



# DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

# *News*

## CHI CHAPTER

Issue Six Volume Seven

MAY 2016

### *P*resident's Pen

Dear Chi Sisters,

As I approach the end of my biennium as your president, I want to thank all of you who helped me with your advice, your encouragement and your service. I'm sure you will give the same assistance to Elaine.

When I was vice-president, we hosted the North CCOT (Committee Chairs and Officers Training) and will do so again in 2018. Then we participated in the International Convention in Indy, with many of our members paying dearly to attend nearly all of the events. We even staffed a booth to sell the Opalescent glass rose sun catchers.

Some items still bother and perplex me, however, such as:

1. Why have members resigned?
2. Although Chi Chapter membership remains steady, membership

at the state, national and international levels is declining, and it appears our leadership's answer is to raise fees to keep operations continuing as usual. Maybe some structural changes need to be made.

3. Those who are now entering education often don't stay in the profession as their careers.
4. When I joined Delta Kappa Gamma, I considered it an honor that my peers considered me worthy. Maybe we need to do more to promote that distinction.

As a last thought, we still have five scrapbooks (that are in sad shape and need preserving) which offer an excellent history of our Chi Chapter. I would like some assistance in restoring those books so that all our members might have the opportunity to understand and enjoy that history.

Your president, Toni

### MISSION STATEMENT

*T*he mission of Delta Kappa Gamma International is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

## A Look Back to Last Month

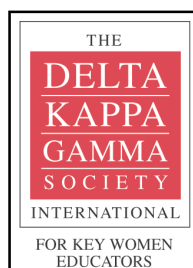


At the March meeting, our own Marilyn Skinner provided insight into the unintended consequences of compassion. "Toxic Charity," a book written by Robert Lupton, explains that though we may feel good about giving to those in need, little do we consider the psychological or even habitual and debilitating affect it has on those in which we are helping. Marilyn works closely with Jeff Newton of Kokomo Urban Outreach and firsthand understands and sees the importance of "how can we help them help themselves?" It is only by changing the mind set that "never give to the poor what they have the capacity to do for themselves" that we can discourage generational problems.



## Membership Corner

Marianne Christie will present the ballots for nomination at the May meeting. There are four potential names at the present time. If you submitted a candidate, please be prepared to speak support on behalf of your candidate. After all oral supports, we will take them to a vote for membership.



If you have questions, please contact Marianne Christie at:

rmchristie2@gmail.com  
or  
860-5291

## May Checklist

We're gearing down towards the end of the school year--thank goodness and with that said, that also includes our 2015-16 DKG program year. So here's our checklist of things we need to do before we part for a time:

- ✓ Bring an apron to the May dinner at Shiloh and pay for your \$12 meal
- ✓ Complete the 2016-18 survey (send in or bring with you to the May meeting)
- ✓ Change and communicate your new e-mail to Susan Stouse and Dawn Johnston if retiring



# Book Hook

## ***Bowling Alone***

by Robert Putnam

*Bowling Alone* investigates civic, group, and personal disengagement in the last half of the twentieth century. Putnam ascribes the cause to the loss of social capital, which is the amount of resources, interaction opportunities, networking, and face to face interactions with friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Putnam measures the reduction in civic duties, church attendance, volunteering, and personal interactions. He evaluates the role of gender, race, geographic location, education, and ethnic background. He establishes a *prima facie* case that except for youth activities such as Boy Scouts and evangelical and orthodox religious groups, membership by both paying dues or volunteering has declined. Older women do, however, continue to volunteer. Putnam evaluates the effects of the these declines and their implications if they are not reversed. Since the book was published in 2000, the Internet was just beginning with its added reduction in face to face interactions.

Lastly he challenges groups in six areas to revamp and make a difference by 2010: government, education/youth activities, religion, workplace, urban design, and arts/culture. The two most interesting chapters involved personal changes such as not having company to eat meals, play cards, sit on the front porch, and generally relax during mutual leisure time. Putnam bemoans the appearance of television as the chief culprit for the decrease followed by

by  
Patty Zeck

generational differences beginning with Baby Boomers. *Bowling Alone* certainly addresses the decline we have all observed but comes up short in a definitive plan to overcome the issues and rebuild social capital.

