



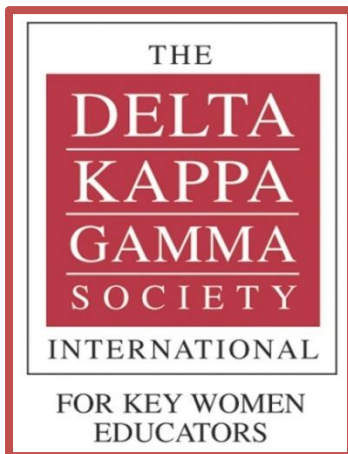
MA STATE ORGANIZATION of  
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

# Baystater

*Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide*

VOLUME 64 ISSUE 6

Fall 2022



CLAIRIFYING COMMENTS  
FROM CLAIRE

SAVE THE DATE:

FALL  
CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 29-  
OCTOBER 1, 2022  
SOUTHBRIDGE

Dear Sisters,

I know every state organization president says this at this point, but I can't believe that my first year is over already! We have accomplished quite a bit. We have met with a representative from International and set up our Revitalization Committee working groups under the leadership of Lynn Howard; we have celebrated our 80th+1 anniversary; we have begun meeting in person again; we have welcomed a new batch of chapter presidents/leadership groups; and we have attended an International Convention where we voted on many issues of governance.

We voted to reorganize the expansion and membership committees to make them one;

We voted to have the leadership development committee assume the duties of DKG Ignite (golden gift);

We did not change the name of our organization.

We amended and voted on our budget.

Many things were hotly debated and many have to be resubmitted to our next International Convention for consideration due to a lack of time.

We also had time to see New Orleans, participating in a Second Line Parade through the streets around our hotel (check our Facebook postings); visiting the Mardi Gras Museum and the Sazerak Museum; playing the tourist on our evenings off. We met up with good friends from all over the world and made new ones. We also elected our new International officers. Congratulations to our new DKG President, Debbie LeBlanc!

Teamwork is one of the most important things being a member of about DKG. It's a big part of what we are all about. Nobody really does anything great all alone. There are unseen people in the background who see to it the jobs get done. For Massachusetts State Organization (MASO) these jobs include supporting each other and other women educators in increasingly difficult careers. It is also advocating for the students we serve. Another is fostering future educators. Still others step up and do that little job that needs doing to support our chapters and state organization. No effort is too small. Helping hands are always welcome.

CONTINUED on P. 3

## ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2021-2023

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### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS 2020-2022

#### AREA I

Kappa	Donna Brown (Contact)
Theta	Peggy Trudell
Alpha Beta	Louise O'Brien
Alpha Theta	Kaaren Harrington

#### AREA II

Alpha Gamma	Tammy Edmonds and Beth Clark
Alpha Mu	Susan Apteker and Kristine Beaudet

#### AREA III

Eta	Jo-Anne Butler and Tove Bendiksen
Zeta	Audrey Smith (Contact)
Alpha Lambda	Ellen Driscoll

#### AREA IV

Alpha	Elaine Karalekas
Alpha Epsilon	Lindsay Skelton

#### AREA V

Alpha Iota	Nanci Flaherty
Alpha Zeta	Gail Saccone

#### AREA VI

Epsilon	Irene Frangos Falite
Alpha Eta	Diane Swistak (Contact)

### EDITOR'S CORNER

*The Baystater email address is:*

[baystaterma@gmail.com](mailto:baystaterma@gmail.com)

*I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Kaaren Harrington (Alpha Theta), Dianne Swistak (Alpha Eta), Sharon MacDonald and Elaine Karalekas (Alpha), Anita Newman (Alpha Theta), G'Tanya Small (Upsilon>Alpha Iota), Lynn Howard (Alpha Iota), Jennifer Hoffer (Alpha Theta), Carol LaPolice (Alpha), and Jill Flanders (Alpha Epsilon)*

To facilitate better communications via email, I would like to set up as Massachusetts State Organization email account, so that everything coming from us is easily identifiable by you when receiving important emails. I'm finding too many get lost in the shuffle. Who can help me with this?

Soon you will be asked to fill out a **MEMBER SURVEY** for your chapter. The state revitalization working group is asking that you take this 3-5 minute survey online when you receive it and then hit submit. It's as easy as that! For those members who do not have or use email it will be sent to you by snail mail with a stamped return envelope. Your response is that important to us!

