Alpha Lambda State News

An Organization of Key Women Educators Worldwide

The Official Publication of the Vermont Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Volume 64 Number 1

Spring 2016

Ahhhh, Spring! Wintering over is done and new growth is quietly pushing outward, soon to burst forth on our shrubs and in our gardens. Daily growth may seem invisible as trees and flowers awaken from their period of dormancy. However, effects of sun, rain and warmer temperatures will soon reward us with fresh new buds.

Similarly, excitement about Alpha Lambda's Spring State Meeting has been quietly building over the winter. Soon we have a reason to travel through our lovely state, and enjoy the results of a well-deserved spring. If you have attended the state meeting in the past you know the fun of seeing the local chapter's efforts revealed in the lovely setting they prepare for us. This year Beta Chapter hosts us in Brattleboro—a richly historic location in Vermont's southeastern corner. We will gather at the Centre Congregational Church to conduct our business.

This is a day to mix and mingle with your Vermont DKG sisters. You will have the opportunity to put faces with the names you read about in chapter news, and to refresh yourself in preparation for another year of thoughtful, creative and inspiring programs at your local chapter. There are 18 new members who may be on hand for their first Spring Convention – let's all help them feel welcome at this event.

You will also meet Beth Schieber, who joins us from Okarche, Oklahoma as our International speaker. In Oklahoma, she enjoys the proximity of her six grandchildren "just down the road." Beth was a National Board Certified



English teacher, and is now retired after a 34-year career. Passionate about education, Delta Kappa Gamma, and women's leadership, she believes these three fuel both the mind and the spirit. With experience in a variety of DKG leadership roles, and having earned awards for her leadership efforts, Beth has entitled her remarks "Leadership: You, Me and the Truth."

Please plan to travel 'just down the road' to the State Convention on April 30th. Come to Brattleboro, and renew your mind and spirit.

It should be a lovely day.

Beth Schieber

Photo courtesy of DKG International

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Educational Excellence Committee (EEC)

Marcia Barron, First Vice President

Vermont passions become reality! 2015-2016 highlights of Alpha Lambda State's endeavors

We made news around the state this year for: our presence through books donated at local hospitals and pediatric offices, our "Bright Spots" awards, and a scholarship quilt raffle.

Our hands were busy: creating no-sew fleece blankets, making pillowcases and hats for Vermonters; making clothing for Haitian children. Our soup bowls combat hunger; our greeting cards elicit smiles.

We earned monies for others resulting in chapter scholarships for: a high school student entering the field of education, 3rd year college education majors, student teachers, or for an early career educator.

We shared our love of literacy: swapping beloved books with each other and enjoying rich book discussions; we collected and distributed books to encourage young readers; we strengthened family connections by providing books for incarcerated parents to read and share on cassette tapes.

Our own life-long learning continues: we toured educational programs in our area, we clarified our understanding of STEM and STEAM, and learned the impact of NGSS and Common Core; we reviewed legislative decisions impacting Vermont classrooms; arm chair presentations took us to other locales.

We supported community efforts through: Lund Family Center, Camp Daybreak, Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, the Art Bus Project, Samaritan House, Lamoille Area Cancer Network, and OUR House.

We celebrated our longevity with: Chapter anniversaries, Founder's Day events, member awards and achievements, and milestone birthdays.

Know that you have made a difference!

The excitement reflected in these programs may inspire *your* chapter leaders as you do your planning for another year of Delta Kappa Gamma activities. See you in Brattleboro!!

-mb



Alpha Lambda State Officers 2015-2017

Kitty Furman

kittyfurman@comcast.net State President

Marcia Barron

barron55@comcast.net First Vice President

Marilyn Grunewald

mlg1@aol.com Second Vice President

Mary Ann Riggie

tranquil@myfairpoint.net Recording Secretary

Photo provided by Dianne Lamb and Eta Chapter Newsletter Spring 2016

KITTY'S

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Dear Sisters,

N First in Kitty's Korner I want to encourage all Vermont DKG Chapters to

begin using the new procedure for recruiting members. Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid,

DKG International President, has introduced a very effective way to build membership. Here are the steps that comprise her Membership Plan.



