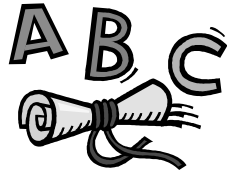


February, 2016



Update

Alpha Beta Chapter, Lambda State, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Carol's Reflections

by Carol Hoffman, AB President

The Lambda State Convention will be April 15-17 at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel. Alpha Beta has many personal reasons to be at this event. Marianne Hall will be honored at the convention for celebrating 50 years as a DKG member; Jessica Lawson will be awarded a \$1,000 stipend toward her master's degree; and Kate Walter will be presenting her project. If I have missed anyone, please let me know so I can acknowledge you at our February meeting.

This is a difficult "Reflection" for me to write. Paul, my husband of 50 years, died at 5:20 am on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 of congestive heart failure. I was with him Monday and brought him his Steak n' Shake strawberry milkshake (not knowing it would be his last). He was fine that evening when I told him that I would see him in the morning. It was a shock when the nursing home called me Tuesday morning.

We were able to share several family events this past year.

- (1) Family and friends celebrated Paul's 80th birthday, March 17 at Medici's Restaurant in Normal with a breakfast buffet. Paul was a patient at BroMenn at the time, so family members gowned and masked up at the hospital (after our meal) to sing and share birthday cake with Paul.
- (2) Paul was in the Emergency Room at BroMenn when I was notified that I had been nominated Fairbury's Citizen of the Year. Paul really wanted to be with me at this event, so I checked with Heritage about getting their van to take Paul to Fairbury. They agreed and Paul got to see some Fairbury friends that evening. That was in June. (Paul had fractured a vertebra in his back and was not mobile.)
- (3) We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in August at ISU Hancock Stadium (a few blocks from Heritage Health in Normal). Some of my Alpha Beta sisters and their spouses were able to share this party with us. Our daughter, Janet is a great party planner.
- (4) Paul was back in the hospital in December with a jaw infection. I prayed that he would be able to celebrate Christmas with the family. Everyone was coming home again from Texas, Missouri, and northern Illinois to celebrate Christmas on December 27. We did have our Christmas party in the Warner Lounge at Heritage Health. We shared oplatek (a Polish custom), opened gifts, took pictures, and had a great time. Paul picked out the Christmas card for me and my necklace. Great memories!

Continued on pg. 2

Next Meeting:

**Saturday
March 19, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Edinger's
Filling Station,
Pontiac**

**"What's Up With
Teacher
Evaluation?"**

Continued from pg. 1

The next time the family was together was at Paul's funeral. Several of my Alpha Beta sisters came to the visitation and the funeral. I am still receiving sympathy cards from DKG members of Lambda State. Thank you for your prayers, caring, and support. It means so much to me.

New Look on International DKG Website

Carol Hughes

Please note that the International website (dkg.org) has a new format. To access certain information you will need to sign on with your membership number which is in the left hand side of your membership card and is also listed under your name and address in our year book. The default password is "dkg2014society".

I was looking for **Amazon Smile** as I wanted to purchase some credit card sleeves. Amazon gives .5% to the DKG Supporting Corporation which includes the Golden Gift Fund, Emergency Fund, DKG Educational Foundation, and others. If you have not signed up, you need to go to www.smile.amazon.com and choose DKG Supporting Corporation. Also I shop online via **Good Shop** which also gives a percentage to DKG at the international level. (You can sign up by touching "Good Shop" on the screen.) On the home page I looked at the bar across the top and found these two listed as "Discounts" under **Be a Member** and **My DKG**.

I would advise taking a tour of the new format by touching the "Welcome" screen on the home page.

Put These Dates and Sites on Your Calendar!

2016

April 15-17 **Lambda State Convention (Register Now)**
The Decatur Conference Center and Hotel, Decatur, IL

June 18 **Training for Chapter Leaders, North**
Ottawa High School, Ottawa, IL

June 21-22 **Lambda State Leadership Management Seminar**
Bradley University, Peoria, IL

July 5-9 **International Convention**
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN

October 7-9 **Creative Arts Retreat**
Lorado Taft Field Campus, NIU, Oregon, IL





News and Notes

Communications & Publicity Report: News releases on our Alpha Beta chapter meetings are consistently sent to local newspapers. Please continue to share articles with Carol Hughes from your local papers as she only subscribes to the *Woodford Co. Journal*.

Lambda State Convention

Registration forms are available on the Lambda State website—

<http://deltakappagamma.org/IL/LSConvention/index.htm>

All you need for the convention is on this site—pre-convention and registration forms, meal menus, conference schedule, convention workshop descriptions, hotel information and directions, and forms for chorus and instrument registration and Friday night's Card Workshop. Register **before April 1** as the price will go up after that date. Hotel reservations must be made with the hotel using the information on the Lambda State website.

Congratulations, Jessica Lawson

Alpha Beta members want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jessica Lawson who was selected by the Lambda State Scholarship Committee to receive a stipend of \$1000 during the Membership Luncheon on April 16 at our state convention which will be held at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel.

This stipend will help pay for much of the expense Jessica experienced during the last year of her coursework on her master's degree in educational technology. Jessica teaches third grade at Davenport School in Eureka and along with teaching has been assisting her colleagues with technology issues.