I've always loved being a member of DKG at the chapter, state levels and international levels. Though a bit overwhelming at first, it has opened up a world of professional possibilities and travel, for me that I never would have imagined 25 years ago before I joined. It has done so for many of our members and it can do so for you, too. It is, perhaps, one of the smartest professional moves I have ever undertaken.

See you at our Fall Conference in Southbridge!

Your DKG Sister,

**CLAIRE** [cclabonte@charter.net](mailto:cclabonte@charter.net)

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## ~~FALL CONFERENCE~~

*Jill Flanders, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president (Alpha Epsilon)*

We are looking forward to our annual Fall Conference in person, in just over one month!

Join your State Executive Officers as we meet to plan ahead for the coming year, expand our membership, learn with each other, and celebrate a new school year.

This is a time to revisit the vision and mission of DKG, to renew our commitment to our 7 Purposes, and to revitalize our place for key women educators in the state.

On Friday evening, September 30, the Executive Board will convene at the Southbridge Conference Center. Our work will be shared during the next day.

Saturday, October 1 begins with a buffet breakfast, served from 7:45 - 8:45 a.m.

We have planned four different workshops for you, and depending on interest, we are prepared to repeat Carol LaPolice's "Are You Leading a Purposeful Life?"

**9:00-10:15**

- **Are You Leading A Purposeful Life?**

Carol Lapolice, Alpha Chapter with Linda Stewart and Diana Grady

The Society's Purposes 4 and 7 may fit the *bill* for you! What can advocacy in its many forms do for you, and you for our state and nation? Take-always from the US Forum Steering Committee and NLS experiences to get you started or restarted on your journey.

- **Every Educator Must Be an Anti-Racist Educator**

Jill Flanders, Alpha Epsilon Chapter

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." Maya Angelou challenges us to continue to learn and do better. As key women educators, we must teach the full history of the United States, and you will learn about current research, literature, and initiatives that focus on racism. If you do nothing, you are making a choice.

**10:30-11:45**

- **Creating a Collaborative Classroom Community (SEL and ELA)**

Lindsay Skelton, Alpha Epsilon Chapter

Integrating standards for English Language Arts, the arts, and SEL should be common practice in every classroom, PK-12. Learn successful strategies applicable to any classroom that are inclusive, creative, playful, and student-centered. Be prepared to participate! A direct connection to Purpose 7.

- Book Share

OR

Are You Leading a Purposeful Life?

OR

Role-Alike conversations, dependent on the attendee's wishes

12:00

- Revitalization Committee update: Lynn Howard

## 12:45 Luncheon and Closing

As you can see, we are planning provocative experiences for you, and we are also remaining open and flexible in order to meet the needs of our members in attendance.

We hope you will join us!

## **DKG Fall Conference 2022** **Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center** **September 30-October 1, 2022**

**Registration** 5:00-7:00

Dinner on your own

**Executive Board Meeting** 6:30-8:00

Fruit and Crudités

### **Saturday Morning**

**Breakfast Buffet** 7:45-8:45

9:00-10:15 Workshops

A. **Are You Leading a Purposeful Life?** Rm. 3

Presenter: Carol LaPolice (Alpha)

B. **Every Educator Must be Must Be an Anti-Racist Educator** Rm. 2

Presenter: Jill Flanders (First Vice President)

10:30-11:45 Workshops

C. **Creating a Collaborative Classroom Community (SEL and ELA)** Rm. 2

Presenter: Lindsay Skelton (Alpha Epsilon)

D. Book Share

OR

**Are You Leading a Purposeful Life?**

OR

Role-Alike conversations, dependent on the attendee's wishes Rm. 3

**Revitalization Update** 11:45-12:15

Presented by Lynn Howard

**Convocation** 12:30

**Luncheon** 12:45

Immediately Following Luncheon

**Revitalization Meeting** Rm. 2

Next Steps

**Planning Meeting** Rm. 2



**FALL WORKSHOP REGISTRATION**  
**Massachusetts State Organization**

**Friday and Saturday, September 30, 2022 to October 1, 2022**

**Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center**

**14 Mechanic Street, Southbridge, MA 01550**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Identify your Chapter Office/Committee and/or State Office/

