



The Alpha Sigma News

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

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Celebrating Success and Continuing to Reach for the S.T.A.R.S.

by State President Linda Elliott



*“The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.”
- Oprah Winfrey*

Since the last issue of The Alpha Sigma News, we have had Fall Board in Yakima where we looked back and celebrated our success in hosting International in Spokane and looked forward and celebrated and trained new chapter officers and members, continuing state officers, committees and area liaisons. Every person at Fall Board and across the state deserves much praise and a “ta-da.” Area IX is to be commended for running a smooth Fall Board. I am still feeling the warm glow of being with women who care deeply about education, growing professionally and personally and supporting each other. You are all shining stars in Washington State!

This next year we plan to focus on our members and chapters. Your executive committee has several areas that they wish to emphasize. We saw stars on the wall at Fall Board representing new members across the state and heard that 50% of our chapters met International’s Shoe-In Challenge. These are things to celebrate. We have strong chapters but we also have struggling chapters. Getting new members and retaining our membership is not easy. It is with deep sadness and regret that the executive board voted on the dissolutions of Alpha Phi (Everett) and Alpha Chi (Vancouver) chapters. We are working on ways to strengthen and support all of our

chapters. Please contact us if you would like someone to visit or answer some questions.

Strengthening our chapters is a challenge for every member. With the adoption of the new International constitution, chapters are given a great deal of flexibility in who they wish to ask to be members. Mentor those new teachers in your districts and look for educators who are not within the school system. Are you helping to make every member of your chapter feel important and involved? Can your chapter get together with another chapter to share a program and give support to each other? Do you attend your chapter, area and state meetings? Do you celebrate being a member of this wonderful organization?

Your area liaison can be a great resource for the chapters in your area. She is the link between the chapter and the state and is there to support you. If your area has a coordinating council, that is an excellent way for the chapters to exchange ideas and work more closely with each other. If you don’t have a coordinating council, see if you can plan at least one time to get together besides at your area workshop. I think you will

find that it strengthens your area.

Your executive and leadership committees are working on finding ways to provide leadership training and support for members and chapters. We already have wonderful leadership training, but we hope to have new opportunities in place to vote on and implement next year. In order for our chapters and state to thrive, we need to be constantly creating new leaders.

Another area we are working on this year is the state bylaws and standing rules. As a state we started the process on Friday night of Fall Board when we had a table talk. All state members and chapters have an opportunity to give input and make amendments. Our state bylaws and rules committee will be working hard to align our state documents with the new International documents that were adopted by all of us at International. Our goal is to be able to vote on the state documents in April at Spring Convention so that the chapters can then align their documents with the state and International.

We have all of these exciting new things planned for the coming year but we are also continuing to reach for the S.T.A.R.S. It is time to apply for scholarships and stipends on the state level, through Rachel Royston and various International programs. Urge your members to take advantage of the many opportunities available to them through Delta Kappa Gamma. Your executive committee spent time training in using *Go To Meeting* technology and have already scheduled four meetings in the next few months that we will do via our computers.

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2009 - 2011 Alpha Sigma State Executive Board

President

Linda Elliott, Beta Delta (IV)
2006 Riverview Dr. NE
Auburn, WA 98002-3046
(253) 939 - 3618
la_elliott@hotmail.com

First Vice President

Liz Friedrich, Alpha Epsilon (III)
6312 Willamette Ave.
Kennewick, WA 98336-1219
(509) 783 - 6223
mlfriedrich@verizon.net

Second Vice President

Terri Diehm, Beta Delta (IV)
4714 Fairwood Blvd Unit 1705
Tacoma WA 98520
(253) 925 - 9493
tldiehm@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary

Mary Nygaard, Alpha Zeta (I)
50 Olson Rd.
Goldendale WA 98620-3200
(509) 773 - 5524
sjmp@wildblue.net

Corresponding Secretary

Geneva McCoy, Zeta (VIII)
700 Ski View Drive
East Wenatchee WA 98802
(509) 884 - 6043
genevagems@aol.com

