

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 2

Fall 2016

Step Up to Leadership in DKG

A *Harvard Business Review* article says of women and leadership that three things impede women as leaders. Women are either 1 - not capable, 2 - not interested, or 3 - unable to break the glass ceiling. Your selection as a DKG member shows you *are* a capable, leading educator. In this organization there are no gender barriers to any consideration for leadership roles, unlike the early history of leadership in fraternal organizations such as Rotary or Elks. So, I guess you need to decide if you are interested. Or as Marcia Barron quotes a convention speaker, "Are you in or are you out?"

DKG is a dynamic, forward-thinking organization where you can determine what educational degree you seek, what presentation or workshop you might share at a conference or convention, what chapter or state office matches your skills. Further, you can select a "stretch goal"-- one just beyond your skill set, and DKG mentors will support your growth.

DKG is a unique place for women to test themselves as leaders, and to advance through a series of leadership positions. In DKG there is **no** gender barrier to moving up through the educational ranks or the leadership ranks, or both! Monies exist to support on-going educational goals, and to hone leadership and management skills. Scholarships were established by founder Annie Webb Blanton to support women in attaining post-baccalaureate degrees. Specifically, Dr. Blanton's Purpose #5 reads "to endow scholarships to aid outstanding educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators." Alpha Lambda alumnae have generously given money to support DKG's Golden Gift Fund -- money that you can use toward reaching your goals.

Alpha Lambda has welcomed several new members recently. Your local chapter needs interested and committed members to fill its committees and officer roles. When a nominating committee member calls you for one of these roles, think before you answer them. Being in a chapter leadership role will deepen your DKG experience. You will come to know your chapter sisters more closely, and you will be in position to assist chapter officers in developing an annual program of work and service activities which interest you and which entice the active participation of your chapter members. A committee member or chapter officer role is a stepping-stone to continued levels of leadership.

Angela Duckworth is an oft-quoted author and leadership expert on developing "grit." She spoke early in the summer of her family rule that each per-



Maggie Rafter showing off the courtyard view at the Gaylord Hotel in Nashville, TN.

Photo by Brenda Walker, of NH

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Reflections from Nashville Tennessee

DKG International Convention, 2016

--Marcia Barron, First Vice President

If you've ever considered going to a summer DKG meeting, set a goal to do so. If you've not ever thought about it, let me tell you a little about my experience this summer. Delta Kappa Gamma is filled with opportunities for personal growth and professional development. Come to a regional or international meeting, and see more of your organization at work. Growing in either area doesn't stop even after retirement, though your focus may shift.

Visit a new area of the United States. *When you attend a Regional Conference or an International Convention, you have the chance to visit that locale by going on tours or sightseeing nearby landmarks. This year I was able to visit downtown Nashville, walk and shop on Broadway, eat barbeque at Jack's, dance at Tootsie's, tour the Ryman Auditorium and the County Music Hall of Fame, view their Bicentennial Park and Parthenon. Also a small VT group toured Backstage at the Grand Old Opry and more attended a show there. Finally, I went to the Hermitage to enjoy the estate of Andrew and Rachel Jackson. Nashville people are delightful and welcoming; the sights and sounds of their city were similarly charming.

Learn about DKG from "those in the know" regarding Society business. *General Sessions are where business is taken care of, keynotes are given, music and awards are presented. You get to see the executive board and the headquarters staff in action. Each year I go, different elements make an impression. There is so much in which to partake you have to prioritize between offered events, and miss out on some of what is going on. Others in the state delegation may choose differently, later filling you in on their experiences and high note memories

- The keynote by Kai Kight inspired me to be myself and to have the courage to make my own music.
- Mike Figliuolo's keynote guided me to explore who I am and what I believe in order to make my leadership true and authentic to our members.
- Judith Viorst dazzled me with her humor, her poetry, and her down to earth understanding of life's passages through its many stages.
- This year I got to vote on three proposed amendments after listening to members give pros, cons and ask clarifying questions. I saw the timekeeper in action. I was enthralled with observing the process as one amendment was defeated. It was a wonderful, practical look at parliamentary procedure!
- When Kathy Daugherty received the prestigious INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, her unbridled joy and appreciation affected all present.
- The DKG "Friend of Education Award" was given to The Country Music Hall of Fame for their educational programs, so we were treated to beautiful lyrics written by a local student, set to music and professionally performed. How cool it was to be able to connect my tour experience with the person receiving the award on behalf of the museum!
- During the week I heard many varieties of music! Country music, opera, folk, and a 50's medley. Poetry was spoken and performed.

