



# NORTH STAR NEWS

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Key Women Educators

2 0 1 4 S U M M E R E D I T I O N

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## Highlights shared of the Tau State Conference, April 25-27, 2014

Tau State Conference was held at the Holiday Inn in Duluth, Minnesota from April 25-27, 2014. Friday tours to the Duluth Depot, Glensheen Mansion and Fair Lawn Museum and Children's Home preceded the evening performance by the Denfeld High School Little Mob and Solid Gold musical performance. Following that a social was held, hosted by Kappa Chapter. Saturday's events included a Zumba Gold exercise class and an Executive Board meeting held at the same time. The General Session was welcomed by Duluth Superintendent of Schools, Bill Gronseth.

The Tau State website will be linked to the International website at the end of May.

A new computer was purchased for the data base manager.

The silent Auction raised over \$800 for Kid's Closet, a Duluth charity that provides clothing for needy students. The evening was completed by a march of chapter presidents, a presentation by Barbara Whiting, a women's barber shop group, North Shore Sounds, and a reception Gathering. Sunday morning a Ceremony of Remembrance was held which honored

those sisters who were deceased in the past year.

Sunday morning brunch featured a news personality, Michelle Lee, who advocated a program to help people get fit and lose weight.

The Happy Warblers gave a musical program.

Next year the convention will be in Bemidji in April, hosted by Mu and Chi chapters.

Throughout the event door prizes were presented. Everyone at the conference won at least one prize.

## North Star News Editor retires

Robbie Johnson, North Star News Editor, retires in fall 2014 after serving as the Tau State editor for eight state presidents. She first began editing with past state president Phyllis Fredlund, (1995-1997).

Robbie was a high school journalism teacher, adviser of the high school newspaper and high school year book adviser. an a high school Language Arts teacher.

Johnson has served two bienniums on the International Communication Committees.

"I look forward to helping Libby Underhill as new editor of the North Star News," said Johnson.

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## ***Thoughts From State President Kathy Patton***

**M**y theme for this biennium is **ACT:**

Achieving goals

Celebrating

Communicating Together

***Thoughts from your State President***

*I hope you are all surviving all of this rain. Remember if a member experiences significant damage due to storms they can apply for emergency funds. I am once again going to try using my blog to keep you updated regularly. Remember it is a work in progress. (<http://nanareads.blogspot.com/>)*

*The spring conference in Duluth was exceptional. I continue to hear from people that they had such a good time. Put April 17-19, 2015, in your calendars and plan on attending the convention in Bemidji. The Planning has already begun.*

*Upcoming events are:*

*International Convention in Indianapolis July 28- August 1*

*Leadership Training for new chapter officers August 20*

*I still need someone to be the state legislative chair. If you want legislative updates, we have to have this position filled.*

*I am looking forward to this next year as your state president. This past year has been filled with wonderful experiences and memories. I hope to make it to all of your chapters again this coming*



**Kathy Patton  
Tau State President  
2013-2015**



*year. I shared two copies of Lean In by Sheryl Sandberg at the fall board meeting. I am asking that those two read the book and then share with two others.*

Join the DKG Network on the International [DKG.net](http://DKG.net) website

For access to exclusive content or to participate in the social network, you'll need to log in. If you're a member of DKG, simply click "Request new password" and follow the instructions. DKG members are pre-registered using the email International currently has on file. Contact International if you need to update your email address. After you log in the first time, you will remain logged in until you log out. You may also click "Request new password" anytime you forget your password or need to change it.



## ***Traut attended Parliamentarian Institute***

Lorrayne Traut attended a Parliamentarians Educational Institute in Lincoln, NE, on May 2nd, sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Parliamentarians and Southeast Community College of Nebraska. Units of instruction sessions included Motions/Amendments, Debating/Decorum, Electronic Meetings, and Bylaws. Lorrayne is a member of the Minnesota and National Association of Parliamentarians and initially received her training in 2005 by the current DKG parliamentarian, Dr. Jean Gray.

