



Theta State, New Mexico News
of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
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**MESSAGE FROM OUR
2019-2021 STATE PRESIDENT**

Greetings New Mexico Sisters!

Our Fall Meeting and Birthday luncheon was such a great success!! Thank you to everyone who provided workshops, worked as vendors, and just helped in any way possible! Thank you all so much for joining my daughter, Carson, as she led us in the National Anthem. She said she has never had a group that actually sang along when told to “join me in the National Anthem”. It was truly a wonderful experience and boy did we sound GREAT!



Carson Denney, Shawna Denney and Joe Clarkson

In keeping with Ella’s work from her biennium on membership, I am once again putting out a challenge to chapters to retain and even increase their membership numbers! We are THIRTY-THREE members away from reaching 300 members in New Mexico. I think that is extremely reachable for us! We all know amazing teachers in our area! Those of you who live in areas with a college, reach out to those education programs and let’s get some wonderful Collegiate Members brought in as well! We are focused on “Forward Moving Ever”!

I also want our chapters to focus on early career educators. Let’s work to make those new teachers in our schools and our communities feel welcome and excited to be in education. Take them a gift card, bring them a little care package. I think that there are so many things that a chapter can do to encourage these teachers that are just starting out on their educational journey in order to show them what a wonderful and rewarding profession they are in.

The Holidays are coming quickly and I hope that you are all geared up to take some time for YOU, and make memories with your families and friends. I am blessed by each of you and hope you have a wonderful Christmas time with your loved ones.

Hugs from the Southwestern area of NM,

Shawna Denney, Theta State President



IMPORTANT: This year’s chapter membership challenge will be for chapters to MAINTAIN their chapter membership number from May 2019 to April 2020. If a chapter has 18 members this May, they need to have 18 or more members by the state convention in April 2020. More details in this newsletter!

TS Fall Event a Success

The Theta State DKG fall meeting in Albuquerque on Saturday, Nov. 2, was successful with more than 60 people registering. Several exhibitors provided interesting products to buy. The six workshops were designed to help members learn professionally and personally in short, 45-minute sessions.

One workshop, presented by Shelly Repp, dealt with the impacts of human trafficking in the local community. Two topics dealt with pursuing interests, learning new skills, and seeing new things. Members visited with Amy Reece, published author, who is also a DKG member. Carmen Tapia, former Theta State DKG president, shared her pictures of her safari to Africa. She shared information of the countries she visited as well as the excitement of seeing animals in their natural habitats.

One workshop, presented by Kay Hannum, Kelly Williams, and Pat Graff, showed members how to tap into the many different grants and scholarships offered by DKG at the local, state, and international levels. Two workshops provided tools for chapter leaders and members that relate specifically to program, membership, and financial work. Thanks to Joanne Clarkson and Yvette Moore for doing these sessions.

Wrapping up the day was the TS DKG's annual birthday luncheon. Mary Stuever, who has worked in forestry in the Southwest for more than three decades, shared her experiences with fighting fires, preserving healthy forests, and working as a woman in a non-traditional field. Carhson Denney, daughter of TS DKG President Shawna Denney, beautifully sang "The Star Spangled Banner" to open the lunch.

Thanks to all the workshop presenters, exhibitors, and speakers who helped make this year's Fall Meeting a success.



Kay Hannum and Diana Valdez at the Registration Table.

MORE FALL EVENT FUN

IN GENUINE SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP, fifteen of us enjoyed the evening before Fall Meeting Events at the Albuquerque Little Theater. Everyone reveled in the music of Abba at the fabulous, production of Mama Mia. What a wonderful way to enjoy the company of our DKG sisters, and to share the true meaning of Purpose #1!

Members had a wonderful time shopping. A special Thank You to our six exhibitors who joined us on Saturday.



Committee News

MEMBERSHIP THOUGHTS:

Is 300 Members Possible?

Thoughts from Pat Graff, NBCT, TS First Vice-President and former Membership Chair:

Treasurer Yvette Moore announced at the state's 2019 Fall Meeting in Albuquerque that we currently have 266 members in New Mexico DKG. Since it is still early in the DKG calendar year, consider this: **What if each chapter made a little extra effort and as a state we hit 300 members total?!**

For the past two years, state membership has been at 295 or 297. This includes honorary and reserve members. If each chapter managed to induct or reinstate 3 new members, we would surpass 300 members for the first time in several years!

Even during the meeting as reports were given, chapter leaders were talking about new members they were recruiting and possible reinstatements. One chapter announced it will be inducting four new members this fall, and another chapter has at least five potential members in the pipeline. **Perhaps the goal of 300 members IS possible!**

New Mexico DKG (Theta State) has lost more than a quarter of its members in the last decade, and to increase our membership would be a significant step forward for our folks. Our issues, our service projects, our leadership, our voices MATTER! And the more members we bring to the table, with their enthusiasm and energy, the more effective we ALL are!

Let's see what we can do in the next few months.



AWARDS

WE'RE ON OUR WAY to recognizing exceptional educators in New Mexico! Every chapter is asked to nominate and support two outstanding women educators by nominating them for receipt of our Educator Recognition Award.



