

THETA STATE NEWS

New Mexico

September 2017

Message from the President

Key Women Educators,

My theme for the 2017-2019 biennium is **K.I.S.S.** – Keep It Simple, Sisters. The next two years hopefully will be filled with simple but significant growth and opportunity for Theta State sisters.

First, I must send appreciation to the Leadership Development Committee for the fantastic one day seminar. I am blessed to transition into this position with the great leaders before me.

I officially took office on July 1 and left for SW Regional on July 2, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Can you think of any better way to enter office? During the training for new state presidents Carolyn Pittman, our International President, issued two challenges. One is to do something, no matter how small, that will enhance one's own membership, and the other is to honor one's membership by securing two (2) new members within a year.

I believe that Theta State needs to come together and make NM a strong viable DKG organization. My first plan of action in accomplishing this challenge is to work through the revitalization plan from International with members and come up with our next steps. Our first meeting is scheduled for September 9.

My request to you is to attend your chapter meetings, attend Fall meeting and Birthday Luncheon and State Convention. Simplify by making plans now, mark your calendar! You, *the leading women educators impacting education worldwide* are needed to make Theta State great.

I look forward to learning how our 14 Chapters grow their membership, what action you take to simplify and retain members, and about your dedication and commitment to DKG. I have a few chapter visits on my calendar and would enjoy visiting many more.

With love and respect,

Ella



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Building Chapter Membership TIPS *from Pat Graff, NBCT, Theta State 2nd VP*

Did you know that Theta State's membership in Delta Kappa Gamma International has declined by 25% in the past five years? How do we stop this slide in our organization?

We know the wonderful qualities and values our membership in DKG brings to us, so perhaps we need to become a little more active in attracting and retaining new members? This is a complex challenge, but we are up to it, with a few simple steps. In each newsletter, we will be sharing strategies and activities that might help chapters not only survive but thrive during this biennium!

As Theta members begin to organize for the new academic year, here are a few suggestions for ways to recruit and retain members:

1. Look at your chapter's planned programs for the year. Are they interesting? Do they appeal to more than one age group? Some successful program ideas we've seen in the past few years include the following:

- local authors and reporters
- personal safety issues, including fall prevention and simple self-defense
- well-being topics, including essential oils, simple meditation, scrapbooking, and genealogy

2. Consider sponsoring an event for early career educators. This can be a short conference, a social event with food and freebies, or a roundtable on concerns and issues. Use your imagination, but remember our president Ella Kelly's theme: Keep It Simple, Sisters! These can be school-based-perhaps serving a lunch at a local school? or have a wider reach.

3. Make a personal outreach to any member who hasn't paid dues by Oct. 1. This can be by phone or email - yes, some people actually prefer an email contact! Check in with that person and remind them of all the values and benefits of retaining their membership.

4. Look at your chapter's system for nominating and electing new members, seeing if you can streamline the process. Some chapters are taking nominations at nearly every meeting and voting on those individuals right away. Then, an invitation is sent, saying the individual has been nominated. A small, social dinner or other event, attended by prospective members and current members, can provide a brief orientation as well as a good "taste" of the warmth and collegiality DKG can offer.

More ideas and suggestions to come!

Scholarships

One benefit to Delta Kappa Gamma members is scholarship monies. There are international scholarships and the state scholarship available to you. The international scholarships annually award up to thirty (30) \$6,000 international scholarships to members for study at the master's degree and \$10,000 for work at the doctorate level.

Are you or a chapter sister pursuing a dossier, masters, doctorate, or National Boards?

The DKG Theta State Scholarship is available to:

A DKG Active member in good standing for the last three years

A person with excellent academic, ethical and professional standards

A person seeking to advance educationally by pursuing a license endorsement or graduate degree

A person enrolled in a graduate program of a nationally accredited institution of higher education

The scholarship funds are the interest generated by the Theta State: Birdie Adams Scholarship, the Emma H. Foree scholarship, the Travel/Study Scholarships and scholarship fees required from membership.

The application is available at <http://thetastatenmdkg.weebly.com/>. Scroll down the left side to "Report Forms/convention Registration, Scholarship guidelines and Application.". The application is due to Committee Chair Jane Williams by March 1, 2018.

