



WELCOME TO 2013

Necrology and President's reports are due February 1, 2013. If you have not submitted them, please do so as soon as possible.

Lynne and I appreciate your promptness because our reports are due to International by March 1.

Please send the Necrology Report to Lynne Elsesser and the President's Report to me.



Necrology
Report

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President's
Report

AWARDS

Please submit the *Award of the Rose* and *President's Award* applications to me by April 1, 2013. It is through these awards and Alpha Iota State is able to honor those chapters who pursued excellence in membership and chapter work.

CLIFF NOTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Motions and Seconds

When the Chair asks for a motion, she has already arranged for someone to make the motion. The member will come to the microphone, state her name and chapter and read the motion. Then a page brings the motion form to the parliamentarian and chair.

The chair then reads the motion, and asks for a second. The second comes from another member not previously arranged. Members are usually eager to make the motion when the chair asks for it.

However, please remember that a person already knows that she is to make the motion. If a motion is from a committee, no second is needed.

When a member has a question or comment during the meeting, she should address the chair. It is confusing when the chair is sitting and a committee chairman is at the microphone, but please remember this procedure.



TEN INTERESTING WOMEN STATE PROJECT : U OF M INTERESTING WOMEN GROUP

Another exciting “10 Interesting Women Group” has been formed in Flint by members of Mu Chapter and is off to a dynamic start with excellent discussions. Members of Mu chapter, who are on the University of Michigan teaching staff or who have retired from there, plus one who has three U of M degrees, invited professors to get together for lunch near the university. The stimulating discussion motivated the women to suggest another gathering before the holidays.

Two additional professors/lecturers joined the group for dinner in December. Even though most groups only meet two or three times a year, this group wants to meet more often and have set a dinner date in February. Two of the teaching professionals have been in their jobs three years or less. Mu members have learned from these professionals and have been able to encourage these working women. Mu members see amazing possibilities of friendship, support, mentoring, and, perhaps, new DKG members.

Dorothy Sample, 2nd Vice-President, Alpha Iota State DKG

LOST DKG PIN

Nancy Hood, Beta Alpha Chapter lost her membership pin in Muskegon. If you found one and didn't know what to do with it, please contact Nancy at bchood@aol.com or 269-968-1824.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Leadership Development Day, Grand BlancMarch 9, 2013
- PAC, LansingMarch 23, 2013
- Alpha Iota State Conference, Bay CityMay 3-5, 2013
- Northeast Regional Conference, Portland MEJuly 24-27, 2013
- International Convention, Indianapolis IN2014



US FORUM CONNECTION # 108

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to each individual.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 90,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

US FORUM CONNECTION # 108 : FISCAL CLIFF PROVISIONS

Puts off budget cuts for two months and preserves the income tax cuts for individuals earning less than \$400,000 or couples earning less than \$450,000. For those earning above these levels tax rates will go from the current 35% to 39.6%. Taxes on inherited estates will go from 35% to 40%.

Two million people would have unemployment insurance extended for a year. Milk subsidies would remain the same. (This keeps milk prices from increasing dramatically)

The bill permanently extends the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT); which is good for small business owners who are frequently at risk of paying it. (The AMT is permanently adjusted for inflation, making it unnecessary for Congress to adjust it each year.)

It extends the \$2,000 tax credit for the construction and sale of "green" energy efficient homes.

It gives a one year extension to January 1, 2014 of mortgage cancellation relief for those who have renegotiated or are in danger of losing their homes.

The 10 percent homeowner tax credit of up to \$500 for energy improvements made to renovate existing homes was extended through 2013 and made retroactive throughout 2012.

What the bill leaves unaddressed is a series of automatic cuts in federal spending that would have taken effect Wednesday (the "sequester") which would reduce budgets of most federal agencies and programs by 8% to 10%. The only two things which would not be affected by the sequester are Medicare and Medicaid. The sequester must be addressed by the end of February. The debt ceiling issue must be addressed no later than the end of March.



**US FORUM CONNECTION # 108 :
2013 MEDICARE BENEFITS**

Medicare now covers screenings for depression, alcohol misuse, and obesity. (See pages 33, 35,37, 43 and 46 in the 2013 Medicare & You book for specifics.)

The so called donut hole is being made smaller this year and if you fall into this gap, you will only pay 47.5% of the prescription drug cost for brand name drugs and 79% of the cost of generics.

**US FORUM CONNECTION # 108 :
MEDICARE \$ & SENSE**

If you or someone you know is on a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, check the information on pharmacies approved by your plan. It is cheaper to get prescriptions filled at one of the pharmacies listed in the information which comes along with your plan. Also this may change from year to year. Be sure to check the 2013 prescription drug guide from you insurance provider.