Treasurer

Joanne Vining, Alpha Lambda (I)
211 Lindsey Lane
Grandview WA 98930-9496
(509) 882 - 2320
jnvining@embarqmail.com

Parliamentarian

Barb Clausen, Chi (V)
PO Box 103
Kelso WA 98626-0009
(206) 669 - 2014
bjclausen@comcast.net

Immediate Past President

Janet LeBeau, Theta (I)
7610 W Nob Hill Blvd. #139
Yakima WA 98908-1939
(509) 966 - 4152
lilliansgrandma@hotmail.com

Executive Secretary

Linda Pearn, Alpha Rho (IV)
6022 197th Ave E
Bonney Lake WA 98391-8920
(253) 862 - 8292
lindapearn@comcast.net



Continue the Celebration!

by Terri Diehm (Beta Delta)
Second Vice-President / Membership Chairman

Fall Board was a great time to celebrate all of our hard work for Convention but also for encouraging the growth of our chapters and state membership. Congratulations to the 19 chapters that met the goals of the International "Shoe-in" Challenge for 2010!

Chapters that met one of the international goals were: **Epsilon, Alpha Delta, Alpha Zeta, Alpha Theta, Beta Delta, Beta Eta and Beta Upsilon**. Chapters that met two of the goals were: **Alpha Lambda, Alpha Rho, Beta Tau and Beta Phi**. The eight chapters that met all three of the goals were: **Theta, Kappa, Omicron, Psi, Alpha Pi, Alpha Tau, Alpha Psi and Beta Sigma**.

We also want to say congratulations to **Alpha Gamma** chapter. As a reinstated chapter, Alpha Gamma qualified Alpha Sigma State to meet the international challenge for states as well.

As our state is enjoying renewed energy and enthusiasm for this wonderful organization, we also need to be aware that with this new excitement comes a responsibility. We need to make sure we are nurturing our members. Whether your chapter has new initiates or simply long-time members, all of us want to feel cared for. Here are some ideas to consider that will help you support your members and keep your chapter vital, strong and successful.

- ◆ Communicate – members need to know they are important to the chapter
 - ◆ Call between meetings to "visit"
 - ◆ Offer rides to meetings, carpool
 - ◆ Call or email when a member is unable to attend a chapter function
 - ◆ Send reminders about upcoming meetings
 - ◆ Send cards for special occasions
- ◆ Involve – members want to be active participants
 - ◆ Seek member assistance in presenting a program
 - ◆ Get members active on one of the chapter committees
 - ◆ Have a chapter project that all can be involved in
 - ◆ Long-time/retired members may want to "mentor" the newer members
 - ◆ Volunteer/Mentor in classrooms
 - ◆ Compile a "helpful hints" or "tricks of the trade" booklet for new teachers
 - ◆ Have social get-togethers as well as interesting meetings
 - ◆ Offer programs with "hands-on" activities
- ◆ Recognize – members want to feel that they are making a difference
 - ◆ Consider a chapter achievement award
 - ◆ Honor long-time members with certificates
 - ◆ Spotlight a member in your chapter newsletter or at each meeting
 - ◆ Announce the achievements and honors of your members
 - ◆ Send cards for special occasions
 - ◆ Offer a chapter scholarship for a special project

These are not new ideas and certainly just scratch the surface of possibilities. It is my hope that you will find some of these useful to continue to strengthen your chapter and support your members. Our members need to feel they are special, cared for and recognized for their work and the work of their chapter. Celebrate your members and celebrate success!

A NEW YEAR... A NEW CHALLENGE!

by Charlotte Kohnhorst (Zeta), International Project
Committee Chairman

Our job is to assist chapters to find an International Project that will spark their interest and touch their hearts. We know sisters of Alpha Sigma State Chapters are philanthropic-minded, kind, thoughtful and generous. After all, we were and still are nurturing, caring educators, and one of our goals is to do our part to help make the world a better place!

One International Project Committee goal is to assist chapters in finding the very best project which will meet its needs. There are so many wonderful and exciting ways in which Delta Kappa Gamma members can make a difference in lives of children/ students/ families around the world.