- 1. Chapter members are given 'Prospect Cards,' on which the names and communication information of possible new members are recorded.
- 2. The prospect card names are brought to the attention of all the chapter members and are voted on before an invitation is sent out.
- 3. A friendly letter is sent to the new prospects inviting them to attend a brief orientation meeting to hear what DKG is all about, and enjoy a social time with refreshments.
- 4. At the orientation meeting, nominees will sit with their sponsors completing their 'prospect cards.' Their sponsors are on hand to answer any questions that might arise.
- 5. At the end of the orientation portion of the meeting it is time to invite the ladies to formally join Delta Kappa Gamma.
- 6. Plan an initiation and get your new members involved!

Gamma Chapter put this plan into action last September. Our result was the initiation of 16 ladies at our November meeting. I'm urging your chapters to try these steps for bringing in new members.

Second, I have thoroughly I enjoyed attending chapter meetings in the past months. While each chapter made local modifications to their business portion of the meeting, business is transacted in an orderly and correct fashion. Delta met in a charming one-room school house; Zeta met in an up and coming brewery / restaurant. Now that is variety for sure! Programs at each meeting provided food for thought long after the end of the program.

Finally, I'm looking forward to the International Conference in Nashville this July. I encourage each member to think about attending this convention. It's energizing to be with so many Delta Kappa Gamma women. You will hear speakers talk about education, learn what we can do to improve the education of children, to empower women, and to raise your awareness of the global goals supported by DKG.

In the meantime, I am getting ready for the drive to Brattleboro for our Spring Convention this month. Registration details are in this newsletter. If you cannot come to Brattleboro, maybe we will cross paths at the leadership training to be held in Rutland in June. I am here to support your leadership growth in DKG. Ask others how leadership training has benefitted them. And, please introduce yourself to me at any of these events.

Respectfully,

Kitty Furman, State President

Chapters Chime In

Reports of Service and Programs

Zeta Chapter News

Zeta Chapter celebrated its 50th year on September 9, 2015. Present and former state presidents Kitty Furman and Joan Kirchoff each sent their good wishes to our members.

Alice Whiting, the first initiate of newly formed Zeta in 1965, spoke of education during those early years and shared fun stories regarding the founders. Many members attended and shared items and stories of their first years of teaching-armchair travel down memory lane!

In October, Kitty and Marcia Barron attended our meeting. There were two elements of the program: Kitty on DKG's history, and how dues support our society; and Linda Ryan on the role of Samaritan House in assisting 71 homeless families in the past year. Zeta presented books and story cassettes to help start a library. A variety of health products were collected for use by these families. We enjoyed a delicious brunch.

We are excitedly planning for our 2016 meetings to be centered on the DKG seven purposes, "Pride In The Big Picture," and outreach to increase our membership.

--submitted by mb

Gamma Chapter News

Wonderfeet Kid's Museum, new in 2012, was our Sept meeting locale. Myra Peffer, museum director, provided the history and mission of this interactive museum, while inviting volunteers to assist there. We experienced the many stations available --including the toddler area, store, sand table, and the creative corner. An initiative is underway to bridge Wonderfeet with area schools with an engineering and problem solving program. Gamma member Paula Townsend has subsequently been hired to oversee this new offering!

At the October meeting at the Proctor Pittsford Country Club, Dr. David St. Germain, Chair of the Education Division at the College of St. Joseph, Gamma continues on p.6

Epsilon Chapter News

A wonderful and relaxing time was had by all who attended the brunch at Joan Kirchoff's home. The food was delicious and the time spent with special friends was priceless. Thanks Joan for the warm welcome to your home.

Following the light meal, we put DKG stickers on the 93 children's books donated for our local hospitals. Thank you to all of you who donated. The books were perfect--fiction and non-fiction, as well as representing all age groups. The books will be delivered to area hospitals.

On another note, our quilt raffle yielded over \$600 for our scholarship fund. Thanks to Judy Sherburne and everyone else who worked selling tickets at White's Market and other places. Ron Guy of Lyndonville was the quilt winner.

