



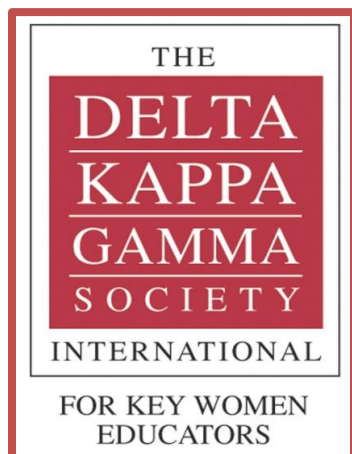
MA STATE ORGANIZATION of
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Baystater

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 64 ISSUE 3

Winter 2022



Dear DKG Sisters,

First and foremost in my heart right now: **REVITALIZATION**. We have been assigned Lyn Schmid as our revitalization liaison from International Headquarters. We have set up the meeting for ALL members for March 5, 2022 at the enVisions Hotel, 31 Hampshire St, Mansfield, MA. We will start at 8:00 with breakfast (provided for all who attend). We will break for lunch around 12:00 (also provided for those who attend) and wrap up the day by 2:00. Linda Stewart has reserved a block of rooms for those of you who would like to come down the night before. You have received information about this already. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE push this with your members. We need to hear EVERYBODY'S voice. I am hoping we can do a Zoom component beginning at 9:00 for those who, for distance or health reasons, cannot attend.

In contacts with Lyn Schmid I've asked her what members should be thinking about in preparation for this meeting. Here are the two questions:

1. What are you proud of in the MA State Organization?
2. What is keeping the MSO from flourishing?

Please send your answers to her at mschmid@redrose.net. Having this feedback before the event will help her to be better prepared for our session.

Our International Guest for our May Convention in Plymouth is going to be Phyllis Hickey. She is the Strategic Outreach Director of DKG. She is originally from the Connecticut State Organization, and she is looking forward to being in this area again.

I am again inviting 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 which are posted in the November 2021 issue of the **Baystater** (archived on our website: alupsma.weebly.com) 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. Also, our families and seniors often need a helping hand.

Claire's Comments continued on p.3

ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2021-2023

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1st. VP, Program	Jillayne Flanders	jillayneflanders@gmail.com
2nd.VP, Leadership	Dorothea Maynard	dorotheamaynard20@gmail.com
Recording Sec.	Gail Saccone	gvsaccone@comcast.net
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PROGRAM OF WORK

ECC Chair	Jillayne Flanders	jillayneflanders@gmail.com
Leadership Training	Dorothea Maynard	dorotheamaynard20@gmail.com
Legislation	Annette Shaw	seventymill@yahoo.com

SOCIETY BUSINESS

BAYSTATER Editor	Gail Saccone	baystaterma@gmail.com
By-Laws	Bette Bridges	babridges1@verizon.net
Coordinating Council	Jo-Anne Butler	squeakie59@verizon.net
Directory	Jo-Anne Butler	squeakie59@verizon.net
Finance	Janet Wellock	justmummy@yahoo.com
Membership	Marilyn Spedding	GCS200@aol.com
Necrology	Gwen Miller	gwenmill@comcast.net
Nominations	Lynn Howard	lynnphoward82@comcast.net
Research	Kaaren Harrington	kaarenharrington@gmail.com
U.N. Liaison	Dianne Swistak	sra.swisy@verizon.net
US Forum	Carol LaPolice	carol.lapolicy@comcast.net
Web Manager	Christine Bonci	bonci228@comcast.net

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Sara Chase Scholarship	Sharon McArdle	samcardle@verizon.net
Christa McAuliffe Grants	G'Tanya Small	smallgt@gmail.com
Golden Gift Leadership	Donna Brown	browndonnamarie@gmail.com
Golden Gift Fund	Marge Burns	mdburns8@comcast.net
Literacy Council	Diana Grady	badg2@verizon.net
World Fellowship	Beverly Shaw Johnson	beetleej@verizon.net



CHAPTER PRESIDENTS 2020-2022

AREA I

Alpha Beta	Louise O'Brien
Alpha Theta	Kaaren Harrington
Kappa	Donna Brown (Contact)
Theta	Nancy Carroll and Janet Wellock