Hopefully, both can be at the State Convention in Gallup to accept their awards. The luncheon and lodging are very reasonably priced, so perhaps the nominating chapters can provide financial support their nominees. Information packets were distributed to the chapters at the Executive Board Meeting on November 2nd. The chapter letter, nomination form, and letter of award to the recipient will be available on the website. Please email the nomination form with bio and photo no later than April 1st, but the sooner your chapter selection is made, the more time there will be to send a letter to the district personnel office to be placed in the recipient's file, to get a press release in the local paper, and for registration and travel plans to be made. Please be sure to address the nominations at a chapter meeting very soon. The committee looks forward to be able to honor these educators with this Theta State, New Mexico award.

WORLD FELLOWSHIP

CONGRATULATIONS, Theta State sisters! The Pass the Basket contributions to the Society's World Fellowship Fund was wonderful. State Treasure Yvette Moore will send International Headquarters \$281 from our state that was collected at the Birthday Luncheon on November 2nd. Another \$10 was also collected and sent in separately with the Contribution Form in order for that donor to get her tax deductible credits. There were no contributions sent in separately from members, who did not attend the Fall Event, but that option will be offered again next year. Thank you for supporting the World Fellowship Fund and all those women who depend on our generosity to study in the United States!



Parliamentary Questions

At our Theta State Fall Executive Board meeting, several questions were raised that require our attention. The following three queries were asked of our international parliamentarian. Her replies are as recorded below:

Q. - May collegiate members vote in all circumstances?

A. – YES. Collegiate members have all of the privileges of membership, except that they cannot hold elected office. They can make motions, debate, and vote, just as any active member can.

Q. - Given the fact that our International Constitution mandates that all states be known by their geographical name, does this apply to chapters as well?

A. – NO. The Constitution, Article I, Name, Section B. line 10, reads, “Each chapter shall be named by the state organization.” Later, your state Bylaws indicate that the Executive Board will do the naming of chapters. In response to the further query about the validity of a chapter’s renaming itself, the answer is: “That chapter is not in compliance with the DKG Constitution or the New Mexico State Organization bylaws; therefore, that chapter’s action is null and void.”



Q. – Should our Bylaws Committee proceed in changing all references to Theta State in our Bylaws and Standing Rules, if there is a possibility that changes are going to be made at the 2020 Convention in Philadelphia regarding names?

A. – You should change all references to Theta State in order to bring your governing documents into compliance with the current version of the Constitution.

CCC Welcomes All

Central Coordinating Council Albuquerque Holiday Brunch Welcomes All



The three ABQ area chapters are once again holding a joint Holiday Brunch on Saturday, Dec. 7, and all NM DKG members are welcome to attend.

The festive event will be 10 a.m.- 12 noon at the Little Anita’s Restaurant (2105 Mountain Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM) at Mountain and Rio Grande NW, on Dec. 7. Attendees will order from the menu and a 25% tax/tip will be added to each person’s ticket (Due to large group).

Shawna Denney, Theta State DKG’s State President, is the featured speaker. Other activities will include a huge silent auction of many wonderful items, as well as contributions collected for each chapter’s charity. Members can pay for silent action item with cash or check. There will be lots of time to visit and celebrate the season.

To RSVP (by Dec. 4) and to get more information on the event, please email Pat Graff at PGraff@aol.com.



Chapter News

Upsilon Chapter



At the fall luncheon, the sisters from Gallup invited the attendees to the 2020 Theta State Convention with a poster highlighting Gallup.

Pictured left to right: Helen Silva, Sharon Palacios, Gladys Hielkema, Ella George.

Gamma Chapter

Gamma chapter in Albuquerque welcomed its newest member, Kelly DeLora, NBCT, Kelly is an English teacher at Moriarty High School and is a teacher leader in many different ways. We are thrilled to add her to our membership!

Thanks to excellent programming by Gamma Vice-President Katy Hammel, Gamma Chapter continues to have strong programs and good attendance.

In September, members played a fun “Member Bingo” with lots of prizes and a way to get everyone acquainted (or re-acquainted) with each other. We also approved our annual budget, proofed our yearbook, and discussed several important topics.

Dr. Ann Gibson, a professor with UNM’s Health Science & Education Department, shared recent research with findings that helped us see strategies that will improve the quality of one’s life, stay healthy, and even live longer. Dr. Gibson was a wonderful speaker who encouraged us to live better lives without being preachy!

Gamma members contributed much to the success of recent NM DKG Fall Meeting. Diana Valdez served as the event’s registrar, with help from Jeannette Vigil. The workshops were planned by Pat Graff, and Amy Reece was one of the presenters. Several other Gamma members attended the luncheon.

Gamma has two new members who will be inducted shortly after the winter holiday. In addition, they will be inducting Mary Stuever, a state forester in Chama and NM DKG’s recent luncheon speaker, to honorary membership.

Plans include hosting the annual holiday brunch on Dec. 7, inviting members of Alpha Delta and Alpha Iota to join us. Last year more than 40 members attended this festive affair. More information on this event is on page 4 of CCC Welcomes All article in this newsletter.

