



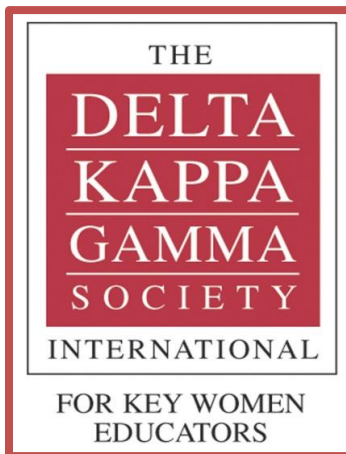
MA STATE ORGANIZATION of
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Baystater

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 64 ISSUE 2

FALL 2021



Dear DKG Sisters, there is so much work for all of us to do!

I received the Revitalization Application from International back in September. I was planning on a Zoom meeting to fill it out, but when I approached several people to help me with it they preferred to do so individually. So I spent time on the phone getting lots of input from regular members and a few past presidents. People were quite frank with me. Their reflections to me were put into the form and sent in early in October. Within days I had a phone call from International President, Becky Sadowski. We had quite the conversation. She was very grateful for the honesty reflected in our answers and explained to me our next steps.

First, she will assign us a facilitator in late November after she has updated their training on Zoom. That person will get in touch with me no later than early January, 2022. We will plan what needs to be done then. In the meantime, I am looking for a place where we could meet with this person sometime in January or February. I was thinking about a location between Worcester and Framingham/Natick, where many of the major highways cross so nobody would have to travel very far.

The meeting will take place on a Saturday so that as many people as possible can attend, especially our working members. We would start with coffee and pastries at about 8:00 in order to visit, and then begin the hard work at 9:00. Hopefully we will come away with a plan in place and people with assignments to do. There will be frequent check-ins from International and all the support we need to be successful.

I am looking for "Molly Member" to be a part of this work, in addition to Executive Board members and committee chairs. We need to get as many of our working teachers, especially those who have never been to a state meeting, to be involved as possible. Lunch will be provided. Please, please, PLEASE consider joining us for that day to help us to survive! We've tried lots on our own over the last several years, but with the pandemic and leadership/membership aging (that includes me) we need fresh blood. We won't get any unless we are focused and willing to work hard, not just treat DKG as an afterthought, something we will give attention to if we have the time.

Claire's Comments continued on p.3

ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2021-2023

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Theta	Nancy Carroll and Janet Wellock

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I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Carol LaPolice (Alpha), Gail Pease ((Alpha Mu), Joyce Gleason (Alpha Iota), Dianne Swistak (Alpha Eta), and Dorothea Maynard (Alpha Theta). Your support and contributions are very much appreciated!

THANK YOU ALL! Gail Saccone

Claire's Comments Continued from p. 1

This has been a hard article to write, but we really need to do the work. I have every faith that many of you will join me so we can revitalize and grow. We have soooooo much to offer members: the Sara E. Chase Scholarship and the Christa McAuliffe Fund on the state level; the International Scholarship Fund, the Cornet Award, Educational Projects, the Educator's Award Fund, the Emergency Fund, the Eunah Temple Holden Scholarship Fund and the Golden Gift Fund on the International level. All of these can be found on our state website alupsma.weebly.com, and at dkg.org.

And let's not forget an important reason many of us continue to be active members, the relationships we make in our chapters, our state, and internationally. For me, this has been the best part of DKG and I wouldn't have it any other way. We are a remarkable group of women. Let's make sure our voices are heard and our gifts are used to better education and community.

Full SREAM Ahead: We are Forward Moving Ever!

Your DKG Sister,

CLAIRE cclabonte@charter.net

State Project 2021-2023 Biennium

Feed the Hungry

I have thought long and hard about a service project for our state. I'd like to invite all of you to join me in helping to feed the hungry. It is a one month project that can be done in any month. Food banks/kitchens/pantries, etc. are usually short of food in the "off months," the non-holiday months, so perhaps we can help there. I am asking each chapter to adopt a month (or two or more) to collect the foods listed on the calendar I'm giving you and which will be posted in the **Baystater** for the rest of my biennium. When the month is done donate whatever was collected to a local food bank, pantry, cupboard, family, or any organization that helps feed the hungry. Our children can't learn if they aren't fueled. And our families and seniors often need a helping hand.