AREA II

Alpha Gamma	Tammy Edmonds and Beth Clark
Alpha Mu	Susan Apteker and Helene Carroll-Pascale

AREA III

Eta	Jo-Anne Butler
Alpha Lambda	Ellen Driscoll
Zeta	Audrey Smith (Acting)

AREA IV

Alpha	Sharon MacDonald
Alpha Epsilon	Lindsay Skelton

AREA V

Alpha Iota	Nanci Flaherty
Alpha Zeta	Deborah Gill
Upsilon	Michele Glynne

AREA VI

Alpha Eta	Diane Pendergast and Deborah Wescott
Epsilon	Irene Frangos Falite

EDITOR'S CORNER

The Baystater email address is:

baystaterma@gmail.com

I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Dianne Swistak (Alpha Eta), Gail Pease & Christine Bonci (Alpha Mu), Marcia Periera (Alpha Gamma), Dorothea Maynard (Alpha Theta), Joan Brides (Alpha Zeta), Irene Falite (Epsilon), Sharon MacDonald, Carol LaPolice & Marilyn Spedding (Alpha), and Jo-Anne Butler (Eta). Your support and contributions are very much appreciated!

THANK YOU ALL! Gail Saccone

*An alternative to donating food was suggested to me and I like the idea so I am sharing it with you. Instead of food, do a fundraiser and donate the monetary proceeds to a local food pantry. They have connections to get what they need that is not often donated (like meats, vegetable, fruit, dairy) to go along with what they give out.

We have a new Celebration of Life (Necrology) chair. Gwen Miller has graciously accepted the position for the rest of this biennium. Thank you Gwen!

On a sad note, over the holidays we lost Helen McGarry of Alpha Beta Chapter. Helen was a fixture at state, regional and international events for years and served our state faithfully for many, many years. Her presence will be missed. Our deepest condolences to our sisters in her chapter and to Helen's family.

Due to Covid Delta we had to postpone our 80th anniversary celebration. We are trying again at Plymouth in the Spring at our State Convention. An 80th + 1 Anniversary Planning meeting is being held on Feb. 3, 2022 so we can finalize our schedule. One of our presenters is now pregnant and is due in May. Because of the different location we will need to update the schedule of events.

Again, I'd like to thank all of the members of the anniversary committee who have met almost monthly from January through September of 2021 to plan this event. A special thanks to Christine Bonci for hosting all these meetings on Zoom. An extra special thanks goes to Bev Johnson for designing the outstanding celebration vignettes. Also, thanks to Jo-Anne Butler for pulling together the history of MA DKG with Bev. I'm looking forward to the product of all this hard work and experiencing our 80th + 1 celebration this Spring!

Finally, on March 3, I will be visiting Alpha Mu at the Williams Restaurant in Gardner. On April 4, I will visit Alpha Theta in Taunton for their meeting. I will also be at Alpha chapter's meeting for their election (my chapter). I love to travel, and I do have a traveling sister, so please let me know if and when you'd like us to visit you. I need to hear your concerns.

I certainly hope that the groundhog has seen his shadow!

Your DKG Sister,

CLAIRE cdlabonte@charter.net

REVITALIZATION MEETING INVITATION

Saturday, March 5, 2022

En Vision Hotel and Conference Center
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048
(formerly Holiday Inn, Mansfield.)

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the revitalization
of the DKG Massachusetts State Organization.

This is a DKG International program which will be facilitated by our liaison

Lyn Schmid, a DKG International Past President.

This is a one day program **offered at no cost to all members** of the DKG Massachusetts State Organization. The President, Claire LaBonte, hope both new and long-term members of DKG will participate.

Your ideas matter and your voice will be heard.

Building upon our amazing organization requires the skills of all.
As you will learn on March 5, 2022, the DKG Revitalization program
has been successful for other state organizations.

Please join us for:

8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet (No Charge)
9:00 a.m. Revitalization Program featuring
Lyn Schmid, DKG International Past President
12:00 p.m. Lunch Buffet (No Charge)
Rejuvenation Cash Bar
1:00 p.m. Revitalization Next Steps
Meeting Conclusion

Being mindful of Covid precautions, all Envision Hotel servers will be masked.

