



Arizona SAHUARO

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – For Key Women Educators

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OMICRON STATE'S 2014 Fall Executive Board Meeting and All Member Workshop

Saturday, October 18, 2014 • Metro Tech High School • 1900 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, Arizona

Register at your chapter meeting

(Schedule subject to change)

- 7:00 – 7:30 a.m. Set up for Rose Boutique and arts display
- 7:30 – 8:15 a.m. Registration, continental breakfast, boutique, arts display
- 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. Set up in Lecture Hall and classrooms
- 8:20 – 9:50 a.m. Executive Board Meeting (Lecture Hall)
- 10:00 – 10:55 a.m. Session I Workshops
- 11:00 – 11:55 a.m. Session II Workshops
- 12:00 – 12:25 p.m. Rose Boutique, arts display, committee meetings
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon (served by culinary arts students)/Speakers
- 2:00 p.m. Attendance, first timer awards, announcements, raffle winners
- 2:15 – 2:35 p.m. Rose Boutique, committee meetings

Workshops will include:

- Educational Excellence
- Chapter Strategic Action Planning
- KARE (Keep Active, Reach Everyone) Membership
- Cyber-bullying
- Children's Literature with Author Al Quihuis
- Happenings in the classroom
- Little Dresses For Africa
- African Refugees
- Historic Hotels in Arizona

19 Members Attend International Convention



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM, FLORESVILLE, TEXAS

Eta: Sherry Alimi (assisted at the U.S. Forum), Wally Turner (chaired the U.S. Forum)

Lambda: Connie Myren

Nu: Jan Rosenberg, Merry Lewis (wrote an article for the convention newsletter)

Rho: Sue Ellen Brahs, Sally Switzer

Chi: Carmen Wendt

Omega: Joye Sterrett (presented at two Scholarship Committee events), Janet Vickers

Alpha Alpha: Lori Good (assisted at the U.S. Forum)

Alpha Beta: Diane Sheets (microphone monitor), Marge Threewit (sang in the Convention chorus)

Alpha Delta: Alice Reule (presented a workshop), Kathy Green (introduced Alice at the workshop)

Alpha Iota: Kathi Houtcooper

Alpha Rho: Jean Davis, Rachel Wear (did the invocation at the Executive Board luncheon), Bea Olivas, Jan Rosenberg, Merry Lewis, Janet Vickers, Carmen Wendt, Marge Threewit and Bea Olivas worked at the Marketplace for the Non-Dues Revenue Committee.

Play the Educational Excellence Game

Come one, come all first vice-presidents to a workshop designed just for you! Play the Educational Excellence Game! What do you know about Delta Kappa Gamma, Omicron State, and your role as a first vice-president? You will be challenged as you play a fun-filled and exciting board game with other attendees. Bring your questions about Collaborative Connections, Spotlight Awards, Support Early-Career Educators, Schools for Africa, and DKG@UN. Our very knowledgeable committee and fellow first vice-presidents will share many ideas and activities with you. Have you ever made an "elephant" water bottle? You will know how by the end of the workshop. You'll also learn about creative fundraisers. There will be door prizes too. See you there!

Clarine Haslag, Upsilon





Stepping Up with Rachel

Recently, while leafing through my Omicron State planning book to post important dates, it struck me like a bolt of lightning that the 2013–2015 state biennium is well into its final year. Thus far, it has been, for me, an amazingly rewarding journey – far beyond my expectations.

I was so pleased with our Omicron State member involvement at the 2014 International Convention in Indianapolis. Arizona attendees presented workshops, took part in luncheon programs, directed and assisted at the U.S. Forum and worked at the convention Market Place.

As I stood on a riser at the President's Banquet to be introduced as one of the state presidents, the past three decades zoomed through my thoughts during those few short minutes. I looked out in wonderment at more than a

thousand women leaders from all around the world and felt so very privileged to be representing my state. I asked myself "How did it come to pass that I am actually here in the spotlight on behalf of every Omicron State member?"