--submitted by Im

Beta Chapter News

October was a busy month for Beta Chapter! Our meeting, held in late October at the Dummerston School, was an opportunity to make greeting cards. Karen Barrett led this hands-on learning.

Later that same month, we held a fund-raising Bake Sale at the Exit 1 Outlet Center. Food donations and treats were "sold" by donation. The money received supports our Book Project. Those members present chatted with hungry travelers about opportunities and programs in DKG.

Beta chapter is implementing the new membership initiative this year. At our October meeting members were asked to provide contact information on one or more qualified women educators that members think might be interested in joining DKG. That's it! All you have to do is tell us about someone you know. The chapter membership committee will do the rest! We are hopeful that we will have an initiation in the spring!

-- submitted by ac

Chapters Chime In

More Reports of Service and Programs

Alpha Chapter News

Members of Alpha chapter enjoyed a very active fall! In September we enjoyed our pot-luck dinner tradition-- retired chapter members make dinner for those actively teaching. This is a treat for those busy in "back to school" mode, giving them one less thing to do and making it easier to attend the September meeting. We held our business meeting and got organized for the rest stop and scholarship fund-raising in October, where we promote DKG to interstate travelers and bank their donations for the Marion B. Thorpe Scholarship.

Also in October we celebrated Marion's 100th birthday in Burlington at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. More than 100 people attended! Alpha chapter members who made refreshments and Marion's family, church members, old friends, neighbors and UVM colleagues all stopped by to greet her. Congratulatory letters were read from several distinguished folks --President Obama, Senators Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy, Congressmen Peter Welch, Governor Peter Shumlin, and the The Right Reverend Thomas Ely- Episcopal Bishop of the Vermont Diocese. Marion loves to share memories of this wonderful day with visitors who stop by or call her at home.

Alpha continues on p.9

Eta Chapter News

Dianne Lamb and Ginny Ray greeted visitors at the DKG Booth on the 1st Day of School Fair in August. Our informational exhibit featured highlights, themes, programs and activities for the 2014-15 year for ETA Chapter. "A Journey for Life," the DKG Society International brochure was used as a recruiting tool. Contact information from more than fifteen potential members was collected. At our October membership meeting, ETA Chapter initiated: Danielle Gismondi and Eileen Zazzaro.

Eta continues on p.11

Delta Chapter News

At our January meeting twenty-two Delta members and 5 guests enjoyed a panel discussing "Trends in Education Today." The panel was comprised of a K-4 math intervention specialist, 3rd and 6th grade teachers, and a high school teacher.

The effects of the Common Core standards, the need for assessment, and concerns over the impact of testing on our schools were all discussed. "Proficiency," not what grade each student scores is the recent trend—which appears to mean much more than test scores. Proficiency is thought to better evaluate how each student is progressing. Team teaching, as it is taught at the lower grades at one of the local schools, was described. With one partner who teaches math and science while the other teaches literacy, the teachers felt that this is working well.

The presentation generated many questions from Delta members concerning how all of this works; the panel was able to address all of our concerns. After the panel left, we continued to discuss our thoughts on this style of teaching. Some could certainly can see why so many young teachers are leaving after a few years.

We have completed 13 no-sew blankets or lap robes. Recipients will be young children at The Squire House in Waterbury, or at the Central Vermont Medical Center or Gifford Hospital. It was a fun project! Big thanks go out to the following ladies for their work: Diane Blodgett, Pat Lane, Donna Legare, Cassie Major, Suzy Klinefelter, and Grace Sweet. I hope that I didn't forget anyone.

We are excited to be initiating two members into our chapter, to take place at our annual May Tea.

--submitted by cp

You are Invited...to any of these Chapter events ...across the state this spring and summer

Call a chapter member for any additional information you may need, if you are thinking of attending. Events may be pot luck or may have a meal charge. You should RSVP so the chapter would know to notify you of any last minute changes.