# Strengthening and Building Chapters by Reinstating Members

Submitted by Kim Kusler, MU Chapter State  
Membership Chair

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Expansion Committee has developed a vision for this biennium – **strengthening** a chapter not only requires growing and nurturing members, but it also requires **recruiting, retaining, and reinstating** members.

When considering growth, our state chapters attempt to bring in new members and keep the members they have. But do we endeavor to reinstate dropped members?

Surveys of dropped members consistently indicate they leave chapters due to personal and/or family responsibilities. Survey results also show that 65-70% of dropped members would consider reinstatement if asked. Life circumstances can change, and chapters are wise to remain in contact with former members. Make sure these women know they are missed, needed, and important. Try the following to help your chapter as you attempt to reinstate dropped members:



- Use the chapter's Form 18 and 18A to compile a list of members who have resigned over the past five years.
- Determine which of these former members still live in the area.
- Provide notecards and envelopes to chapter members, and ask each member to write one or more notes to a former member indicating what is special about her and why she is missed. Cards may be signed by the individual member or a chapter representative.
- Ask a member to call or visit a dropped member to let her know she has been missed, and to determine whether she might consider reinstatement.
- Invite a dropped member to an upcoming meeting with a program that may be of interest to her.

Many former members may feel special and become re-involved when they feel a personal connection to a current member who tells them they are missed. Former members need to know that the door to reinstatement is open!

## Reinstatement of Members

### Rejoin today!

## 2014 Minnesota legislative marked with victories for education, labor

Here is the end of the Minnesota legislation session wrap up from Education Minnesota Capitol Connection.

Reforms to how district purchase health insurance, stronger anti-bullying legislation and a minimum wage increase top the long [list of improvements](#) made during the 2014 legislative session for educators, students and their families.

Our Health Insurance Transparency and Accountability bill is now law and passed with bipartisan support. It makes changes to the way school districts purchase health insurance, increasing competition and transparency to ensure districts and their employees are getting coverage at the best price possible.

The supplemental budget also included a funding boost for education, including \$10 million to help districts implement the new teacher development and evaluation law. That money will help non-Q-Comp districts train administrators, evaluator and peer reviewers on their roles in this new evaluation system.

The budget also includes an additional \$4.6 million each for early childhood and family education and early learning scholarships, \$3.5 million for the state's school lunch program and increases for programming for English language learners, school readiness programs and the Minnesota Reading Corps.

Other victories include:

- Creating a special online system to reduce paperwork redundancy for special education teachers so they have more time to work with students.
- Adding \$17 million a year in ongoing funding for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to help attract and retain high quality faculty members.

- Filling in the “doughnut hole” for school districts that enroll between 820 and 2,000 students. These 97 districts now have access to local optional revenue, which allows them to levy up to \$424 per pupil starting in fiscal year 2016. levy is approved by the school board, rather than The levy is approved by the school board, rather than voter-approved.
- Approving a bonding bill that includes \$279 million for capital improvement projects at the state's public colleges and universities and \$100 million for housing.
- Merging Duluth teachers' pensions into the larger statewide Teachers Retirement Association. This comes with \$22 million in state funds to cover the cost of consolidation.
- Creating a Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) to better process unfair labor charges.
- Changing state law so art therapists, music therapists and audiologists are defined as teachers in the Public Employment Labor Relations Act. That means these educators can belong to the teacher bargaining unit and have access to the same salary and benefits. Our members made these successes possible. Your testimony, lobby days and calls and emails to legislators make a difference.

by Judy Rohde

**Training for new chapter presidents and officers:**  
August 20, 2014



# Tau State Conference 2014

Huoda Elgohwagi from Libya was awarded the Bernice Gestie Fellowship Award.

Connie Claire Szarke received the Jeanette Fair adult book award for ***Delicate Armor***.

Michelle Lee was the Sunday brunch speaker who addressed the topic "Eat for Life."

Carolyn Treadway from Faribault received the Outstanding Service Award.



Char Kerelko, a social worker in Duluth spoke of their project "Kids Closet. Donations help needy children.



NorthShore Sounds entertain at the banquet.