The word that immediately came to mind was encouragement. For it is the pats on the back, the gentle hugs and the warm smiles – all the gestures of encouragement that keeps our confidence building and our feeling of self-worth growing. Inspirational writer, Alyssa Rienne, reminds us to listen to the voice in our hearts, to our destiny speaking and leading us toward our dreams, encouraging us to believe in ourselves. Without the acts of encouragement we all receive in our Society, especially when our best made plans seem to be falling down around us, we have to ask ourselves – would we have continued?

Let us all congratulate the newly elected officers in our individual chapters and thank them for accepting these significant positions of leadership. Now is the time to remind ourselves of the encouragement we have received from our DKG sisters through the years and to pass it on to these new officers, who have willingly stepped forward to successfully lead their chapters. We all need to encourage fellow members in a variety of ways, by extending frequent compliments, by willingly offering to chair or serve on committees and by enthusiastically attending state events.

International Scholarships Available for \$10,000 and \$6,000

The International Scholarship Committee awarded \$430,000 for 37 doctorates and 10 master's scholarships for 2012-2014. Thanks to the generosity of each of you, the scholarship committee awards \$10,000 to those working on a doctorate and \$6,000 for those working on a master's. Twenty cents from your scholarship fee goes directly into the International Scholarship Fund and the rest remains with your chapter or Arizona state organization. Membership in Delta Kappa Gamma is required but this year the International Convention in Indianapolis removed the requirement for three years of membership for a graduate program other than a doctorate. For a doctoral application the requirement is still three years of membership in DKG. The application form is available on the dkg.org website and is



PHOTO BY
MERRY LEWIS

Joye Sterrett, Omega, chaired the International Scholarship Committee during the 2012-2014 biennium.

Scholarship Committee. Encourage your chapter members to look at the application now and apply.

*Dr. Joye Sterrett, International Scholarship Chair,
2012-2014.*

due February 1, 2015. Applicants should already be admitted to a doctoral or graduate program. As you review the application, you can see the points awarded for each question. If you have applied before, but not received a scholarship, you can apply again. The required transcripts, advisors checklist and recommendations mean one should start planning and gathering materials now. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members and information that should be attractive to new members. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Joye Sterrett, 2012-2014 Chair International

We must all persistently put forth the utmost effort towards the retention, recruitment and reinstatement of members. We cannot deny these are challenging times for the maintenance of DKG membership. Nonetheless, there is no challenge too great to conquer, if faced with determination. I encourage all chapters to invite the state KARE (Keep Active, Reach Everyone) team to attend one of your meetings. The KARE members are anxious to meet your chapter, to share ideas and to assist with any needs of each chapter they visit.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Omicron State All-Member Fall Workshop and Executive Board Meeting, Oct. 18, 2014, at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix. It is always a joy to be with the tech students. We are planning to feature the special projects of our state chapters throughout the conference. Be sure and send me information about the project you would like to share and encourage your members to attend.

I also intend to visit as many chapters as possible this year, so be sure and send me an invitation via email.

Remember to visit the DKG International (dkg.org) and state websites for important information, ideas, happenings, forms, newsletters, archives and photos.

Keep in mind that when we offer encouragement to others, we are enhancing communication and nourishing our own creativity.

Call for Nominations

It's time to identify potential candidates for state offices for the 2015-2017 biennium. Nominations are needed for Omicron State president, first and second vice-presidents, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary. A member from each area of the state must be nominated for the Nominations Committee. Be sure to get permission from each candidate before filling out the forms. Nominations may be individual or chapter-sponsored.

Nomination forms may be secured from chapter presidents or at the dkg.org/Arizona website. Forms must be submitted to Judy Vinson by December 1, 2014.

Judy Vinson, Alpha, Nominations Chairman

**White
Roses**
"A Moment to Remember...
A Lifetime to Honor"

Delores Phillips Beta
Mesa, AZ January 14, 2014



Millicent Kasun, Epsilon, was the Grand Marshall of Bisbee's 4th of July parade. She also received the "Gem" award from the Bisbee Foundation. The award is given to community activists who share their resources and talents.

Sharon Ritt, Chi Chapter, recently published her first children's book entitled: "GQ GQ Where Are You? Adventures of a Gambel's Quail." She shares her stories about the Gambel's quail and the Sonoran desert with children in Arizona schools and Parks. Ritt received a Finalist Award in the New Mexico and Arizona 2013 Book Awards.



