



Theta Chapter News  
Theta Chapter, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
April 2019

**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

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2018-20

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[iowadkg.weebly.com](http://iowadkg.weebly.com)  
[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

**Please bring your HyVee receipts and Box Tops for Education to meetings.**

**April 11, 2019 Thursday 4:30-6:30**  
**Conference Pre Work at GWAEA – Autumn Room, 4401 6<sup>th</sup> St. SW**

This will be a work session to prepare materials for the June 15-15, 2019 Upsilon State Conference which is hosted by Theta and Alpha Nu chapters and will be held in Cedar Rapids. **This is also the date of our second Panera fundraisers. Members should have received a flyer about the fundraiser in an email. If not, contact Ann Nicholson or Betty Stewart.**

**May 9, 2019 Thursday 4:30-6:30**  
**Pairiewoods Spirituality Center 120 E. Boyson Rd., Hiawatha**

We will recognize our scholarship grant recipients and enjoy a meal together! Cost of the dinner is \$9.00, and you can pay at the April meeting or mail your payment to Patty Kucera. Checks should be made out to Theta Chapter.

**Important Dates**

**April 15, 2019** – Applications are due for the Roads Scholar Scholarship, Upsilon State Scholarship, and the Memorial Scholarship. Applications can be found at the Iowa State Website (<https://iowadkg.weebly.com/>) under **Dates→Due Dates**.

**June 14-15, 2019** - The 2019 Iowa State Convention, “Cruising the Corridor with the 3 C’s: Collaborate, Captivate, Contemplate,” will be held at the Cedar Rapids Marriott.

**July 10-12, 2019** – International Convention at the Embassy Suites in Downtown Des Moines.

**Dues are Due by June 30:** - When the DKG Constitution was updated this year, a change was made that states that membership years are from July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, therefore our membership due date has changed accordingly. Bring your dues to the April or May meeting or send them to Patty Kucera. Dues are \$75.00 for regular members and \$50.00 for reserve members. Checks should be made out to Theta Chapter.



*Celebrate April Birthdays:*

April 10	Angela Svoboda
April 28	Zinnia Lim

## Hy-Vee Coupon Books

At the March meeting, our chapter voted to participate in the Hy-Vee Coupon Book sales to help fund our student scholarships. We have purchased 25 books for \$3.00 each and are asking interested members to purchase coupon books for \$10 each to resell. Coupon books will be available for purchase at the April and May meetings. If you are interested in selling coupon books but are unable to attend the April and May meetings, contact:

Ann Nicholson ([anicholson2869@gmail.com](mailto:anicholson2869@gmail.com))

and arrangements will be made to deliver books. The books contain over \$100 worth of coupons and the first coupon is for a free \$5.00 gift card with the purchase of \$50 or more.

## Iowa DKG T-Shirts

Between now and April 15, you can go online to order an Iowa DKG t-shirt for \$9.02 plus tax (slightly more for 2XL+ sizes). If there are more than 37 shirts ordered online, the price may be less and you will receive a discount for the differences. Shirts will be available for pick up at the State Convention in Cedar Rapids.

The link to order is:

["Iowa State Delta Kappa Gamma"](#)



## Spark\*5 Program

At the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, Megan Herschner presented information about Spark\*5, a United Way initiative. According to their website, "As a prevention-based initiative, based in the 52404 zip code, spark\*5 engages first-time expectant parents living in poverty, connects them with available services, and then walks with them through their child's vital years from birth to age five. This will result in children prepared to enter school and succeed, and parents better equipped for life and parenting."

You can find out more about Spark\*5 at <https://www.spark5.org/>



Megan Herschner sharing information about Spark\*5

## DKG Emergency Funds

Members who sustain major losses from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wild fires and other natural disasters may be recommended by their chapter and state organization presidents to receive a U.S. \$500 Emergency Fund Award. Contact Ann Nicholson if you are aware of a chapter member needing help.

If you would like to make a donation to the fund, you can find the form under the Forms tab on the DKG website.

