

Delta Kappa Gamma

ALPHA IOTA STATE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

February, 2012 Vol. One • No. 6 - www.deltakappagamma.org/MI

Frost flowers on the window glass,
Hopping chickadees that pass,
Bare old elms that bend and sway,
Pussy willows soft and gray.
Silver clouds across the sky,
Lacy snow flakes flitting by,
Icicles like fringe in line
That is outdoor's Valentine.

-Unknown

Welcome to the February edition of the President's Newsletter. With snow on the ground and lawns and gardens sleeping under the ice, let's think about our elevator speeches!

What do you answer when people ask about DKG? Do you have a 30-45 second response ready? This could be a good activity to practice at a chapter meeting. Use the International web site (www.dkg.org) for more ideas.

We're always looking for strategies to gain members and this is a good way to communicate with prospective members. Check page 6 of this newsletter for more tips ...

Here is an example of an elevator speech about DKG:

We are an international honor society that recognizes and supports outstanding women in education. We have more than 100,000 members in 17 countries, including nearly 65 here in Alpha Iota State. Our members can apply for scholarships and grants, attend workshops and conferences, and enjoy the opportunity to network with women who share their commitment to excellence in their profession.

Elevator Speeches for Excellence Elevator Speech Song

(sung to the tune of: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

Do you have your elevator speech prepared?
Do you have your elevator speech prepared?
If you have your speech prepared,
You'll deliver it with flair.
Do you have your elevator speech prepared?

First the question, "Tell me what is DKG?"
First the question, "Tell me what is DKG?"
First the question that you'll hear,
From the person standing near,
Is the question, "Tell me what is DKG?"

You will look at them and give a great big smile!
You will look at them and give a great big smile!
You'll stand confident and tall,
For you're speaking for us all,
When you look at them and give a great big smile!

Now it's time to give them what they need to hear!
Now it's time to give them what they need to hear!
"Leading women educators making education better!
DKG – makes a difference in the world!"

Words by: Pat H. Taylor
International Music Representative 2010-2012

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President's Advisory Committee — March 17, 2012

I'd like some of you to sit in on the next meeting at the Lexington Lansing Hotel. Officers, committee chairs, and past state presidents generally attend these meetings. The purpose is to advise the president. With that in mind, I present discussion questions that relate to state and chapter interests. The responses give me positive direction for me to lead Alpha Iota State. I'd very much like you to consider attending our next meeting. We begin at 10:00 AM, have lunch, and finish about 2:00. A few committees meet afterward. Please email or call me and I can give you more details. [ohorning@aol.com or 407-414-2682]

Special Assignment for New Members

Dr. Jensi Souders has asked that new DKG members (1-5 years) submit a one-minute video vignette telling why they consider membership valuable. These vignettes will be shown at the convention as Designing Our Future inspirations. This is a wonderful opportunity for your new members to be recognized. The deadline is March 1, 2012. They can be sent on CD or DVD to Dr. Souders at International Headquarters, PO Box 1589, Austin, TX 78767-1589.

Highlights from Broadcasting the Buzz

Are you interested in presenting a break-out session at the International Convention? The deadline for proposals is February 15, 2012. Download the application from www.dkg.org. The focus areas are 1) Professional Development, 2) Cultural/Personal Enrichment, and 3) DKG and the Future. In addition, presidors are needed for sessions! Please let me know if you or another members would like to preside. I need to send the information to International by March 15, 2012.

The Winter edition of *The Bulletin from International* is now online for your reading pleasure. While looking for it, be sure to explore the DKG Library. You will be amazed at what you'll find.

Last, but not least, register for the International Convention in New York City!

Enthusiastically,

Olive



SPOTLIGHT ON FEBRUARY

Black History Month	Parent Leadership Month
National Bird-Feeding Month	Mardi Gras Month
Library Lovers Month	Groundhog Day: February 2
Pet Dental Health Month	Boy Scout Day: February 8
American Heart Month	Valentine's Day: February 14
Spunky Old Broads Month	Presidents Day: February 20
Sweet Potato Month	Leap Day: February 29

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Phi Chapter Fundraiser



Needle felted Rose clutch purses—individually designed and felted by Phi Chapter members. Fine wool

outside, taffeta lined with a sturdy magnetic clasp. Flat design and soft-sided, approximately 4 inches by 6 inches, perfect for glasses, cosmetics, change, jewelry, etc. Rose designs vary. — \$10.