We have e-mailed our first newsletter to all chapter presidents and area liaisons to share ideas with you. Future newsletters will arrive approximately every 6-8 weeks. We hope you will read these and discuss the information as part of a chapter meeting.

Additionally, the committee members are always open to your ideas, suggestions and comments, so please feel free to send us input. Be sure to check out the DKG International website and view the "Schools in Africa" project.

International Project Committee Chairman **Charlotte Kohnhorst (Zeta)**, will serve as our "cheerleader," and she looks forward to any invitation to attend one of your chapter meetings in order to share project ideas that your members might consider.

Many chapters have designed a project which fits their members' needs. Please note that your chapter is encouraged to continue with that project; however, for those chapters who have not yet established a project with an international focus, or if your chapter is seeking something different to support, the IP Committee has compiled quite a varied project list. An example: Sending books to the orphanage in El Salvador.

2011 Alpha Sigma State Achievement Award will honor TWO recipients!

by Janet LeBeau (Theta), Expansion Committee Chairman

You have been waiting almost two years for this wonderful opportunity to honor members in Alpha Sigma State who, through continuing and outstanding service to education and Delta Kappa Gamma, have promoted the purposes and policies of the DKG Society. Because we served as hostesses for the International Convention in Spokane, we did not hold our annual State Spring Convention in 2010. As a result, Alpha Sigma State plans to honor TWO women at our 2011 State Convention this spring.

We have dedicated women who have used their time and talents for our exciting DKG organization. Be sure to look over the nominee selection criteria, and then fill in the revised nomination form with all their wonderful deeds. The form can easily be downloaded from the Alpha Sigma State website.

All chapter presidents will electronically receive a nomination form in November. **Please send the nomination forms to the Immediate Past State President Janet LeBeau by February 1, 2011.**

Expansion Committee

Immediate Past State President and current State Expansion Committee Chairman **Janet LeBeau (Theta)** is searching the areas around our state which may have interested women educators who would enjoy helping to expand and to create a new DKG chapter. Please send your suggestions and ideas to her.

Most importantly, if your chapter is currently struggling or is facing challenges with keeping your chapter vital and alive, please give Janet a call. She is willing to attend one of your meetings, to share ideas, and to help you find ways to revitalize your membership.

Delta Kappa Gamma has so much to offer. It is a Society which provides ample opportunities which have the potential to make a significant difference in each member's life. Because of this, it is worth the effort to keep chapters growing strong.



Carol Burke
Alpha Feb. 16

Aurelia O'Dell
Psi June 24

Iris Breider
Alpha Psi Aug. 26



Linda's Legislative Tips

Information of Interest from the DKG U.S. Forum

by State President Linda Elliott

If you are like me, you like to keep up on what is happening with legislative issues. I find it difficult to find information that is not slanted one way or the other. But there are places we can go to find the facts so that we can make intelligent choices. This helps so that we can advocate for the issues that are important to us as educators and women. Did you know that five constituent contacts will cause a legislator to pay serious attention to a given issue? We have more influence than we realize.

The United States Forum of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society is one very valuable resource. Dr. Angela Bedenbaugh puts together the US Forum Connection that is periodically sent out via email. If you have not signed up to receive this wonderful newsletter, you can send a request to Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu. I recently received Issue #80 which told about a bill that is stalled and another bill, *Keep Our Educators Working Act of 2010 (S.3206)* that passed.

Archival copies of the U.S. Forum Connection can be found at <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>.

Here are some more sites you might want to check out:

- For on-line information on specific bills go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- Information on how your congressman voted on key bills <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/>
- 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 and <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate.
- State Government contact information can be obtained through <http://www.emailyourgovernor.com/> Information available at this site allows contact with governors, members of the state legislature, state supreme court, congressional delegation and state agencies such as the Education Department, Attorney General, Motor Vehicles Department and Voter Registration.