## Convention Volunteer Needs

Below is a list of volunteers needed for the 2019 Iowa State DKG Convention June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, along with descriptions. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these positions, contact Ann Nicholson ([anicholson2869@gmail.com](mailto:anicholson2869@gmail.com)) and let us know:

- Which volunteer position(s) you are interested in
- Which day(s) you can volunteer (Friday, Saturday, and/or Sunday)
- Which times of the day you would be available for volunteering

Registration (27 time slots)- Check in members, provide registration bag, answer questions (openings on Friday and Saturday)

Table Hostess (42 time slots)- Greet and make introductions at meal table (14 hostess needed per meal-Friday night, Saturday luncheon, Saturday night)

Table Decorator (9 slots)- ensure table decorations are in place before meals (3 people per meal for 3 meals- Friday night, Saturday luncheon, Saturday night)

Room Facilitator (6-10 slots)- assigned a room; act as contact to hotel staff or convention committee for any room needs (Friday night- hospitality rooms, Saturday meeting, dining and hospitality rooms, Sunday hospitality room)

Display setups- (3 people or 6 slots)- direct, assist setup of mini-grant displays and silent auction baskets (Friday, Saturday)

Session Host- (6 slots) Support breakout session; aid speaker with setup, distribution of materials, introduce speaker, thank and present gift to speaker (Saturday morning)

Setup and present flags- (2 slots) work with Girl Scouts to present flags (Saturday morning at opening of Business meeting)

Business meeting support- (3 slots) assist with distributing handouts, microphones, collect voting cards (Saturday business meeting)

Practice session supports- (2 slots) assist with flag or remembrance ceremony practices (Saturday approx. 5-6pm)

Door prizes- (2 people) manage distribution of door prizes (door prizes distributed following meals)

Founders Day activity- (2 people) coordinate/facilitate Founders Day activity (Saturday luncheon)

Signage- (1 person) change out room signage for meeting rooms/breakout sessions (Friday night/Saturday morning)

Hospitality- (26-28 slots) setup, host guests, cleanup hospitality room (openings on Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Bakers/Food Donations- supply donations of food and/or supplies for hospitality room (28 requests for various supplies) Donations dropped off on Friday.

For information on the 2019 Iowa State DKG Convention and registration, go to: <https://iowadkg.weebly.com/>

Click on:

**“2019 STATE CONVENTION”**



## Legislative Report - April, 2019

The second funnel is coming up at the end of this week so in order for a bill to remain “alive” in the state legislature, it must have passed out of one chamber and passed out of committee in the other chamber. There appear to be two education related bills that are still working through the process. One of them is the bill that would no longer require districts to collect basic student health information including results of dental and eye exams, wellness checks and blood lead levels. The other is the “voucher” bill that would funnel public tax dollars to private schools.

In national news, the Department of Education proposed budget has been cut by \$7.1 billion. The student loan program would take a cut of \$207 billion.

Submitted by Cindy Garlock

## **U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #183, MARCH 2019**

### **SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM**

For twenty years DKG's U.S. Forum has supported efforts to have a women's history museum in Washington, DC. It looks closer to becoming a reality with two bills introduced in Congress on March 28 and 29 of this year which would make a Women's Museum part of the Smithsonian Institution's complex of museums. Both the Senate bill (S.959) and the House bill (H.R.1980) have been referred to committee. I find it interesting that the House version was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Currently the museum exists only online at <https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/online-exhibits>. The site contains "exhibits." These exhibits feature women in sports, women in STEM fields, women in history, and women campaigning for the right to vote to mention a few.

In the STEM exhibit we learn that Maria Mitchell was America's first professional female astronomer. On October 1, 1847, at the age of 29, Maria Mitchell discovered a comet, becoming the first American to do so.

### **EDUCATORS TAX DEDUCTION INCREASE**

The Educators Expense Deduction Modernization Act (H.R.878) would raise the expense which educators can annually deduct from income tax from \$250 to \$500, and the amount of the deduction would increase each year after 2019 based on cost of living. This latter point is significant; because, if passed, a new bill and revised law would not have to be considered by each future session of Congress.

### **MEDICARE**

Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act of 2019 (H.R.1046)(S.377) would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate Medicare Part D prescription drug prices. The Stop Price Gouging Act (H.R.1093)(S.378) would levy an excise tax of 50-100% on each prescription drug manufacturer which has drugs which are subject to price spikes. This act provides details for its enforcement.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES**

The Social Security Expansion Act (H.R.1170)(S.478) would increase Social Security payments by 1% in 2025. There would be annual increases from 2026 through 2038. A new trust fund called the Social Security Trust Fund would be established and would contain the combined assets in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund. The tax on wages (FICA) would be levied on those earning between \$128,700 and \$250,000. This additional money would extend the life of Social Security and Medicare.

### **NEW HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION**

A bill (HR1868) introduced last week would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve affordability and reduce premium costs of health insurance for consumers.

### **TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS**

The Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act of 2019 (S.532, H.R.1226) would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow an individual to remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of the Act when the teacher's moves because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year because the individual's military spouse is transferred. This would be covered by the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978.