		Program/Highlights	Where	Hosting Chapter
Tue	May 10	Install Officers; Book Swap	to be determined	Zeta
Sat	May 14	Spring Tea; Initiation and Installation of Officers	to be determined	Delta
Tue	May 17	Installation of Officers; Marion B. Thorpe Scholarship winner attends the dinner	St. John Vianney Church So. Burlington, VT	Alpha
Tue	May 17	Bright Spots in Education	Congregational Church	Eta
			No. Bennington	
Wed	May 18	Education in Vermont	Trak Inn at Lake Bomoseen	Gamma
Mon	May 23	European River Cruise	Newport Country Club	Epsilon
Fri	Jun 24	Old Stone House Museum Tour	Brownington, VT	Epsilon
Wed	Aug 10	Our Own Antique Road Show	Four Corner School House E. Montpelier, VT	Delta

Gamma Chapter

continued from p. 4

gave an engaging talk on current brain research. Starting with a true / false questionnaire based on common beliefs on how our brains work, Professor St. Germain clarified many misconceptions, then identified good teaching practices based upon his studies.

In November we met at the Stafford Technical Center where we learned about the STEM program from our guest speaker and STEM instructor Brian Narkewicz. We toured the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classroom at Stafford. This classroom differs from a traditional classroom as this environment engages students and helps to open their minds to the possibilities in our world. This 2-year program empha-

sizes engineering design, product design, and robotics; students can earn college credits while enrolled. They learn the essentials necessary for success in today's highly skilled global economy.

Spring 2016 will be filled with business, the Soup Bowls project, fund raising and selection for the student teacher award, and election of new officers. We plan to host another membership drive in April with initiation in May. Upcoming programs offer flower arranging and a visit from Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont's Education Commissioner. With summer comes Gamma's planning for the 201617 year, Alpha Lambda's leadership meeting, and a trip to Nashville, TN for the International Convention. Talk about busy!!!

--submitted by mb

Alpha Lambda State Organization The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

STATE SPRING CONVENTION

Please join DKG members from around Vermont on April 30, 2016 for our Annual Spring Convention hosted by Beta Chapter

Centre Congregational Church 193 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont

Registration 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Lunch will be catered by The Vermont Country Deli:

- Tuscan Herb Grilled Chicken (gluten free)
- Tortellini Primavera (vegetarian)
- Broccoli with Slow Roasted Garlic and Olive Oil (vegan, gluten free)
- Chopped Garden Salad (vegan, gluten free)
- Homemade Rolls and Butter
- Founders Day Cake
- Coffee, tea, water

Registration: Cost is \$30.00 per person, due no later than April 22, 2016

Please use the form below; print or copy this page if you prefer.

Executive Board Meeting Friday April 29, 2016 7:00 p.m.

at Centre Congregational Church Desserts, coffee and tea will be served

Hotel Reservations: Hampton Inn, 1378 Putney Road, Brattleboro. We have a block of rooms available at \$129.00 plus tax for Friday evening. Please call 1-802-254-5700 and ask for the DKG Convention room block. Reservations due by April 1, 2016 to be assured of this rate.

SUGGESTION: Set your printer to print p. 7 since payment is due with your registration - rather than cutting this out and print p. 8 of this newsletter for helpful driving and parking information you might need.

	Marion Daley PO E	Sox 445 Putney, VT 05346-0455	
Name		Chapter	
Address			
Email Address			

You may want to bring this driving information to the meeting:

Directions to Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main Street, Brattleboro

From the North: Take Exit 3 off I-91. Go South on Putney Road (Route 5) toward Main Street. The church is on the left, opposite the Post Office. Centre Church is the only tall white church on Main Street!

From the West: Take Route 9 to downtown Brattleboro. Turn left at the traffic light at the intersection of Main Street. The church is on your right.

On Saturday, please park in the Harris Place parking lot--one street up from the church, next to the TD Bank. This is a metered lot (pay at the kiosk) very close to the church. The cost is 30 cents per hour, so you would pay \$2.40 for an 8-hour day. Quarters, dimes and nickels are required. Parking fees must be paid from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The meters on Main Street can be used; they cost more per hour than using the TD Bank parking.