Revitalization Meeting

By Ella Kelly

We had 25 ladies in attendance for the meeting with International 2nd V.P., Becky Sadowski.

After many hours of discussion and great conversations three areas were identified as needing to be our focus for growing Theta State.

The first area is membership- NM is down to 14 chapters and 323 members. The second area of focus will be Leadership, and the third area is Communication. I have asked all those who were present to take the information back to their chapters and share what was discussed as well as what each chapter can do in the three focus areas. I am excited to hear from chapters on their next steps and want you to be thinking about Theta State's action plan. I will communicate those steps on the website, as well as through emails to chapter Presidents, and TS news.



Theta State President Ella Kelly and International Second Vice President Becky Sadowski after the revitalization meeting. Photo by Susan Swope

Treasure's Tips

What an exciting year is upon us! Kudos to all the chapter treasurers for submitting your Form 15s by the deadline. I am excited to be working with such an efficient group of sisters.

The Fall meeting is fast approaching. I would love to meet all the treasurers in Albuquerque. We will have a "Meet & Greet" during the treasurer's workshop. I want to hear from you!

Of course, the chapter dues are due before we get to the Fall Meeting. If you go to the treasurers' page at dkg.org, you can find some new and interesting tools for reminding members to pay their dues. With dues in mind, has your chapter done an Internal Review of its books? This is an important step in maintaining the health of your chapter's finances.

Does your chapter budget reflect what is important to the chapter? If increasing membership is your goal, does your budget reflect opportunities for increasing membership? Whatever your chapter goals, the budget is a tool to accomplish those goals.

Again, I am excited to have been given the opportunity to serve the chapters of Theta State as the 2017-2019 Treasurer.

My Overview of My Hawaiian Trip

By: Carmen J. Pennington of Alpha Delta Chapter

To my surprise, Honolulu has truly changed. It is like New York City, bustling day and night. The Polynesian Culture Center, 38 years ago had grass, dirt and thatched houses for each of the major islands sharing their cultural heritage. My family had been there all day, and I joined them in the late afternoon arriving from the conference. I was shocked. I thought I was at Disneyland. The one thing that has not changed is the Friendliness and cheerfulness of the Polynesian people with the Aloha greeting to all.

The Southwest Regional Conference had so much to offer. There were many workshops in which the Hawaiian DKG sisters shared their cultural ways and language. Not only was this at the conference, but also much information was shared with us by the tour guides. My family and I learned so much.

All the speakers were outstanding. I was most impressed and enlightened on Friday with the General Session Keynote Speaker, Mervlyn Kitashima, the Administrator for the Parents and Alumni Relations Department of the Kamehameha Schools Kapalama. She had also been named the State of Hawaii and the National Mother of the year by American Mothers Incorporated in 2003. Mervlyn Kitashima spoke on how educators need to change the culture from "At Risk Children," to "Children at Promise." This makes so much more sense to me. I never cared for that title given to some of my students, "At Risk." As she pointed out, children need the Sense of Purpose, Sense of the Future, and a Sense of Hope. Children can overcome the odds with protective factors such as caring and supportive people and environment surrounding them. She further stated that children need to participate and be involved in meaningful things.

As Educators, I know DKG educators tell their students, "You have the potential to become who you wish to be. Follow your dreams and goals." Mervlyn Kitashima shared her life and her outcome was due to a Principal who helped her believe in herself. This was such a positive message.

The other impressive speakers were at the 88th Birthday Luncheon. They were Mr. Kei Hirohata, who is a teacher at Waipahu High School, and Ms. Miki Nishizawa, who expanded her advocacy at a national level. She had been his student as he had established a partnership with the community and with the High School to advocate current issues as Domestic Violence, Teen Suicide etc. I bring this up because someone stated, "I wish our students would do this." I have been privileged for the past few years, to be a Judge for the many organizations as FCCLA, Business Careers, and FFA that have competed in public speaking, parliamentary procedures, legislation, and community/state projects. Our New Mexico students are as outstanding as the young ladies that spoke at the luncheon. Our biggest problem here in our state is that the Media never picks up on these outstanding events that go on, and never give credit to our young people.