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I do not have an email address & I would like a receipt at the Workshop

☐ Yes, this is My First State Meeting (**FREE REGISTRATION**)

- |  |                                     |           |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Early Bird Registration                   | <b>received by 9/14/22</b>          | \$ 40.00  |
| 2. Registration                              | <b>received on or after 9/15/22</b> | \$ 50.00  |
| 3. Friday: Fruit, Cheese, Crackers, Crostini |                                     | No Charge |
| 4. <i>Visions</i> Breakfast Buffet           |                                     | \$ 25.00  |
| 5. Italian Lunch Buffet                      |                                     | \$ 40.00  |

TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Meals includes 22% Service & Administration Fee and applicable town & state taxes

Make your total check payable to: (as per bank)

**Alpha Upsilon Mass of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**

Mail to: Linda A. Stewart P.O. Box 564, Hyannis Port MA 02647

Questions: Phone: 508-725-5442 Email: [lstewart564@gmail.com](mailto:lstewart564@gmail.com) (No text messages please.)

Your Registration must be received by Linda Stewart, Executive Secretary, **by September 23, 2022.**

**Please call if, for any reason, you wish to register after September 23, 2022**

Please contact Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center to reserve your room directly with the hotel reservations department at **(508) 765-8000** on, or before, **September 7, 2022.**

In order to receive the contracted 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 the room block:

**MA State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.** Rates cannot be changed at check-in or check-out if you have not identified your group upon reservation.

The Chef will do his/her best to accommodate: ☐ **Gluten Free Required\*\*** ☐ **Gluten Free Preferred\*\***

**Visions Breakfast Buffet:** Scrambled Eggs with Fresh Herbs, Smoke House Bacon, Seasoned Breakfast Potatoes, Sliced Seasonal Fruit with Honey Yogurt Dip, Assorted Breakfast Baked Goods, Individual Chilled Juices, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Assorted Tea

**Italian Lunch Buffet:** Antipasto Salad, Caesar Salad and Garlic Bread Sticks; Pasta: Ziti, Cheese Tortellini; Sauces: Alfredo and Bolognese; Garlic Parmesan Grilled Chicken, and Beef Meatballs; Chef's Seasonal Dessert; Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee; a Selection of Herbal Teas

## **MA STATE ORGANIZATION REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**

*Submitted by Lynn Howard, Committee Chair (Alpha Iota)*

As you know in 1929 Annie Webb Blanton founded Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and then on June 30, 1941, Alpha Upsilon Massachusetts was chartered in Springfield, MA. Over the years the organization has grown internationally and locally. However, over the past ten years we have been slowly losing more members than we have been bringing into the organization. We are now down to 15 chapters and just under 500 members. So now it's time for us to work together to revitalize our state organization so that we will be strong and healthy for DKG's 100th birthday celebration in 2029 and so we can continue to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education for many more years to come! We need **EVERYONE** to get involved and help with this task! Here's a look at some of the things that we've been working on and ways that you can help.

The Revitalization Group has met several times over the past few months to start developing plans for engaging current members and recruiting new members as we move forward. We have created a member survey that you will be receiving if you haven't already. It's only about 10 questions and should only take 3-5 minutes to complete. The information will help the Chapter officers to learn more about your interests which will help them to plan programs and events that will be relevant and of interest to members. We are hoping to send the survey via email but we're still trying to work out a few bugs with it. Hopefully we'll get things worked out in the next few days. So please answer the questions when you get the MA State Organization of DKG Member Survey email.

We are also looking for ways to market and promote our organization to potential members. So we are trying to utilize social media more often to highlight our DKG events and to promote professional and personal growth. If you are on Facebook, make sure you join our Facebook page Alpha Upsilon MA (DKG). Then post articles, quotes, pictures etc. on the page and help us spread the word.

Some of the members of the Revitalization Group are trying to connect with the Chapter Presidents to help them create materials to use for recruiting new members. Then we will need members to volunteer to then help reach out to schools and organizations.