OFFICIAL 2013 FLAG FLYING DAYS

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 12 - Abraham Lincoln's birthday
- February 18 - George Washington's birthday
- May 12 - Mother's Day
- May 18 - Armed Forces Day
- May 27 - Memorial Day
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 16 - Father's Day
- July 4 - Independence Day
- September 2 - Labor Day
- September 11 - Patriot Day
- October 14 - Christopher Columbus Day
- November 5 - Election Day
- November 11 - Veterans Day
- November 28 - Thanksgiving Day
- December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- December 25 - Christmas Day



The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour. — Vita Sackville-West



CELEBRATE - 75!

It is gratifying to see so many Chapters and Coordinating Councils planning activities for our celebration on May 3 in Bay City. The committee has asked for sponsors, donations, volunteers to help with the party. Members have also been asked to bring one children's book so that we may donate the books to a school in the Bay City area. I believe this supports at least one of our purposes. It sounds like we're asking you to step up a bit and we are. We have many surprises in store for you and you will have a nice memento to take home.

I recently received word about **Upsilon Chapter's** celebration that I'd like to share with you. It was a **75th Birthday Christmas Buffet** and Judith Nixon made a very nice PowerPoint to show with background history. We served foods from the late 1930's, including some recipes from members' mothers. We enjoyed everything from Stinkies (onion rye toasts) to lime jello salad with cottage cheese and pineapple to a white cake that has been handed down for four generations. Many members wore hats and gloves. It was so much fun!

COME TO THE BAY!

NORTH EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE JULY 24-27 IN PORTLAND, MAINE

Please join us! I'm including the latest Focus issue from Northeast Director Mary Lee Mackinen. Please discuss the requests with your members that Mary Lee mentioned. I'll be driving to Portland and can transport items for the conference. If you can spare items for early career educators, we'd appreciate them.

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

JULY 24 - 27, 2013

The steering Committee is asking each state to participate to the best of their ability. Please consider the following requests.

- Each state is asked to donate an item to the "Meet the Block" drawing.
- Each state is asked to request their members and chapters to donate items for early career educators. These will be collected at the luncheon and will be placed within the table arrangements. Some examples include:

(continued next page...)

"And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us, new, untouched, full of things that have never been." – Rainer Maria Rilke



(Conference Concerns, continued)

Items such as: rulers, pencil packs, eraser packs, boxes of paper clips, pens, sharpies, scotch tape, masking tape, index cards, glue sticks, push pins, paper punches, scissors, staple removers, expo white board markers, white board erasers, metal paper fasteners.

- Northeast members are asked to consider presenting at the conference.
- The Northeast Regional Conference will have a chorus so please sign up early to sing.
- Watch for DKG News to register for the conference or register online.

For guidelines and forms, please see the information under Forms on the state DKG website: www.deltakappagamma.org/MI.

Also, chapters and individual members need to be thinking about nominating a woman as the 2013 Alpha Iota State Woman of Distinction. Those guidelines and forms can also be found on the DKG website.

Marilyn J. Hopkins, Chair, Personal Growth and Services, Alpha Iota State DKG

CHAPTER WOMAN OF DISTINCTION
STATE WOMAN OF DISTINCTION
~ REMINDER ~

This is a reminder to chapters to let us know your nomination(s) for 2013 *Chapter Woman of Distinction*.

A chapter should look at members who have given outstanding support and note-worthy service to the chapter. We will recognize these chapter honorees at the Alpha Iota State Convention.

Deadline for receiving Chapter Woman of Distinction is: March 15, 2013



ANSWERS

- 16. Portland
- 15. Sinatra

- 14. book
- 13. Court
- 12. March
- 10. garnet
- 9. ten
- 8. Oprah Winfrey
- 4. Dreyfus
- 3. Lansing

ACROSS

- 11. February
- 9. Thank
- 8. obesity
- 7. Martin
- 6. Betty White
- 5. stinkies
- 2. Janus
- 1. Dolly Parton

DOWN

TODAY'S VISION
TOMORROW'S MISSION



Wishing you and your chapter, a happy, healthy and fulfilling new year.

Thank you for all you do for DKG.

*Enthusiastically,
Olive*



CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. Government Information can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard 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.

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 emailyourgovernor.com/ Information available at this site allows contact with governors, members of the state legislature, state supreme court, congressional delegation and state agencies such as the Education Department, Attorney General, Motor Vehicles Department and Voter Registration. **SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MAY BE OUT OF DATE**

How your Congressperson voted on important issues:

projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.

SUPPORT EARLY CAREER EDUCATORS

We can make a difference with early career educators!