(President... continued from page 1)

President Linda's Travel Schedule



Friday, November 5, 2010	Bylaws and Rules Committee, Olympia
Saturday, November 6, 2010	Area IX Workshop, Aberdeen
Saturday, January 8, 2011	Alpha Rho Chapter
Saturday, February 5, 2011	Area IV Workshop, Auburn
Saturday, February 12, 2011	Mu Chapter
Saturday, February 19, 2011	Area III Workshop, Richland
Saturday, March 5, 2011	Area V Workshop, Vancouver
Saturday, March 12, 2011	Area VII Workshop, Seattle
Fri., April 1-Sun., April 3, 2011	Spring Convention, Olympia
Saturday, April 16, 2011	Area VI Workshop, Mt. Vernon

Other visits may be added by contacting Linda at:

la_elliott@hotmail.com

Zoa Shumway (Omicron) and her committee are planning the June 21-23, 2011 Creative Arts Retreat at Dumas Bay. Put the dates on your calendar now and plan to attend. We continue to work on recruitment of new members to revitalize our chapters. International has adopted a brand new service project—Schools for Africa. Whether your chapter gets involved in this program or continues with projects in your schools and/or communities, I encourage you to find some way to be of service.

We have a very busy year ahead of us, and I look forward to it with great enthusiasm. I plan to continue celebrating at Spring Convention when we will not only be looking back on our many accomplishments but also celebrating the 70th birthday of Alpha Sigma State. And to paraphrase Oprah, the more we praise and celebrate Delta Kappa Gamma, the more there is in DKG to celebrate.



Welcome New Members

Karen Stephas - Alpha Lambda
Nancy Spane—Epsilon

Area IV plans for Spring Convention

Area IV is comprised of seven chapters in the South King County/Pierce County area: **Alpha, Epsilon, Kappa, Alpha Rho, Alpha Tau, Beta Delta and Beta Mu.** We're an active Council of chapter presidents and representatives, meeting three times yearly for Saturday morning breakfast and mutual planning at a Fife city restaurant.

Last year was a very busy one for our chapters! Along with chapter meetings, volunteering and fundraising for ongoing community projects to benefit children, schools and new teachers, there were special sales, raffles, and dinners to raise funds in support of members attending and volunteering at the International Convention. Two area members served as general chairmen: **Marj Patten** International Convention Steering Committee Chairman, and **Barbie Sharrard** was chairman for Seminar in Purposeful Living held in Tacoma. Area IV supported each in various ways: chapter members made and contributed Seminar table favors, gifts and door prizes and participated as Art Alley artists; in Spokane, many of the International committee chairmen and volunteers were from our area.

This year, our Council's special focus is on planning for and hosting the State Convention, April 1 – 3, 2011 at the Olympia Red Lion Hotel. We're also looking forward to our Annual Area IV Fellowship Brunch, February 5, 2011, at Emerald Downs in Auburn, with Beta Delta in charge.

- by Joanne Scholen (Kappa) Area IV Liaison

Area III looks forward to *Slice of Nice*...

Area III welcomed back our sisters from **Alpha Gamma** Chapter in Walla Walla as their chapter was reinstated last September. **Paula Nichols**, and members of Alpha Gamma have had a busy year as have **Psi, Alpha Psi** and **Alpha Epsilon** chapters.

The 2010 Area III Workshop was held in January at the new Delta High School (a unique school in Washington State with an integrated, activities based curriculum focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Deidre Holmberg, the principal there, explained the school's philosophy and the selection process for students from Richland, Pasco and Kennewick area schools. She then took us on a tour of the facility. This fall an additional hundred students were accepted to attend this 'hands-on' STEM high school. Washington State University Tri-Cities received a \$195,000 grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to examine the effectiveness of Delta's STEM curriculum and compare with traditional high schools.

Alpha Psi Chapter will host the next Area III workshop. *The Slice of Nice: An Evening of Delectable Desserts* is scheduled for February 19 at the Richland Community Center from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. It will be a beautiful evening of fellowship and yummy, gourmet desserts. There will also be raffle prizes and a silent auction. More information will come as the details are finalized.

- by Nancy Sauer (Psi) Area III Liaison

Area VII members grateful to Society

Alpha Delta began 2010 with a hearty brunch at the home of member **Sandra Dahl**. Chapter member **Joan Matheson** educated us about her travels to Africa. While African traveling includes more and more "comforts of home" these days, it's still filled with exciting adventures and surprises!