Feed the Hungry Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Box of cereal	2 Box of oatmeal	3 Peanut butter	4 Boxed potatoes	5 Macaroni & cheese	6 Canned applesauce	7 Canned tomatoes
8 Canned tuna	9 Dessert mix	10 Snack crackers	11 Canned sweet potatoes	12 Cranberry sauce	13 Canned beans	14 Box of cookies
15 Package of rice	16 Box tuna dinner	17 Package of pasta	18 Spaghetti sauce	19 Chicken noodle soup	20 Tomato soup	21 Can of corn
22 Can of carrots	23 Can of green beans	24 Can of mixed vegetables	25 Canned peaches	26 Canned pineapple	27 Canned pears	28 Muffin mix
29 Boxed pancake mix	30 Pancake syrup	31 Salt/pepper/garlic powder	Local Soup Kitchen	Local Food Bank	Local School for Needy Family	Local Organization that Feeds the Hungry

Begin the first day of the month. Each day add a non-perishable item to your box. On the last day give it to a needy family or any organization that feeds the hungry. Then email Claire LaBonte that your chapter has donated at cclabonte@charter.net.

A Moment of Appreciation



On October 30, 2021 State President Claire LaBonte and Executive Secretary Linda Stewart, treated immediate past president, Lynn Howard and retiring State Treasurer Carol LaPolice to lunch at O'Connor's Pub in Worcester. Due to the pandemic we were not able to give them their gifts of appreciation in May or October. They each received a travel suitcase that were presented at this luncheon. We will further honor them when next we get together, at our 80 + 1 Anniversary in Plymouth this coming spring!

Ms. Jean Gray Honored

Submitted by: Joyce Gleason, Alpha Iota Chapter, Past State President



During the 43rd Biennial Convention of the National Association of Parliamentarian (NAP) in September, a traditional service of remembrance recognized Jean Gray, the long-time DKG International Parliamentarian. The "Silent Gavel" program included her as from her state of Maryland. This conference was conducted from its headquarters state of Missouri but was almost entirely virtual over the course of five days. The program was held internationally and attracted over 800 members. It included organizational business, educational workshops and social events.

Ms. Gray served in many roles within DKG, including as International President ('02-'04), but it was her time as International Parliamentarian ('04-'14) that stood out to many of us. She was an inspiration and instructor to many of us. She conducted a program in which DKG state organizations could send two individuals for a weekend of training, concluding with passing the membership exam for NAP. Past State President Gwen Miller and the late Gladys Durant represented Massachusetts, Alpha Upsilon State at the time.



U.S. FORUM

Submitted by: Carol LaPolice, U.S. Forum Representative

The US Forum Steering Committee had a fabulous speaker on the timely topic, *Understanding Climate Change*. Dr. Ralph Propper is a retired researcher from the California Air Resources Board's Research Division, working in its Air Quality and Climate Science Section.

We regret that some of you could not log onto the presentation site. His presentation and the committee's list of legislative bills will be posted on the US Forum website soon. To access this information you can log into your DKG account, use the drop down menu under the tab "About Us" to click on Forums. Then click on the US Forum link. Alternatively, you can go directly to the US Forum website: www.dkgusforum.com.

In other news, WEP/GPO reform legislation continues to receive great attention from legislators. H.R.82 (full repeal of WEP/GPO) and H.R. 2337 (Rep Neal's bill with an alternative formula for WEP) continue to gain cosponsors.

In addition, another bill was refiled last week, H.R. 5723 by Rep Larson, D-CT, chair of the social security subcommittee. It contains a provision to eliminate the WEP/GPO. What makes this legislation different from others currently filed is the funding proposal to make it work. There is no "trust fund" for social security payments, it is a pay as you go system according to MassRetirees who have been working on the WEP/GPO issue. Current social security payroll taxes are capped at incomes of \$142, 800. This proposed change would raise the cap to \$400,000. Since social security legislation cannot go through the reconciliation process it will require a supermajority (60 votes) in the Senate to pass. More information on social security proposed changes can be found in the legislation titled *Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust* on congress.gov. There are 194 Cosponsors.

Another bill, H.R. 5834, on the WEP was filed on 11/3/21 by Representative Brady of Texas and has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. It has 30 Cosponsors.