I visited Pearl Harbor, and my heart was heavy becoming more aware of the devastation that took place there. But, at the Luau, Carl and I celebrated our 55th Wedding Anniversary. It seems that we are always at a DKG event for our anniversary. This time we shared it with our youngest daughter, Marlo, her daughter Gabriella, and our grandson, Matthew.

We also went to Maui. So, we all had great experiences in Hawaii, in our own way.



Beautiful ladies enjoying the Southwest Regional Conference in Hawaii.

Our Dear Friend Tamara from Latin America,



The International President and our own Joe. Great smiles!

ALPHA EPSILON CHAPER

President Melody Bassing brought a short discussion about membership in Delta Kappa Gamma and a look at our strengths so that we can gain and maintain membership.

Red roses were presented to Ella Kelly, Cynthia Wagoner, and Shawl Iron Moccasin for their faithfulness and participation.

After the program, we assembled gift packages to welcome new teachers to the Farmington and Bloomfield schools.

Members present were: (Front Row: Ella Kelly, Theta State President; and Gloria Hornbecker. Back Row: Lavon Hamblin, Shawl Iron Moccasin, Melody Bassing, Alpha Epsilon President, Sandra Edge, Helen Harris, Joan Lewis, and Patricia Gifford. Behind the camera: Cynthia Wagoner.



Epsilon Chapter

Epsilon awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Veronica Maynes of Hurley, NM. She is working on an Early Childhood Education degree at WNMU. Pictured from left to right is Jan White, immediate past president, Veronica Maynes, Betty Himes, treasurer, and Cathy Maxwell, Epsilon President.



A review from Hawaii

The 2017 Southwest Regional Conference "Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide" was held in Hawaii at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel July 4-7, 2017. DKG International President, Carolyn Pittman welcomed us to beautiful Hawaii where we as women educators would be able to learn how to be more and do more in a world that needs our courageous leadership and strength.

We made DKG connections, friends, and participated in DKG opportunities that provided growth personally and professionally to each of us. The workshops, the Ten Minute Takeaways, and the special presentations left me invigorated about my role in DKG.

The beautiful islands and the vacation environment embellished by the plethora of shopping opportunities and six to nine hours of air travel left everyone exhausted as we all waved aloha and flew another six to nine hours home!

Ina Jean Barnes Psi/Grants



Members of Theta State In Hawaii at the Southwest Regional Conference

**Got Old Gold?
(Or silver? Or
platinum?)**

Last year, at the Fall Meeting, the Theta State Executive Board voted to buy more Theta State Achievement Award pins. The Theta State Achievement Award is the highest honor awarded in New Mexico. Our Standing Rules state that the Achievement Award pin must have as much gold as we can afford (summarized). For the pins to be affordable, Theta State needs your old gold, broken chains, single earrings, unwanted pieces, etc. You can pry out the stones and send the metal to Yvette Moore, 3040 Cheyenne Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88011, or bring it to the Fall Meeting. You will receive a receipt for your contribution.

More from Epsilon

"Area teachers recognized by Epsilon Chapter in Silver City."
Epsilon Chapter Chapter conducted their annual Teacher Recognition Ceremony. Nine teachers were selected by their principal to receive a certificate as well as a gift card from Walmart. After the ceremony a reception was held in honor of the teachers and their families.



Alpha Iota

When I asked members of AI to help me with my article by telling about some exciting events they experienced during the summer, I was surprised to find that most, if not all, of the contributions were about their children or grandchildren. So let's start with Barbara Shirrod: "My only exciting news is that my husband and I will be grandparents for the first time in the middle of November. Our younger daughter and her husband, who live in the DC area, are expecting a boy. Needless to say, we are very excited." Congratulations, Barbara! Betty Begeal wrote: "Dave and I have had full days caring for our grandchildren while their mom, our daughter, has been working. Sometime this month, they will be departing for our daughter's next assignment with USAID in Kenya." What an exciting life your daughter lives! My granddaughter, Jocelyn Cummins, graduated from UNM the spring of 2015 with a degree in Special Education. That fall, she enrolled in the University of Arizona in Tucson to work on her Master's degree in Special Education. She received that degree this past spring. Of course, I attended her graduation. Two weeks ago, she signed her first teaching contract. She started her career August 7, 2017, as a special education teacher at Holaway Elementary School, Tucson, Arizona. Diane Bonnell, Marilyn Ortman and Alyce Cummins spent time this summer planning the Alpha Iota Bridge Marathon. The Marathon starts September 11 and ends April 10 and plays once a month with the exception of December. We have six tables this year. Besides being AI's main fund raiser, it is a lot of fun for the 24 people who participate. On August 26, Alpha Iota held its traditional pot luck salad supper at the home of Ann Calderwood. The meeting included planning programs and activities for the coming year. Alyce Cummins, Alpha Iota