The Happy Warblers perform at Sunday brunch.



Dianna Brusven arranges flowers for the Ceremony of Remembrance on Sunday morning. Alpha Meta hosted the ceremony.

# CHAPTER NEWS

Kappa chapter installed new officers at the Barkers Island Inn in Superior, Wisconsin at their May 8 meeting. Outgoing leadership team co-presidents Kathy Nelson and Diane Wippler expressed their appreciation for Jan Lippitt's service as treasurer, especially during this past year for the conference finances. Also, Lydia Jean Walters was thanked for her past services as secretary to the chapter and heartfelt appreciation for her willingness to continue in that position for the next term. New co-presidents installed were Dianne Hedburg, Data Coach for Proctor Public Schools and former elementary teacher, and Julie Stauber, Professional Development Coordinator for Proctor Schools. Taking over for Jan Lippitt as Kappa Chapter Treasurer will be Insoon Han, professor in the Education Department at UMD.

The May 8 meeting was a combination installment of new officers and birthday celebration for the Kappa Chapter.



**Kathy Nelson inducts Dianne Hedburg and Julie Stauber and Insoon Han as officers**

## 2015 Convention plans shaping up in Bemidji

Mu and Chi chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma would like to invite you to attend the 2015 Tau State Convention in Bemidji, Minnesota. Bemidji is the home of the legendary Paul Bunyan and Babe where you can expect BIG things to happen. It is also the home of Bemidji State University where thousands of teachers have gotten their bachelors and masters degrees for generations. For some of you, it will be a chance to visit the site of your college days.

The convention will be held in the new Sanford Events Center on the shores of Lake Bemidji. All meetings, meals, and general sessions will be close together on ground floor and will be easy to

find. The conference center staff promises delicious dining in a comfortable setting. Be prepared to enjoy music and entertainment and to participate in the Happy Warblers if you are a singer.

Three hotels are very close to the convention center and are also located on Lake Bemidji. The official convention hotel has yet to be named.

Both Mu and Chi chapters core teams have met with Kathy Patton, state president, to begin planning and setting up committees and responsibilities. We look forward to entertaining you and providing informative sessions. We want you to have successful meetings in a relaxing setting. Registration information will be available later this year.

## ***National Legislative Seminar Focuses Women's Issues***

Sally Nyhus and Cory Peters from Tau State attended the biennial National Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. from March 16-19, 2014.

Prior to the seminar, on Saturday evening, they along with 17 other DKG members and guests attended a performance of *The Capitol Steps* at the Amphitheater in the Ronald Reagan Memorial Building. If the Capitol Steps are performing anywhere in Minnesota, you should plan to see them. It is very entertaining. Then on Sunday, a day long tour of Mount Vernon and a narrated bus tour through Old Alexandria, VA with a stop at the Old Christ Church. A docent gave us a wonderful history of the church. Everyone had a chance to sit in George Washington's box which is the only one left as the others were turned into regular pews. The church still has services. A surprise stop at the Iwo Jima Memorial culminated the trip before heading back to the Holiday Inn National Airport Crystal City and the beginning of the seminar that evening.

After the welcome by LaWalta Turner, US Forum Committee Chair, and singing grace led by Kathy Flynn and Andrea Morris, Dr. Beverly Helms, International President, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following dinner, a video of the 2012 NLS was shown and a session overview was given by Judy Jackson, SE Representative. We were entertained that evening by Kate Campbell Stevenson on "Forging Frontiers - Women Leaders in STEM. She portrayed several pioneering women including Louise Arner Boyd, Betsy Coleman, Rachel Carson, and Vera Rubin..

