



Theta Chapter News

Theta Chapter, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
September 2019

Upcoming Meetings and Events

September 12, 2019 Thursday 5:00-7:00

**Potluck and Overview of DKG International Website and Resources
Grant Wood AEA, 4401 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids IA**

Fellowship – We will enjoy a meal together and learn about all the resources and benefits located on the International and State websites (as well as our Theta website). We will have laptops available so members will be able to log on to DKG International.

Hostesses: * Betty Ehlinger, Sue Vogel, and Carol Bowen

October 10, 2019 Thursday 5:00-7:00

Avoiding Scams

Ladd Library Community Room, 3750 Williams Blvd SW, CR

Supporting growth and learning in the community— Learn about the most recent and widespread scams from a member of the Better Business Bureau, what to do if you think you might have encountered a scam, and how to avoid becoming a victim.

Hostesses: *Rhonda Achenbach, Ruth Ann Kelleher, Emily Emonin

November 14, 2019 Thursday 5:00-7:00

Honor Flights: Linn Area Credit Union, 3700 Edgewood Rd. SW CR

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. Learn about Eastern Iowa Honor Flights and the volunteers who lead the program. We will also have a SW Paneras fundraiser from 4:00-8:00.

Hostesses: *Deanne Robinson, Char Zrudsky, Judy Chihak

Important Dates

September 28, 2019 – Fall Executive Board Meeting, Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines, IA

October 10th, 2019 – Open Minds Open Doors STEM conference at Coe College for middle school girls. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ann Nicholson at 364-2869.

October 20th, 2019 – Safe Halloween Sunday at Ushers Ferry Historical Village from 1-4 pm. Contact Betty Stewart at 319-393-2554 to volunteer.

Executive Committee
2018-20

President:
Ann Nicholson

Vice President:
Betty Stewart

Recording Secretary:
Char Zrudsky

Treasurer:
Patty Kucera

Parliamentarian:
Betty Ehlinger

Past Co-presidents:
Deanne Robinson

Sue Vogel

deltakappagamma.org/IA-Theta
iowadkg.weebly.com
www.dkg.org

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

Celebrate August and September Birthdays:

August 1 – Jan Jirouch

August 27 – Beth Ross

September 8 – Judy Chihak

September 9 – Enid Benda

September 11 – Mary Jane Jacobson

School Supplies Project

Once again, we will be collecting school supplies for new teachers in the Cedar Rapids School District. In addition to the usual supplies, we would also like to collect gift or cloth bags for each teacher's supplies. Supplies may be brought to the September 12th and October 10th meetings or you can contact Ann Nicholson to arrange a pickup of the supplies.

We will set a date for volunteers to meet in November to divide and pack up the school supplies and then deliver them to the teachers' schools. We will also include information about DKG in the bags with the supplies.



Meeting Changes and Carpooling

Meeting times for 2019-2020 programs have been shifted by a half hour to make it easier for working members to attend. Programs will now run from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We are also encouraging members to consider carpooling. About a week before each meeting, I will send out an e-mail to determine who would like a ride and who would like to drive.

Congratulations to Bridget Castellucio

One of our Theta members, Bridget Castellucio, was chosen as one of 10 elementary teachers in the Cedar Rapids School District selected to get Google level 1, Level 2, and trainer certification through the EdTech Team.

State Convention Highlights

The June 2019 Iowa State DKG Convention at the Marriott in Cedar Rapids was a huge success thanks to many volunteers from Alpha Nu and Theta chapter. I would like to thank all of the Theta chapter members who volunteered time, food, and money to make this conference a success!

There were around 150 people registered for the convention, and there were 26 chapters represented.



Open Minds Open Doors

The 23rd Annual Open Minds Open Doors conference, will be held on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th**, at Coe College, and volunteers are needed. Open Minds Open Doors is a half-day conference intended to encourage middle school girls (7th-8th grades) to pursue career fields with foundations in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Presenter greeters are needed from 8:15-11:30 to assist presenters in finding their assigned classrooms upon arrival, and to assist with questions, last minute requests, etc. Presenter Greeters are also responsible for collecting attendance at the start of each workshop in the assigned area. If you are available and interested in volunteering, contact Ann Nicholson at 319-364-2869.

Legislative Report - September, 2019

The 2020 Iowa Legislative session will likely involve some familiar issues. Supplemental state aid has been insufficient for several years and our public schools are feeling the pain of repeated underfunding. It is important to talk to your state legislators about adequate funding. It is also likely that vouchers/education savings accounts will come up again.

The good news from last year's session is that a children's mental health system was established. Unfortunately, sustainable funding has not been identified. The SAVE fund has been extended until 2015. This legislation allows a 1 cent tax for school infrastructure.

Nationally, Congress has been on recess for several weeks. Living in Iowa gives us the unique opportunity to speak to most of the presidential candidates, so please take advantage and familiarize yourself with their education related policy proposals. Several candidates have specific plans for teacher pay/public education funding/college costs, etc.

Municipal and school board elections will be combined this year, for the first time. November 5th is election day so know your local candidates. The recent changes in Iowa election laws requires voters to present one of the following forms of identification at the polls: driver's licenses, military IDs, passports, or state-issued voter ID cards.

Both the Republican and Democratic caucuses will be held on February 3.

Submitted by Cindy Garlock

Member Profile: Cindy Garlock

Cindy has lived in Cedar Rapids her entire adult life. Cindy has been a member of Theta chapter since her initiation in 2015 and she is currently chair of the Theta Legislative Committee. Cindy taught biology at the junior and senior high level, spending most of her teaching career at Kennedy High School, where she also served as Science Department Chair. Since retiring from teaching, Cindy has been active in the community, serving as Vice President for the Friends of Noelridge and as a supporter of many community organizations. Cindy has spent the last few years as a community activist. Cindy's husband, Elwood, was also a career educator in the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Their daughter, Elyse, graduated from Jefferson High School.