DKG Baseball Caps using the newest logo by mail. Buy one to identify yourself as a MICHIGAN Delta Kappa Gamma member at any time. The hat is currently available in beige, white, light-blue and black. —\$25



These items are offered by Traverse City Area Phi Chapter to benefit the Geraldine Pagel Grant in Aid fund to support promising future teachers. For more information or to purchase, contact Lana Nickels — email LanaN09@gmail.com or 231-313-4617

Gamma Beta Chapter Fundraiser

Gamma Beta Chapter is selling packages of 6 notecards with a gold rose design. They are a bargain for \$5.00. The contact person is Sharleen Gonzalez, email: Cen15601@centurytel.net or 810-636-2431.

State Woman of Distinction Nominees

Alpha Iota State Delta Kappa Gamma recognizes one woman as State Woman of Distinction. The woman nominated for this award should be one who has made significant contributions to education beyond the local or chapter level.

Chapters may nominate a woman from their chapter or another chapter. The nominee should have been active in Delta Kappa Gamma—International, State, and Chapter. Achievements and contributions in her professional life as well as her leadership skills in professional organizations should be significant.

Guidelines and applications can be found on the Alpha Iota State webpage: deltakappagamma.org/MI. Remember that nominations need to be submitted before March 15, 2012

*** Please remember that a currently serving state elected officer cannot be nominated until her term has ended.*

Chapter Woman of Distinction Reminder — March 15, 2012

Chapter Presidents and Personal Growth and Service Chairs, please begin the process of naming your Chapter Woman of Distinction. The deadline is March 15, 2012. The form and guidelines for nomination are on the state website: www.deltakappagamma.org/MI

Marilyn J. Hopkins, Personal Growth and Services Chair, hopkins709@sbcglobal.net

FEBRUARY: Birth flower is the violet (*Viola*) and the common primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).
Birthstone is the amethyst. It symbolizes piety, humility, spiritual wisdom, and sincerity.
Zodiac signs are Aquarius (until February 18) and Pisces (start at February 19)

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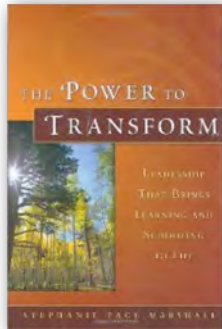
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State Research Survey

Chapter Presidents have received a survey developed by the research committee. The questions are about activities at the chapter level. We hope you will take the time to complete the survey and return it as soon as possible. We hope to have all surveys returned by April 1 but would appreciate receiving them earlier. If you did not receive the survey, please let us know. Thanks for your cooperation.

Nina Keener, State Research
Committee Chairman scakee@aol.com
- 248-362-1627

The Power to Transform: Leadership That Brings Learning and Schooling to Life by Stephanie Pace Marshall, 2006



Stephanie Pace Marshall argues that by focusing on reforming the contents of schooling and not transforming the context and conditions of learning, we have created false proxies for learning and eroded the potentially vibrant intellectual life of our schools.

Finishing a course and a textbook has come to mean achievement. Listening to a lecture has come to mean understanding. Getting a high score on a standardized test has come to mean proficiency. Credentialing has come to mean competence. To educate our children wisely requires that we create generative learning communities, by design.

Such learning communities have their roots in meaning, not memory; engagement, not transmission; inquiry, not compliance; exploration, not acquisition; personalization, not uniformity; interdependence, not individualism; collaboration, not competition; and trust, not fear.

Dr. Marshall is an educator and the founding president of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. She is also the founding president of the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology.

US Forum Connection: The National Committee to Protect Social Security & Medicare (NCPSSM)

There is one organization which is totally dedicated to issues concerning Social Security and Medicare. This is the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM) which has been in existence for about 30 years. NCPSSM emphasizes that Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements, but they are earned benefits which citizens have paid into for years through payroll taxes.

NCPSSM FACTS

1. Social Security's trust fund currently takes in more money through the FICA tax and interest on the bonds held for Social Security than it pays out in benefits. Even in the current troubled economy, the total accumulated surplus is in the trillions of dollars and will continue to grow for the next dozen years.
2. Current projections show Social Security able to pay benefits for another 25 years.