Reflections Barron continues p.4



Marcia, Sandy, Pat, Kitty, Caroline, Maggie, and Carol of VT plus Sheila Mable of NH gather before a night on the town in Nashville. Photo by Brenda Walker, of NH

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KITTY'S

**O
R**

Good day DKG sisters,

**N
E**

I am delighted to touch base with you and talk about what's happening with DKG in Vermont and internationally.

R

It was a warm spring day for Alpha Lambda State's Convention in Brattleboro at the beautiful Centre Congregational Church. Beta Chapter did an excellent job with all the details of an evening Executive Board meeting, and the day long convention on Saturday. Food there was a real treat, and renewing our relationships across the state was revitalizing! Thank you Beta sisters for the teamwork you displayed. Your hosted a terrific event!



SW Regional Director Beth Schieber spoke to us of Vermont achievements such as the successful use of the membership procedure. She spoke with humor about seeking leadership opportunities in DKG, rather than letting others always take that role. She encouraged us to continue working with the goals of DKG and to continue to fit those goals to our local programs. By the end of the day we had developed a warm friendship with Beth, an Oklahoman, who was enjoying her first trip to Vermont. Thanks to Mary Calder for hosting Beth overnight, for fitting in a bit of sight-seeing in Chittenden County, and for providing round-trip transportation from Burlington to Brattleboro.

Our VT Leadership Workshop for chapter officers and committee chairs was held in Rutland during June. Every chapter had members in attendance! We increased our depth of understanding of each officer's and committees' roles. Molly Burke was a wonder on the importance of parliamentary procedure--not a role for the reticent! Varied lunch options and a Global Awareness mixer activity encouraged new friendships. Many left with a new colleague contact who shares their role in another chapter. Hats off to Marilyn Grunewald for a job well done.

In July a group of nine Vermonters traveled to Nashville to attend the DKG International Convention, held in the Gaylord Hotel. This site is a huge complex of rooms, eateries, and shops surrounded by topiary tropical plants, waterfalls and canals. You could stay there an entire week and never have to go outside into the sweltering heat. Tennessee did a magnificent job of organizing the convention.

The five-day event included keynote speaker Mike Figliuolo, founder of thoughtLEADERS™ and author of *One Piece of Paper*. Mr. Figliuolo offered DKG members effective steps in "Leading the Thinking: Setting Direction and Driving Actions for Your Team." Other speakers included classical violinist turned innovative composer, Kai Kight, who inspired attendees to compose unique ideas in a world that celebrates conformity. Author of the well-known *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, Judith Viorst, gave members her "Life Lessons from Under Eight Till over Eighty"-- what we've learned or need to learn to help us develop and grow over the decades. We also heard from CTO (T is for Transformation Officer) of the Girl Scouts organization Natalye Paquin, Esq. DKG is developing a collaborative partnership with GSUSA which will allow young women to earn a special patch in recognition of their work with a DKG chapter. I can't think of a better way to encourage young women in a positive manner and to introduce them to Delta Kappa Gamma. Efforts have begun with contacts in Chittenden County reaching out to the GS council of the Green and White Mountains.

As the weather turns to fall, and we are about to begin our new year of DKG programs and activities, let us always remember how fortunate we are to have our strong network of remarkable women who reach out to those whom we may be able to help. Have a great DKG year!

