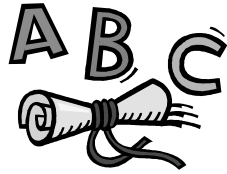


May 2017



Update

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

Barb's Musings

by Barbara Baumann, AB President

I recently returned from the Lambda State Convention in St. Louis with so many thoughts going through my mind. I rode with Elaine Cunningham, so we had over six hours in the car to visit. It was great getting to know her even better than I did before (she and her husband set up a blind date between my husband and me). The trip home was especially memorable. At one time, we were both laughing so hard I don't know how Elaine could drive (ask her about body tricks if you'd like to know more). I roomed with Carol Hoffman, so we had a little time during the day and time late at night to visit. Again, I got to know much more about her and her family. Spending so much time with these very special ladies was one of the highlights of my convention experience.

Somehow, I was able to complete my duties as chapter president without embarrassment, so that was a relief. All the convention meals were delicious, with interesting and inspiring programs and presentations. I returned the plaque Carol Hughes provided this year for chapters with the most members in attendance, but the percentage attendance plaque offered by the state seems to be missing. No one seemed to know who won that plaque last year, so there was some confusion with all this. At least we returned the one we had. At the membership luncheon, we were recognized for two achievements (four entries in the state newsletter and offering PDs). We were later given a certificate for Literacy, and we're still looking into why we were not recognized for Schools for Africa and the Marion Medical Mission (the well). Eventually, we will receive five certificates for achievement.

One thing of which I was particularly proud was the involvement of members of our chapter in a large variety of areas. Elaine Cunningham, Nancy Wier, and Karen Harms participated in the Jubilee Singer choir. Louann Harms was a participant in the memorial service as a member of that committee, and Louann also helped decorate for the membership luncheon. Elaine played the bagpipes at the memorial service. Lou Ann Jacobs gave a report as State Historian. We participated in the Chapter Bazaar and earned \$183 (minus \$12 spent to make our gift card bouquets) for a total of \$171 for our chapter, and we donated \$61 to the Creative Arts Retreat with 25% of our proceeds. True to her reputation, Carol Hoffman won two gift baskets at the Bazaar, including one of ours. All Alpha Beta members in attendance helped with our bazaar raffle table.

Next Meeting:
Saturday,
September 9, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Edinger's Filling
Station,
Pontiac

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I'm so proud of our chapter. We were involved at the convention, but we also continue as an active chapter with local, state, and international projects and funds. After talking with sisters from many different chapters, I realized that the fact that we meet regularly, offer a variety of programs, provide the opportunity to earn PDs at some of our programs, and have great meals is exemplary compared to some other chapters.

Thank you so much for a great first year as your president.

When Ruth Ann Kohlmann invited me to go along with her to my first convention over 20 years ago she told me that I needed to experience the state convention to fully appreciate the work of Delta Kappa Gamma. Following Ruth Ann's advice, I've learned so much and met so many amazing and dedicated people through the years. This year's convention was no exception, partly because of the enthusiasm of our Lambda State president, Sylvia Olson. Her theme of Growing, Changing, Standing Strong carried throughout the weekend.

When Lou Ann asked that we share some highlights about convention my thought was, "Where do I begin?". The first thing that came to me was having the privilege of serving on the Membership committee and being part of the Celebration of Life service. It is a moving service with beautiful music provided by the Jubilation Singers. Alpha Beta remembered Delight Weir with a white rose during the ceremony.

The Membership Luncheon on Saturday honored members who are growing, changing and standing strong. A special member was honored for 60 years of membership, along with several Alpha Beta sisters who have been members for 50, 45, and 40 years. I loved honoring all the talented women who have served on special committees, those who received scholarships and stipends, the new members and First Timers.

Saturday evening's key note speaker was energizing, humorous, and practical. Superintendent of Tri-Valley School District, Dr. David Mouser, said that as educators we should concentrate on each child's abilities and needs and find a place for them to shine, not on test scores!!

I was able to visit one-on-one with our international representative, Becky Sadowski, and we shared what being a DKG member means to us. It's women like Becky who inspire and challenge me to be the best DKG member I can.

I enjoyed the Awards Breakfast where the amazing, talented, passionate, and dedicated future teachers were awarded scholarships. They have all had so many rich experiences in the education field already and will be prepared to carry on the purposes of the Society well.