Our meeting room will have round tables which accommodate 10, but will be set to seat 6 per table.

For the convenience of members, we have a block of rooms for Friday, March 4, 2022.

Please contact Envision Hotel & Conference Center Reservations at (508) 339-2200 to **reserve your room on, or before, Feb 19, 2022.** To receive the group rate of \$129.00 per night, plus local and state taxes, for single/double occupancy, you must request that a reservation be made in MA State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International room block. Rates cannot be changed at check-in or check-out if you do not identify your group affiliation at the time the reservation is made.

RSVP to <https://form.jotform.com/220084936061149> by Friday, February 4, 2022 please.

*****After February 4th if you would like to attend, please let Linda Stewart know directly by February 7th at lstewart564@gmail.com.**



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



DKG US FORUM NLS March 6-8, 2022



The US Forum Steering Committee invites you to join us in Washington D.C. for the National Legislative Seminar. Information can be found on our website: www.dkgusforum.com



U.S. FORUM REPORT

The last zoom presentation of the US Forum Steering Committee was with Dr Ralph Propper who gave us a great talk on climate change and possible solutions to the problem. The Steering Committee met in Washington, DC early in December to work on the National Legislative Seminar resulting in the online registration for the upcoming National Legislative Seminar being opened. Please consider joining our team for a great training and up to date information on legislative issues of concern to DKG members.

There are also two optional tours: Monuments by Moonlight on March 5 and a Bus Tour on March 6 before the keynote speaker. Hotel information is linked to the NLS page. If you've never been to DC, this is a great opportunity at a low cost.

You can register either by using the QR code to link to the registration form on the ad posted on the state website or clicking on the DKG website rotator ad for the NLS that brings you to the dkgusforum.com website or the NLS link on the <https://dkgusforum.com> website. Last day to register is has February 11, the hotel registration has been extended to 2/20/22. Check out the usforum website for the speakers and scheduled events!

The WEP/GPO legislation is undergoing a lot of activity right now with the cosponsors signing onto the legislation. Your legislators need to hear from you whether they have already signed on as a sponsor or not. There are 4 pieces of legislation now, the newest one is H.R. 5834 introduced by Congressman Brady of Texas. This pertains only to the WEP and provides a formula different from H.R. 2337, the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021 introduced by Representative Neal.

The other two pieces of legislation ask for full repeal of both the WEP/GPO: H.R. 82 the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 introduced by Rep Rodney Davis with no funding solution offered and H.R. 5723- Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust introduced 10/26/2021 by Congressmen Larson of Connecticut. It offers a funding solution by increasing the limit on earnings for social security tax withholding to over \$400,000 from the current limit of \$147,800 for 2022.

The best way to keep informed of all the legislation of interest to you is to set up a free account on congress.gov. Click on "legislation" next to the search bar to find the subjects of interest to you or type in the bill number. Then click the send alerts for each piece of legislation you are interested in following. Other legislation I have shared with you in the 117th Congress are:

H.R 2817 Childcare for Working Families Act- House Ed/Labor Committee

H.R. 614 Put School Counselors Where They're Needed Act -House Ed/Labor Committee

S.2730 Comprehensive Mental Health in Schools Pilot Program Act of 2021 Senate HELP Committee

S.1585 Improving Mental Health for Students Act Passed Senate, held in the House

H.R. Abby Honold Act (violence against women trauma-informed investigations)

H.R.721 Mental Health for Students Services Act, passed House, in the Senate HELP committee

H.R. 586 Stand Up Act of 2021 (Suicide Awareness/Prevention Training) Passed House , Senate HELP

H.R.729 Strength in Diversity Act (The purpose of this Act is to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive strategies to address the effects of racial isolation or concentrated poverty by increasing diversity, including racial diversity and socioeconomic diversity, in covered schools.) Amended in House Ed/Labor and placed on for whole house consideration

And S.2737 Constitution Education is Valuable in Community Schools Act of 2021 Senate HELP

The next legislative updates will be shared at the National Legislative Seminar, March 6-8, 2022.