Member News: Laura Hughes is currently the music director for *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Featuring a country and western score, the musical is based on the real-life story of the notorious Chicken Ranch Brothel which first established its reputation back in the 1890's. With 32 performers, the show is a happy-go-lucky view of small-town vice and statewide political side-stepping. The production is currently playing at Peoria Players Theatre, 4300 N. University St., and continues on Feb. 11, 12, and 13 at 7:30 pm and Feb. 14 at 2:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling 309-688-4473 or going online.

Be sure to let the chapter know of any name, address, or email changes as they occur. This will keep information coming to you on a timely basis.

INFO FOR YOU

Are you aware of the Scholarships and Study Stipends available from Lambda State? Did you know that the stipends can be used for personal as well as professional growth?

Details can be found on the Lambda State website under Service link on the page.

Deadlines for Foundation for Educational Studies applications are May 1 and October 1. The link for more information can be found under Society Business.

Affordable Care Act Form 1095-B

New this year is Form 1095-B needed to prove to IRS that you have health insurance. The FAQ below is excerpted from the State of Illinois website of CMS for retirees who receive their health insurance through TRIP or TRAIL—

What is Form 1095-B? Why do we need one?

The Affordable Care Act is a federal law that requires almost everyone in the United States to have medical coverage. The law stipulates that beginning in tax year 2015, people who don't have at least a minimal level of coverage could have to pay a fine to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). When filing taxes in 2016, most people will have to report to the federal government whether they, along with their covered dependents, had medical insurance coverage during the previous year.

Form 1095-B is a tax form (like a W-2 or 1099-R) that you will receive from your Teachers' Retirement System Program (TRIP) medical coverage provider as proof that you and your covered dependents had the required medical coverage during 2015.

What do I do with my Form 1095-B?

You will use Form 1095-B to verify medical coverage for yourself and your covered dependents on your federal income tax filing, much like you use your W-2 to report wages or your 1099-R to report annuity income. Receiving Form 1095-B does not mean you owe income taxes on the value of the healthcare benefits you receive. You should keep your Form 1095-B with all your tax records as supporting documentation.

Who will get Form 1095-B?

TRIP members who were enrolled in the Quality Care Health Plan (QCHP), HealthLink OAP, Coventry OAP, Health Alliance HMO, Coventry HMO, HMO Illinois, or BlueAdvantage HMO sometime during the year, will receive a 1095-B form. Retirees and Survivors enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan offered through the TRIP Total Retiree Advantage Illinois (TRAIL) Program will not receive a Form 1095-B from the individual plans or from CMS. Individuals enrolled in a TRAIL plan may receive Form 1095-B from the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Excerpts were from the following site which has more info--

<http://www.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/Teachers/Pages/Affordable-Care-Act-Form-1095-B-FAQs.aspx> Updated 1/26/2016

Check back to the site as it may be updated

For more information visit the website below:

<https://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Questions-and-Answers-about-Health-Care-Information-Forms-for-Individuals>

*The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International*

**Lambda State
Alpha Beta Chapter
Livingston, Marshall
and Woodford
Counties, Illinois**

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ABC Sisters Keep Busy

From Connie Rich: We had the joy of staying the last week of January in Bloomington with our grandsons. Mornings were spent taking Marshall to and from preschool. He is currently focused on wearing black. I hope he's not into "gothic" in another 10 years. There was one puzzle we got really good at after about a dozen times. His older brother Hunter is in 1st grade. Papa had the responsibility of taking him to a hockey practice at the coliseum for Boy Scouts and to bowling lessons. I supervised homework for both. Hunter has been published in the Flying Horse column of the Sunday Pantagraph twice in January. He wrote the following when I was there. I'm hopeful it makes the cut too. The topic was Best Job. "The best job is to work at State Farm. My dad works there. It isn't dangerous at all. My dad makes good money. It is not a dirty job." Having finished my Nammy duties, I'm now on a well-deserved vacation in Florida with my dad for 11 days. See you all Saturday.

Karen and Norm Harms enjoyed a romantic and wonderful vacation on the big island of Hawaii, January 5th – 12th. They stayed with her brother Kim and his wife Anne in a million dollar home in Kona they were taking care of for some friends. Pretty awesome! Karen's sister Kay and husband John from Greenville, South Carolina were also with them for the week. Kim and Anne drove the group to many places on the island. They went on a whale watching excursion, to the volcanic national park and I snorkeled, to name just a few special things we did. Since Kim is a retired pastor he did a small intimate ceremony for the family overlooking the ocean followed by attending a luau. Karen says this was their third trip to Hawaii and one that will always be special in her heart!

**ABC UPDATE
1705 SUNRISE PT
NORMAL, IL 61761**

Janet Kilgus will be busy in the next couple of months with a trip with Dave to Florida for fun and 2 more IEA-Retired meetings, the NEA-Retired Organizing Conference in San Diego in March, and the IEA Representative Assembly in Rosemont in April (the same time as DKG state convention. L) And...lots and lots of in-state meetings in between. She's finding being on the Executive Board of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans a very interesting experience, despite the drive to Chicago every other month to the Union Hall on Ashland for their meetings.