

HEARTBEATS OF THE FORUMS

The Forums relate directly to Purposes 4 & 7 of our Society.

The heartbeats of both the U. S. Forum and the U. N. Forum continue and the pace is quickening. There are many opportunities and possibilities for all sisters in Alpha Alpha State to become involved.

U.S. Forum

The role of the U. S. Forum is to disseminate information in a non-partisan position. This service will enable members to easily obtain information pending federal legislation in order to contact legislators and thereby becoming advocates for women, children and education.

The U.S. Forum at NERC

I hope you have made your plans to be in Chocolatetown for the NERC in July. And I am hoping you are planning on attending the U. S. Forum session on Thursday morning, July 21. I am pleased to announce that Lisa Maatz, AAUW's Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, in Washington, D. C. will be the speaker. She will inform us of the latest issues "on the Hill" that are important to both DKG and AAUW and share insights on how to be a lobbyist with our government officials. Ms. Maatz spoke at the 2010 National Legislative Seminar where we found her to be both knowledgeable and approachable. (As the Northeast Region Representative on the U.S. Forum Committee for DKG International, I could use your support that morning!)

PENSIONS

We must continue to be vigilant of the talk and proposals of the lawmakers in Harrisburg as it relates to our pensions that we have in place. Bookmark the PSEA website and their section on "Keep the Promise." Alert all new teachers that will be hired after July 1, 2011 to understand House Bill 2497 which necessitates them to make specific decisions regarding their pension funds.

GOVERNOR CORBETT'S AGENDA

Look on the website or request a copy of *Gov. Corbett's Agenda for Excellence: A Great K-12 Education for Every PA Child*. See what is in store for the children, staffs and schools in the Commonwealth.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

We also need to keep proposed changes to our health care coverage on our radar screen. For those of us who find ourselves in schools where contract negotiations are going on, become involved, share your opinion and support your negotiating teams.

ADVOCATE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Chapters are encouraged to recognize an elected official who has been a positive supporter in excellence of education. Nominees may be a school board member, local government leader, state legislator or any elected community leader that has consistently made a difference or shown support of education.

A certificate will be available on the U. S. Forum portion of the Alpha Alpha State website. Please use it, place it in a frame and present it at the elected official's work site. Please have your chapter's U. S. Forum chair send information about the recipient, and news clippings etc. of the chapter's presentation to Liz Brewer, U. S. Forum Liaison, P. O. Box 249, Riverside, PA 17868 by May 1, 2011 so it can be acknowledged at the annual state conference in June.

Newsletter: [Usforuminfo] Forum Connection

Subscribe to this free monthly newsletter by sending request to Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard 1-866-327-8670 (this is a toll free number). You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives

<http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate

U. N. Forum

The role of the U. N. Forum is to inform members of the work of the United Nations Department of Public Information and The Economic and Social Council as it works on advocates for women, children and education.

CTAUN CONFERENCE

On January 14th, President Susan, First V-P Louann and I attended the CTAUN (Committee for Teaching about the United Nations) at UN Headquarters in New York City. The overarching theme of the conference was "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Teaching for Action."

It was a jam packed day of speakers representing many agencies and organizations that support one or more of the MDGs. Attendees had the opportunity to talk with the speakers at informational tables located in the conference center. One of the highlights of the day was to hear Nicholas Kristof, Pulitzer prize-winning columnist for the New York Times Columnist speak on "Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women. Another highlight for the Alpha Alpha State trio was to network with the DKG members who are the official committee and work with CTAUN. A more detailed report of the conference can be found on our state website.

A CTAUN conference will be held in Austin, Texas on April 2, 2011.

SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA

This international project of DKG was adopted at the Spokane conference last year. The theme is "Transforming Lives through Education." I had lunch with Cathy Daugherty who spearheads this effort at the CTAUN conference. She shared that there will be regular "newsettes" coming out to inform chapters and states of how they may become involved. This may be found on the home page of the DKG website. (www.dkg.org)

ACADEMIC IMPACT INITIATIVE

This initiative was celebrated at the UN in November. Close to 200 college and universities from 40 countries were in attendance to discuss the issues of global importance. For more information go to www.academicimpact.org or to www.Facebook.com/ImpactUN

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

The UN has created 5 MDGs that DKG and many other groups have joined in to achieve by 2015. They are to eradicate hunger and poverty; achieve universal education; promote gender equity and empower women; reduce infant mortality; combat HIVS/AIDS; ensure environmental stability; and develop a global partnership for development.

Newsletter: DKG@UN

Subscribe to this free monthly newsletter by sending request to ealb@earthlink.net.

Liz Brewer

Liaison to the U. S. Forum & U. N. Forum