If you are staying over Friday night, here are directions to **Hampton Inn, 1378 Putney Road, Brattleboro

Use Exit 3 off I-91, go north on Putney Road (Route 5) about half a mile. The Hampton Inn is on your left.

From Hampton Inn to the meeting site is just a short drive, south - Google maps says under 15 minutes. Follow Route 5 toward Main Street; the church will be on the left, opposite the Post Office.

Parking: On Friday evening you may park behind the church in the small church parking lot or in the bank parking lots on either side of the church. You may park in metered spaces after 6:00 p.m. for free.



Beta Chapter is proud to announce that Megan Boraski has received our Support for Early Career Educator's Award for 2015. Megan is a Speech and Language Professional at Academy School in Brattleboro and Guilford Central School. This is Megan's first year of teaching!

Alice Carrier, Beta Chapter President, and Judy Abascal, Educational Excellence Committee member, visited Megan and presented her with a certificate worth \$100. This is to purchase materials to support her teaching and for classroom supplies.

We are pleased to help Megan in this way!

--*ac*

Leaders are

Lively
Efficient
Appreciative
Diplomatic
Encouraging
Relaxed
Spectacular

Alpha Chapter

continued from p. 5

In November, student Briana McCarthy of Burlington High School hand delivered 120 completed garments, including dresses, boxers and skirts in Haiti. Alpha chapter was assisted by many other chapters in this effort. These items were received with gratitude. We thank Gay Craig for holding a sewing session in her home. Jan Hughes spear-headed this project most successfully.

Our Holiday gathering in December was well attended. Our chapter gathered books for the Kids Apart program of the Lund Home, for a second year. Kids Apart maintains connections between mothers who are incarcerated and their children through a literacy-based effort. Our chapter supplies quality books for the mothers to record on cassette tapes, and then the books and recordings are sent to their children. We gathered and donated more than 120 books.

-- submitted by ce

Leadership Training

Audience:

- -Chapter officers
- -State officers
- -Alpha Lambda Ex. Board members

Content:

- -Leadership Skills, Networking-Roles /Responsibilities of officers
- -Roles/Responsibilities of Board Members

Date: June 22 Time: 9:45-2:00

Place: Leahy Conference Center within

Rutland Regional Medical Center

160 Allen Street Rutland, Vermont

All DKG members are welcome. Here you can network with members across the state. Past attendees find these trainings very beneficial as they undertake new roles in their chapters and our state organization.

Please email no later than June 1, 2016 to confirm your attendance.

Emails to Marilyn Grunewald: mlg1@aol.com US mail 729 Maquam Shore Rd. Swanton, VT 05488

Name:
Chapter:
Email:
Cell Phone:

Cost: Please bring some cash in case we order lunch at the meeting site.

Hope to see you all there. Directions to the site and parking will be explained in a confirming email.

(Copy this page to submit registration.)

DKG Educational Foundation Hosts Nashville Event at the Wildhorse

Dust off your western wear and boots as you pack for Nashville this summer! The DKG Educational Foundation (DKGEF) will sponsor **Call Me Country** at the world-famous **Wildhorse Saloon** during the 2016 DKG International Convention. All DKG members and their guests are urged to purchase tickets when registering for the convention, either online (www.dkg.org) or using the registration form found in the Jan./Feb. issue of the DKG News.

Plan to spend Thursday evening, July 7th in the **Wildhorse Saloon** located in the heart of Nashville's entertainment district. This three-level historic warehouse has been converted into a 66,000 sq. ft. country music dance hall, restaurant, concert hall, and TV production site. Horse sculptures and murals dominate the décor with many positions for optimal "selfie" opportunities! The extensive "all-you-can-eat" buffet on levels two and three features award-winning BBQ selections and numerous side dishes.

The first floor features space for performances by a live band and a DJ, as well as line dance instruction for those wanting to kick up their heels. Besides dining seating, the second and third floors include cash bars and a variety of entertainment venues ranging from billiards to shuffle board to big screen TVs. Use your visit to the **Wildhorse** as an opportunity to wander in and out of all the famous clubs and shops located in the area – with a ride home to the Opryland Hotel provided at your convenience.