Fondly,

Kitty Furman, State President

Leadership Chimes In

Inspiration and Initiatives for Your Consideration

Reflections Barron continued from p.2

Experience professional and personal growth. *Varied session lengths resulted in nearly 200 opportunities for attendees. Each session was categorized by a corresponding EEC goal. Jessica Donze Black's advocacy message to me was "Stand up for what is right, even if you are going to lose the fight." The legislative process is slow and cyclical; you will have to hang in there for the long haul as the cycle will come around again. Dr. Elizabeth Varney of Virginia posed the question "Am I in or am I out?" Speaking to "Engage Members through Inclusive Leadership" her reminder was that members should not have to change to fit in; we need to help members feel they belong and are appreciated for who they are.

Give or receive financial support. *Delta Kappa Gamma financially supports many around the globe through our members' generosity. Some examples; 1-Scholarships for post graduate study, and project grants through the Educational Foundation. 2-Funds for women educators around the globe to further their education through the World Fellowship fund. Recently two of the recipients were enrolled at St. Michael's College in Colchester; they were invited to Alpha Chapter meetings, and our state conventions. This was a chance to see our generosity in action. 3-\$500 to any member who suffers from a natural disaster. Vermonters were beneficiaries after Hurricane Katrina. Our Northeast Regional breakfast attendees donated over \$6,000 to this Emergency fund recently. 4-Schools for Africa is supported through our partnership with UNICEF: \$45,000 of support was raised in the first half of 2016 alone, \$320,000 since initiating this partnership in 1998.

Enjoy fellowship. *Making new friends has been an important piece of my involvement in DKG. By participating on committees and working on projects I have formed strong bonds and strengthened the meaning of my membership. There was an attendance of over 1,700 women in Nashville. Not only do you meet women from many other states and countries, you get to know your Alpha Lambda state sisters on a deeper level. Each experience makes me a different person and encourages me to set new goals.

I hope you will consider attending a summer DKG opportunity. Next up for our region—Windsor, Ontario, July 2017. One Alpha chapter member is considering

the European Regional meeting in Estonia! The next International location will be Austin, Texas in 2018—the same location as the first convention in May, 1930.

Can we count you in for one or more of these upcoming meetings? I'd love to see you there! #mb



GSUS and DKG

Girl Scouts and Delta Kappa Gamma. Is there a connection? Should there be a connection? Our sisters in Zeta Chapter of San Antonio, Texas, think yes. They have created a curriculum and designed a patch to mark inter-organizational activities.

The curriculum involves Girls Scouts learning about the history of their founder and ours. It invites them to learn about the roles of women educators through job shadows, and they are encouraged to consider these roles for their own future. Legislation relevant to school policy, and the legislators who propose these initiatives, are also introduced to the scouts. Finally, activities link service projects to the needs of classrooms or schools.

Are you a Girl Scout alumnae *and* a DKG member? Are you a woman interested in expanding your role as a mentor to girls? We are about to begin a conversation to determine how we might connect with young girls and young women in our area. At this time Vermont and NH are one scout council - GS of the Green and White Mountains. So, maybe this is an even wider discussion, needing input from our sisters in New Hampshire. Please join this effort.

Let's talk! Contact drstory84@yahoo.com to brainstorm ideas to begin this discussion.

~submitted by Dr. Carol Story

Chapter by Chapter

Leadership Modeling Awards, Honors, Scholarships

Zeta Chapter News

In her retirement **Marilyn Grunewald** makes ongoing use of her leadership skills. She led the June officers' training in Rutland, and has helped to establish the annual "We Can: Women's Expo and Conference" of Franklin county.

Alpha Chapter News

Fran Brock, continues co-chairing the NEASC committee at Burlington HS through the site visit this November. Plus, she was elected President of the Burlington Education Association. You may have read or heard Fran's replies to the media about Burlington teacher contract issues.

Beth Evans, ELL teacher in Burlington schools and Alpha's newest member, is developing an Alpha Chapter web site.

Eta Chapter News

Great press coverage via the Bennington Banner, and the efforts of **Dianne Lamb**, for all of Alpha Lambda since three honorees at the Spring Convention were from our south west region!