Yes, attending the convention is the crowning touch to a year of amazing things in both Alpha Beta Chapter and Lambda State. Please consider attending next year, you won't be sorry! And Ruth Ann will be so happy too!

A special thank you to my co-pilot and roommate Karen Harms for making the trip to St. Louis fun! Let's do it again.

Louann Harms



ABC at State Convention

Alpha Beta Attendees— Big smiles must mean that they are having a great time at Convention!



Observations from the Convention—

Great opportunities for learning were available at Convention. There were two book discussions conducted. Webmaster Jean Tulin presented ways to safely save files and recommends backing up computer files often on a flash drive or other storage device. Legislation chair Linda Lucke caught us up on what is going on in Springfield and Washington, D.C. which changes daily. My favorite workshop was on getting clutter free presented by Bev Johns, Marilyn Myers, and Kammie Richter. Their book is now available on amazon.com!

Lou Ann Jacobs

Ashley Vollmer was the recipient of the Florence A Cook Recruitment Grant. This was the second year in a row that the Area 4 recipient was sponsored by our chapter! With Ashley in the photo are her parents David and Alicia Vollmer and Karen Harms, AB Chapter Professional Affairs Chair.



Here are some comments from others who attended—

I always enjoy singing in the choir - even if they are early morning rehearsals. And it is always good to see my 'once a year' friends!
Elaine Cunningham

I loved Dr. David Mouser (Superintendent, Tri-Valley Schools) the motivational speaker on Saturday night. The meals we're delicious and the service excellent. The DKG committee and officers did an awesome job of planning!
A memorable weekend!
Karen Harms

INFO FOR YOU

State News

Several of our Alpha Beta Sisters were honored at the Convention for the number of years they have been members.

50-year Member Carol Hughes was unable to attend. She was International Representative at another state's convention. Elaine Cunningham was recognized for her 45 years as a member. 40-year members from our chapter are Janet Kilgus and Jari Oncken.

Congratulations to all of you!

A wonderful opportunity awaits all of us this summer on **June 19-21**, at Bradley University in Peoria. **Lambda State Taming Technology** is a great opportunity to gain new tech skills for personal and/or professional use. The seminar is open to anyone. **Professional Development Hours will be available for many sessions.**

You can get more info and register online by going to: www.deltakappagamma.org/IL and click on the events page and then click on Taming Technology Seminar.

Registration closes June 1.

Northeast Regional News

Over the past months a number of you have said that you are willing to help us at the Northeast Regional in Windsor. Here are some ways you can assist:

Be a Presider-- there still are some presenters of breakouts who do need presiders. A presider picks up an envelope with information when she checks in at the registration table. At the breakout, she assists in finding seats if the room is crowded, passes out information if asked to do so, and briefly introduces the presenter. If you or other members are willing to be presiders, please send me (chughes@mtco.com) names and e-mail addresses. Debbie Rodaway and Sylvia Dopking of Ontario will contact presiders.

Join the choir and/or play an instrument. Music is a key component of the conference. You can download the form at bit.ly/DKG-NERC which will take you directly to our DKG website and information on the regional. Sue Young, Choral Director, will send you the music and CD. If you are not a musician, then ask one of your DKG friends who is musically inclined to share her talent. For your convenience, I have attached the form.

Bring a used musical instrument to donate. Mike Stevens, who is a professional harmonica player and one of our speakers at the Regional, founded ArtsCan Circle. Through this foundation, Stevens has influenced his fellow musicians to use their talents to teach the youth of Canada's remote indigenous communities, especially in the north, to play these instruments. So if you have a used instrument, hang on to it a little longer and bring it to Windsor. (I am bringing a trumpet.) He also will accept music, guitar strings, straps, and other kinds of musical materials.

Other volunteer jobs will surface as Ontario does not have a large group of members. When a need arises, I will again be contacting you. These volunteer jobs might be helping in the registration area, greeting arrivals by the drive up entrance on the lower level, handing out goodie bags, etc.

Carol Hughes

Learn and Enjoy a Variety of Breakouts and Takeaways at the NE Regional

When you hear the word “breakout,” you may say that is the current “workshop.” But if you are like me, you have never heard of a “takeaway,” which is an intense ten-minute session on one topic. At Northeast Regional the takeaways will be held in open areas between the breakout sessions which are 45 minutes long. Although our one day shorter than the other regionals, we still have a variety of and takeaways related to technology, teaching, learning, leadership, growth, and DKG.