Elections for the 22-24 Steering Committee and Regional Representatives will be held at the International Conference in New Orleans in July. To learn more about the work of the US Forum or any of these positions visit the <https://dkgusforum.com> website for more information or contact me. The application will be posted soon and the deadline is May 15, 2022.

~~MESSAGE FROM WEBMASTER CHRISTINE BONCI~~

I have created a new section at our website (alupsma.weebly.com) called – **Treasurer's Report**. **This site is Password Protected.** When you navigate to the page titled **Treasurer's Report** you will be asked to provide a Password for access. The password is DKGMA2022. This will replace the "MEMBERS ONLY LOGIN" section at our website. Please let me know if you have difficulty accessing this page. *Thank you, Christine Bonci, Webmaster*

~~THANK YOU NOTES~~

Dear DKG Sisters,

Many thanks for the gift of luggage and traveling funds in appreciation of my time as State Treasurer. I appreciated your kindness and thoughtfulness. It's been a pleasure serving you.

Sincerely,

Carol LaPolice, State Treasurer



Dear MA DKG Sisters,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful gift in recognition of serving as the MA State President 2019-2021. I look forward to using the luggage and money for my trip to New Orleans for the 2022 International Convention in July.

It was an honor to be the MA State President although it was a crazy term being President during a pandemic. I am proud to be a DKG member and miss seeing everyone in person. I look forward to future DKG gatherings and activities as we continue to work to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

With much appreciation,

Lynn Howard, Past State President 2019-2021

~~BAYSTATEMENTS~~ CHAPTER NEWS

ALPHA ETA *Submitted by Dianne Swistak*



Alpha Eta Chapter met at the home of Diane Pendergast on December 2, 2021 to assemble boxwood trees in preparation for the Holidays. Donna Marie Ryan, expert in floral design, was our instructor and had procured the boxwood and other necessary materials for our project. Unfortunately, not everyone who signed up could attend, but the supplies were available if they chose to assemble a tree at home. Diane Pendergast and Dianne Swistak subsequently spent an afternoon with Diane Green at her home to guide her through the process. The three Dianes had a most enjoyable time together, and everyone who created a tree had a lovely decoration in advance of Christmas.

ALPHA MU *Submitted by Gail Pease*



Twenty-three Alpha Mu sisters gathered in early December for a delicious dinner and Yankee Swap at Kro's on Templeton Common. It was an evening of friendship and laughter and NO business! Those not able to attend were missed!

ALPHA GAMMA *Submitted by Marcia Periera*



Alpha Gamma tried virtual meetings and only had a few members join in. We hoped to get together in person but with everyone still dealing with COVID and realizing many members may not be ready to get together inside a restaurant for a traditional meeting, we came up with a comfortable alternative. On September 21st, Co-president Beth Clark's sister offered her back yard fire pit and access to facilities. After a short meeting, members enjoyed a dinner of salad, pizza, chicken wings, chips, and s'mores around the fire. We ended the meeting socializing and reconnecting. Members look forward to our next meeting, hopefully in person. The Alpha Gamma Chapter winter meeting was wonderful. About 20 members attended in person at Avellino's Restaurant in Sturbridge on Thursday, December 9th. This was the chapter's first indoor meeting in two years. Everyone visited and enjoyed a delicious plated dinner.



The highlight of Alpha Gamma's business meeting was sharing the success of our DKG tree at the Annual Festival of Trees in Southbridge. It featured our symbol of roses. The roses were handmade using pages of discarded books to promote literacy. Members donated gift cards and school supplies to promote education. The tree was beautiful and meaningful.

Other business included reminding members to begin thinking about nominations for officers, sending out our scholarship applications to area high schools, fundraising for the scholarship, and seeking new members to invite to our next meeting. Maureen Clifford reported on our continued support of Head Start with a story hour planned for December 14 where the students will enjoy a gingerbread story and make cookies. Maureen had also organized chapter documents and history into several notebooks for the officers and committee chairs which she distributed at the meeting. The food and monetary donations collected that night were donated to John Paul II Food Pantry in Southbridge. Members donated over \$110 and several shopping bags of nonperishables. Co-president Tammy Edmonds entertained us with a participatory holiday story about Santa Claus and a lawyer. Can you quickly pass cards right and left as the story line unfolds? Much fun was had by all.