Other interesting bills are:

Women: H.R. 2817 Childcare for Working Families Act Revises child care and early learning programs for low- to moderate-income families, allocates funds for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities, provides funds and establishes grants for states to create preschool programs, and assists Head Start agencies with ensuring their teachers and staff are paid a living wage. 103 Cosponsors 4/22/2021 Referred to House Committee on Education and Labor.

Children: H.R. 586 – Stand Up Act of 2021. Passed House 5/12/21, referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). A bill to establish and implement evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention training policies. 46 Co-sponsors.

S. 2730 - A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a pilot grant program to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive mental health services programs in elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes. 2 Cosponsor 09/14/2021 Referred to Senate HELP.

Education: H.R. 729 Strength in Diversity Act- 75 Cosponsors Establishes a program that the Department of Education will award planning and implementation grants to improve diversity or eliminate racial or socioeconomic isolation in publicly funded early childhood education programs, public elementary and secondary schools. House - 07/15/2021 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 27 - 19.

S. 2737 - A bill to amend the American History and Civics Education program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require inclusion of programs that educate students about the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights. 4 Cosponsors 09/14/2021 Referred to Senate HELP.

To get email alerts on legislation create an account on congress.gov. Sign in, enter the bill number for 117th Congress and click on the "get alerts" link. If anyone has questions on this, feel free to contact me @carol.lapolice@comcast.net.

Don't forget that every DKG member is a member of the US Forum. Please consider attending our Legislative Seminar, March 6-8 in Washington, D.C. This is a valuable training and informational opportunity as well as a time to tour your capitol! A registration form and more information will be available on the www.dkgusforum.com website.

Many thanks to all of you as you contact your legislators on issues of importance to our society.

The Educational Excellence Committee

The Educational Excellence Committee (EEC) encourages legislative programs at all levels of the Society. So, what can those programs look like? The following list of ideas was gathered at the in-person and virtual training for state organization EEC chairs in the summer of 2021.

- Assign a member whose role is to report on legislative issues and actions at each meeting and/or in newsletters
- Survey your members for their legislative concerns; then plan programs according to the results
- Have a DKG Day at your state capital: Meet with legislators, hear about current education bills, and attend sessions on the floor
- Invite a variety of speakers to your meetings to address the legislative interests of education and of women educators in your state or region
- Attend candidate forums to educate yourself and your fellow members
- Collaborate with other organizations (ex. state teacher's organizations) on programs of interest or actions that can be taken
- Identify and acknowledge education friendly legislators
- Don't forget about local school boards or councils and the educational decisions that affect the students in your area or region

For more information, refer to International Standing Rule 8.10 Educational Excellence Committee – Legislation; 8.102 Guidelines for initiating endorsing, and supporting legislation. EEC reminds members of Purpose Number 7 – to inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society. Contact Jillayne Flanders, Alpha Upsilon EEC Chair at jillayneflanders@gmail.com

~~BAYSTATEMENT~~ CHAPTER NEWS

ALPHA ETA Submitted by Dianne Swistak



Our chapter planned to take part in the Walk for Coleen Ritzer in September, but due to the increase in Covid19 cases, we opted to make a donation to the cause instead. Then with the cancellation of the fall workshop and the postponement of the Area dinners, we were wondering how to get together and engage the members in some sort of group activity.

On October 19, a small group met outdoors at the home of Diane Pendergast in Amesbury. The event was billed as "Game Day," and our goal was to provide a chance for members to spend time together and relax. There was a small group, but we enjoyed playing lawn games—Corn Hole and lawn golf—and exchanging news and sampling refreshments.

Our next meeting will be in early December. We have a number of members signed up to make boxwood trees under the direction of Donna-Marie Ryan, whose expertise with floral arrangements has guided us through projects in the past.

ALPHA ZETA *Submitted by Debbie Gill, Chapter President*

Alpha Zeta held their October meeting at the 110 Grill in Braintree. It was good to see meet in person to catch up, and to plan for upcoming events. In addition, the lunch was delicious. An activity was planned for November which had to be canceled due to the low number of people who planned to participate. It should be noted that the pandemic has impacted our members and their families in various ways, which has compromised attendance at in person meetings and events. Alpha Zeta has collected 26 children's books which Kathy Kelly, one of our members brought to an elementary school in Quincy.

Our next scheduled event is our Holiday Party at The Grill at the Fairview Inn at 133 Ocean Street, Marshfield on December 9th. Members will bring a donation for a local clothing bank. In addition, they will bring a grab gift for a Yankee swap.