So, what will you do to help us revive and re-energize our organization? Send me an email at [lynnphoward4@gmail.com](mailto:lynnphoward4@gmail.com) or call or text me at 781-901-9120. Join our next Revitalization Meeting on Monday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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## **NEWS FROM THE 2022 US FORUM**

*Submitted by Carol LaPolice, NE Regional Representative (Alpha)*

The Mental Health for Educational Staff Resolution was adopted at the US Forum meeting during the International Convention. This document is available for your use and can be found at [www.dkgusforum.com](http://www.dkgusforum.com). Each state will be working to bring the mental health needs of educational staff to the attention of the public and effect change. Learn more at the Fall MA State Conference! Elections were held and we have a new NE Representative– Beverly Johns from IL and reps from the SW, SE and NW. Darlene Cook, OR, is the new Chair of the US Forum. It was a great experience being the New England Rep and I encourage you to look at all opportunities available to you through DKG. Food Insecurity was the featured speaker topic. Louisiana is the state with the greatest food insecurity problem.

After the election, I gave a legislative update on PFAS/PFOA. This very important topic pertains to the health of everyone. What are PFAS/PFOA's? Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are chemicals with stain-resistant, water-repellent, grease- proof properties and their



use has been linked to a wide-range of health problems including cancer. Scientists are concerned about their cumulative effects from exposure to products, drinking water and contaminated food. They can be found in makeup, clothing, and food containers. While states, including MA, have taken steps to combat the problems more needs to be done on the national level. H.R. 2467 PFAS Action Act of 2021 is in Senate Environment & Public Works Committee and requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate these chemicals as hazardous substances and determine if they are toxic chemicals under the Clean Water Act. If so, regulations concerning limits to discharge into U.S. waters will be established as well as additional regulations.

On May 27th a new bill, H.R. 7897 PFAS Reference Standards Act, was sent to the House Energy Conference Committee. A Senate committee hearing was held on June 22 concerning delays by the EPA in determining standard definitions of PFAS.

On the Windfall Elimination Project (WEP)/Government Pension Offset (GPO)- H.R. 82, offering full repeal, has enough votes in the House. However, it is unlikely to pass the Senate with only 40 of 60 votes needed. The best scenario for passage is Rep Neal's (H.R. 2337) or Rep Brady's (H.R.5834) bills that focus solely on the WEP, revising its formula. The WEP is based on your social security record. There are close to 2 million retirees affected by this amendment. This fall could bring some results.

State news- a 5% Cost of Living Adjustment was voted in for FY2023 on a \$13,000 base due to great pension performance for state and teacher retirees. Not passed was an increase for the state and teacher retirees COLA base. *Mass Retirees* made a proposal that it be increased to \$16,000, but due to the timing of the 3year reevaluation of the pension funding schedule it was delayed in the legislature. It will be revisited in the Fall.

To learn more about advocacy and pending legislation, visit the US Forum workshop at the Fall Conference!

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## ~~BAYSTATEMENTS~~

**ALPHA** *Submitted by Sharon MacDonald and Elaine Karalekas*

Alpha did it again with another “just for fun” get together. Nine of us met on August 9th and it was a great night of food and conversation. These times have given us a chance to share things beyond our regular business meetings.



## **ALPHA ETA** *Submitted by Dianne Swistak*

Alpha Eta members met at the home of Diane Pendergast in March for a repeat of our Soup Swap (picture on left). The meeting included chapter business, a light lunch sampling various soups, and then sharing containers of soup (all delicious and nutritious) to take home.

April found chapter members congregating at the home of charter member Cyndy Bateman in the afternoon. A brief meeting preceded our Spring Auction (picture on right), the proceeds of which support the chapter's literacy project. Members brought hors d'oeuvres, and Cyndy had prepared dinner for those who were able to remain.

In May we had a watercolor lesson and went home with a painting of a white birch tree. But in June the plan to enjoy an Essex River cruise and lunch to celebrate the end of the school year was cancelled by the cruise company because of thunderstorms in the area. We have since rescheduled the cruise for August 25, as end of summer fun and as a prelude to the start of the next school year. We are hoping for good weather!

Alpha Eta is without a president for this biennium, but the chapter executive board met before the end of July to plan the program for 2022-23. Our goal is to have activities that will encourage, support, and entertain our members, those who are teaching and those who have retired.



