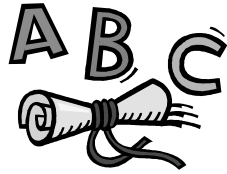


January, 2017



# Update

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

## *Barb's Musings*

*by Barbara Baumann, AB President*

Welcome to 2017! I hope you had a special Christmas. I enjoyed Christmas on Thanksgiving this year when our boys and their families could be here. We are only able to all get together once or twice a year, but it is certainly a blessing to see how they get along when they do see each other. This time of year helps me remember how precious family and friends really are.

I feel this way about my Alpha Beta sisters. I may only see each of you once a month at our meetings, but I feel your love and support all the time. The New Year is a time to reflect on the past and look toward the future, and I am confident we'll continue to be there for each other. Thank you for your friendship!

We have some unique programs scheduled for 2017. The first of these is a discussion of the book Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini. I hope you've had a chance to get your hands on a copy to read before our meeting on January 7. I was so interested in the book that I ordered a copy of Elizabeth Keckley's memoir that caused so much controversy when first published. I began reading it as soon as I received it. Please plan to attend the meeting whether you've read the book or not. I'm confident you'll be able to contribute to the discussion regardless.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Saturday,**

Feb 11  
Pontiac Family  
Kitchen,  
Pontiac

"Going One-to-One"

The Lambda State Convention will be April 21-23 at Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. This will give us another opportunity to connect with our DKG sisters. "Make the Block" is again available this year, so please make plans now to attend. Check your Winter 2016 Lambda State Newscaster for details. We currently have the new plaque for being tied having the highest percentage of attendees at last year's convention. Wouldn't it be fantastic to be the sole winner of this honor in April?

Looking forward to seeing you at the January meeting and trying your tasty dishes!



## Lambda State Convention

Registration is open for the Lambda State Convention to be held April 21-23 at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac in Saint Louis, Missouri. Registration forms are online at the Lambda State website <http://deltakappagamma.org/IL/LSConvention/index.htm> and the recent Winter, 2016 issue of the *Lambda State Newscaster*. Both also contain information in regards to hotel registration, convention menus, and other details.

Hotel room rates are \$104 (plus tax) for single with King bed or double with two Queen beds. Triple rooms are \$114 and Quad rooms are \$124.00 with a limit of four per room. Reservations are due by April 3, 2017 for the Lambda State rate. After that date, reservations will be made based regular rates and room availability. Help Lambda State "Make the Block" to keep conference expenses low by staying at the conference hotel.

## Learn and Enjoy at the Northeast Regional

Come to the Northeast Regional Conference July 12-14 at *Caesars Resort and Convention Center in Windsor, Ontario*. The Northeast Regional Conference will be **one day shorter** than the other regionals as International is responding to evaluations that suggested shortening the regionals.

*The registration fee* is \$113 (U.S. dollars) for the three days and \$50 for one day. But the registration form will be listed in Canadian dollars, and, therefore, those living in the U.S. will need to use a credit card to register. The credit card bill will then list the cost in U.S. dollars, which because of the exchange rate is less than Canadian dollars.

*Caesars Resort, the conference site* located across the river from Detroit, is a lovely facility. Rooms are in the Augustus Tower, and the meetings are on a lower level in the same tower. Reserving a room in late spring, may require you to select lodging in the Forum Tower which requires a short walk through the Casino to the conference. Lodging is \$165 in Canadian dollars per night. Multiply \$165 by .75 to get the approximate cost of the room in U.S. dollars: \$123.75.



*Why do we have regional conferences?* We can get the latest information about the Society, and we can experience professional and personal development through speakers, breakout sessions, and other activities. Plus, we see another geographical area. Earlier in the week (Mon., Tues., and Wed.) pre-conference training will be provided for state organization presidents and other specific state leaders. International meetings are wonderful places to enjoy "genuine spiritual fellowship" with women from other countries and states in the U.S.

# Learn and Enjoy at the Northeast Regional

So, think very seriously about attending the Northeast Regional. Some members from the Northeast have already volunteered to help Ontario's 150 members. When a list of those volunteer jobs becomes available, the Northeast state organization presidents will be notified.

If you wish to do a breakout session or a ten-minute takeaway, a proposal form is online. Breakouts are 45 minutes. A "ten-minute takeaway" is an opportunity to make a presentation on one topic in a ten-minute time slot in an open area.

Two pre-conference sessions—**The Underground Railway** which ended at Windsor and **Indigenous Peoples in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**--will be offered on Wednesday, July 12. Professional development hours will be available.

Members who are musical and enjoy singing and playing instruments are invited to participate. Susan Young from Illinois will be directing the chorus along with seeking individuals to perform at various sessions.

