

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

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Spring 2017

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD: DISCOVER, COLLABORATE, TAKE ACTION

Eta sisters are thrilled to invite all of Alpha Lambda State to attend the Spring Convention in Bennington on April 29, 2017. The focus is to celebrate women making a difference--women taking action to change the status quo. The schedule for the day includes two workshops options and a keynote speaker to engage you on educational issues of importance. In addition, we will hold our annual business meeting, a service of remembrance and elections of state officers for the next biennium.

Our speakers represent a range of educational insight and knowledge across the life span. From pre-K years through college, a variety of both educational institutions and educators are critically involved in the success of young people. With much anticipation we are looking forward to remarks from Kate Abbott, Director of Early Childhood Programs at Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union and Jeannie Jenkins, Coordinator of Academic Services at Community College of Vermont/Bennington. You will have a choice of one of these morning presentations.

Dr. Mariko Silver, president of Bennington College, will present our keynote address. Her evolving leadership style, and the challenges she faces as a working mother of two toddlers, have been highlighted in recent articles in both *Psychology Today* and *Working Mother* magazines. Her remarks may draw on her service within the Obama administration or from her role as policy advisor to then Arizona governor Janet Napolitano. Your newsfeed on women and leadership may have alerted you to this talented leader in our midst.

A catered luncheon buffet of Roast Chicken or Stuffed Portabello Mushrooms, with side dishes, is under the direction of Jamie Schmidt and will be prepared by senior students in the culinary program at the Career Development Center in Bennington. The founder's ceremony, cake and coffee complete our luncheon.

Are you considering attending your first spring convention? Please do so down in beautiful Bennington on Saturday, April 29, at the Second Congregational Church on 115 Hillside Street. Discover sisters from all parts of Vermont. Hear chapter achievements and program ideas while enjoying our luncheon. Collaborate with those present, and re-excite yourself for your present--or your next--role in DKG! We are energized to share with you what is happening in southwestern Vermont.

Enjoy an April day to travel to our corner of the state. Please come see what we have planned for you! ##

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM IS ON P. 5,
OR USE THE ONE RECEIVED VIA EMAIL.
BYLAW CHANGES AND TRAVEL DIRECTIONS
ARE FOUND ON THE INSERT PAGE.

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Educational Excellence Committee Report (EEC)
Marcia Barron, First Vice President

The Educational Excellence Committee set three goals for our society. Here are ways that Alpha Lambda State met those goals, as reported in chapter reports to the Executive Board at the Winter meeting.

Goal #1 Empowering women through leadership opportunities

So many chapters provide financial support of others as a way to support leadership development! Across the state chapters report scholarships for those accepted to college (Eta), awards for juniors or seniors completing a bachelor’s level education program, (Alpha, Epsilon) -- also called future teacher grants (Gamma) -- and awards for Early Career Educators or established teachers in our state (Beta)! Eta’s Bright Spots in Education honors STEM education in their area, and possibly identifies next generation teachers for membership. Congratulations to Alpha Lambda state on supporting those who will be our future teacher-leaders. From Founder’s Day events (Epsilon, Zeta) to member recognition (Eta, Epsilon) to our many chapter programs (all) and state convention planning (Eta) we honor a legacy of past leadership, practice local leadership, mentor new officers, and strategize our future as leaders. Eta Chapter’s Executive Team approach is particularly noteworthy. Holding traditional offices held little appeal for members, so the Team approach was developed by the chapter to carry out their goals and programs. Together the Team invests time, communicates openly, and expresses appreciation to one another. Eta chapter finds the Team approach keeps all invested in their chapter outcomes. They did this while managing the responsibility of planning the state convention!

Goal #2 Engaging educators in purposeful programs and projects

I delight in reading about the rich and exciting programs our chapters develop across Vermont, and I recognize how much the content of our programs has changed as the youth in our schools are changing! Active teachers are well aware of the increased stresses on students before they ever arrive at school. Those stressors are reflected in programs which illustrate the complex nature of life in today’s families. Kids-A-Part (Alpha) links incarcerated moms with their children through books read on cassette tape by Mom; Guardians Ad Litem (Zeta) are the individuals in a courtroom who speak for the needs of a child--which differ from the needs of Mom and Dad; families who are food insecure (Beta, Alpha, Gamma) or homeless (Zeta) cannot send kids to school ready to focus on school work. Home schooling (Delta) is chosen by some families who see burdensome demands on teachers in the average classroom; the Department of Children and Families (Delta) works hard to support the ever-growing needs of Vermont children. It is so sad to realize the struggles that face teachers when a class of youngsters gathers for the day--before instruction even begins! Knowledge of the issues has to precede action; chapters then create responsive projects

