

# Beta Zeta Chapter



SEPTEMBER, 2012

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1

## **Proposed 2012-2013 Calendar**

*Please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!*

### **September 14-15, 2012**

*Mu State Fall  
Workshop*

*Orlando, FL*

### **September 22, 2012**

*11:00 AM*

*Orientation Coffee*

*Miami Country  
Day School*

*602 NE 107<sup>th</sup> St.  
Miami Shores*

*Chapter meeting  
after program*

## **President's Corner**

This is not only a new Biennium for Beta Zeta but a whole new endeavor for me. I am honored and humbled, yet, at the same time, challenged by the commitment to lead and serve, that I have accepted. With support, understanding and patience, this will be a productive time for Beta Zeta.

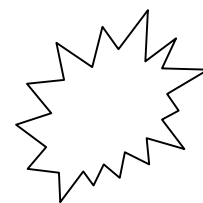
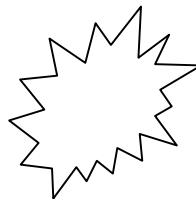
Over the upcoming months we need to strive for new levels of success in strengthening our membership, building the recognition of Delta Kappa Gamma through community involvement and in particular communication, just to name a few areas. Any goal set will be achieved together through the efforts of our chapter's members.

I am calling on all members of our chapter to be active participants so everyone can share in the pride and ownership of the chapter's accomplishments. Being a member of Beta Zeta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and active participation should be synonymous.

Let us move forward in our year together.

Respectfully,

Jeannie Vilato  
President



## **Beta Zeta Dues**

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send them in ASAP!!!  
(Active dues, \$80.00; Reserve dues, \$35.00) Send your check made payable to Beta Zeta to:

Joyce Cotner  
8531 Caribbean Blvd  
Miami, FL 33157

Call Joyce at (305) 253-3868 if you have any questions.

**October 20,  
2012**

9:00 AM

*Initiation  
Breakfast*

*Miami Elks Lodge  
10301 Sunset Dr.  
(SW 72<sup>nd</sup> St.)  
Miami, FL*

*Cost: \$22.00  
(Checks payable  
to Beta Zeta & to  
Joyce by Sept.  
27<sup>th</sup>)*

*Chapter meeting  
after program*

**November 10,  
2012**

*Ronald McDonald  
House, Miami*

**December 15,  
2012**

*Beta Zeta Holiday  
Party & meeting*

*(Time & location  
TBA)*

**Spring Chapter  
Meetings 2013**

*TBA*

**April 7, 2013**

*Miracle Theatre  
In Coral Gables*

*Tickets: \$37.00  
(Checks payable  
to Beta Zeta.)*

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**Orientation** is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> · 11:00 AM, at Miami Country Day School. This is a great time to bring possible new members so they will have the opportunity to learn more about Delta Kappa Gamma.

**Initiation** will be at the Miami Elks Lodge, 9:00 AM, on October 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have a chapter meeting after the program. Please send \$22.00 to Joyce Cotner by September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Member News!**

**Joan Odem's** mother passed away this summer. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your loved ones.

Happy Birthday & Congratulations to **Mary Truka** and **VirgieLee Shaw** as they both celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays in July!

**Melanie Mann-Odin** was injured at school in March and has been on Workman's Comp. She is still undergoing therapy and tests. Best wishes for good health, Melanie.

**Della Zaher** had a nasty fall and broke her hip along with her arm. She was recently released from the care center and is able to walk a short distance using a cane. Her right arm is still in a sling, which should be removed shortly. Della would love to hear from all of you at [jzaher@aol.com](mailto:jzaher@aol.com). Be sure to keep her in your prayers.

**Thania Dominguez** fell at her home shortly after she returned from a trip to Europe and suffered multiple broken bones. She is in therapy but her recuperation is going very slowly and extremely painful. Thania needs to know we are thinking of her. You can reach her at (305)271-1726 or 8701 SW 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, 33173-4115

Thanks to **Shelley Werner** our Beta Zeta Chapter is on Facebook. Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/FLBetaZetaDKG> Nice job, as usual, Shelley!

# 2012 DKG Convention

**April 19-21,  
2013**

*Mu State  
Convention*

*Orlando, FL*

**May ?, 2013**

*Setting-Up  
Conference*

**July 9-13, 2013**

*Southeast  
Regional  
Conference*

*Gaylord Palms  
Kissimmee, FL*



Beta Zeta had two members attending the 2012 International Convention of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society in New York City, July 24-28, at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers. Doris Parsons-Nesbit stayed at the Sheraton and VirgieLee Shaw commuted from the home of her daughter Suzanne Storck, a DKG “guest.” The total attendees registered was 2,021.

The theme throughout the Convention was **EMBRACING OUR VISION \* DESIGNING OUR FUTURE**. The speakers and the music were excellent. Tori Murden McClure, the first woman to make a solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by rowboat, was especially entertaining.

**Breakout Sessions** were beneficial to chapters and/or individual members. The ones I attended were for Beta Zeta and for me, personally. For instance, my Session 1 was about reaching women educators under 40 and retaining those over 60, and Session 2 was on improving memory and retention regardless of your age. One could attend only 6 of the 120 offered.