In addition, Gamma continues to support its various service projects. In September, members brought school supplies for the APS Title I Homeless program. In October, new socks and underwear were collected for the APS Clothing Bank. In December, the group will collect gift cards for groceries to give to clients of the Silver Horizons charitable group.

At each meeting, President Pat Graff plays a song and shares the lyrics with Gamma Chapter members. Recently we listened to Kasey Musgraves “Rainbow.” Many of us have experienced loss in recent months, including our own dear member Alice Wesner. This song reminded us, “There’s always a rainbow hanging over your head!”

Alpha Iota Chapter

In March, Alpha Iota Chapter made dinner for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Members shopped, then cooked the meal on-site. Cooking the meal were Diane Bonnell, Ann Calderwood, Judy Allman, Barbara Shirrod, Violette Parker and Karen Carlson. Chapter members who could not help prepare the meal provided the funding for the meal. The families enjoyed a menu of Quick Tamale Pie, Easy Kids Taco Mac, Doritos/Tostado Chicken, and a variety of cookies.

The Ronald McDonald House provides housing and meals for families whose children are being treated for cancer and other illness in Albuquerque hospitals and clinics. Alpha Iota provided a meal for them last March, as well. The ongoing project is coordinated by Diane Bonnell.

Alpha Iota's Barbara Shirrod and Karen Carlson at the Ronald McDonald House.



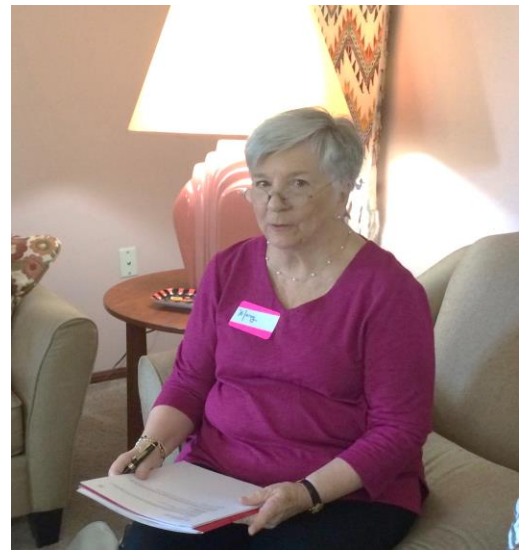
Alpha Iota's Judy Allman, preparing food for Ronald McDonald House families



Alpha Iota's Ann Calderwood at the Ronald McDonald House "Cleaning Up":

In September, Albuquerque's Alpha Iota enjoyed a potluck brunch on the home patio of Betty Begeal. For a getting-to-know-you activity, a variety of everyday objects were placed at each table. Each member was to select an object that she related to or had a story of which the object reminded her. The activity stimulated some wonderful conversations and enabled the members to know more about each other. At one table, a Christmas light bulb inspired some wonderful stories of Christmases past. Other objects elicited stories of travel, family history and friendships.

The chapter had brunch, a business meeting, and then a program. The program was provided by new member, Mary Cotruzzola, who spoke about various outreach projects in Albuquerque from which the chapter can choose for a service project.



Mary Cotruzzola speaks to Alpha Iota members

The October meeting was held at the home of Alpha Iota president Barbara Shirrod. It featured a logic activity, presented by member Ann Calderwood, and a business meeting.

The chapter is looking forward to the Christmas potluck to be held at the home of Diane Bonnell. There will be good food, conversation and holiday music! The December outreach project will be donations to the Highland High School thrift store.

Submitted by Donna Moore

Program Proposals for DKG International in Philadelphia Due Jan. 6

Interested in presenting a program at the DKG International Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania? Forms are now available at www.dkg.org.

There are several different formats, time frames, and topics available, with seven different convention stands being offered. NM DKG members should consider offering a session.

Program proposals are due on Jan. 6, 2020, and must be submitted electronically through the DKG website. The DKG International Convention is July 7-11, 2020.

White Roses



None reported at this time

Red Roses

Congratulations to Gamma member Katy Hammel, NBCT, who will be assuming the assistant principal position for attendance at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School in Albuquerque, starting in January. Katy is currently a teacher of the gifted at Edward Gonzales Elementary School, but completed her administrative program a few years ago. They are getting a topnotch, dedicated, and talented leader. Congratulations, Katy!



Two members of Roswell's Alpha Theta chapter, Cheryl Martinez, NBCT, and Terri Garvey, NBCT, recently renewed their National Board Certification through a rigorous process of reflection and professional work. Their hard work on this renewal process now keeps them as active National Board Certified Teachers for another ten years. Congratulations!

Pat Graff, NBCT, is now working with the Los Alamos National Labs Foundation to support teachers doing National Board Certification work in northern New Mexico. With a grant from the LANL Foundation, Ms. Graff and four other NBCTs are providing classes and workshops to nearly 30 teachers in the Española, Taos, and Chama Valley school districts. This grant program is designed to help teachers improve their practice and improve student learning. Ms. Graff is finishing a term as Gamma's chapter president and serves as the Theta State DKG state first vice-president.