EEC Report Continued p. 4

- Educational excellence is created during
our program planning each year by:
- Empowering women through leadership
- Engaging members through purposeful
programs and projects
- Creating global involvement

Alpha Lambda State Officers
2015-2017

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KITTY’S
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Dear Sisters,

I find myself reflecting back on my biennium as winter still holds us in its grip. Last year was a productive one for me as your Alpha Lambda state president. I was fortunate to visit five of Vermont’s seven chapters. Interestingly, I found that as much as these chapters are different from one another, they are also very similar. My role at each meeting was to present a brief overview of the member benefits supported by our International dues. Then, I was treated to a variety of well-planned, relevant and thought-provoking chapter programs.

I visited Delta chapter in the Four Corners School in E. Montpelier, a wonderful one-room schoolhouse that continues to serve the community in many ways. Pat Lane, a Delta member, remembers teaching in this schoolhouse. Their meeting focus was the “Art Bus” – a bus stocked with art supplies which travels the area providing art activities youth would not otherwise receive. What a creative way to enrich local children!

My visit to Zeta chapter was held in a microbrewery in St. Albans. The speaker at this meeting focused on resources to assist individuals experiencing poverty or homelessness in the Franklin County region. Credit rebuilding, financial management skills, and support to find or maintain jobs are each offered. What an eye-opener! We learned of the many volunteers who are working to make sure that homeless folks have a warm and safe place to stay.

When visiting Epsilon chapter in Lyndonville I was pleased to see the connection between DKG and Lyndon State College. Their program speaker was Pat Shine, professor of Human Services at the college. Her topic was “Kindness Matters,” elaborating on the theme that Nancy James has chosen as the focus of her biennium. Epsilon members strive to encourage and model kindness at every opportunity.

Alpha chapter’s program featured former chapter member Sheila Mable as their speaker. Sheila is now president of New Hampshire DKG. She shared a riveting account of overcoming a number of difficult obstacles in her younger years. These were stories she did not tell others during her early teaching, and they are life circumstances you seldom hear others speak of. Later she came to believe that “we all have stories, and it is important to share our stories with others.” That belief brought forth some tremendous writing from her students. A selection of student writing was shared with the group.

At my local chapter, Gamma, I was pleased to be included in the August meeting. Typically this is our relaxed and informal get-together. The meeting was set up so that working teachers were invited to a brunch where I could share my remarks; then folks headed off to their respective schools to get ready for the opening day of school.

My visits to Brattleboro and Bennington are incorporated in my attending the two Spring Conventions. These are two hardworking chapters! They diligently planned for hosting you in 2016 and 2017. Beta chapter’s convention is remembered for wonderful music, an invigorating speaker from International, plus terrific food. Alice Carrier proudly welcomed us to her church, our meeting site for the day. Alice will be missed for her dedication and incredible work ethic on behalf of DKG. I extend my

Kitty’s Korner Continued on p. 7



--book drives to support families waiting for services in hospitals, courts, or shelters (Beta, Epsilon), and to link incarcerated moms with their kids (Alpha); Soup Bowls for Hunger (Gamma) and Feed the Thousands (Beta) projects generate support for local food shelves and the families they serve; toiletries (Zeta) are provided for homeless individuals. Needs are great and we are providing thousands of dollars of relief for families across Vermont.

It is heartwarming to see holiday brunches, luncheons and teas in our annual programs. Finding time to relax, to rejuvenate, to calmly reflect at year's end, is much needed if we are to continue to do the hard work that we do through our programs. As Epsilon reminds us all "Kindness matters," and a lighter program allows us time to create deeper relationships within our chapters.