Area VII members and guests enjoyed hearing Rachel Royston Scholarship winner, **Dr. Rachel Wade**, at the King County Breakfast. (We understand that Dr. Wade will be joining Alpha Nu Chapter—Congratulations!) In June we were honored to have Alpha Sigma State President **Linda Elliot** as a guest to our lunch meeting. In addition to meeting chapter members, she was also able to meet Laura Kyle, one of the first June Gasparovich Bequest scholarship winners from City University in Seattle. At the end of her program, Laura will have earned a Master's in Teaching as a certified mathematics instructor. We know she will do well in her career; we plan to invite her and other winners to future events as potential DKG members.

Of course the big summer event was International Convention 2010! Chapter members **Loveday Conquest, Michelle Kirwin, and Kathryn O'Leary** attended and volunteered at the big Merchandise Marketplace, Registration, and the First Aid Station. We also acted as table hosts at the Birthday Luncheon and the Gala Banquet. In between, we attended interesting sessions, and were able to take in some of the sunny beauty of Spokane. The Spokane Convention Center was an excellent facility, and the general consensus was that 2010 International was a smashing success—hooray!

September featured a talk by Zeta chapter's **Charlotte Kohnhorst** on DKG's International Projects and how chapters can have their own international endeavors. We will also have our annual October update by the League of Women Voters. As usual, the ballot is filled with initiatives, and the League will educate us on the pros and cons of each. December will see us back at the Women's University Club for a delightful post-Christmas lunch and exchange of holiday greetings.

This chapter president is especially grateful to the Society this year. In addition to being awarded an Alpha Sigma State Stipend to attend a statistics workshop in Corvallis in 2009, I received a Lucile Cornet Professional Development Award to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver BC just one week after International Convention. I am becoming a better teacher as a result of being able to participate in these professional development activities. Thank you, Delta Kappa Gamma sisters!

- by Loveday Conquest (Alpha Delta) Area VII Liaison

Alpha Sigma State women tapped as international committee members for new biennium



Congratulations, Janice!

The International Constitution Committee receives proposals for amending the *Constitution* and the *International Standing Rules*, makes recommendations for changes to the Administrative Board, and presents approved proposals to the international convention for vote. **Janice Moen** (*Kappa*), joins International **President Dr. Jensi Souders** (*sitting left*) and other representatives in Austin, TX at the October 1 planning meeting. Janice will serve as chairman of this committee for the 2010—2012 biennium.

The international nominations committee is responsible for naming one nominee for each position on the Administrative Board, and filling vacancies occurring on elected committees and the Board of Trustees of the Educational Foundation. **RoseAnn Moore** (*Alpha Lambda*), who has previously served as NW Regional Director, will serve on this committee for a 2010—2014 term.

Washington is proud of your accomplishments, RoseAnn!!



Janet LeBeau (*Theta*) will serve on the Educational Excellence committee which shall promote programs and projects for excellence in education. The committee shall identify long-term and short-term programs and projects that focuses upon topics adopted by the society. The committee shall support programs of action that promote the personal well-being, intellectual growth, and global awareness of women educators; encourage a focus on the arts at international conventions, regional conferences and state organization conventions; and develop strategies that will enable chapters to encourage members to become leaders.



TA-DA...Way to go, Janet!

Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation

RRPSF First Quarterly Meeting Report

The Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation held its first quarterly meeting September 24—25, 2010 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Yakima, WA. Chairperson **Jennee Osburn**, Secretary **Joy Lauderbaugh**, and members **Billie Hilton**, **Paula Nichols**, and **Dr. Kate Griesharber** were in attendance along with Secretarial Assistant **Annamarie Lavieri**; Coordinator of Educational Research **Joan Haner**; Treasurer **Paulette Waggoner**; State Treasurer's Representative **Barbee Buchanan**; and **Margaret Snitzler**, State President's Representative.

Mr. Dan Berge, financial advisor, gave a report that the investments have shown a 15.31% increase in performance during this fiscal year.