Do you remember your first year of teaching? I do. I was the only special education teacher in the building. My predecessor had ordered films and supplies for the coming year, but when she didn't return, the other teachers in her unit appropriated the supplies. I started the year with a couple of books and a few toys.

I really appreciated some of the other teachers giving me some dittos, pencils, and paper. They also told me about films that they had ordered and that I was welcome to use.

Because most of the teachers didn't understand my role as a special education teacher, they were very leery of me. One example was that when I went into the teachers lounge, they rarely spoke to me. Some even talked about me right in front of me.

One such conversation was, "Did you see what that Olive Horning was doing with her students? She was actually expecting them to learn to count."

(continued...)



SUPPORT EARLY CAREER EDUCATORS

(...continued) In that negative atmosphere, I could have easily decided that teaching was not the career for me. However, there were other teachers who gave me encouragement and support.

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

- being available to 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 any way that is appropriate and practical.

Call your school office to get a list of new teachers/educators from your local school district and list of student teachers in your area to support.

Further resources are available on the Educational Excellence Committee page under Support Early-career Educators.

www.deltakappagamma.org/MI/SEE/SEE.html

OUR WEBSITE'S CHAPTER RESOURCES

- Strategic Planning Worksheet for Chapters
- 10 Interesting Women - Powerpoint (pdf)
- Constitution Changes - Powerpoint
- Chapter Committee Form
- International Communications Newsletter
- Standing Rules Checklist
- Guidelines for Chapter Standing Rules
- Available Educator's Award Books
- International Ceremonies Page
- International Program Ideas Page
- Recommendation for Membership
- Strategic Plan Powerpoint for Chapters
- Wilma Adams Emergency Funds
- Wilma Adams Chapter Funds
- World Fellowship Brochure



ESD TEACHER OPPORTUNITY

Dear Olive Horning,

Greetings from the Institute of International Education! We are pleased to announce the 2013 Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). As a Toyota International Teacher Program to Japan alum, I wanted to let you know about this opportunity, administered by IIE.

The 2013 Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for ESD, sponsored by Fulbright Japan, will provide 24 U.S. teachers and administrators with the opportunity to travel to a three-day conference in San Francisco and to Japan for two weeks to learn about ESD efforts and strengthen ESD curricula in both countries. The program is fully-funded with the exception of some meals. ESD is “a vision of education that seeks to balance human and economic well-being with cultural traditions and respect for the earth’s natural resources,” according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The 24 educators from Japan will travel to the United States in late April and 24 educators from the U.S. will travel to Japan in mid-June. At the end of the program in each country, all 48 educators will gather for a few days of joint collaboration.

For more information about the program, or to access the online application, please visit our website at www.iie.org/esdteacher.

**The application deadline is
February 6, 2013.**

Please share information about this program with eligible educators in your school or district. Feel free to contact us at ESDteacher@iie.org or 888-527-2636 with any questions.

All the best,

Sarah Grace Gleisner

Japan-U.S. Teacher Exchange Program for ESD

Institute of International Education

1400 K Street NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

Tel 888-527-2636

Fax 202-326-7672

President’s note: In 2000, I was part of the Toyota International Teacher Program and stayed in Japan for two weeks all expenses paid. IIE is a reliable group and helps to have our World Fellowships teachers placed in US and Canada universities. I’d urge you to apply for the program. It will be a wonderful part of your professional growth.