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION Sharon Ritt and Puppet

Lou and Merry Lewis (Nu) were recently honored by Miracle Square for their support and leadership in assisting disadvantaged Tucsonans to live independently. Mu and Nu chapters have also provided pantry items and Christmas gifts to the residents.

Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta, will serve on the 2014-2016 Non-Dues Revenue International Committee.

Carmen Wendt, Chi, will serve on the



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION Rachel Wear and Darby Downs

International Membership Committee.

Donna Reynolds is a Trustee for the Educational Foundation.

Lela Alston, Alpha Delta, has won a spot on the Arizona ballot in November. She is running for reelection to the Arizona State Legislature in District 24.

Omicron State members were mentioned on two of immediate International Past-President Beverly Helms' blogs. **Lori Good**, Alpha Alpha, sent an article and photo about the state's media award to Kim Covington.

Omicron State President **Rachel Wear** and her daughter **Darby Downs**, both from Alpha Rho, were also featured. Downs was installed by her mother as chapter president.



Notice from the Rules Committee

It is time to think about possible changes to the Omicron State Standing Rules and By-laws. Any member, chapter, or committee may submit proposed amendments to the Rules Committee. The deadline for submitting the completed form is December 15, 2014.

The State Rules committee will have forms available at the Fall Executive Board Meeting. The chairman will send you a form upon request. (merrysl@aol.com).

All proposals for amendments will be studied by the Rules Committee. Valid proposals will be printed, as required by state Bylaws, in the winter 2015 issue of the Arizona Sahuaro. These proposals will be presented for a vote at the 2015 Omicron State Convention.

Merry Lewis, Nu, Rules Committee Chairman

Omicron State completes strategic action plan

The ad hoc Arizona Strategic Action Planning Committee is pleased to announce that the first phase of creating an SAP for Omicron State was completed just prior to the 2014 International Convention and it will be available on the state web site as an aid for the chapters in completing their own SAPs. The ad hoc SAP Committee credits and thanks Omicron's state committee chairmen and committee members for their valuable contributions to the State SAP. Developing a plan for the state is in compliance with a resolution voted on at a past International convention. It includes goals, actions, timelines, responsibilities and scheduled reviews in the areas of Membership, Expansion and Chapter Development, Educational Excellence, Leadership, Finance, Marketing and Communications, and Society Impact on Education.

The second phase of Omicron State's total SAP is developing the chapters' SAPs. Most of

our chapters started on their individual planning at a 2014 Omicron State Convention workshop and should have a completed a draft ready to bring to the Fall Executive Board Meeting and Workshop this October. Another workshop will be held at that time to provide any assistance needed in finalizing the chapters' plans.

The State and Chapter SAPs are unique "living" documents meant to be reviewed and up-dated on a regular basis to meet the needs of the state and individual chapters. Members of the ad hoc SAP Committee are available to give assistance and answer questions. Please do not hesitate to call on us, including requests for additional materials: Jan Rosenberg, 520-297-2055, janrosenberg@comcast.net; Jean Fuer Davis, 520-603-0982, BJeanDF@aol.com; and Susan Halliday, 480-460-5444, Shalliday3@gmail.com.

Jan Rosenberg, Nu, Ad Hoc Committee Chairman

OMICRON STATE

Creative Arts Retreat

January 31 - February 1, 2015

Presenters Needed!

Spirit of the Desert Retreat Center
Carefree, Arizona

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE SOON

Why Apply for the Leadership Management Seminar?

The Leadership Management Seminar often referred to as the "Golden Gift Seminar" is an opportunity of a lifetime. My fondest memories include: feeling like a college student all over again, living in a dorm for two weeks, attending classes at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas, and using a meal ticket at Jester Dining Hall. Dr. Vicki Davis, Texas, and Donna Myers, Ohio, served as the Golden Gift Committee hosts and our dorm mothers. Sight-seeing included a tour to the Texas State Capitol building and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum. At a closing ceremony at the International headquarters, Dr. Beverly Helms awarded certificates and pins. What an honor!