Strengthen your knowledge of the Society by attending breakouts *Women to Promote Excellence in Education Worldwide* or *Tools and Vibrant Chapter Membership*. Experience personal growth and to play the harmonica with Mike Stevens, noted professional player. (At the session you may purchase a harmonica for \$20 CAD—valued at \$80 CAD.)

Through a breakout, increase your ability to create the most positive workplace in your school by attending *Unleash Your Team Potential*. Or you could learn from a maritime archaeologist how the Sedna Epic Expedition is bringing community engagement through the study of climate change via snorkeling and diving.

Technology affects us all whether we are still in the classroom or retired. A variety of breakouts range from *Using Microsoft Word for Communication and Publicity* and *FIRST Robotics from Kindergarten through High School* along with *Gotcha! Your Friendly Computer Hacker*.

There are a number of ten-minute takeaways. Attend “FFF-Form Filling Fun!” and learn how to get your application accepted by the DKG Educational Foundation. Come and consider ideas about everyday practices for inspiring and being inspired to lead with the Leadership Development Committee. At *The “Doctor” Is In*, the Nominations Committee will help alleviate the pain of the nomination process.



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Tips for A*
learn how
harmonica



Attend the *Stretch, Breathe, and Laugh* takeaway and enjoy a time of stretching and laughter as the group utilizes breathing and yoga techniques to incorporate into your everyday lifestyle. If you are always trying to locate a lost item, you should attend *Ten Minutes of Ten Tips to a Clutter Free Life*. Do you find social media confusing? Then stop by *Social Media How-To's*. You will expand your history of Canada by learning about *Public Sculpture along the Waterfront*. Later view these works of art just outside of Caesars.

You have an opportunity to attend 45 breakouts and 20 takeaways on Thursday and Friday of our regional. At a later date, you will be

able to find a full listing on dkg.org of all the breakouts and takeaways at the Northeast Regional.

Select the breakouts and takeaways that will enhance your conference experience!

Remember that if you have questions about the Northeast Regional, contact me at

chughes@mtco.com.

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*The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International*

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

**ABC Update Editor:
Lou Ann Jacobs
1705 Sunrise Point
Normal, IL 61761
Phone:
309/452-5363
e-mail:
ljacobs363@aol.com**

ABC Sisters Keep Busy

Lila and Russ McCulley had fun dying Easter eggs with grandson Garrick and having an egg hunt with him. "He just turned 8 and is our youngest grandchild, so we probably won't be getting to do that too many more times!"

Lila reports that "The Village-Aires 50th Anniversary show was excellent. They always have a wonderful show, and this one brought back lots of memories. Elaine was a charter member of the group and has been in 63 shows. Jari Lynn was in several shows in the past, but I'm not sure how many. My husband Russ has been in 61 shows and in this one donned his Elvis costume and had fun hamming it up again. The group will perform at a couple of nursing homes later this week bringing lots of joy to the residents. Wonderful job, Elaine!"

Janet Kilgus and Lou Ann Jacobs were Retired Delegates to the IEA Representative Assembly in Chicago. Sara Kaufman was an RA Assistant for the meeting. Janet, Chair of the IEA-Retired Council, gave a report on the many activities of retired members from the podium.

From Connie Rich--It has been a busy winter/spring. We spent 5 weeks in Florida because my dad was having health issues. In fact, so did I. A kidney stone demanded removal. After a few short weeks at home, we headed to Italy for 3 weeks to visit our daughter and her family. Our grandkids were the perfect age for a Mediterranean cruise. Not included in our advance planning was their move to Panama City, FLA while we were in Italy. We spent our last week in Tuscany enjoying great Chianti wines. After less than 48 hours at home, we took off for Hailey, Idaho to meet up with friends from California. This is a beautiful country we live in. Fortunately John and I both love road trips. Last night we were in Fargo, ND and will be home Tuesday afternoon. High on my priority list is to visit and meet our two new "grandsons". Josie's husband John and his wife had their 3rd, Murray, on April 15. Josie's close friend, Anne Marie, and her husband welcomed their "one and only", Jonah, on April 16. It's also time to make up for lost time with our son and his family in Bloomington. Life is good, and I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday.

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