GAMMA CHAPTER

Gamma Chapter News

Gamma Chapter in Albuquerque will begin another interesting year of programs at its first meeting on Saturday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m.- 12 noon, at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Besides welcoming everyone back for the next academic year, we will collect annual dues and discuss more new members.

Each year, Gamma supports different local charities and social services. This year the group will provide school supplies and toiletries to the local Title I Homeless programs, collect donations for the Albuquerque Public Schools Clothing Bank, contribute gift cards for patrons of Silver Horizons, raise money for Gamma's scholarship & Grant-in-Aid programs, and collect pop tops and cleaning supplies for the local Ronald McDonald House. These projects continue to be important to our members.

Members Initiated

On May 13, two new members were initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma as members of Gamma Chapter. Jaime Montoya is a National Board Certified Teacher who works at Edward Gonzales Elementary. Sonya Romero-Smith is an elementary teacher and local union vice-president who teaches at Lew Wallace Elementary. We are excited to welcome these newest members to our society!



Sonya Romero-Smith, left, and Jaime Montoya, right, proudly display their membership certificates at their initiation into Delta Kappa Gamma's Gamma chapter in Albuquerque this past May. *Photo by Evelyn Sanchez, NBCT*

Gamma Gives Grant-in-Aid to Andrea Overton

In the odd-number years, Gamma Chapter provides a small stipend to a deserving teacher who is pursuing ongoing professional growth. This year \$250 was awarded to Andrea Overton, a STEM teacher at Rio Grande High School in Albuquerque. Andrea is very active with the local Girl Scouts and is already leading several school activities, even though she is an early-career educator. She is currently pursuing National Board Certification, so she will use this award to help pay some of those fees.

ALPHA DELTA CHAPTER'S PROJECT

Alpha Delta Chapter will be working with a few Albuquerque Public schools by mentoring teachers, and being able to supply them with school supplies. To raise money to purchase items, we are selling Theta State mugs for only \$6.00. These are the mugs that were given as favors at the State Convention.

If you would like to purchase a coffee mug, email Carmen Pennington at: carlpennington1004@ yahoo.com to order your mug. She will bring it to the Fall Executive Board meeting and Luncheon on November 4, 2017. Alpha Delta can only accept a check or cash from you for your Theta State mug at that time. Thanks for your help.



Vendor/Exhibitor Registration Form

Theta State Fall Meeting & Birthday Luncheon Saturday, November 4th, 2017

St. John's Methodist Church - 2626 Arizona St NE - Albuquerque,



NM

Set-up time: 9:00 am Family Learning Center---Exhibit Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm---Breakdown Time: 11:45 am
\$30 Rental Fee for one six foot long with tablecloth

Table Reservations due by October 15, 2017.

Limited space...First come, first served!

Exhibitor/Vendor Form (Complete and send to address below)

Company & Contact Name: _____

Address: _____
(Include St, Dr., Ave., etc., NE, SE, NW, SW, Apt. #) City State Zip+4

Phone: _____ E Mail: _____

Exhibitors are asked to provide a door prize for the luncheon.

Exhibitors are welcome to purchase a luncheon meal for **\$22.00**, including tax and gratuity. Please include a meal registration form.

\$ Meal Total

\$ Rental Fee

\$ Total

Make check payable to CCC
Mail checks and forms to CCC
c/o Karen Carlson
PO Box 35035 Albuquerque, NM 87176



**NOVEMBER 4, 2017 FALL MEETING and BIRTHDAY
LUNCHEON SCHEDULE**

7:30-11:00 Registration – FLC

11:45 Luncheon Check In - FLC

BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER – Peggy Sanchez Mills

This presentation will address the state of girls in New Mexico. The speaker will address Collaborative Partnerships, and the importance of women engaging with young girls as mentors, role models, teachers, etc. The impact on our world would be so much greater if more women were at the decision-making tables! Our task is to engage our young generation of girls to do just that, so how

can we help them get there?