I caught a cab to reach the Sheraton for a 7:15AM **Southeast Region Breakfast**. I sat with three Miamians: Sharon Wallen, Pi, and Joan Soltz and Ginny Hunter, Epsilon. The climax of the event was the presentation of awards for the **Stars of the Southeast**. Ginny Hunter received a star-shaped pin as **Florida’s Star**, the “heart” of her chapter, and many services to others were listed with her picture in a keepsake booklet.

We in Florida wore an artificial orange blossom corsage on a ribbon that said: **DKG Mu State Supports Beverly Helms at the INT’L ‘Helm.’** She was elected the 2012-14 International President. We congratulate this Floridian!

A beautiful ceremony, **A Celebration of Life**, was held on Saturday afternoon. Our Emily Warren’s name was listed on page 10 of the special program-booklet.

The **President’s Banquet** concluded the Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention. The program included, besides the fabulous food, an introduction of Region Presidents, speeches, the delightful International Chorus, the Passing of the Gavel to Florida’s Beverly Helms, and the “Delta Kappa Gamma Song.”

Before we left the Sheraton, Suzy and I saw Doris and talked with her. Seeing this Beta Zeta sister rounded out the occasion.

VirgieLee Shaw



Photo at **Southeast Region Breakfast**, Friday, July 27, 2012:  
Sharon Wallen, Pi  
Joan Soltz and Ginny Hunter, Epsilon  
VirgieLee Shaw, Beta Zeta

## READING PALS

Roxanne Barr and Loretta Tepedino are volunteers with the Reading Pals Program. This program is available county-wide and also in ten (10) Florida regions. The commitment for this program is one hour per week. Please contact Roxanne and Loretta to learn more about this program.

Please take time to read the following information about the Reading Pals Program.

*As a new school year begins, let us not forget that the very future of Florida rests on our ability to raise a generation of children — a workforce — that can compete in an ever-more complex and global economy. We cannot afford to let matters stand where they are, but rather must work toward what could be. There seems to us nothing more “American” than ensuring that every child has the chance to succeed in both school and in life. At the very core of that is the ability to read — and loving to do so throughout all of life.*

# The alarming story of reading

By CAROL BARNETT AND DAVID LAWRENCE JR.

[carol.barnett@publix.com](mailto:carol.barnett@publix.com)

Among our earliest joys in life was reading. We still remember the first books that our mothers read to us — for one of us Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*, for the other *The Little Engine That Could*.

To watch as a child learns to read is one of life's special moments. Reading is the foundation of success in life. Sadly, for far too many children their lives are ones where books are seldom present, reading does not take place and that strong foundation is never laid.

If you look at our state's most recent FCAT scores, 44 percent of public-school third-grade students (and 47 percent in Miami-Dade County) cannot read at grade level. Meanwhile, we know that a child not reading at grade level by the end of third grade is four times more likely to drop out of high school. How alarming.

For most children, third grade is a major transition year. It's when children should no longer be "learning to read," but rather "reading to learn." In so many ways, a child's ability to read at grade level by third grade is predicated upon the basic fundamentals: Caring and knowledgeable parents, high-quality early learning environments and access to medical care and developmental screenings. Sadly, hundreds of thousands of children in Florida are deprived of the basics necessary to be "school ready" and, therefore, start school behind — and, so often, falling further behind. The wisest possible investment in genuine public-education reform would mean far greater investments early and up front in children's lives.

Recently, in an effort to ensure that thousands of more children have the bright future that they deserve, United Way and The Children's Movement of Florida are launching Reading Pals — a three-year early literacy initiative — in 10 Florida regions (among them Miami-Dade County). Made possible by a three-year, \$3 million private grant, thousands of volunteer "reading pals" will be trained by local United Ways, screened and deployed into VPK, kindergarten, first, second and third grade classrooms across Florida. Because the research tells us that only real results come from real time and real commitments, volunteers will be working in individual or small group settings with the same child or children for an hour each week for no fewer than 25 weeks. Children — identified based on the level of need — will work with his or her "reading pal" throughout the year, receive books that will be used to begin home libraries, and receive pre- and post-assessments to measure the gains.

In just these past several weeks, more than a thousand Floridians have signed up to become "reading pals" — and we hope to sign up a thousand more by the start of the program. But to be quite straightforward, creating a "reading program" is not something new or unique. What is "unique" is the creating of a real community conversation around literacy — and a working together of local partners that allows each of us to begin to look at how we truly address the issue of literacy in this community. Those partnerships and collaborations can bring real change — and real results.

*To learn more or to become a "reading pal," please visit*

*[www.unitedwaymiami.org/volunteer/readingpals](http://www.unitedwaymiami.org/volunteer/readingpals) or contact Chantell King at the United Way of Miami-Dade County at [readingpals@unitedwaymiami.org](mailto:readingpals@unitedwaymiami.org) or call (305) 646-7021.*

David Lawrence Jr. of Miami is the chair of The Children's Movement of Florida. Carol Barnett of Lakeland is the vice chair of The Children's Movement and the president of Publix Super Market Charities. Carol and her husband Barney are giving \$3 million to launch Reading Pals.