What did I learn or study? The classes were varied and included Ethics, Briggs Meyers Personality Test, Emotional Intelligence, Nutrition and Physical Fitness, Empowering Women, and Thinking on Your Feet. I came away with new friendships, a renewed feeling of empowerment and a sense of fulfillment. Your opportunity to fill out an application will come in July, 2015. Won't you consider applying for this "Golden Gift" opportunity?

Alice Reule, Alpha Delta

Art experience reaps rewards

I saw that Bonnie Dent (Tau), was presenting "Easy Arizona Landscape", a session at the Omicron State Convention (April, 2014) about painting with watercolors.

With trepidation I entered the room, a bit late. Before me were other members at tables with watercolor palettes on white paper plates. The description in the convention booklet had said NO experience required, so there I was.

What did I learn? I can paint with watercolor. This learning experience was awesome. Bonnie took the group step by step from blue sky to dusty road and desert cacti. There emerged a picture of the desert with its blue colored sky and floral blooms. The mountain was majestic in hues of brown. My final product was worthy of framing. For some, their picture may remain in the back room, but the art experience will take a spotlight in our memories.

Janye Brainard, Kappa, Texas

Committee Salutes Spotlight Award Recipient

During the past ten years Debra Bergbower-Grunwald, Alpha Delta, has been an active volunteer in several projects for our military veterans. As a daughter of a WWII Prisoner of War and a wife of a Vietnam Marine veteran, Debra holds veterans close to her heart. One of her primary activities is working with the Agua Fria Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. She attends their board meetings, writes monthly newsletters, visits with veterans, and offers assistance to vets and their spouses, and attends special functions such as Veteran's Day and Memorial Day events, Massing of the Colors and funerals. In addition, Debra



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION.

Debra Bergbower-Grunwald, Alpha Delta, volunteers in projects for military veterans.

goes to the Crossroads facility to meet with former military personnel who are struggling with alcohol and drugs and distribute needed supplies. Another community activity that Debra performs for veterans is selling bolo ties and belt buckles for the American Defenders Museum in West Virginia. The latest project Debra has undertaken is the coordination of Quilts of Valor for WWII vets. Debra also shares her energies and talents with the Phoenix Zoo, West Valley Reading Association, and the Arizona Heritage Project. We salute Debra Bergbower-Grunwald for her service to the community!

Renate Krompasky, Nu



PHOTO BY LORI GOOD

Alpha Alpha Chapter members: Lori Good, Kathryn Brown, Linda Krapu, Lynn Pinda, Virginia Hourihan and Mary Levine show the dresses they made from pillowcases.

Alpha Alpha Chapter has successful year

Alpha Alpha chapter met with Rho chapter to initiate new members. Connie Myren (Lambda) spoke about her experiences attending the installation of sixty women educators in Japan. The chapter had a joint meeting with Alpha Beta members. The state KARE (Keep Active Reach Everyone) committee presented a program at the January meeting.

The chapter made more than \$2,100 during the annual yard sale and made dresses for the "Little Dresses for Africa" project. Chapter members also met to prepare Omicron State Convention registration packets and survival kits. Eleven members attended the Omicron State Convention.

Carolyn Warner, a 40 year honorary chapter member, was the Keynote Speaker at the convention. Chapter members volunteered 3,743 Collaborative Connections hours for the year.

Karen Carney, Alpha Alpha

Keynote speaker addresses membership solutions

Keynote Speaker Sarah Sladek provided International convention attendees with plenty of food for thought concerning the growth of our organization. Sladek is the author of: The End of Membership As We Know It and Knowing Y Engage the Next Generation Now. Sladek discussed the need for change if membership associations like ours are to survive. Most organizations are top heavy with baby boomers and unless organizations are willing to look at the radically different needs of Generation X and Y they cannot survive. Sladek shared that our organization needs to aim for a 50% membership under 50 years old to be viable. She suggested we look closely at our organization from the chapter to the International level and evaluate why a generation X or Y educator would want to be part of our organization based on one's needs. She said to ask ourselves questions like: "do we blow the hair back of our young members? What are we doing to be relevant? Are we developing new markets? Do we have shared leadership across the generations? Do we inspire? Are we visionary?" She challenged us to have 30 conversations in 30 days with someone in our emerging market of 19 to 49 years-old. Ask these women what type of organization they like? What benefits do they need? Then make a strategic plan to meet the needs of our next generation members.