FOCUS on the Northeast Region

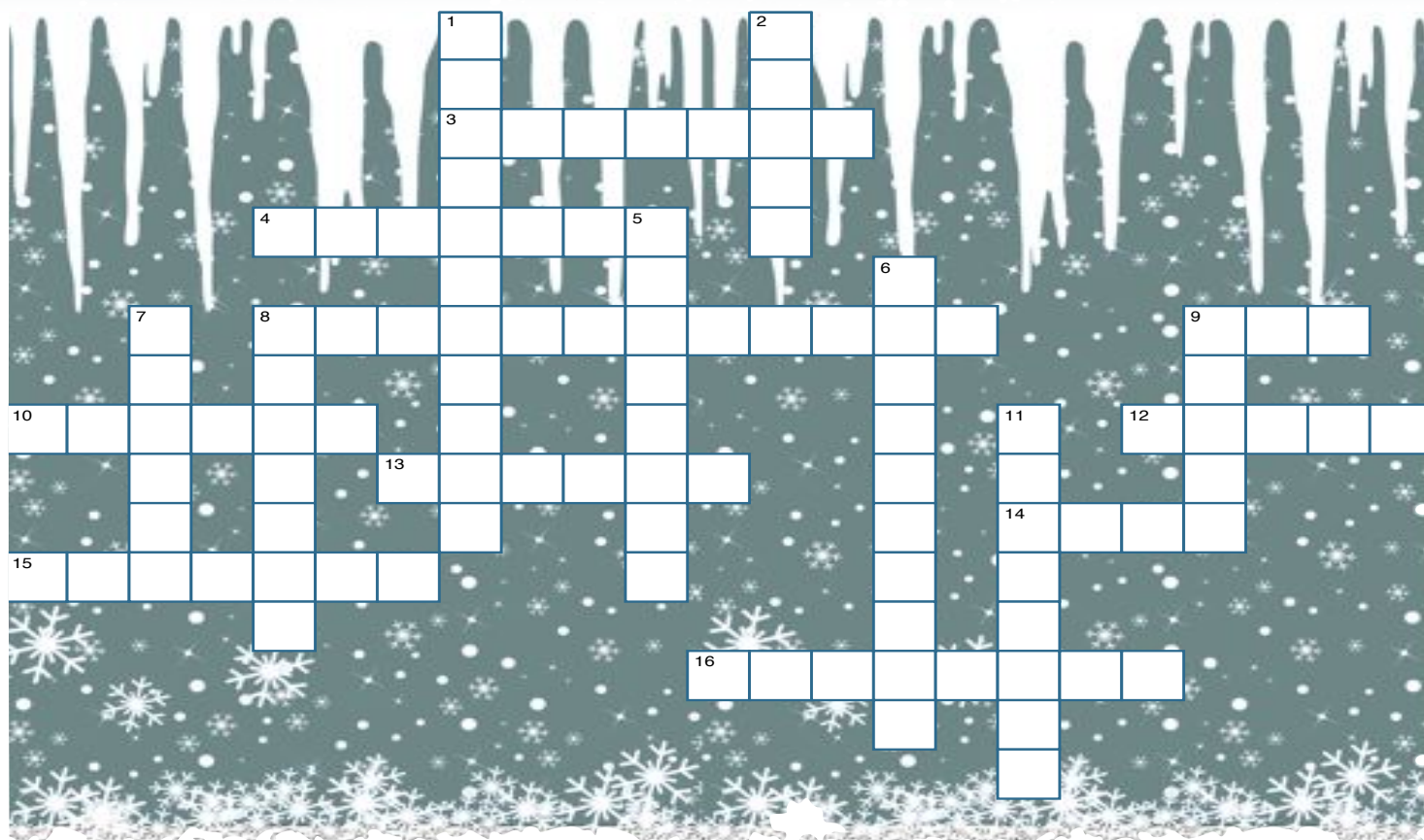
January, 2013

The Northeast Supports and Survives

“Sandy” tormented the Northeastern States and left devastation in “her” wake. Many thanks to the Delta Kappa Gamma members who have offered support and have contributed to the Emergency Fund. When one of us is affected by life’s traumas, we are all affected.

Our members have also rallied around Connecticut during its traumatic events two weeks ago. Sincere appreciation to those who have offered your prayers and offers of support to our members, our fellow colleagues, and most certainly the children and families in Newtown, Connecticut.





DOWN

- 1This singer has been entertaining us for many years with music and a theme park. Her birthday is January 9. (full name, no space)
- 2.....January is named after the Ancient Roman god of the doorway.
- 5The nickname of onion rye toasts, once popular in the 1930's.
- 6.....Born on January 17, this amazing actress recently celebrated her 91st birthday. (full name-no space)
- 7.....January 21 the nation honors Dr. _____ Luther King, Jr.
- 8.....Medicare now covers screenings for depression, alcohol misuse, and _____.
- 9.....January is National "____ You" month.
- 11...Necrology and President's reports are due to Lynne and Olive on _(month)_1, 2013.

ACROSS

- 3.....On March 23, the PAC is meeting in _____, MI.
- 4.....Known for her role as Elaine on the sitcom "Seinfeld," and born on Jan. 13. Julia Louis _____.
- 8.....Born January 29th, she's O, the queen of media, everyone talks to her. (first-last name, no space)
- 9The Mu Chapter in Flint has a new initiative related to the "_____ Interesting Women" project.
- 10...January's birthstone is the _____.
- 12 ..The deadline for receiving the Chapter Woman of Distinction is _(month)_ 15, 2013
- 13...Born January 7, this journalist and public figure has her own talk show. Katie _____.
- 14 ..What item have members been asked to bring to the Celebrate 75! event May 3?
- 15...January 10's birthday boy, Frank, was also known as "Ole Blue Eyes." His last name? _____
- 16 ..The North East Regional Conference will be held in _____, Maine, July 24-27.