Goal #3 Creating global involvement

Delta chapter had a member lead book discussion of *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie. While this allegorical novel did not appeal to everyone, still a rich discussion ensued. Gamma chapter member Teegan Kirk Elkund presented an overview of Kenyan schools and educational styles she observed there. Laila Sido engaged our group regarding Syrian cultural details and spoke about her own acclimation process. The immigration issue was discussed again from the perspective of the author of *Under a Fig Tree: A Family Memoir* Sandra M. Levesque. These were timely events in fall 2016 as Rutland was preparing for the arrival of 100 Syrian families into the area. Transition issues were on the minds of many. Sadly, the expected Syrian resettlement into Rutland was impacted by presidential limits and decisions. This spring Gamma looks forward to a tour of the Proctor Marble Exhibit; this beautiful stone was world renowned. Earlier immigrants brought their skills and artistry to the region; their impact continues here in Vermont.

At least two chapters (Epsilon, Eta) have explored a recent initiative to link our members with Girl Scouts; there will be more about this at Spring Convention. Strong parallels exist between our organizations, each of which encourages leadership, and support projects with global reach. Are Girl Scouts active in a community near you? Will you leave the Spring Convention with new ideas for linking with young women leaders?

- mb

From Dr. Carolyn J. Rants, of the International Executive Board, for your consideration

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Attend an International Convention!

Approve the proposed election amendments to the governing documents.

As a convention attendee in 2020 you would be able to cast YOUR vote for international officers.

As a result of a motion at the Nashville International Convention, President Carolyn Pittman appointed an ad hoc committee to review the work of the 2012-2014 Ad Hoc Election Process Committee and to propose amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules to enable convention attendees to vote for officers. In order for attendees to vote for the officers in 2020, the governing documents must be amended at the upcoming 2018 convention in Austin, Texas.

Attend a workshop about the election process at your regional conference in Windsor, Ontario this July.

Learn the difference between Delegate, General Election and Convention Election options.

Cast your vote for the proposed amendments when in attendance in Austin, in 2018.

Alpha Lambda State Organization
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

STATE SPRING CONVENTION

You are warmly invited to join DKG members from around Vermont on April 29, 2017
for our Annual Spring Convention hosted by Eta Chapter

Second Congregational Church
115 Hillside Street Bennington, Vermont

Registration and Continental Breakfast 8 to 9 a.m.

A buffet luncheon, catered by Bennington area Culinary Arts students

- Roasted Spring Chicken with Spring Veggies
- Stuffed Portabello Mushroom (vegetarian)
- Parmesean Red Potato Wedges
- Roasted Asparagus
- Pesto Vinaigrette Salad
- Homemade Rolls and Butter
- Founders Day Cake
- Coffee, tea, water

Registration: Cost is \$28.00 per person, due no later than **April 21, 2017**
Please use the form below; print or copy this page if you prefer.

Executive Board Meeting

Friday April 29, 2016 7 p.m.

Mt. Anthony Country Club -- Optional dinner at 5 p.m.; a special menu selection for our group. \$\$
Light desserts, coffee and tea will be served to all during the meeting.

Hotel Options: Hampton Inn, Bennington \$129.00 plus tax for Friday evening.
 Paradise Motor Inn, Bennington \$ 85.00 plus tax for Friday evening.
 Ask for the DKG Convention pricing.
Reservations deadline April 1 and April 5, 2017 to be assured of these rates.

Include this completed registration form with your check for \$28.00 made out to Eta Chapter.
Please send this form and your check by April 21st to:

Jessica Gulley-Ward 2494 Chapel Road Bennington, VT 05201

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone number _____ Note your check number here please # _____

Attending Executive Board meeting on Friday, April 28th ? Yes _____ No _____

Will you have dinner at the Mt. Anthony Country Club? Yes _____ No _____

Honoring Alice Carrier
35 Years In DKG

Alice Carrier was initiated into Beta Chapter of DKG in 1983, and began quite a journey of accomplishments in this society. An example of a strongly devoted DKG member, Alice accepted leadership roles at every level--president of Beta Chapter for two biennia, Alpha Lambda president, and Northeast Regional Director. Later she chaired her Vermont sisters in hosting the 2009 Northeast Regional Conference in Burlington—a well-attended event still fondly remembered by the hundreds who traveled to Vermont.

Alice rose to prominence in DKG at the international level as well. Most near and dear to her heart were the DKG Educational Foundation Board and the Leadership Development Committee. As a tribute to her dedication and distinguished service to the organization Alice was honored with the International Achievement Award in 2012 in New York City, with many Vermonters in attendance.

