



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Alpha Iota State President's Newsletter

International President's Theme 2008 - 2010

From Vision to Action: Advancing the Society

www.dkg.org

State Theme 2009-2011

ΔΚΓ Service Sharing Sisterhood Scholarship - We Hold the Key

www.deltakappagamma.org/MI



Alpha Iota State- Michigan

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Non-Dues Revenue

The Key to Increasing Income



Non-dues revenue is income that comes from sources other than dues. This very often helps to balance a budget. It is a way to bring in additional money to help the chapter, state or international level of the Society to have a balanced budget while still providing all the benefits of membership.

- Auctions and raffles - both at state and chapter meetings and at special events that include non-members
- Book sales such as sponsoring a Scholastic sale, or selling used books on amazon.com
- Recycling ink cartridges
- Recycling electronic devices - one source is www.greenschoolfundraiser.org
- Rummage sales
- Sales of baked goods and candy - one group with a lot of retired members takes orders at holidays from local schools.
- Craft sales
- Buy the house for a local theater performance and then resell the tickets at a mark-up - include fancy refreshments at intermission for the higher cost
- Work in partnership with a restaurant to have a pancake breakfast

Olive Horning, Gamma Beta
First Vice President and Program Chairman

We Need Your News!

Articles, announcements, or chapter news for the May President's newsletter should be sent to Jackie Smart at jackie@mymartfamily.com by May 20. The *Wolverine* editor would also like you to share your chapter's activities, news, and happenings with your Michigan sisters. Send news blurbs and photos to jpechta.dkg.comcast.net

**Education is when you read the fine print.
Experience is what you get if you don't.**

Pete Seeger

Mission Statement

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



Due Dates:

June 23

- Leadership Training in Jackson for Incoming Officers and interested members

June 24

- Leadership Training in Clare for Incoming Officers and interested members

July 20 - July 25

DKG International Convention in Spokane

August 14

- PAC Meeting
Lexington Lansing Hotel

Registration forms for International Convention is available the International website at www.dkg.org



Personal Growth and Services

Seasons of the Soul

Since the seasons have changed, let me suggest a personal growth activity for beginning a meeting. Get all members into groups of four. Then, have the Personal Growth and Service Chair (or someone of your choice) share the following analogy:

It seems that we human beings have “seasons of the soul”. Just like the spring, when new life, growth, and beauty appear, we have wonderful spurts of vitality—feeling that things are going great in our lives; we feel vibrant and experience growth in our beings. Then, we find ourselves, like summer, flourishing and finding a maturity and wholeness. There are times when things reach a peak in our lives; and then, like autumn, decline sets in—especially if we have dreary, stormy experiences. Occasions also come when we find ourselves in a cold, dark wintertime of the soul when everything seems barren and hopeless. But, just as the seasons come afresh, we experience the cycle of the soul again and again.

Ask each member to share one of her seasons of the soul in her group of four. I think the participants will find that this is a warm, sharing, growing time. (maximum of twelve minutes)

Dorothy E. Sample, PhD
Personal Group and Service Chair

Tips for Presidents Group Building Activities



Before implementing any activity, the group leader needs to carefully consider its appropriateness and purpose. Opener and warm-up activities can be used in a wide variety of settings. They can loosen inhibitions by stimulating, challenging, and motivating the participants.

There are five reasons for group building activities:

1. To develop a sense of belonging
2. To decrease feelings of uniqueness
3. To increase self-confidence
4. To enhance insight
5. To increase self-awareness

For a group to function well, its members must be comfortable as well as familiar with each other. How well members are able to work together will indicate how effectively the group performs. Group members should never be forced to participate in an activity, only encouraged by the group leader. The group leader serves as an important role model for the participants. The group leader will find that her active participation may help reduce some of the participants' initial inhibitions and thus promote moderate risk taking.

Membership

Claire Rettenmund, Membership/Expansion Co-Chair

According to the recently submitted membership committee chapter reports one problem facing many chapters is the high median age of members and the need to interest younger educators in the society. If we want the organization to be relevant to all ages and to all variety of educators it is the work and responsibility of both the state organization and the individual chapters.

The state has been making a diligent effort to provide sessions at both fall workshop and annual convention that will be of interest to women of all ages, teaching backgrounds, and current levels of employment or retirement. Incidentally, suggestions for future programs are always considered. Members are encouraged to share their expertise on any subject at these events either professional or personal.

The state conducts valuable leadership training workshops. As with all state gatherings, they are beneficial only if they are attended. The Wolverine and President's Newsletter are filled with helpful hints and suggestions. Committee chairs stand ready to assist chapters whenever they are asked. At the chapter level a lot rests on your program and the program you plan is up to you. Preplanning is the key. Perhaps a spring survey of members will help with ideas for next year's programs. Ask for preferred days, locations, and times to hold meetings. Maybe alternating meeting days will help accommodate more members. Try restaurants, schools, and private homes to see if location makes a difference. Have a Saturday breakfast meeting or an outing just for fun. Have an educator from a local college or school district speak to your group about their concerns and needs. Maybe your chapter could volunteer at an educational setting. What a great way to check out potential members, right at their place of employment.

If your chapter or council provides scholarships to young women planning a career in education try involving the recipients in chapter events. Start early to pique their interest. Think outside the box. Too often we think if we are retired we don't have connections to current educators. There are teachers at libraries, medical facilities, fitness and

Letter to Northeast U.S. Forum Representative: Elaine Christensen

Dear Elaine,

President Obama has just signed into law historic health insurance reform legislation called the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Senate will now take up a package of fixes to make the bill even better.

