



THE CONNECTION



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Alpha Epsilon State
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Gamma Lambda Chapter
Leslie Hamman, President
Patricia Brooks, Editor

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Thinking out loud...

With a brain full of thoughts, I wonder about repeating the same thoughts as in previous writings. It is hard to decide what inspirational or reflective words to share with my Gamma Lambda sisters, so here is truly some thinking out loud thoughts!

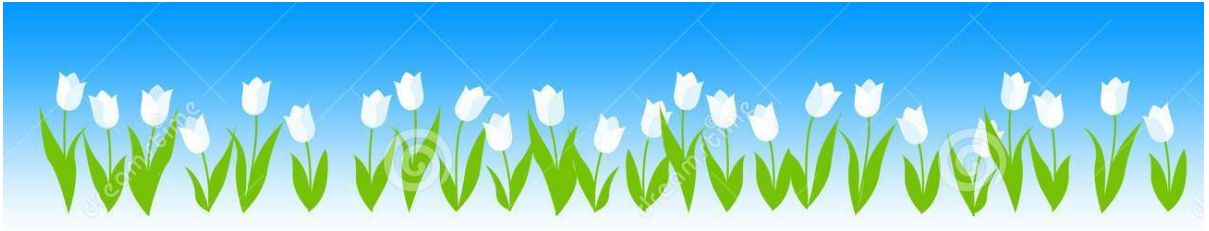
I find myself thinking about how lucky I am to be able to do the things I choose and even those I do not choose at the time but have to do anyway! Of course that also means choosing not to do those things I can no longer do as well... I was talking to two teenage friends/students just the other day about the silver linings we find in difficult situations. That somehow, some benefit can be understood in hindsight that could not be comprehended before or during... And that we have the ability to change the direction our lives are taking by either changing our path choices or changing our outlook. In other words, living the Serenity Prayer!

I find myself thinking about helping others when I say, "I am happy to help!" and meaning it. My heart and mind fill with joy when making someone else's situation a bit more manageable, making a job a bit easier, giving someone a chance to do something they would otherwise not be able to do alone, and the list goes on while including the joy of being needed.

I find myself thinking about giving back in response to the many blessings of time, talent, and treasure that I have received - some earned and others graciously given.

I find myself thinking about the opportunities and friendships that have increased my blessing because I belong to Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Leslie



**Minutes of November 21, 2015
Gamma Lambda Chapter
Delta Kappa Gamma**

The November meeting was held at Smith Farms Manor in Auburn, Indiana with seventeen members in attendance. Betty Wagner and the Butler and Auburn groups were hostesses. Vivian Watts said grace and at 9:10 A.M. a delicious breakfast was served. The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M. and Judy Moughler gave the opening thought centered on Thanksgiving.

Recording Secretary Report—Betty Wagner

- The October 17, 2015 minutes were approved as corrected.

Corresponding Secretary—Jo Drudge

- Jo read an update on the Strategic Action Plan received from Chairperson Faye Peter.
- Two main items in the plan are: (1) Trying to get more members; (2) Getting more people to come to meetings by providing interesting and different types of activities at meetings.
- Carol Gear read a letter from Pat Kern. This told of the many health issues Pat and her husband have been dealing with.
- Betty Wagner reported that Julie Headley had broken her foot and that Jackie Carl has been moved to Assisted Living in Lima, Ohio.
- Bev Ellert reported that Virginia Lehman is working to adjust to Jackie's move.
- Cards were passed around for Pat, Julie, Jackie, and Virginia to be signed by members.

Treasurer Report—Carol Gear

- Money collected for the Silent Auction before today's meeting was \$ 1,527.00.
- The total balance today is \$ 5,040.82.
- Carol will be sending the dues money collected to the proper places before the end of 2015.

Committee Reports

Membership—Judy Moughler

- Judy updated the group on the new member policies and procedures.
- She passed out DKG Prospect Cards and asked each of us to give thought to names of prospective members and return the cards to her.

Educational Excellence—Bev Ellert

- Brochures about Educational Excellence were passed around.
- Bev spoke about our involvement with the Schools for Africa Project. She reminded us how even small gifts to this Project are appreciated and that we never know how small gifts of kindness affect the lives of people.
- To increase the monetary gift Gamma Lambda contributes to this project, Bev, Dortha King, and Kayleigh Mann made decorated notebooks that we were able to purchase for \$2.00 each.

Grants in Aid—Deb Landa

- Guidance Counselors in Dekalb and Noble County will be contacted concerning the two \$500 grants that we present.
- We need to encourage high school senior young ladies seeking an education degree to apply. These grants can be used for any college expense.

Historian—Leslie Hamman

- Leslie asked members to consider filling the role of Historian.

Books in Hand—Jo Drudge

- Jo asked if anyone knew the address of Mark Peterson. She would like to send him a note about books placed in the library at South Side Elementary in Kendallville in memory of Sally.
- Members were encouraged to continue looking for books, especially those for infants.



Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There was no new business

Announcements

- Leslie shared items made at the November 6th and 7th Fall Arts Retreat at Shiloh Park, Marion, Indiana. These included: a toilet tissue pumpkin, Uncle Sam, a Christmas ribbon weaving, golf ball ornaments, duck tape bookmarks, and a post it notepad picture frame.
- Betty Wagner and her committee were thanked for taking care of details for today's meeting.
- The next meeting is Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Smith Farms Manor, Auburn at 9:00 A.M. Melinda Welsh is hostess along with the Ligonier and Kendallville groups.

Program—Randi Wells

- Randi Wells, an ISSA Certified Personal Fitness Trainer from Yes You Can Fitness introduced us to Holy Yoga. She engaged members in some of the relaxation and breathing exercises used in Holy Yoga.
- We were told that whatever we do, think, or eat should be done to honor Christ. Each of us needs to take time to relax and realize how it can relieve us from our daily stress.

Closing

Sherry Crisp-Ridge did the closing. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M. with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Betty Wagner
Recording Secretary

Leslie Hamman
President

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Bev Ellert, Chairman

Welcome back, everyone! I hope your winter holidays were enjoyable with lots of delicious food and wonderful fellowship with family and friends!

The Gamma Lambda officers are excited about this year's meetings and projects. We look forward to welcoming new members, working to support new teachers in our area, and awarding scholarships to deserving seniors entering college.

Please make the following address change in your program book:

NANCY MERTZ
Betz Nursing Home
116 Betz Road, #604
260-333-7506 (room phone)



If you know of any other changes that need to be made in our program book, please let me know by phone (260-908-1671) or e-mail (bevellert@hotmail.com).





Legislation

Patti Brooks, Chair

In less than a month, Indiana will add its delegates to the national count. The right to vote should not be taken lightly especially in the current political climate. For information on the presidential candidates' views on education, you may visit the following link:

Ballotpedia.org

As for the U.S. Senate race, you may view Marlin Stutzman's education views here: House.gov and Todd Young's here: Todd Young

In researching the candidates for U.S. House of Representatives, I didn't find much information on educational issues for those running. Links for each candidate are found on this site:

Ballotpedia



Red Roses to...

Betty Wagner and her committee for organizing our November meeting

Judy Moughler and Sherry Crisp-Ridge for giving the Opening and Closing Thoughts

Bev Ellert, Dortha King, and Kaleigh Mann for increasing Gamma Lambda's gift to Schools for Africa by creating and selling notebooks

Leslie Hamman for attending the Fine Arts retreat and sharing her creations with us

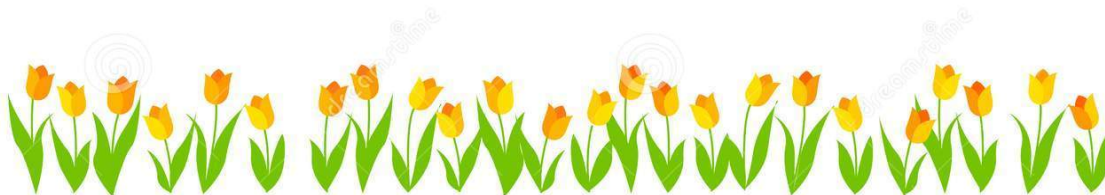
Betty Wagner for submitting Gamma Lambda news to area newspapers

Jo Drudge for receiving one of 35 awards from the DEKKO Foundation for her work with the Gas Light Playhouse



Coming Events:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Apr. 23, 2016 | AE State Convention
Sycamore Banquet
Center, Terre Haute |
| May 21, 2016 | Gamma Lambda
Smith Manor Farms |
| June 16, 2016 | North COTT
Lafayette, IN |
| June 22, 2016 | Gamma Lambda
Summer Picnic
Rieke Park Lodge |



SEE- Support for Early Career Educators

In order to share the vision, Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide, and strengthen our Society, the Educational Excellence Committee established Supporting Early-career Educators (SEE) as its second international project during the 2012 International Convention in New York City.

Why is our support needed?

Education is a challenging career, and retaining quality teachers is an issue worldwide. According to Richard Ingersoll, the rate in U.S. of beginning teachers leaving the profession in the first year is a little more than 10%; with 33% leaving by Year 3 and 46% by Year 5. In addition, around 15% of U.S. teachers overall leave the profession each year. (Is There Really a Teacher Shortage, Ingersoll, 2003, p. 14)

Schools that have depended on a core of veteran teachers are seeing those teachers retire. As much is expected of a new teacher on the first day of school as is expected of a 30-year veteran. Teachers supporting teachers is crucial. Of the first year teachers assigned a mentor in 2007 – 2008, around 8% left the profession in 2008 – 2009. Of the first year teachers not assigned a mentor in the same years, about 16% were not teaching in 2008-2009 and about 23% were no longer teaching in 2009 – 2010. (Beginning Teacher Attrition and Mobility, Institute of Education Science, 2011, p. 3)

John F. Kennedy said, “In each one of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefits for everyone and a greater strength for our nations.”

We truly can make a difference with our support.

SEE encourages members/chapters to be creative in support of early-career educators with a variety of strategies, such as

- giving support for phone calls and visits,
- helping with lesson plans and bulletin board ideas,
- offering advice on classroom management and parent-teacher relations; and
- providing support in appropriate and practical ways.

Start supporting early-career educators in your community today! Get a list of new teachers/educators from your local school district and list of student teachers in your area to support.

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