## **ALPHA THETA** *Submitted by Kaaren Harrington*

The Alpha Theta Executive Board met in early June to plan programs for the 2022-2023 year. There will be dinners and regular meetings scheduled for the year. President Kaaren Harrington is pleased that all member dues are paid. A chapter member recently celebrated the birth of her 21<sup>st</sup> great grandchild! Kathy Fox is a retired reading teacher from Mansfield and the proud great grandmother. Kathryn Dunlap, Kaaren Harrington, Dorothea Maynard, Anita Newman, and Linda Stewart attended the DKG Convention in New Orleans. Besides attending morning sessions and workshops, there was time for sightseeing. Many visited the Sazerac House, enjoyed a carriage ride through the French Quarter, ate at Pat O'Brien's and Felix's for grilled oysters, and, of course, famous New Orleans beignets.

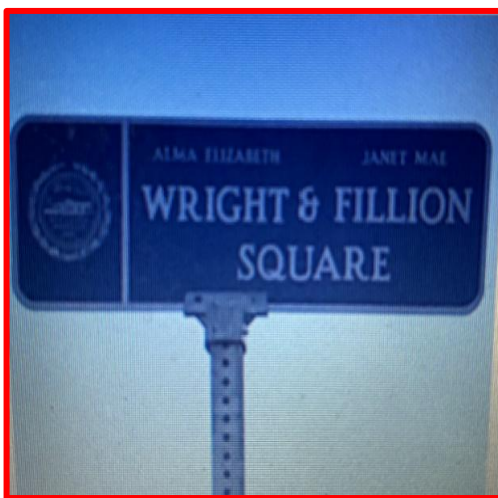
Sadly, many of the members picked up a mild case of COVID but recovered shortly after returning home.

## **ALPHA IOTA** *Submitted by G'Tanya Small*

Alma Wright, Alpha Iota, formerly a loyal member of Upsilon Chapter for 31 years, was honored the weekend of June 24-26<sup>th</sup> with a retirement/fundraiser for the Garrison-Trotter Neighborhood Association. Alma taught for 56 years! Fifty-one of those years were at the William Monroe Trotter School in Roxbury. The City of Boston and the Boston Public Schools kicked off the celebration on June 24<sup>th</sup> by recognizing Alma as well as Janet Mae Fillion, Boston Latin Academy High School. Both teachers have 50+ years of service. A square at the intersection of both schools was named in their honor.



On Saturday Alma was feted by City Councilors, school administrators, colleagues, and students. Several students gave powerful testimony on the impact that Alma has had on their lives. On June 26<sup>th</sup> Alma was honored by her Twelfth Baptist Church community. Alma is wished our “best and rest” as she turns the page on her next chapter. Well done Alma!



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## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS**

*Northeast Regional Breakfast Introduction by Claire LaBonte*



"Leading women educators impacting education worldwide." We are all tasked to this vision statement by virtue of our membership in DKG and because our members are the heart of our organization. Each and every one of you, each and every one of our members not here this morning, makes a difference. We do this through collaborating and contributing at all levels of DKG.

How do we connect? First, we must ask and answer the question "What do you want from membership in our society?" Listen to those answers with an open mind and heart. How we collaborate can make this happen. We provide opportunities for all members to contribute at every level. Being the authors of our own story, as our president Becky Sadowski has pointed out, we listen, encourage, and support our sisters and in turn accept encouragement and support from each other. This is the first step to engagement in any organization, including DKG.

What does this engagement look like?

1. Honoring our sisters for their accomplishments both in and out of DKG. Professional and personal accomplishments mean a lot to each and every one of us, and we stand a little taller when they are acknowledged. Don't be afraid to give a shout out!
2. Mentoring new and seasoned sisters in our chapters and states toward fuller participation. Some of us seasoned sisters don't have all the ready communication skills newer, younger sisters have grown up with. We become afraid of these skills and say "I'm too old for this." Well, we're not. Younger members appreciate being helpful in ways they are expert in and we need their expertise. Who doesn't like being an expert and the recognition and ego-boost it brings?