## Buddy Bags

### Food for Thought?

In keeping with the topic of our March meeting (*see pg. 2 "A Look Back to Last Month"*), do we want to think about changing how we approach the Buddy Bag program? Discussion at the last meeting netted some interesting ideas such as having recipients help with the packing or having students earn their Buddy Bags by picking up trash around the school or other appropriate tasks. Send in your opinions or ideas to Jet or Katie Sundheimer or Joyce Hardebeck.



## Treasury Notes



As we finish another year, it is time to award our DKG scholarship. It goes to an IUK junior majoring in Education. This year's winner is Brooke Runyon. She will receive \$500, paid for partly through a portion of your dues. The remainder comes from the generous donations many of you give along with your membership dues each fall. Thank you all for your contributions!

### **Marian's Address:**

1029 Witherspoon Drive  
Kokomo, IN 46901

*Marilyn Skinner, Contributor*

Looking at the “wrap” up of the legislation for this past year--there is not a lot to report, and after reading what I have below you may want to ask yourself, “Do we need new legislators?”

**Charter school data collection:** Removes the requirement that charter schools report certain data to the Department of Education.

**Various education matters:**

Every public school building shall be supplied with safe, potable water...

Amends the definition of “secondary school” to include certain elementary grades for purposes of a federal student loan forgiveness program for highly qualified teachers in high needs areas.

Provides that before an entity may authorize a charter school, the entity must conduct a public meeting with public notice in the county where the charter school will be located.

Provides that a school corporation may accept a student who does not have a legal settlement in the school corporation into an alternative education program even if the school corporation does not otherwise accept transfer students.

Provides that an individual may enroll in a transition to teaching program and receive a transition to teaching license without passing a content area

examination before admission to the program.

Requests the legislative council to assign the following topics to an appropriate study committee:

- (1) The extent the school’s calendar influences certain school function.
- (2) Graduation rates, including the feasibility of amending the definition of “cohort” for purposes of determining graduation rates to exclude students who are pursuing a certificate of completion under an individualized education program
- (3) The feasibility of allowing a school corporation and an individual teacher to voluntarily enter into an employment contract that contains terms that differ from the terms set forth in a collective bargaining agreement.



# Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2016

## 22 Members and One Guest in Attendance

### Call to Order

- President Toni Kolanko called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. and introduced Marilyn Skinner, Director of the Center for Early Childhood Education at IU-K and member of our Chi chapter.

### Speaker

- Marilyn explained highlights of the book *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, and How to Reverse It* (by Robert Lupton).
- Marilyn attended a discussion led by the author, who said many engage in charity because **we** feel good about it, but recipients may be hurt because we are doing it **to** them. We must consider what is good for recipients, not ourselves.
- For example, bringing Christmas gifts to children may leave parents feeling inadequate; better to let the parents pay 5-10¢ for the gift and let them feel as though **they** gave the gift.
- We don't alleviate poverty by giving food or gifts; we must help people help themselves.
- The Oath for Compassionate Service says we should help in an emergency, but not forever after.
- Marilyn gave the example of mission trips which spend a great deal of money to accomplish something that could be done at lower cost by locals – and would help build the local economy.
- Marilyn said it is critical to make changes slowly, because it takes time for people to buy in.
- Jeff Newton is considering making changes at Urban Outreach as a result of what he has learned from the book. He plans to work with clients to determine what the problem is – low income, money management, unemployment, priorities – and work to resolve the underlying issues.
- Jeff Newton, Travis Tafflinger, and Casey Kline are holding periodic talks about the book at Bind.
- Marilyn said we must do no harm and added the requirement that we should never create generational problems of children building an expectation to receive charity in their adult lives.
- If we can find a way to help parents and children learn to take responsibility while helping them, our encouragement can help them to overcome their fears of failure.

### Hostess Committee

- Chairman Marian Mills thanked her committee of Ellen Eldridge, Lisa Ellison, Ann Millikan, Jayne Ousley, Nancy Taylor, and Carolyn Thompson for providing refreshments and decorations.

### Reports

- A correction was made to the February 2, 2016 minutes. It was Joyce Fruth's sister's niece, not Joyce's niece, who passed away. The minutes were approved as corrected.
- Marian Mills reported a \$20 donation to the Culinary Arts Department of the Kokomo Area Career Center for hosting the February meeting. The checking account balance is \$3,356.37 and the savings account balance is \$1,958.57. She asked members to turn in their expenses.