I want to highlight some of the changes that middle-class families and small businesses will see over the next year:

Starting Right Now...

Small businesses will get a tax cut to help them pay for health insurance for their employees. Companies will get a credit up to 35 percent of the money they spend on premiums. Those credits will increase over time, eventually reaching 50 percent when the Insurance Exchanges go into effect. The full credit is available to small firms with 10 or fewer employees, and firms with up to 25 employees will qualify for a partial credit. The federal government will begin investing in community health centers to provide care to the people who need it most. In the next five years, \$11 billion will be spent expanding access to health centers to 25 million more people in 10,000 communities. Any senior who is affected by the so-called "doughnut hole" will qualify for a \$250 rebate to help them pay for their prescription medicines.

In 3 Months...

People with pre-existing conditions will be able to get help with a special fund set up to cover the gap until the Insurance Exchanges are up and running. Retiree health plans qualify for a new federal reinsurance program for health plans covering early retirees (age 55-64) to bring down costs for businesses and lower premiums.

In 6 Months...

- All health plans will be prohibited from denying coverage or care to children because of "pre-existing conditions." This protection will apply to everyone when the Insurance Exchanges are up and running.
- All health plans will be required to allow young adults to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26.
- All new health plans will be required to provide free preventive care with no co-pays or deductibles.
- All health plans will be prohibited from cancelling coverage when a patient reaches a lifetime limit on coverage.
- All health plans will be prohibited from cancelling coverage if a patient gets sick or if they file too many claims.
- All new health plans will be required to allow consumers to appeal insurance company denials of coverage and get an independent review of their case.
- All new health plans will be required to let you pick your own primary care doctor. Women will also be allowed to visit their ob-gyn without getting permission from their insurance company first, and all patients will be guaranteed access to emergency care.

On January 1, 2011...

Seniors in Medicare can make an appointment for a free annual wellness checkup with their doctor. There will be no co-pays or deductibles for this visit. All insurance plans will be required to spend at least 80-85 percent of their revenues on medical care. If they spend too much on wasteful overhead, like executive salaries and advertising, they will be required to give their customers a rebate.

The package of fixes the Senate is working on now will make this good bill even better. This "reconciliation package" will be debated over the next few days. As we continue working on this issue, I remain committed to helping middle-class families, small businesses, and seniors afford the health care coverage they need. For updated information about this new legislation, you can visit my website at <http://stabenow.senate.gov/healthcare>.

As always, please continue to keep me informed about issues of concern to you or your family.

Sincerely,
Debbie Stabenow, United States Senator

Get Smart

State President - Jackie Smart



Welcome to the 2010 Combined State Executive Board Meeting and State Convention that is being held at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. I would like to thank the Past State Presidents for their sage advice and mentoring, as well as the PAC Committee Chairs for all of the help they have given me during the past year. All of you have made the first half of my biennium easier.

A big 'Thank You' goes to the outgoing Chapter Presidents who are completing their biennium. All of you are to be applauded for your efforts at keeping your chapters vital. The Founders would be appreciative of your leadership to make your chapter strong. The future of our Society is dependent on the strength of our chapters.

In your packet is the registration information for Leadership Training that will be held in Jackson and Clare on June 23 and 24. This training is designed not only for incoming chapter officers but for any member interested in learning more about the Society and leadership opportunities. It is a wonderful way to train for the future and build a lattice of leadership in your chapter. Feel free to make copies for members in your chapter.

Reminders:

- Please complete the **2010-2012 Form for Reporting Chapter Officers to the State** as soon as you have the information and send to me.
- Please complete the **Chapter Committee Information** sheet. This allows PAC Committee Chairmen to communicate information directly to the chapter committee chairmen.
- Alpha Iota State Nominations for State President, State First Vice President, State Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and the five member Nominations Committee will be accepted by the Nominations Committee in October. Forms are on the website under the March President's Mailing.
- We are selling lapel pins for \$5 and raffle tickets for \$15 for a week in Honolulu or a week at a Florida resort owned by Wyndham Vacation Resorts to fund this project. You provide the transportation! You'll receive a brochure when you purchase a raffle ticket that explains all of the details. Only 200 tickets have been printed for the raffle. You may purchase them from any executive board member. The winning ticket will be pulled on Sunday morning at the Awards Brunch.

Jackie

(Continued from page 2)

senior centers. Even corporations have instructors. Invite guests whenever possible to chapter events. You never know the connections you may make with potential members. Do not overlook your current members. Friends, relatives, neighbors, and work associates current and past may lead to future members. Keep your current members happy. Keep them involved to retain their membership. Give everyone a job to do. With ownership comes reliability. Newsletters are great, emails are convenient, but personal contacts are unbeatable. Do not underestimate the power of a phone call or handwritten note.

Younger women may profess they are too busy for the society but once they see the benefits of membership and enjoy the camaraderie of others with similar interests they may find they cannot imagine not being an active member. Finally, be understanding of other commitments. It may take several invitations to get a potential member to attend a meeting. Make her feel welcome when she does attend. Thank her for coming and be sure she knows when the next get-together will take place. Do not feel slighted if she refuses an invitation but do not make it the last one either. Good luck!

Oxymorons

1. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
2. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
3. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
4. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
5. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
6. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
7. Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

Thanks to Judi Fisher