Kathi Houtcooper, Alpha Iota

Communicating to the right people, Crafting small concrete steps to success, and Celebrating small victories. He stressed that a shared sense of urgency can only be created by focusing on what others might gain, what they might lose, or what they have as a personal connection to the issue.

Using this process the regions identified the following key legislative issues:

- a. Non-educators, especially corporations, controlling education
- b. The detriment of tying student test scores to teacher evaluation/performance pay
- c. Human trafficking and its implication to children's lives and education
- d. Progress of our students and school safety issues for students and educators

The regional representatives and members will continue to focus on these issues throughout the biennium.

Article used with permission,
Sherry Watkins, Indiana

International U.S. Forum Chairman Shares Memories, 2012-2014

My first memories of the U.S. Forum started in 1997 when I was asked to be chairman of the U.S. Forum Committee for Gamma State/Oklahoma. Never, at that moment, did it occur to me that I would become the International Chair of the U.S. Forum. So it all started with that someone asking me. I began to attend the National Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. and have attended six National Legislative Seminars and worked on three National Legislative Seminars. I believe that the "legislative bug" has bitten me.



PHOTO BY MERRY LEWIS

Wally Turner, Eta, chaired the U.S. Forum

women, children and education.

Under the 2012-2014 Forum Committee's guidance a Facebook page was created to discuss various legislative issues, the forum logo was redesigned and the Forum webpage was reworked with a new URL <http://bit.ly/DKGUSF> established. Dr. Beverly Helms, Past International President, served as the first liaison from the committee to the Society's Administrative Board.

To say that I have great memories of my time of service to the U.S. Forum Committee is an understatement.

Don't forget: "Legislation, a view of the future, keep informed."

LaWalta "Wally" Turner, Eta, International U.S. Forum Chairman, 2012-2014

U.S. Forum Report

The planning and executing of a Seminar in Washington, D. C. takes many hands and contacts to complete. All of the U.S. Forum members (every U.S. member is automatically a member of the Forum) decide what is the most important legislative issue to them. Votes are tallied and those legislative issues are pursued at the National Legislative Seminar, Regionals and International Conventions.

This year's Seminar in Washington, D.C. heard speakers and Skyped in speakers on human trafficking, GPO/WEP, poverty and hunger in America, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), pay equity, violence against women and the National Women's History Museum. Joan Bradley Wages, CEO of NWHM, has been working on a National Women's History Museum for years. Thanks to the efforts of the participants of the 2014 National Legislative Seminar, the last four remaining women congressional members signed on to the bill. The Forum's mission is to present to members in a non-partisan way the legislative issues for

Chairman Wally Turner, Eta, called the meeting to order in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Beverly Helms led the attendees in the *Pledge of Allegiance* and an informative Power Point presentation highlighted the Forum's National Legislative Seminar held in Washington, D.C. in March. Judy Jackson (TN) was elected as chairman of the Forum for the new biennium. Kathy Davis (OK) will be the Southwest representative.

Jones Lofflin, author and leadership speaker, in a most entertaining way, led the attendees through a process to reach consensus and develop an action plan on a legislative issue. He led participants through the process of the five C's. These included Creating a vision of success, Constructing a shared sense of urgency,

Omicron state members proudly work at the Marketplace



PHOTO BY MERRY LEWIS

Kathy Green and Alice Reule, Alpha Delta and Bea Olivas assist at the Non-Dues Revenue table. All who worked at the table wore scarves embellished with race cars and checkered flags.



PHOTO BY BEA OLIVAS

Merry Lewis, Non-Dues Revenue Committee Member advertises the work of the International Committee.



Alice Reule Presents Travelogue in Indianapolis

Alice Reule, Omicron second vice-president, described her 2012 trip to the Holy Land at the DKG International Convention in Indianapolis this summer. The church sponsored tour group flew from Phoenix to Tel Aviv. They were greeted by both their guide and the bus driver who led the group to the Hotel Kfar Macabbiah, a luxurious hotel in the heart of the Israel.

