha Omicron
Starla Thomas, Alpha Epsilon
Nancy Zurcher, Alpha Nu*



http://pixabay.com/en/otos/?q=WHITE+ROSES&image_type=&cat=&order=

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE!

Alpha Rho State has had another year of declining membership. Here's a list of what is happening in our state when it comes to numbers. Keep in mind that very few have left us due to death.

- 2010: 917 members (baseline)
- 2011: 867 members, a drop of 50 members
- 2012: 828 members, a drop of 39 members
- 2013: 783 members, a drop of 45 members
- 2014: 719 members, a drop of 64 members

If we stay on this trajectory, we will have fewer than 600 members next year.

Delta Kappa Gamma is a great organization for women educators. We need to share that message.

I challenge each chapter to look at for women who were members in 2010. There are 200 of them! Invite them to a meeting. Remind them of what DKG is about. If they want to come back, they just pay the dues and they're in! Push the scholarships, push the professional development, and push the legislative connections. Let these women know we are all working hard and that we need their help as well.

If you need to know who your members were in 2010, send me an e-mail and I'll find the names for you. Let's turn our state around!

*Kelly McIntyre/Psi
State Membership Chair*

CHAPTER CHATTER

District 2

Epsilon (Medford & Ashland) and Omega (Josephine Co.)

HOUSES FOR LIFE

Omega and Epsilon shared a wonderful day on February 24. We met in Grants Pass for our annual Fabulous February Friendship Fest at the Taprock on the Rogue. Epsilon provided a marvelous speaker: Sharon Johnson, retired from Oregon State University where she focused on teaching and applied research in family and community development with an emphasis on age-related issues. Sharon writes a weekly column on “Healthy Aging” for the Medford *Mail Tribune* that has recently been syndicated. She does workshops on various health and aging topics and on Living Well where she

is a master trainer. Currently, Sharon is the Executive Director of Age-Friendly Innovators, Inc., a non-profit organization. She and her husband Howard present “Aging-In-Place”

educational workshops for building professionals and designers, along with beta testing of in-home, fall-risk assessments. Their recommendations also fit any person who is disabled, regardless of age.

Sharon shared the fact that older adults prefer to remain in their homes; however, many of homes are not well suited for “aging-in-place.” It is important to look at the ease of use and getting around the home with a walker or



Oops! I'm about to fall--a major danger.

wheelchair. Halls and doorways need to be wider. Along with other suggestions, she said to consider no-threshold showers, no-steps entry into the house, and no-slip flooring—and bathroom doors that open outward. In planning for our “Houses for Life,” Sharon encouraged us “...to make ‘best option’ decisions based on informed choices, in-home risk assessments, and a hard look at our older selves.”

District 4

District 4 gathered in Astoria on March 7 for a tour of the Astoria Art Loft, owned and operated by artists for artists. Artist owner, **Jo Pomeroy Crockett**, Tau member, graciously gave us an informative tour. Lunch followed at the Ship’s Inn on the majestic Columbia River. We were honored to have State President Kathy with us for the afternoon.

Tau (Clatsop & Columbia Cos.): provided cookies and DKG fliers for the Clatskanie Elementary School staff during their conference week in February.

Alpha Omicron (St. Helens): Our own **Colleen Menze** presented the February program. Colleen had journeyed to Washington, DC, with a D.A.R. tour group. She shared her travel experiences. Since Colleen is an expert in scrapbooking skills, she had created a scrapbook pertaining to her trip. We enjoyed seeing her mementos and hearing about her adventure. We count ourselves a lucky chapter because Colleen also uses her skills to document Alpha Omicron’s history in colorful, interesting scrapbook presentations. She makes a wonderful chapter historian! Oh, by the way, Colleen is also our chapter treasurer, and we are proud of the fact that she has been nominated to serve Alpha Rho State as a member of the Finance Committee.

District 5

Alpha Epsilon (Salem & Polk Co.): Alpha Epsilon started 2015 with an

executive meeting in January to be sure that programs and meetings were in place for the remainder of the year. In February, we met in the classroom of a first-year Early-Career Educator who spoke about her first year. We invited the other eight new teachers we have been helping for the last three years. It was exciting to hear about their experiences and challenges. Christy Perry, Salem-Keizer Superintendent, was our guest speaker. She chatted with all the new teachers individually, as well as speaking to the group about district goals. Dinner was provided and it was a wonderful, informative evening.

Psi (Hillsboro, Beaverton & Washington Co.): Psi ladies have been very busy this year. We were involved in a community outreach to Home Plate, an organization helping homeless. We helped prepare and serve a variety of dinners to many hungry, grateful, young people. Half our chapter helped member **Bertha Haas** in her untiring support to provide education for special needs children in Tanzania where she was instrumental in setting up a school for those children and has worked with them for many years. She organized “The Taste of Tanzania,” a dinner and silent auction, to raise money for teachers in Tanzania for the next year. Coming up next month is our 39th Excellence in Action dinner with speakers and recognition of a community volunteer, Jerralyn Ness, who has demonstrated outstanding service to education.

Beta Beta (Tigard/Tualatin/Sherwood): Looking forward, we invited five women to membership at the April 13 meeting.

Did we miss news of your chapter? Be represented in the next issue! Just send a sentence or two of “chatter” to Marie Mueller, editor, at cwmueller@charter.net

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 17 - 19, 2015

Alpha Rho State Convention
Downtown Hilton, Eugene, OR

June 20, 2015 (Sat.)

Leadership Transition Meeting
Historic Gentle House
Western Oregon University

July 28 - August 1, 2015

Northwest Regional Conference
Regina, Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Hotel

September 12, 2015

Fall Conference and Exec. Bd.
Location TBA

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President Kathy's 2015 Schedule

Date	Chapter/Activity	Location
3/6	BEAR Project	Seaside
3/7	District 4 Gathering	Astoria
3/18	Psi: Educational Excellence Celebration	Hillsboro
4/17 - 19	Alpha Rho State Convention	Eugene
May	End-of-year BEAR Celebrations	Varied
5/16	Eta Chapter Beta Beta Tea	Portland Tigard
June 20	State Officers'/Committee Transition Meeting at Western Oregon University	Monmouth
7/29 - 8/1	NW Regional Conference	Regina, Canada
Sept. 12	Fall Conference and Executive. Board	TBA
4/29 - 5/1, 2016	2016 Spring Conference Wild Horse Resort & Casino	Pendleton

Deadline for Summer DIGITAL Trail

June 15, 2015