In January we will meet via Zoom to discuss a book that we have read.

We are all looking forward to the Spring Convention, and hopefully life returning to more normalcy.

ALPHA MU *Submitted by Gail Pease*



On a lovely, breezy September 8 evening, 21 Alpha Mu sisters FINALLY gathered in person at peaceful North Spec Pond in New Salem MA. (THANK YOU HUNT FAMILY!!) for food, reconnecting and planning. Helene Carroll-Pascale and Susan Hunt Apteker were elected unanimously as Co-Presidents for 2021-2023. Their plan is for rejuvenation and simplicity throughout their term. Katie Schmidt volunteered to serve as our Secretary and Ann Hyer will remain our trusty Treasurer. A second name for authority to sign checks is being sought. Our treasury is in good enough shape so that our local dues were able to be waived for this year! We will soon have updated contact information thanks to Phyllis Ambrocewicz. Bonnie Hodgdon and Deb Taylor reported that during COVID shutdown, no materials were able to be delivered to the Orange Courthouse. They contacted Valuing Our Children

and have been supplying them with the books and materials instead. It was agreed to continue with those efforts. Ann Powers delivered books to the Gardner Court house this summer. Members are asked to start donating materials again to replenish these supplies. A scholarship committee was formed for the selection of the 2022 Mahar Regional High School recipient of the Alpha Mu Award. Serving on that committee are Linda Robinson, Jody Hayne and Gail Pease. Christine Bonci will update us on the status of the MA DKG conference scheduled for October 1-2 in Southbridge, MA. A few members shared travel experiences and we closed with the singing of the DKG song! Sure sounded great after such a long time!!!

We were able to gather again on October 20 at Quabbin Woods Restaurant in Petersham, MA. Sue Hunt Apteker, Helene Carroll-Pascale and Katie Schmidt were formally installed as our officers for this year. Ann Hyer reported that our treasury is in good shape. Katie Schmidt reported the minutes from our Sept. gathering. Christine Bonci shared the Fall Conference decision/update. Many items were donated for our Courthouse/VOCsites for children. We have decided to offer "Fairy Godmothers" to our currently teaching members! Retired members will offer different forms of appreciation, support and encouragement to chosen recipients throughout the school year. We are also planning a History of Alpha Mu meeting in March. Photos and other historical/meaningful pieces of information will be organized to present at that meeting.

ALPHA THETA *Submitted by Dorothea Maynard, Chapter President*

Alpha Theta chapter is venturing out from our usual gathering location. In September, we dined al fresco at Morins in Attleboro. We enjoyed a delightful time getting reacquainted after the long year and more away. We welcomed Jessica Lupien, and voted to induct her as a DKG Alpha Theta member.

Kaaren Harrington was surprised when she was honored with a 50 year pin and a Procuration from our International President for her fifty years of service to DKG. Kaaren is one of the original founders of Alpha Theta Chapter. This month we have been invited to the Tiger Den at the award-winning

Taunton High School Culinary Arts Department. This program received a Rachel Ray Grant and also won the D'Angelo Neighborhood \$10K Giveaway Program which will go toward purchasing a food truck. In December, we'll gather in a private room at the Fireside Grille on the Middleboro Circle.

We will have a silent auction, and our annual collection of storybooks, crayons, workbooks, and coloring books for Sturdy Hospital. The highlight will be the DKG Alpha Theta Induction ceremony as we welcome Jessica Lupien in membership of Alpha Theta Chapter.



SHOPPING WITH AMAZON SMILE

Submitted by Gail Saccone

I recently received a quarterly email notification that informed me that AmazonSmile had made a charitable donation to the charity I had selected, **DKG International Educators Foundation**, in the amount of **\$407.06** as a result of qualifying purchases made by me and other customers who have selected this charity.

Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com, or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, everyday purchases have generated over **\$321 million** in donations to charities worldwide so far.

It was particularly great to read that, in total, AmazonSmile sales have generated **\$4,270.94** given to DKG International Educators Foundation!

With the holidays rapidly approaching, please consider selecting DKG International Educators Foundation as your charity of choice when you're shopping on Amazon. It's a super easy way to support the Foundation!

FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS:

New Orleans, Louisiana (Sheraton) - July 12-16, 2022

National Harbor, Maryland (Gaylord National, D.C. Area) – 2024

Aurora, Colorado (Gaylord Rockies) -2026