

15 Omicron

Newly created projects and accomplishments during the decade were several. Omicron Chapter established a certified website in 2005 followed by a Facebook page in 2013. Many pictures of chapter events and member news were shared. The Martha's Books Project began in 2008 through a grant from the Martha Slyter Fund of the Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies. Martha Slyter was an Omicron member. The chapter established three \$200 stipends to be awarded each year for members who were still in the classroom. The reading, science, and math areas benefited in these members' schools. Omicron Chapter hosted the northern site of the OCL (Orientation for Chapter Leaders) workshop held at Ottawa High School several times. Members provided refreshments for the workshop attendees.

Ongoing projects and accomplishments included Omicron's three money-making projects: picking and selling fresh blueberries in July, selling Community Days coupon books in November, and recycling aluminum cans all year long. These projects supported the two \$1,000 grants that Omicron awarded annually. Since Omicron's beginning, there have been 118 recipients with almost \$30,000 awarded. Omicron's very first grant was for \$25. The program for the May meeting each year was Meet the Grant Recipients and their families.

A highlight in the decade was Omicron Chapter's 75th birthday in 2013. A PowerPoint program was prepared reviewing Omicron's 75 years as well as a display of the chapter's scrapbooks from 1938-2013. A cookbook was put together with recipes being contributed by Omicron members as well as Lambda State members in honor of the occasion. At every March meeting, the founders were honored with a special program by the special events committee.

Seven meetings were held each year with the average attendance being 40 members. Interesting programs such as Brain Gym, One Room Schoolhouse, Creative Arts Expos, Meet Mary Todd Lincoln, Pajama Party and Book Talk, Fun Math Games, and Bunco Night were enjoyed. Many of these programs were presented by Omicron members. Each biennium Omicron continued to conduct a formal initiation ceremony, induction of officers and a memorial service.

The chapter made a monetary donation annually to area food pantries, donated school supplies to area schools and delivered items to a local women's shelter. Omicron supported many state and international projects especially Marion Medical Mission and Schools for Africa.

A tea for potential new members was held every summer with attendees enjoying themes such as a garden party, Victorian tea, Fourth of July and even a beach party. Information about Delta Kappa Gamma International was shared in a fun and lighthearted way.

Omicron Chapter was well represented at state, regional and international events such as conventions, conferences, workshops, state-to-state visits, creative arts retreats, and coordinating council activities. Many members continued to serve on state committees.