Thus began Alice's 12 day "Trip of a Lifetime" to the Holy Land. The following days were spent visiting many Biblical sites: **Caesarea** -- a palace on the Mediterranean built by King Herod; **the Sea of Galilee** where the mornings began with beautiful sunrises; **Cana**, site of the wedding feast attended by Jesus and his mother -- and where married couples on this trip renewed their marriage vows.

The itinerary also included the **Jordan River**, the site at which John the Baptist most likely baptized Jesus. Alice was able to wade in the river while her pastor led a rededication ceremony. While in **Jerusalem**, the group visited many religious landmarks including the **Western (Wailing) Wall** where the visitors left prayer requests in the cracks of the wall. Later in the day the itinerary took them to spots mentioned in the gospel narratives of Christ's final days: **the Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, Temple Mount, and the**



PHOTO BY MERRY LEWIS
Alice Reule and Kathy Green, Alpha Delta, at the workshop.

Garden Tomb.

On another outing, the group visited the **Dead Sea** and experienced the buoyancy of the salt water. The salt was so dense that swimming was difficult and waders were literally picked up by the water. About a mile inland, Alice and her companions were able to see from a distance the cave where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

Alice's joy in sharing her experiences in Israel left all of the audience hopeful of being able to experience their own "Trip of a Lifetime."

Kathy Green, Alpha Delta

A FIRST-TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE

I have been privileged during my professional career to have attended many excellent national and international conventions. My experience at the Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention in Indianapolis was another outstanding learning opportunity.

First, I would like to say that having attended the U.S. Forum's seminar in Washington D.C. was a good introduction to the International Convention. In a smaller session, I was able to meet DKG sisters with a similar interest in political topics. I found it very comforting to see familiar faces among the throngs of attendees. So I would recommend attendance at a Regional Conference or the seminar as an initial step to such a large convention.

The workshops and sessions were varied and timely. It was difficult to decide which workshops to attend. I followed Wally Turner's (Eta) advice and downloaded and printed the conference schedule beforehand and had picked my choices before arriving. It was a huge



PHOTO BY MERRY LEWIS
Sherry Alimi, Eta, addresses an issue at a General Session in Indianapolis.

help. The program booklet was well done. Every detail of the convention was well-planned and organized. I enjoyed all the workshops I chose as well as the General Sessions. The hotel was fabulous and located right downtown. Indy was an outstanding choice. Hats off to our Hoosier sisters!

I especially enjoyed spending time with Omicron sisters and rooming with Lori Good, Alpha Alpha. What a great opportunity to get to know Omicron State women better. The night out with our Latin American sisters

from Costa Rica turned out to include women from Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador, Mexico and Costa Rica. It was a great opportunity for me to speak Spanish and begin to form friendships with them. My next goal is to attend one of their state conventions. Anyone care to join me?

This International Convention was my first, but it definitely will NOT be my last. Hope to see you in Nashville in 2016! You will be among friends.

Sherry Alimi, Eta Chapter

Using Smart Tips in Technology

Technology plays a significant role in today's world and influences how society does almost anything from shopping and playing to learning and teaching. For a quick paced session at the recent DKG International Convention in Indianapolis, Bev Johns, Illinois, shared many internet sites and tips of interest. Her first recommendation was to get 'safe' apps from the Apple Store for Apple products and from Google for android products. For organizing she likes *Evernote*. For de-stressing, look at *Calm.com*. *Stop, Breathe & Think* introduces a five-minute meditation approach. Go to *Lift.do* to develop and track a new habit and to *Moves-app.com* to track your movements - literally.

Want to learn? Check into *Ted Talks* for thousands of short, interesting talks on practically any topic you might be interested in. *Nanowrimo.org* will help you write a novel in a month. If you need something for your classroom, check out *DonorsChoose.org*. Post your need and the cost to achieve or buy it, and see if/how many people will respond with small or large donations.

There are health related web sites and apps, as well as others for finances. She recommends opening an email account for only your bank and credit cards. If that email gets spammed, your account has probably been compromised, she says.