Peggy Sanchez Mills is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails, the premier national organization for girls. She is the recipient of Women of Influence Award in New Mexico 2017, and has been a strong advocate for the interests of girls and women for over 30 years. A native New Mexican, Ms. Sanchez Mills has served in leadership capacities for several notable organizations throughout the United States. She holds many leadership awards as a top level businesswoman, as well as having been honored in several other areas.

A working e-mail address is required on the registration form if confirmation is desired. Confirmation of registration will be sent via e-mail by October 30, 2017. If you do not receive confirmation by that date, contact Karen Carlson at kcarlson@salud.unm.edu.

WORKSHOP CHOICES:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. 10:00-10:45 - “Son”Shine Café Title: It All Adds Up – New Treasurer information Presenter: Yvette Moore</p> | <p>2. 9:45-10:30 - Room 149 Title: Involving New Members Presenter: Pat Burnett</p> | <p>3. 9:45-10:30 - Room 151 Title: Working with the Girl Scouts? Presenter: Melissa Bruney - Membership Director for New Mexico Trails Girl Scout Council Description: How you and your chapter can support our girls scouts in your areas.</p> |
| <p>4. 11:00-11:45 - “Son”Shine Café Title: Ideas for Non-Dues Revenue Presenter: Dianna Valdez Come to this session to get and give innovative ideas for raising funds without hitting-up your members. Committee chairmen who might want to access the States Non-dues Revenue funds should come to discuss their needs.</p> | <p>5. 11:00-11:45 - Room 149 Title: Keep ‘em Movin! Presenter: Joe Clarkson</p> | <p>6. 11:00-11:45 - Room 151 Title: Special Projects coordinating with Girl Scouts Presenter: Cheryl Martinez</p> |

WHITE ROSE FOR CAROLINE E. NELSON

Caroline Nelson, our beloved sister of Alpha Delta Chapter, died on July 30, 2017. She was born on February 12, 1947. Caroline had been a member of DKG for over thirty years. She served as president of Alpha Mu, and Alpha Delta, and was serving as Alpha Delta Chapter Treasurer. She was our Scrapbook, History and Research Chairman. She was on the Finance Committee, and at one time, Music Chairman. She served as Treasurer on the Theta State 2017 Convention Steering Committee.

Caroline received the Educator Recognition Award at the 2017 Theta State Convention. She was recognized as one of the outstanding women educators from around our state. Caroline was born in Talihina, Oklahoma. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation. She was very involved with her church.

Caroline received her Bachelor and Master's degree from Northeastern Oklahoma University at Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Caroline taught on the Navajo Reservation. She retired after teaching 25 years at Bernalillo Elementary School. Caroline was married to Bill Nelson. Their daughter is Kristen Nelson. We will miss her kindness, caring, and graciousness.



Red Roses

Gamma Roses

Andrea Fletcher, Gamma member, who taught for several years at the Bernalillo County Metro Detention Center, recently accepted a job with the US Department of Defense Schools and will be teaching in an elementary school in Germany for the next two years. Her Gamma sisters will miss her, but we wish her the best.

In Theta State new roster of officers and committee chairs, Gamma is well-represented. **Pat Graff** is now the state second vice-president. **Dianna Valdez** will chair the Non-Dues Revenue committee, and **Peggy Jackson** will chair the Expansion Committee efforts. **Jeannette Vigil** is now chairing Special Projects for the state, and **Evelyn Sanchez** will chair World Fellowships. In addition, Dianna continues her role as CCC Chair for another year.

Lucile Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award from the Education Foundation

Susan Swope received the award to attend the National Association of Agriculture Educators National Conference in Nashville. The conference is the first week in December. She hopes to learn new ideas to bring back to her classroom and reconnect with fellow Agriculture teachers from around the nation. In addition to workshops, there are regional meetings, awards dinners and general business sessions. The next deadline is February 1, 2018.



Susan Swope Immediate Past President at Northwest Regional Conference 2017. Photo by Stacy Swope.