Your ticket (\$165) includes:

- transportation (buses will run every 20 minutes between the Wildhorse Saloon and the Opryland Hotel)
- access to all levels and activities
- entertainment DJ, live band, line dance instruction, dance floor
- dinner buffet
- a tax deductible donation to the Foundation

Purchase tickets for the DKGEF *Call Me Country* event on the Convention Registration Form and join your friends for a "get-down good time" at the **Wildhorse** in Nashville!



Photo: visitmusiccity.com



Our Initiates 2015-2016

Theresa Czachor	Gamma
Deb Dauphinais	Gamma
Cathy Ferraro	Gamma
Danielle Gismondi	Eta
Beth Greeno	Gamma
Tegan Kirk-Elkin	Gamma
Meghan Martelle	Gamma
Karen Prescott	Gamma
Jackie Proulx	Gamma
Pam Reed	Gamma
Lindsey Riter	Gamma
Marge Salmon	Gamma
Cynthia Sheehan	Gamma
Christina Sweet	Gamma
Bev Tredtin	Gamma
Marsha Turner	Gamma
Rachel Valcour	Gamma
Eileen Zazzaro	Eta

Please welcome any new sisters who attend the State Convention in Brattleboro.



Donna Stone pins new member Danielle Gismondi
Photo: Dianne Lamb

ETA chapter

Continued from p.5

ETA members were treated to guided tours of the facilities at the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center. CDC Director and Superintendent Michael Lawler informed the group of the many courses offered including: Building Trades, Cosmetology, Computer Science, Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Law Enforcement, Forestry & Heavy Equipment, Theater Arts, and Human Services. We learned of course options available to adults on site or online. CDC Student Guides led us through the facility to see classrooms, tools, equipment and technology available for student training.

Norma McShane and Pat Lafontaine, and their band of elves, transformed the meeting room into a cozy and relaxing space to mingle and converse with members, new initiates, and guests! Ginny Ray, Program Excellence Chair and her committee Pat Lafontaine, Norma McShane, and Donna Stone presented a skit on Bright Spots –STEAM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts & Math).

Quantum Leap Exhibit Program is our Community Service Project this year. QL is an academic reengagement program for high school students that emphasizes project based learning utilizing research, writing, the arts, and media literacy. We have collected school supplies and will make a monetary donation for field trip expenses.

--submitted by dl

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Alpha Lambda State Newsletter Jan E. Hughes, Editor jeh8719@gmail.com 75 Pine Tree Terrace So. Burlington, VT 05403

Address changes to: Delta Kappa Gamma Society International P.O. Box 1589 Austin, TX 78767-1589

Dates to remember				
April 1	Reservation deadline for Brattleboro / Hampton Inn State Spring Convention 2016; details on p. 7			
April 20	Registration deadline for Alpha Lambda State Spring Convention 2016; Form and information on p. 7			
April 29	Spring Executive Board Meeting; Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro, VT 7:00 p.m. Friday night. Desserts, coffee and tea to be served. Dinner on your own.			
April 30	STATE SPRING CONVENTION 2016, Brattleboro 8:30-9:30 a.m. Registration At this Saturday event, we recognize each chapter's "Woman of Distinction" and our State Achievement Award winner. Come and be inspired by these role models in our organization.			
June 1	Registration deadline for Leadership Training Event 2016 See the form inside – p. 9 Any questions: mlg1@aol.com			
June 22	Leadership Training Event, Leahy Conference Center, 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT This Wednesday training is designed for all Chapter Officers and is especially beneficial if you are newly elected to your position. You will meet your sister officers (those in the same officer position as yours) from across the state, so you will leave the day with a strong network of support for the role you have taken on.			
July 5-9 2016	DKG International Conference – a biennial event – Nashville, TN Details at DKG.org Events tab			
July 12-14 2017	Northeast Regional Conference (for the long range planners in the group) Caesar's Resort and Convention Center Windsor, Ontario			