Open a "junk" email account for all those businesses that want to send you "junk," for shopping on Craigslist, for entering contests. That way your personal account will be less cluttered. And don't be afraid to unsubscribe from mailings or mark them as "spam."

Lastly she says to disable JAVA and don't use Internet Explorer because of problems in those programs that can compromise your computer.

Carmen Wendt, Chi



Shopping
ONLINE

Support DKG...
Support the Educational Foundation

goodsearch.com amazonsmile.com

Arizona Hosts Latin American Members

“Have you ever tried a cosmopolitan?” Sherri Alimi, Eta asked. We were in an Indianapolis restaurant and were hosted by Omicron state members. Once I said “no” she ordered one so Grace Rodríguez-Mesa from Panama and I could try it. This was the camaraderie that we



PHOTO BY MERRY LEWIS

Kathi Houtcooper, Alpha Iota, Rachel Wear, Alpha Rho, Ana Aguilar, Costa Rica, Tamara Flores Hernandez (new Latin America Representative), San Luis Potosi and Alejandrina Mata-Segreda, Costa Rica State Organization President, at Arizona night.

experienced with our sisters from Arizona. I'm pretty sure that similar conversations were going on all over the room with members from Costa Rica, Nuevo León, San Luis Potosi, Puebla, El Salvador and Guatemala and Arizona members.

We had conversations about the different foods, school year schedules and other topics related to education, family and even health as we enjoyed great company and a variety of delicious and interesting foods. We serenaded Wally Turner, Eta, with “Happy Birthday” and “Las Mañanitas” (a traditional mariachi song that is sung in the morning for those celebrating a birthday).

Latin-American members gave Rachel Wear, Alpha Rho, a beautiful handmade ornament to thank her and all the Arizona members for their support during this biennium. As we say in Spanish “Fue una velada agradable”- with good company, nice conversation and delicious food... what else could we have asked for? We hope to continue growing the relationship we have with Arizona members. Thank you Omicron State!

*Claudia M. Estrada, Alpha Chapter,
Guatemala State*



Grace de Rodriguez-Mesa, Panama State Panama State Organization President, and Connie Myren, Lambda share some stories.



PHOTOS
BY
MERRY
LEWIS.

Thais Castillo and Flor de Perez, Costa Rica, are friends we see annually.

Touring Indianapolis

Pre-convention tours and self-guided tours are a good way to view the highlights of a convention city. Rachel Wear, Alpha Delta, and I started early on Sunday morning and visited the *Soldiers and Sailors Monument*. The lower level of the monument houses the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum. There is a glass enclosed observation deck two hundred thirty one feet above the monument providing a panoramic view of downtown Indianapolis.

Later Sunday evening Claudia Estrada from Guatemala and I walked to St. John's church, the oldest Catholic parish in Indianapolis to attend services.

Monday we went with a group of twenty to tour the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We also visited several memorials around the downtown area.

On Friday, several Omicron state members went by taxi to explore the Children's Museum. The Terra Cotta Warriors from China were on display. We also saw the interactive Dinosaur exhibits with interactive exhibits and a Chihuly glass sculpture.

Indianapolis was a clean and beautifully laid-out city to visit.

Bea Olivas, Alpha Rho



Ellen Kennedy challenges convention attendees

The Third General Meeting of the DKG International Convention in Indianapolis opened with a challenge by Ellen Kennedy, Executive director of **World Without Genocide**, to address human trafficking, one of the world's fastest growing criminal activities. Educators are at the forefront to protect youth. Kennedy ended with a memorable thought: “Knowledge plus action equals power, and genocide can be ended.”

Reports from five committees included a resolution presented by the Golden Gift Committee to ensure the continuation of Leadership/Management Seminars.

The meeting continued with the presentation of *Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules*. Changes will be published at a later date.

Merry Lewis, Nu

THE PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

The President's Banquet is the final event of the Convention, and the Indianapolis hosts and hotel staff provided a gracious setting and outstanding food. Outgoing president Beverly Helms altered the usual order of events by having the Installation of International Officers following the dinner, so all diners were seated and could enjoy the ceremony with the help of excellent AV services which showed each officer displayed on large screens.