(continued...)

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3. Beyond 25 years, the actuaries project a relatively modest gap between taxes collected and benefits paid, but there are reasonable, solid, relatively modest adjustments that would ensure the viability of Social Security for many years to come.

* *The source for the above information is the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare. For more information you can visit www.ncpssm.org or 1-800-966-1938.*

RETIRESAFE

A second organization which has concerned itself with Social Security is Retiresafe. This organization is currently pushing for a Constitutional Amendment to protect Social Security. This amendment would contain the following:

1. No Benefit Cuts
2. Guaranteed Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)
3. End of Trust Fund "raids" (For years Congress has been borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund to fund other projects – mostly so-called pork barrel items.)
4. Pay Back Social Security (The Trust Fund is full of IOUs that have no real cash value and only represent a promise to pay. The proposed amendment calls for Congress to repay the more than \$2.56 trillion it has taken from the Social Security Trust Fund.)

* *The source for the above information is RetireSafe. Additional information about this organization and its proposals can be found at www.retiresafe.org.*

DATES TO REMEMBER →

Contact Addresses for Government Info

U.S. Government information can be obtained through the Congressional Switchboard number: 1-866-327-8670 (this is a toll free number). You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges. Visit www.house.gov for members of the House of Representatives www.senate.gov for members of the U.S. Senate - White House 1-202-456-1111.

State government information can be obtained through www.emailyourgovernor.com

Information available at this site allows contact with governors, members of the State Legislature, State Supreme Courts, Congressional delegation and state agencies such as the Education Department, Attorney General, Motor Vehicles Department and Voter Registration. *Please note that some of this information may be out of date.*

How did your Congressman voted on key bills? projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/

Only five constituent contacts will cause a legislator to pay serious attention to a given issue.

Spring PAC

Lexington Lansing HotelMarch 17

2012 National Legislative Seminar

Comfort Inn Pentagon City, Arlington, VA .March 18-21

Alpha Iota State Convention

Radisson Kalamazoo CenterMay 4-6

Seminar in Purposeful Living

Washington, D.C.....July 19-22

International Convention

Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, NYC.....July 24-28

Alpha Iota Fall Conference

Holiday Inn, MuskegonOctober 19-20

2013 Alpha Iota State Conference

Doubletree Hotel-Riverfront, Bay City.....May 3-5

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Elevator Speech Do's and Don'ts

Do make your Elevator Speech sound effortless, conversational, and natural.

Do make it memorable and sincere. Open a window to your personality.

Do write and rewrite your speech, sharpening its focus and eliminating unnecessary words and awkward constructions.

Do avoid an Elevator Speech that will leave the listener mentally asking "So what?"

Do consider including a compelling "hook," an intriguing aspect that will engage the listener, prompt him or her to ask questions, and keep the conversation going.

Don't let your speech sound canned or stilted.

Do practice your speech. Experts disagree about whether you should memorize it, but you should know your speech well enough so you express your key points without sounding as though the speech was memorized. Let it become an organic part of you.

Don't ramble. Familiarizing yourself as much as possible with your speech will help keep you from getting off track.

Do be warm, friendly, confident, and enthusiastic. A smile is often the best way to show friendliness and enthusiasm, while a strong, firm voice the best way to express confidence.

Do take it slowly.

Don't rush through the speech, and do pause briefly between sentences. Breathe.

Do project your passion for what you do.

Do maintain eye contact with your listener.

Don't get bogged down with industry jargon or acronyms that your listener may not comprehend.

Do be prepared to wrap up earlier than you were planning if you see the listener's eyes glazing over or interest waning.

Don't hesitate to develop different versions of your Elevator Speech for different situations and audiences.

Do incorporate examples and stories to help support your points. Provide examples of successful outcomes of deploying your skills. Stories make your speech memorable.

Don't focus just on yourself, an approach that will almost assure a "so what?" reaction.

Do focus on the benefit you provide to others.

Do use concrete, listener-friendly language, but at the same time, don't be afraid to paint vivid word pictures.

Don't forget to update your speech as your situation changes.

Adapted from Hansen, K. (n.d.). Elevator speech do's and don'ts. QuintCareers.com. Retrieved from http://www.quintcareers.com/elevator_speech_dos-donts.html

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