ALPHA THETA Submitted by Dorothea Maynard, Chapter President



Seated L-R: Linda Stewart, Annette Shaw, Kit Dunlap, Jessica Lupien
Standing: Anita Newman, Gail Brookings, Diana Grady, Rosemarie Buote, Kaaren Harrington

On January 25, Alpha Theta sisters met for their annual retirees luncheon at La Familia Restaurant in Taunton (picture above). Our group enjoyed the delicious food, cheery atmosphere, and spirited conversation. We did miss many of our members who could not attend. This was the first time Alpha Theta had visited La Familia, but all agreed that it will not be the last.

The Alpha Theta Christmas party at the Fireside Grill in Middleborough was a festive get-together where we celebrated another successful Silent Auction and donation drive of books, coloring books, and crayons for Sturdy Hospital in Attleboro. I'm still smiling when I think of the joy that filled the private room during AlphaTheta's December Celebration. We enjoyed having three guests, including Jessica Lupien. We were so excited to see each other in person that everyone circulated to different tables catching up with each other. We had a terrific White Elephant sale with \$186.00 going into our account. We brought crayons and books to donate to the Sturdy Memorial Hospital Pediatric Ward as we do each December.

On March 10 our Literary Meeting will be held at the Mansfield Airport! Our guest speaker will be Heidi Chiavaroli, an author from Swansea. Heidi writes women's fiction, combining her love of history and literature to write split time stories. Her debut novel, *Freedom's Ring*, was a Carol Award winner and a Christy Award finalist, a *Romantic Times* Top Pick and a *Booklist* Top Ten Romance Debut. Heidi loves exploring places that whisper of historical secrets, especially with her family. Her latest dual timeline novel, *The Orchard House*, is inspired by the lesser-known events in Louisa May Alcott's life. Other novels by Heidi: *The Tea Chest*, *The Hidden Side*, *The Edge of Mercy*, and the Orchard House Bed and Breakfast Series. Visit her website: <http://www.heidichiavaroli.com/>

Our April meeting will include the DKG induction of Jessica Lupien, and our State President, Claire La Bonte, will be our guest. We are encouraged to now have two fabulous younger women join DKG as Alpha Theta members.

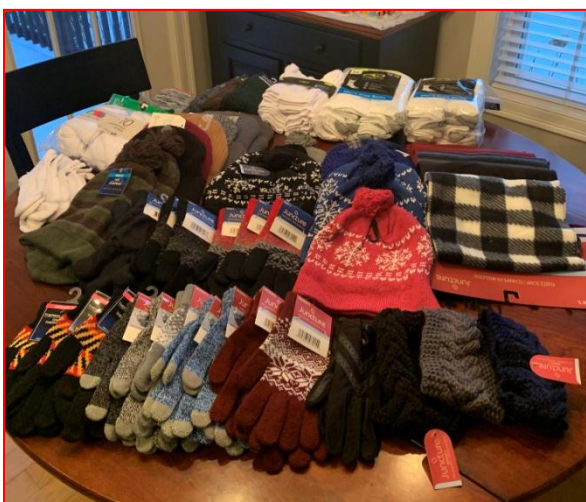
ALPHA ZETA Submitted by Joan Brides and Gail Saccone



Seated: Detra Towle, Joan Brides. Middle Row: Caroline LaCroix, Ava Grimason, Debbie Gill (President), Jeanne Ivas, Kathy Kelly, Pat Butler. Back Row: Pam Larson, Gail Saccone, Gail Laffer, Joan Garrity

Alpha Zeta Chapter was able to hold a meeting and holiday get together at the Grille at the Fairview Inn in the Brant Rock section of Marshfield on December ninth. Twelve sisters enjoyed a delicious meal of their choosing and exchanged a variety of gifts during a Yankee Swap. Members also brought donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks for adults and children which were taken to Sowing Seeds, a non-profit organization that helps Marshfield residents in need. Members are looking forward to a Zoom book discussion get together on February 11th when they will be exchanging their thoughts about “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer. It is the story of a small island community composed of very disparate people who came together during the German occupation of World War II to protect, comfort, and in some cases, save one another. We are hopeful we can have another meeting and dinner together in March at The Olde Hitching Post in Hanson

EPSILON Submitted by Irene Falite, Chapter President



Happy New Year 2022!