Personally, I will miss the opportunity to travel with my dear friend, with whom I shared a variety of adventures and opportunities at many state, regional and international conferences and conventions. Her words of wisdom, her mentoring, her leadership, and her deep love of this organization will long be treasured and remembered. Alice had a deep and lasting impact on her DKG sisters. Lovingly, Linn Wilson

From Dr. Beverly Helms: DKG International has lost a friend, a devoted member, and a consummate leader-mentor in our organization. It was a honor to serve with Alice. I fondly remember visiting in her home. I will personally miss my special Vermont friend, Alice, and so will thousands of DKG members in our 17 member countries who knew, loved and appreciated her. Rest in peace, dear one. - Beverly

The family suggests those wanting to honor the Alice's memory consider gifts to either the Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 or to The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 1589, Austin, Texas 78767-1589.



(Spring Convention Registration is found on the reverse of this page.)

Northeast Regional 2017 -- Windsor Ontario -- July 12-14

Will you be able to attend the Northeast Regional Conference this summer? This is a terrific step to take at any time in your membership, but is encouraged for those in their first 5 years in DKG in particular. At a regional conference you will deepen your knowledge of the organization, you will see mentors and role models from our geographic region in action, and you will leave with new friends--possibly from around the globe! No matter your years in DKG, you owe it to yourself to attend a regional conference at least once during your membership.

Maybe the date or the location do not work out for you. Don't let that stop you from attending. See the back of this newsletter for a reminder of this summer's five locations--one for each of our membership regions. You can choose any of them! Regional conferences occur every two years, providing a travel opportunity for you, and a way to broaden your view of national and international education issues. Pre- or post-conference tours of the region may be another appeal. Check into chapter scholarship opportunities to underwrite some of your travel expenses, then consider presenting to your chapter when you return.

Please read the March/April 2017 edition of the *DKG NEWS* or check www.dkg.org on the web for details of the tours and seminars offered in Windsor. It seems that air travel into Detroit is the most direct route from Vermont. For those wanting a road trip, a variety of routes can be considered. If you are present in Ontario for the culminating celebration and final banquet, you will witness Marcia Barron move into her role as Alpha Lambda president. Hope to see you there!



Alpha Lambda

**Slate of Officers
2017-2019**

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Pat Lane
Corresponding Secretary
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White Roses of Remembrance

We say fond and loving farewells to:

Marlene (Molly) Burke	Gamma
Alice Carrier	Beta
Marilyn Childs	Delta
Grace Morrissey	Alpha
Jeanne McVeigh	Gamma
R. Marion Taylor	Zeta

Kitty's Korner Continued from p. 3

sympathies to her Beta sisters, and to her many friends in DKG at all levels of the organization.

And now, we look forward to Eta's convention in April. I hope to see many of you there! By all accounts it will be filled with lots of information, and you will learn more about an International initiative connecting Girl Scouts with area DKG chapters. If you have any items pertaining to Girl Scouts, please bring along a badge, your sash, or hat. This initiative is a wonderful way to bring young women together with women educators! It's a win-win for all. I would love to see this initiative take off in all Vermont's chapters.

Finally, I am happy to report that Alpha Lambda State's archives are in order and they are now housed at the Castleton University Library in Castleton, Vermont.

Thank you all for your help and guidance during my biennium. Soon I will be leaving you in the very competent hands of Marcia Barron, your next Alpha Lambda state president.

Fondly,
Kitty Furman
State President

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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|----------|---|
| April 1 | Deadline for DKG room rates in the Paradise Motor Inn, Bennington, VT |
| April 5 | New deadline for DKG rates at the Hampton Inn, Bennington VT |
| April 21 | Preregistration due for Spring Convention |
| April 28 | Executive Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Mt. Anthony Country Club
Dinner optional 5 p.m. Bennington, VT |
| April 29 | Spring Convention, Second Congregational Church
8 - 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast Bennington, VT |

REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN CONFERENCES – SUMMER 2017

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| June 28-July 1 | Northwest Regional Conference
Spearfish, South Dakota |
| July 4-July 7 | Southwest Regional Conference
Honolulu, Hawaii |
| July 12-July 14 | Northeast Regional Conference
Windsor, Ontario |
| July 19-July 22 | Southeast Regional Conference
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina |
| July 26- July 29 | European Regional Conference
Tallin, Estonia |