Porter Airlines offers a discount from major cities and Canada to Toronto where going through customs is required, and then it's only a 20-minute flight to Windsor. On other airlines through Detroit, it is only about 30 minutes by shuttle to arrive at Windsor after going through customs. You do need a passport! No one gets in to Canada with a gun--not even one that a husband or friend may have left in the trunk of your car. When passing through customs, if you are asked why you are entering Canada, say you are attending a teachers' conference.

Come to Windsor in July and we will share a variety of experiences and have a good time!!

*"One of the most important reasons to attend convention relates to our First Purpose: 'to unite women educators of the world in genuine spiritual fellowship.'"*

*Carol Hughes  
Newscaster, Winter  
2011*

# See you there!



**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.**

## Literacy Committee

The literacy committee has been purchasing \$100 worth of books from Scholastic Press for one of our literacy goals. We have given books for years to The Storybook Project at Dwight Correctional Center and more recently Logan Correctional Center.

Our Louann Harms works with Margaret Hawkins who is a volunteer with The Storybook Project at the Pontiac Correctional facility and other prisons in the state. Margaret emailed me that board books would be most appreciated for the project. \$100 does not buy many board books, even from Scholastic.

It breaks my heart that these incarcerated people leave behind such young children. Sheryl Frantz and I were discussing the possibility of asking our sisters to donate any new or very little used books for the Storybook Project. Sheryl came up with the idea of sponsoring a board book shower from our members that we could collect at the May 6th meeting.

We are asking our sisters to purchase any board books that are on a good sale between now and our May 6 meeting at Edinger's in Pontiac.

Sheryl and I will spend our \$100 on whatever board books we can afford.

Thank you for your support.

Jan Masching and Sheryl Frantz

**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.*

From Maggie Janssen--I've had a busy fall and the beginning of winter. My son, Todd, and his family from Berkeley were here for Thanksgiving. Of course, they came to see us, but also to spend a little time with Todd's Grandma Lopeman. As it turns out it was a great decision as she passed away on Dec. 15.

I continue to have issues with my CTCL cancer and on Dec. 9 we were once again up at MAYO to see my hematologist/oncologist and dermatologist. Three biopsies were taken and I received a phone call on Christmas Eve saying the biopsies show the same cancer I've been dealing with for 22 years. The tumor board at MAYO meets on January 18 and will be discussing and coming up with a plan for me. Until then I continue as I have been.

Christmas was busy; we hosted my dad, siblings and cousins (14) and the next day we hosted our daughters and their families (17). We now are including a girlfriend and a boyfriend, thus adding more gifts and more fun. I did something I wasn't sure about, but before we sat down to dinner I took a box around and collected all cell phones. Most of the kids thought I was crazy, but they all followed through. Even the adults. Only one adult and one grandchild picked theirs up before we were done opening gifts and playing our Christmas game. I think it was a great decision.

My Dad is having a lot of trouble with his feet. His right foot is badly infected and he has no or very little circulation in the leg, all the way to the knee. I'm going with him on Jan. 9 to see a surgeon and hear what options he has to offer. His mind is very good and he loves playing his harmonica for others. It's hard to see his body failing but his mind as good as ever. He continues dialysis and he walks with a cane but I really think he needs to use a wheel chair. His response: not yet.

A very Happy New Year to all. May it be a good year for all of us.  
Maggie

*The Delta Kappa  
Gamma Society  
International*

**Lambda State  
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Livingston, Marshall  
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Counties, Illinois**

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## *ABC Sisters Keep Busy*

From Connie Rich: It seems that the Christmas season began with decorating in November for lots of December entertaining. I heard one person comment that Christmas had become a "deadline", instead of a "celebration". We started off with Thanksgiving week in Branson, with John's cousin and his wife joining us. We belong to the same club that no parent wants to join, as their 39-year-old son died in July. Hopefully we helped them bring in the holiday season with new memories, great food, and entertaining shows. We were able to celebrate with both our extended families, one in November, the other in December. I hosted my two bridge groups, as well as the Fairbury Rotary Club and their spouses. The icy weekend before Christmas had our son and his family here, but we told John Dunnett and his family to stay put in Chicago. That meant a trip to Chicago with Santa and gifts the following Tuesday, and our son and his family back again Dec 23-24. New Years' Eve two of our besties were down from Chicago, and Josie's close friend and her husband coming for overnight today. This Sunday we host our annual 7 course wine paired dinner for the four couples of us who hosted two successful wine tasting events when raising money for the library. Then there are the smaller events I didn't name. Yes, there were days when it did feel more like a deadline, but then I remind myself of the wonderful friends and family we've spent time with, and the memories made to look back on. It is well worth the time and effort, all an act of love during this special time of year. This week I'm making time to read the book for Saturday's meeting, to reflect on the year past, and to anticipate the year to come.  
Happy New Year, everyone!

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