After serving for 20 years as Coordinator of Educational Research, Joan Haner will be leaving this position in July. Letters of interest should be mailed to **Annamarie Lavieri by March 25, 2011**. The new coordinator is selected by the Board will serve a five-year term.

Additionally, the Board is seeking applicants for a first-year board position. This position requires that the person selected serve a five-year term.

Applications should be submitted to the Alpha Sigma State Nominations Committee **by January 15, 2011**.

Rachel Royston Scholarships Available

Are you a woman educator thinking about pursuing post baccalaureate studies in the field of education at an accredited college or university?

Bone fide Washington State residents are encouraged to apply for the Rachel Royston scholarship during 2011-2012.

Applications are available on-line. As part of the process, an application, transcript, letters of recommendation, and a resume must be submitted to:

Annamarie Lavieri
Secretarial Assistant
PO Box 183
Kingston, WA 98346-0183
roystonscholarhip@yahoo.com
Deadline: Nov. 19, 2011

Donations

The RRPSF awards scholarships to deserving women striving to improve their academic education. Last year the Foundation gave over \$20,000 in scholarships. Donations from chapters, individuals and memorials are appreciated.

Many thanks to the following for their support:

Alpha, Theta Epsilon, Lambda, Phi, Psi, Alpha Psi, Beta Beta, Beta Lambda, Chi, Barbara Clausen, and Bev Paillette in memory of Ione Eastby.

WANTED

First Year Board Member
Rachel Royston Permanent
Scholarship Foundation
July 1, 2010—June 30, 2015

TO APPLY
Contact Nominations Committee
Sue Ochs, Chairman
5504 NW Jackson Loop
Camas, WA 98607-8530
sochs20@comcast.net

DUE January 15, 2011

**Coordinator of Educational
Research**

July 1, 2010—June 30, 2015

TO APPLY

Send letter of interest to:

Rachel Royston Permanent
Scholarship Foundation Board
Annamarie Lavieri
Secretarial Assistant
PO Box 183
Kingston, WA 98346-0183
roystonscholarhip@yahoo.com

DUE March 25, 2011

ALPHA SIGMA STATE OF	<i>The</i> <i>Alpha Sigma News</i>
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL	
FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS	10005 E Augusta Spokane Valley WA 99206 - 4112 <u>Mission Statement</u> The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

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Sherri Wagemann (Eta), Editor
10005 E Augusta
Spokane Valley WA 99206-4112
(509) 928-8193
FAX: hm (509) 413-1462
FAX: wk (509) 891-5052
Email: swagemann@hotmail.com

Washington Website:
www.deltakappagamma.org/WA

Members: Please send address changes to:
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters
P.O. Box 1589
Austin, TX 78767

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

RRPSF Scholarship Application Deadline.....December 1, 2010
Deadline for Spring issue of *The Alpha Sigma News*.....February 1, 2011
State Scholarship and Stipend Application Deadline....February 1, 2011
Nominations for Alpha Sigma State Achievement Award.....Feb. 1, 2011

Check the new DKG website:
www.dkg.org
and sign up for the DKG network



Broadcast the Positive Activities DKG Is Doing Throughout the World

Broadcasting the “Buzz” is the new catch phrase for this biennium. The International Communications and Publicity Committee wants to focus on the many positive activities of DKG and promote these as we share the good news of our Society.

Once again the committee will recognize chapters and states who publish press releases at the international convention. Details about requirements for the recognition will be published later.

Newspapers are more interested in publishing stories and photographs about what the chapter is doing to help the community or others than news of your chapter meeting or who your officers are. Active involvement is more “newsworthy.” Take a camera to your chapter meeting and take pictures of items the chapter is donating or members packing school supplies that are being donated. These make more interesting pictures than several people standing in a posed picture. Certainly, we use posed pictures sometimes, but active pictures attract the eye of the reader more.

Submit a press release with an active picture. If your state or chapter has a Website, send these pictures to your Webmaster and ask her to post these on your site. Members enjoy the pictures, and many non-members access your site. This is a good way to show your active involvement in the community or state.

- International Communications excerpt “Creating a Buzz”, October Tip of the Month