All members of the Administrative Board, State presidents, Regional Directors, Area Representatives, and committee chairs, were also introduced and featured on the screen. Since these women give so much time and energy to DKG, it was appropriate that they were acknowledged and honored.

Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta, sang in the chorus which performed contemporary pieces appropriate to the evening.

The highlight of the Banquet is always the speech by the newly installed president: Lyn Schmid from Pennsylvania, past International Second Vice-President, informed us of some of her plans for the future of DKG. Her theme for the biennium is “**85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life.**” You will find more of her ideas in upcoming issues of *The News* and on the Web site.

Connie Myren, Lambda

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP

One Major Focus of Convention

The International Convention at Indianapolis was full of sessions related to building membership in DKG. As we have heard, the 3 R's of membership are Retain, Reinstate and Recruit. The Membership Memo was used as the basis of one of the International Membership Committee's sessions.

To Retain members, chapters need to look at why current members are leaving and to reeducate ourselves on the benefits of DKG. To Reinstate members, remember that about 65% of former members who left for family or personal reasons would like to return. Ask them. To Recruit new members, actively invite prospective members to attend a meeting or a chapter event and initiate new members any time of the year.

Use tools such as the dvd *Pride in the Big Picture* for orientation of new members, and use *Sustaining Pride in the Big Picture* for reorientation of members.

As a side note, if you've not had a KARE team visit this biennium, please contact Alice Ruele to set up a visit and a reorientation.

Carmen Wendt, Chi

Effective communication is the foundation and the solution for success

Effective communication at the chapter level is one of the keys to a member's satisfaction and a non-member's knowledge of and attraction to DKG. For a successful state and chapter organization each of us is responsible for implementing the vision and the seven purposes of our Society and we must learn how to communicate our ideas, dreams, and the mission of DKG.

Effective communication is about more than just exchanging information. It also includes nonverbal clues, attentive listening, and the ability to recognize and understand the emotions behind the information. Effective communication can improve relationships, deepen connections to others and improve teamwork. Through communication we build trust and respect, and create environments where creative ideas, decision-making, problem solving, and caring can flourish.

Electronic communications, snail mail, websites, phone, or face-to-face are different methods of communication and the State and each chapter must decide what works best based on the resources and expertise available within their membership. Elevator speeches, chapter yearbooks, chapter tri-folds, newsletters, brochures, social networking on the DKG Network, Facebook, and websites are all great ways to communicate with members and potential members.

To help you and your chapter with communication refer to your Go-To Guide, the 2014 Guidelines for Communication and Publicity Committee Booklet published by International (handed out at Officer Training, one per chapter), and the state and/or international website. These resources are filled with tips on writing newsletters, contacting public relations, the copyright laws, facts about DKG, how to communicate with Society Headquarters, and more.

Don't forget to e-mail your chapter newsletter to our webmaster, Sahuaro Editor, and to the Communication and Publicity Chair. Those chapters that do not have a newsletter might like to share meeting notices and/or minutes. If you need assistance let your state officers and/or committee chairs know. The more we communicate the more successful and strong our Society becomes.

Lori Good, Alpha Alpha, Communications and Publicity Chair

Lei of Friendship Breakfast inspires chapter president

It has been ten years since I was a chapter president and attended a state convention. The entire weekend was uplifting for me. I have to admit my attitude about teaching had slipped considerably but when I marched into the Lei of Friendship Breakfast, I was overcome by the women there. These ladies were my colleagues, my friends, my sisters in DKG. I felt special! I am a Delta Kappa Gamma member and proud of it. I am excited to start my term as president of my chapter. We are going to go places.

Rhonda Boales, Alpha Zeta

Dates to Remember

Jan. 31 - Feb. 1, 2015

Omicron State Arts Retreat
Spirit in the Desert
Carefree, Arizona

April 24-26, 2015

Omicron State Convention
Radisson Suites Tucson
6555 E. Speedway Blvd. • Tucson, Arizona

July 19-24, 2015

Southwest Regional Conference
Hyatt Regency
Wichita, Kansas

THE ARIZONA SAHUARO

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