Wishing all of our Sisters a Happy, Healthy Year filled with good health, happiness and adventure! Our Chapter gathered this fall on September 22nd at the Sylvan Street Grille in Peabody, MA.

We were excited to be together enjoying an array of entrees, as we shared personal stories, hobbies, community service, and events that we have been involved in since our last gathering..

We brainstormed ideas and goals for our chapter moving forward. With the Holiday commitments and preparations, a few of our Sisters were able to have dinner on December 16th at the new Magia Restaurant and Bar (formerly Calitri's) in Danvers. A nice dinner, dessert and great conversations made for a delightful evening.

Our annual Holiday drive once again was to collect and distribute hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, headbands, and white socks to My Brother's Table in Lynn, MA for Adults to help keep them warm.

The Staff there is most appreciative and thankful that we are able to help those in need. A big thank you to the Sisters who assisted me in purchasing these items. I delivered them on January 12th.

It is so rewarding to be able to help others! We will continue with our Community Service projects in the Spring.

ALPHA Submitted by Sharon MacDonald and Carol LaPolice



Alpha members enjoyed meeting in person in October at the School Street Park in Agawam. Those who arrived early walked the mile path. Retirees brought dinner and working members brought desserts for an enjoyable meal. The business meeting followed with revitalized energy! In December members met at the Munich Haus for a lovely Saturday luncheon meeting. Members brought gifts for our long-time project, *A Child's Wish* chaired by Marilyn Spedding and working alongside her was her daughter, Liz Gloss. Santa visits The Family Center of Springfield after school program to make sure each child gets the gift they requested. We also celebrated with two members from Alpha Epsilon and Alpha. Jillayne Flanders (Alpha Epsilon) and Kathy Balakier have been friends for years. We love it when Jillayne can join us! Claire LaBonte, State President, from Alpha was presented with her very special President's pin.

ETA Submitted by Jo-Anne Butler



For the safety of our chapter members during this pandemic, members of Eta elected to do Zoom meetings. We have held bingo meetings, Holiday trivia nights, and an informative book sharing meeting where many of us were able to gather titles of new books to read during our winter months. Future meetings include a Zen Doodle evening where we'll be able to learn a new relaxation skill using a unique art form. Plans also include inviting an author to speak about her latest book.

Eta chapter was unable to hold its Holiday Extravaganza again this year due to the pandemic. Instead, we created a Teacher Angel Project and asked members to donate the cost of their Holiday Extravaganza meal and support a classroom. The cost of a meal would provide a wrapped age appropriate book to every child in the classroom. With additional gracious donations, we were able to provide 1000 books to children for the holidays in a variety of programs. Every child in Hayden-McFadden School (named after Ruth McFadden, Eta's first Chapter president) received a book of their very own to take home for the holidays. The joy of giving was priceless; the smiles - memories to cherish. Thanks to careful purchasing of books, we also assisted a low income 4-room daycare center and a local food bank with books for the holidays.

Appreciation is extended to participating members who helped spread the joy of reading to so many.

THE TRADITION CONTINUES *Submitted by Marilyn Spedding*



Many chapters and state organizations of DKG have their unique traditions. Helen Theinert of Alpha Chapter served as the Massachusetts State President in 1957 – 1959. When Helen passed away her pins were returned to the chapter to be guarded by our Chapter Treasurer Georgianna Marshall until ... I was honored to receive Helen's State President's pin upon my installation in 2011.

At the Holiday Luncheon in December I passed Helen's pin on to Claire LaBonte, the next Alpha member to serve as State President She will be the guardian of Helen's pin (and her original membership card) until the next Alpha member assumes the State Presidency.



	2021	Joined	Died
ETA	Louise Coggeshall	5/15/2011	10/4/2021
ETA	Linda Meredith	5/1/1998	10/8/2021
ALPHA BETA	Helen McGarry	5/1/964	12/20/2021

NEXT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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

The one and only New Orleans, Louisiana!!

Can't you just taste the gumbo?

More information to follow or go to our

International website:

DKG.org> EVENTS