Susan Green, Eta member, was selected for the Evelyn Debrune Springstead Music Award, and was introduced to us as one "who gives her heart and soul to advancing musical opportunities for her students and the community." She is a very dedicated teacher at the Shaftsbury Elementary School, who delights in both music and children!

Kenneth and Joyce Held, a husband and wife team, received the Outstanding Service to Education Award for their commitment to bring the excitement of local history to youth in Pownal. They helped write a brief history of Pownal which will assist future historians and researchers studying the area. They have made a multi-year commitment to the youth in their region, and plan further histories of local interest.

Epsilon Chapter News

A standing ovation and cheers greeted the announcement of **Joan Kirchoff** as recipient of Alpha Lambda's Outstanding Achievement Award. Joan served in many chapter roles which prepared her to rise to the challenge of a biennium as State President from 2013-2015.

Epsilon announces their Woman of Distinction for 2016, **Judy Sherburne**. Notable among her accomplishments, Judy has a key role in the annual scholarship fundraising done by the chapter. This results in a \$500 award to an education major; **Jennifer Miller**, a life-long resident of Lyndonville and a junior at Lyndon College, was the recipient.

Delta Chapter News

Three members from Delta chapter represented Vermont in Nashville--**Pat Lane**, **Caroline Pellon** and **Sandy Wells**. Each of these women has found various leadership roles that match their interests here in Vermont. Presently Pat is your Corresponding Secretary. She welcomes all member news so that timely correspondence can be sent.

Gamma Chapter News

Kitty Furman and **Marcia Barron** were in Nashville this summer, getting renewed for their leadership roles. **Carol Barbagallo**, state Membership Chair, attended as well. Carol organizes our annual Service of Remembrance. A truly lovely version of this ceremony occurs at the International Conventions. **Julie Fox**, tireless participant in Soup Bowls and in the women's shelter project, and treasurer extraordinaire received Gamma's Woman of Distinction award this year.

Beta Chapter News

Karen Duggan received the Madelyn Moore Employee of the Year distinction for Windsor SE Supervisory Union. Congratulations, Karen!



Photo courtesy of
University of Vermont

Dr. Marion H. Brown Thorpe 1915-2016

Our dear Marion loved DKG!

Marion was a mentor to many, a terrific voice of encouragement and an exemplar of participation in our organization, all across the state. Marion was noticed early for membership in Delta Kappa Gamma, which was an honor she did not take lightly over her many years of membership. It deeply affected her that another person recognized her potential, and brought her name forward for consideration as a member. By becoming a member in her 30's and then living past her centennial year, Marion enjoyed nearly seven decades of membership!

If you crossed her path, Marion likely made your acquaintance. Renowned for meeting people all through her life, and making her "next new friend" at any opportunity, Marion was a role model for the sisterhood purpose of DKG. She led us in her World Fellowship collection efforts and served for many years on the Executive Board. She basked in the honor of her long membership at the 2009 NE Regional Conference in Burlington, and shared tea with others long time members who were present. She rose to the occasion as a speaker at both a UVM graduation and the Vermont NE Regional meeting. She was awarded an honorary doctorate at UVM, though for many she continues to be Miss Brown in our memories. Her sparkling eyes and bright smile welcomed all who took the time to know her better.

Behind the scenes she was known to fund a bit of fun for those who traveled to Regional Conferences or International Conventions. We thanked her from NYC with a postcard shower. Her postal delivery person certainly knew Marion was loved by many! In 2013, Marion made a more substantial and more public gift of \$10,000 to support the Golden Gift Fund at the international level - to support women seeking leadership, management and communication training. Her gift is commemorated on the *Wall of Roses* at Society Headquarters in Austin, Texas.

Late in June, we assembled again at the site of her 100th Birthday High Tea--her home church was the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. The throne which had been created to raise her up to help her greet her guests was missing, of course. But, in the room, so many of those attending were the same faces. Colleagues from UVM, sisters from DKG, her extended family through marriage, her former students, friends, neighbors, and her church family were present. At the birthday tea, Marion took such delight in looking across the room at the many folks there who knew one another beyond their connection through her.