3. Communication in multiple formats and at every level. When I joined DKG in the 20th century we had snail mail, the telephone, fax machines, and early email for communication. I can't even begin to name all the ways we have available today. I am often overwhelmed by it all. But as Mitch McConnell has said of my beloved Senator Elizabeth Warren, "She persisted." We persist!
4. Advocating for women, children, and the powerless. This is the heart of who we are. Think about that! How awesome is that!
5. Serving when asked to serve. One of the first big things I was asked to do as a member was to accompany my chapter president to the International Convention in Toronto. I was like a deer in the headlights there. But she gave me a little job to do there and I embraced it whole heartedly. She made me the Chairman of Oddities for my chapter and my job was to take pictures of the city and report back to our chapter. We had a Moose Fashion Show at our September meeting because the city of Toronto had adopted the moose as a logo and I was fascinated by their sense of fashion.
6. Staying connected to each other. This is perhaps one of the most important elements of retaining members. Nobody enjoys feeling isolated for long stretches of time. We need to reach out and connect. To give each other a hug, a boost, a bit of recognition that she does matter to someone.

Our future holds a myriad of possibilities. Though we treasure, honor and acknowledge our past, let's not forget our dreams, what we want from our membership to DKG. We've fulfilled many dreams in our 93 years of existence. May we dream bigger and brighter for our future.

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### *Throw Me Somethin', Sista! What? Submitted by Carol LaPolice*

There's nothing like an International Convention and New Orleans was one to remember.

We started 2 general meetings with fantastic keynote speakers: Courtney Clark, motivational speaker, with her message, "It's those detours that get you where you're going," and Ingvi Omarrson, from Iceland, who spoke on education. His shared misconceptions about education, the need for solutions- offered guiding principles to help us to rethink what schools are for and to create a vision for education. **If you log in on now at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) you can register for these two virtual presentations and more that will be shown on August 30 and 31. Look under DKG, home, events, convention highlights.**

We proceeded to share pros or cons on the amendments to the Constitution (picture) and vote on them. Workshops following covered many current topics for working, collegiate or a retired members. Another morning was the New England Regional breakfast where we met the incoming International President, Debbie LeBlanc and Claire LaBonte, our state president gave an inspiring talk. After each morning update we shouted, throw me something sista. But, it wasn't all work!

After our first general meeting we had a surprise event! A NOLA Jazz band picked us up in our room for a 2<sup>nd</sup> line parade experience. We followed them in New Orleans style, marching knees high and chanting along. Dorothea Maynard was the top marcher! Traffic stopped with no complaints- they asked who we were and cheered us on. On to the Sazerac House for scrumptious New Orleans fare and of course, a sampling of the famous New Orleans drink, the Sazerac.

Another evening found us at the DKG International Educational Foundation fundraiser at Mardi Gras World. What do the kids say at the parade to get those colorful beads? "Throw me somethin' mister!" We viewed so many colorful huge float sculptures and then had another delicious dinner. A jazz band provided music and the MA contingent got the crowd dancing!

On our own we strolled down Bourbon Street to see New Orleans drummers in the streets and great restaurants. Some of us were renamed "The Hurricanes." (photo) We ate breakfast with the locals at the well-known Ruby Slipper (photo) with the locals. Buying fresh pralines, wide brimmed hats and walking with a view of the Mississippi added to a remarkable Southern experience.

## PICTURES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Northeast Regional Breakfast: L to R> Donna Brown, Gwen Miller, Lynn Howard, Carol LaPolice, Claire LaBonte, Marilyn Spedding



Back: Anita Newman, Kaaren Harrington, Gwen Miller, Claire LaBonte, Elaine Karalekas, Lynn Howard, Dorothea Maynard  
Seated: Donna Brown, Christine Bonci, Martha Cotton, Carol LaPolice





The Alpha Upsilon (MA State Organization) Representatives.  
Not pictured: Linda Stewart and Elaine Karalekas

## ***FUN ACTIVITIES IN NEW ORLEANS***







Elaine Karalekas, Linda Stewart, Carol LaPolice

2<sup>nd</sup> Line Parade: Dorothea Maynard (in Back: Linda Stewart and Claire LaBonte)



## **~~LEADERSHIP TRAINING~~ WE ARE ALL LEADERS!**

*Submitted by Jennifer Hoffer, Alpha Theta*



Back: Jill Flanders, Sheila Foley, Claire LaBonte, Jennifer Hoffer, Bette Bridges, Elaine Karalekas, Peggy Trudell  
Front: Gail Brookings, Dorothea Maynard, Donna Brown, Annette Shaw, Joyce Gleason (Not pictured: Gail Saccone)

On Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup> members of the MA State Chapter of DKG assembled at the MSAA Office in Franklin, MA for Leadership Training. The training was led by the “Golden Girls” - otherwise known as those members who have taken part in the training offered by DKGSi formerly known as Golden Gift and recently renamed as DKG Ignite. The panel was headed by Donna Brown, State Golden Gift Chair, and also included Bette Bridges, Jill Flanders, Joyce Gleason, and Dorothea Maynard, who returned from DKG Ignite just a few weeks ago.