Cindy recently announced her candidacy for school board in the Cedar Rapids Community School District. She will be running for one of the two at-large seats on the board.

Cindy believes that public education provides the foundation for a strong community. The role of public schools is to provide all students a pathway to success. In order for students to achieve success, there must be a commitment to providing modern facilities, adequate funding and a high quality staff. The Cedar Rapids School District has a long history of providing award winning education. Cindy's goal, as a Board member, is to make certain that the history of valuing and investing in public education continues. As the community moves forward with a superintendent search and with a facilities update, her background in education provides the expertise to be a voice for students and families.

Iowa State DKG Updates

WORK-BASED LEARNING PROJECTS NOW AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, THROUGH ONLINE CLEARINGHOUSE

More than 100 work-based learning projects are now available to students and schools for the 2019-20 school year through a new virtual state clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning connects K-12 students, schools and employers through shared projects that enable students to learn through professional experiences. The goal is to expand access to work-based learning projects statewide so that students can connect what they're learning in the classroom to careers.

The clearinghouse is part of the Future Ready Iowa initiative, which is about growing a skilled workforce statewide by connecting Iowans to the education and training needed for rewarding careers. Gov. Reynolds established the clearinghouse through an executive order last year.

The clearinghouse has two key features:

- A project board, in which business partners post projects that can be embedded into K-12 classrooms
- An inventory for teachers to find student internships, apprenticeships and other on-site work-based learning opportunities statewide

To check out projects, read success stories and find out how your school can participate, <https://clearinghouse.futurereadyiowa.gov>

EXPANSION COMMITTEE

District Directors and District Meetings are two of the changes we are embracing after the passing of amendments at the state convention. These are new words with the same old purpose.

Instead of 13 areas, we now have 5 districts: NW District, NE District, SW District, SE District and Central District. Each district has a director like each area had a coordinator. The District Director's responsibility is the same as the Area Coordinator. They are your chapter's liaison to state and international.

The District Meeting will be in your district making travel shorter. Its purpose is training in even numbered years. The newly elected chapter presidents and chapter committee chairs will meet with state committee members and state president, state vice president for training. There will be opportunities to share successes. An election for your district's next director will also occur. The first District Meetings will be in May, June or July 2020. (**Theta is in the NE District.**)



Delta Kappa Gamma, Theta Chapter Minutes For May 9, 2019
Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
120 E. Boyson Road, Hiawatha

Angie Jennings talked about upcoming events and opportunities at the Prairiewoods Center. DKG members enjoyed a meal and fellowship.

The meeting was called to order by Anne Nicholson. Thirteen members were present. Minutes of the April meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's report: Patty Kucera

Checking account balance: \$1073.99

Student grant account balance: \$1435.16

Membership balance: \$215.12

The report will be filed.

Correspondence- Char Zrudsky shared a Gazette article about Cindy and Elwood Garlock who are being honored as Outstanding Activists.

Deanne Robinson reported that the rules will be voted on at convention in June and then Theta will need to update our chapter's rules.

Scholarships and Grants- Carol Cassells reported that 17 students had applied for our scholarship including from area towns. Carol shared part of recipient Maddy's essay. Maddy Redmond was unable to attend.

Volunteering and Fundraising- Barb Taylor made a motion and Betty Stewart seconded to sell HyVee coupon books starting in 2020. Carol Bowen will look into how many books we need to purchase.

Legislation- The state legislature adjourned on April 27, one week before the end of the session. One bill pushed through at the end potentially will affect IPERS as it could pit IPERS against local services.

World Fellowship- Michelle Anderson challenged members to donate to the World Fellowship fund so Theta has a chance to be awarded the Iceland doll at convention.

Convention update- Ann Nicholson reminded members to volunteer for convention duties. Close to 150 ladies are registered to attend.

Programs- Betty Stewart encouraged members to fill out the Ideas for Future Meetings form. Changing meeting times was also discussed.

New Business- Loraine Bomkamp- We will cover her membership if 50+ members are required to pay.

Announcements- Karen Sindelar is asking for donations to support an Iowa DKG trip to Kosovo to help schools there.

The next meeting will be September 12. The location will be announced later.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #187, JULY 2019

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you. This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 70,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN VOTING LAWS

The For the People Act of 2019 (S.949) has been introduced in the Senate and has 40 cosponsors. Its purpose is to deal with voting, campaign finance and ethics. The bill would provide for Internet voter registration and would allow persons 16 years of age or older to register to vote in any state in which voting under the age of 18 is allowed.

MEDICARE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Although the cost of prescription drugs was one of the few things on which the parties agreed, (H.R.991 and S.25, H.R.860) All of these bills are still in committee and none has not been brought to the floor for a vote in either house. It is estimated that 40% of Americans either didn't fill prescriptions, skipped doses or cut pills in half in an effort to make the medication last longer. Consider a person I know who cut her daily doses in half to save money. She ended up in the hospital for a week. (What is cheaper, subsidizing the expensive medication or paying for a week in a hospital?)

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you wish to contact your senator to express your opinion, you can call the Congressional Switchboard at 1-202-224-3121. [This is not a toll free number]. Another way of contacting your senator is via email or a telephone number which is not toll free both of which are available at https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Email access and addresses

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate
White House 1-202-456-1111

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.