The reality of Marion herself being gone from us still needs time to sink in. Her daily phone family still expects she is just a phone call away. To replace Marion's mentorship, and her warm, genuine smile, will take all of us reaching out to one another in her place across our DKG chapters. We were so lucky to have loved, and to have been loved, by her!

-mg, cb, jeh

Friends--

Marion often repeated this quote,
a great reminder of how dear relationships are:

"To the world you may be one person;
but to one person you may be the world."

*Please know that your outreach to Marion
whether by cards or letters, thoughts and prayers,
phone calls or visits were greatly appreciated.*

*This outreach during her last months
brightened her days.*

Leadership continued from p.1

son, of any age in their family, does a hard thing over the summer. An alternative way to think of this, they each do a “stretch thing.” This can be learning a musical instrument, trying a foreign language, or setting a challenging reading goal -- with specifics beyond your usual favorite genre, or volunteering where you are needed and where the work may be difficult. Choosing leadership roles in DKG is a great place to set “stretch goals” for yourself. Start with a committee or office that seems like an easy match for you. Then, when another nominating cycle comes around -- ask yourself what role would stretch you as a DKG member? Is it time to step up to chapter leadership? Could you take on a role on the state Executive Board? With mentoring and guidance, your starting skill set could grow well beyond your comfort zone.

When the NE Regional was held in VT in 2009, Vermonters stepped into a variety of new roles. The upcoming regional meeting in Ontario, 2017, allows enough time for one or more Vermonters to develop programs or workshops to share at the regional level. Consider a stretch goal to make this happen next summer. Like-minded women will support your efforts. A chapter presentation will allow you to polish your ideas now, to be ready for Ontario, and a larger audience.

IN MEMORIAM

*These three sisters were honored
at the Service of Remembrance
in April 2016.*

**Myrtle Boyden
Fannie Horst
Doris Underwood**



Our Recent Initiates

Nancy Aiken	Epsilon
Deb Benning	Epsilon
Megan Boranski	Beta
Claire Bornarth	Gamma
Eileen Bride	Gamma
Susanne Engels	Gamma
Elizabeth Evans	Alpha
Nicole Forest (reinstated)	Eta
Susan Hogan	Gamma
Loren L. Hubbell	Epsilon
Nicole Joyce	Gamma
Beth McReynolds	Gamma
Karen Nawn-Fahey	Gamma
Christine Papandrea	Gamma
Christine Pereira	Beta
(transfer from Florida)	
Madeline Pritchard	Gamma
Deborah Sanborn	Gamma
Wendy Ann Savery	Gamma
Deanna Wesley	Epsilon

Leadership conclusion.

Consider being more deeply “in” within DKG. Experience the potential of this organization at the national and international level. Enjoy the company and mentorship of leading women educators to meet your goals. It is okay to do a thing that scares you. Don’t we all feel some of that in front of a classroom? Performance anxiety is a good thing--your heart beats faster, your breath may quicken, and soon you find your rhythm.

You can do it!

~jeh

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Important Dates to remember

February 1 2017	Deadline for submissions to the Alpha Lambda Newsletter (Please use newsletter on the email subject line of each submission.)
February 4 2017	Winter Executive Board Meeting; Rutland, Vermont (Hold Feb 11 as a possible snow date, if needed.)
Mid April 2017	Registration deadline for Alpha Lambda State Spring Convention 2017 Full details in the Spring 2017 newsletter.
April 28 2017	Spring Executive Board Meeting; Bennington, Vermont 7:00 p.m. Friday night
April 29 2017	STATE SPRING CONVENTION 2017 Second Congregational Church, Bennington, Vermont
June 1 2017	Registration deadline for annual Leadership Training Event 2017
Late June 2017	Leadership Training Event Details in the spring newsletter.
July 12-14 2017	NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE Caesar's Resort and Convention Center, Windsor, Ontario
July 24-29 2017	EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE -- for those who want to see the world! Tallin, Estonia
July 16-20 2018	DKG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Austin, Texas