### Legislative

- Jet Sundheimer joined a number of other teachers to lobby at the statehouse. DKG members are now recognized, photographed, and given candy.
- Teachers are concerned that the Governor and Legislature continue to drain the power of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Indiana Department of Education, in order to make Indiana a pilot state for promoting education as a business.
- Jet expressed concern that due to changes in licensing, few teachers now pursue master's degrees, so fewer teachers are qualified to teach AP and dual credit courses.
- She urged teachers to lobby, email our legislators, and vote to make our voices heard.
- Dawn Johnston suggested we take time during a DKG meeting to write our legislators.



### **Cheers and Concerns**

- Ruthmarie Owen, a longtime member, is in serious condition at Howard after a heart attack.
- Janet Thorley has been diagnosed with uterine cancer and will undergo surgery before Easter.

### **Recruitment**

- Dawn Johnston completed a prototype of information brochures for prospective members and solicited suggestions. She will make them available for members to invite new members.
- Please turn in membership forms to Marianne Christie.
- Jet Sundheimer asked that a list of responsibilities be prepared for sponsors (e.g., pin, dinner).

### **Buddy Bags as International Projects**

- Joyce Hardebeck reported that she took 141 jars of peanut butter this week, and she received more peanut butter and money at this evening's meeting.
- Given tonight's topic of toxic charity, Joyce asked if we wanted to make changes for next year.

### **Service Activities**

- Jet Sundheimer observed that our organization is filled with educated, intelligent women who need to give back to our community. She asked if we might consider performing a service activity each month, rather than focusing on social events.
- Dawn suggested creating Jared boxes for children in hospitals; she will look for information.

### **President's Report**

- State Conference is April 23 at Indiana State University, Terre Haute.
  - Toni Kolanko plans to go; if anyone else wants to go, our chapter will cover meal costs.
  - Registration is \$35 before March 26 and \$40 thereafter.
- CCOT (Committee Chairmen and Officers Training) is June 18 in Lafayette for all officers. Please send in the application, and our chapter will reimburse the expenses.
- Toni Kolanko reported she had received responses to her note concerning the increase in CCOT costs from President Jo Ann Manes and others. Please see Toni to see the responses.
- DKG state could save \$4,000 if members chose to receive the *Hoosier Newsletter* by email. Please let Susan Stouse know if you are willing to receive the *Newsletter* by email.
- Marilyn Skinner noted that several years of directories are missing. Please look through your directories and let Marilyn know what years you have, so we can complete the set.
- Marian Mills said very few treasury records exist from before 1998; a great deal of data was lost when a flash drive broke. Lisa Ellison will try to reconstruct records from secretaries' minutes.
- Toni Kolanko still has two large boxes of scrapbooks, many of them containing pictures of people she does not recognize. If you would like to help sort them, please contact Toni.
- Patty Zeck encouraged members to look forward to the May 3 bicentennial-themed meal and program. She invited members to wear aprons. Cost will be \$12.

### **Nominating Committee**

- Sharon Herr announced the slate of officers nominated for 2016-2017:
  - President: Elaine Buchanan
  - Vice President: Jet Sundheimer
  - Treasurer: Marian Mills
  - Recording Secretary: Lisa Ellison
  - Corresponding Secretary: Jill Newby
- The slate was accepted as nominated, and the officers will be installed at the May meeting.

### **Adjournment**

- The next meeting will be May 3, 2016, at Shiloh United Methodist Church, where we will install officers and vote on new members.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Ellison, Recording Secretary

# For Your Information

## Cheers & Concerns

Please keep Vickey Zehringer in your thoughts and prayers as she experiences and recuperates from health issues.

On another note, Ann Funk and Lisa Smith are retiring from the Western and Kokomo school systems, respectively, and will turn their lesson plan books in for a *leisure* morning cup of coffee. Good for you, ladies!

And last but certainly not least, a “high five” to Katie Sundheimer who will assume the interim high school assistant principal position at Western.



## Member Updates

Chi Chapter strives to maintain the most accurate records as possible. Contact Dawn Johnston with any changes to your personal information such as phone number, e-mail, or address ASAP at:

[djjohnston1@comcast.net](mailto:djjohnston1@comcast.net)

## 2014-16 DKG Officers

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	<a href="mailto:djjohnston1@comcast.net">djjohnston1@comcast.net</a>	
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