The day consisted of much discussion about what skills are needed to be a leader, how bringing those with strengths different from your own is an asset, and how being a leader can be as simple as helping to rearrange chairs at a meeting or training. It was also pointed out that leaders need to treat their followers, especially the first follower to join their cause, as equals in order to ensure survival of the cause or organization, by a video of The Dancing Guy TED Talk. Handouts showed the difference in communication styles in those from different generations - especially Baby Boomers and Gen Xers - and how to effectively communicate with those of another generation, ways to market the organization to attract new educators, and how to create and use various forms of social media. The importance of social media and building online relationships was also touched on by member Jennifer Hoffer.

Aside from the training itself, attendees enjoyed a fabulous lunch put on by the facility and had time to network, share stories and ideas, and get to know each other better. One skill beneficial to leaders is to know those in the organization and where their strengths lie. While to the untrained eye networking may seem like no more than idle chitchat, leaders understand that the connections made and relationships formed through networking will benefit them in ways they may not even be aware of at the present time.

As educators we are used to leading those we educate. For many, being a leader outside the education setting may not seem as comfortable. It is important to remember, however, that being a leader in our organization does not necessarily need to mean taking on an office at the Chapter, State, or International level. It means being willing to pitch in, to fill a need when you see one, or offering the skills that are your strengths to someone whose strengths lie in another area. As Mat State President, Claire LaBonte, put it so succinctly and perfectly during the training, “We are all leaders!”



## *WHITE ROSE MEMORIAM*

*~~A life that touches others goes on forever~~*

### *~~BEVERLY SHAW JOHNSON~~*



Beverly Shaw Johnson will be sadly missed. Her passing on August 5th will affect many DKG sisters. She was a beautiful soul, witty and clever. Her poetry was moving and inspirational. She will always be remembered for her leadership, mentoring and loyalty to our organization.

Beverly was an extraordinary teacher and leader. She became an integral part of DKG in both Massachusetts and at the International level. Beverly became President of her chapter (Alpha Gamma) within two years, and later, President of Massachusetts State (Alpha Upsilon) from '89-'91. She was chosen for the Area II Achievement Award in '89 as well as the State Achievement Award in 2005.

Beverly was selected to attend Golden Gift, a fully paid two-week Leadership course of work at University of Texas in Austin, TX. In 1993 she served on the International Membership Committee for four years. She became Executive Secretary of Alpha Upsilon State for a five-year term, 2000-2005.

After moving to Hyannis, she joined the Zeta chapter and assumed the Presidency, working to add members to the chapter. She presented multiple workshops featuring her own poetry, later to be printed, in her manuscript "The Crow's Nest Chronicles." She wrote a Ceremony of Remembrance, with a script and handwritten hymn "Their Lives We Celebrate". The Ceremony was presented at an International Conference and Northeast Regional Conference as well as State Conventions.

Beverly taught in Sutton Elementary and moved to the High School after being given a rare Leave of Absence to get her MA in English. She became to President of the Sutton Teachers Association and later was elected to the State Mass Teachers Association Board which involved traveling to and from Boston on weekends.

Whatever she did, she did with enthusiasm and excellence.

### *~~CAROLINE KIESSLING~~*



Recent sad news is that Caroline Kiessling, Theta Chapter, passed away suddenly on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Caroline grew up in Canton and graduated from Canton High School. She attended Bates College in Maine where she graduated with a BA in Education and went on to Boston University where obtained her Master's degree. Caroline taught school in the Walpole School District for nearly 40 years in the former Bird Elementary School and the Fisher Elementary School where she touched many 3<sup>rd</sup> graders' (and their parents') lives during her tenure. She was an active member of DKG, attending many state conferences, and she was past president of Theta Chapter. Caroline will be remembered for her gentle nature, sense of humor, and dedication to her students, friends, and family.