Monday morning we were greeted by over 8 inches of new-fallen snow. Believe us, Washington, D.C. and Virginia "shut down" when there is snow. It was a day-long snowfall. Schools, businesses, and some government offices were closed for the day. So... some "monitoring and adjusting" as Madeline Hunter used to say, changes had to be made in the agenda of speakers. With Sally's laptop and SKYPE, we connected with two of the three speakers that were on the ***Human Trafficking Panel***: Faiza Mathon-Mathieu, Director of Policy and Government Relations for ECPAT-USA (Early Childhood Protection Against Trafficking); and Teresa Tomassoni, Director of Programs at Fair Girls (Free Aware Inspired Restored). It was a wonderful experience because the attendees could ask questions of these ladies and much

information was shared by them. The third member, Miranda Peterson, was unable to connect with SKYPE but emailed information about Military Sexual Assault. The panel was facilitated by Cory Peters, NW Representative.

The next presentation was by Dr. Barbara Baethe and Dr. Kathleen Ramsey on ***The Keys to Future STEM Careers: Basic Skills, Critical Thinking, and Ethics***.

Carmelo DeMarco, NE Representative, presented a short informational speech about GPO/WEP (Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision) and Teacher Licensure.

The afternoon session included presentations by Shantha Ready Alonso on ***Investing in the Common Good-Hunger in America/ Healthcare for Women and Children***; Joan Bradley Wages from the National Women's History Museum; and Anne Hedgepeth, representing AAUW, on ***Pay Equity, Violence Against Women Act, Advocacy Issues, and Protocol "On the Hill"***. The day concluded with a presentation by Dr. Liz Turner on the History of the US Forum, NLS Talking Points, and a briefing on our visit "to the Hill" on Tuesday.

Tuesday morning, a group photo was taken in front of The Capitol and then went on to the Rayburn Building for a briefing on Education Issues and Bills in Congress. Those that could went on a guided tour of The Capitol. Sally and Cory had appointments with legislative aides in the offices of Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senator Al Franken. After eating lunch in the Cafeteria in the Supreme Court Building, they headed off to appointments in Representative Tim Walz's (District 1- Cory's) and John Kline's (District 2- Sally's) offices.

Tuesday night was "on our own" and we went to the play ***The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** at the Ford Theatre. Guess what – Sally was in the "spelling bee" as one of four

contestants from the audience. She made it through the first three rounds and was eliminated on a made up word, we think.

Wednesday morning was our Celebration Brunch. After the “graduation award” ceremony, we had reports from attendees on their visits “on the Hill”. Our seminar concluded with a dynamic speaker, Jones Loflin, from North Carolina. His presentation was *Now We Go Home...What's Next?* He is also the keynote speaker at the US Forum in Indianapolis, so be sure to attend as he is fabulous (plus very handsome). He was a former teacher.

Everyone went on their way, either touring or home. Sally went touring (in the rain) and Cory had her final meeting with the US Forum Steering Committee. Her term is up at the International Convention when a new NW Representative will be elected. Be sure to ask us about our dinner at Freddie’s on Wednesday evening.

Even though the seminar had ended, Sally and Cory’s time did not. They went sightseeing on Thursday to many of the memorials (ones Sally had not gotten to on Wednesday). Our last one was Arlington National Cemetery where we saw the changing of the guard and also visited the Women’s Military Museum at the entrance to the cemetery – very impressive! We went back to the hotel to pick up our suitcases and then on to Reagan National Airport to head back to Minnesota.

The next National Legislative Seminar will be in 2016. Be sure to watch for information on the International, Tau State, and US Forum websites.



**US Forum attendees:  
International President Dr.  
Beverly H. Helms, NW  
Regional Representative  
Cory Peters, and Sally  
Nyhus Tau State attendee.**

### **Pi Chapter’s Nominee Selected at Tau State Outstanding Service Award Recipient**

Carolyn Treadway, nominated by Pi Chapter (Faribault) was awarded the Outstanding Service Award at the state conference in Duluth on Saturday, April 26. Edna Thayer, a member of Pi Chapter presented the award in the absence of Cory Peters, Personal Growth and Services Committee Chair. Carolyn is so deserving of this award with her work in the Faribault Schools and Community with Somali women and children in acquiring English as a second language focusing on conversational language, a multicultural after school program working with Middle School students on homework help, positive behavior group activities, physical activity, and academic enrichment opportunities to marginalized students of all cultures but primarily attracted Somali and Latino youth. She also has spearheaded a Bully Prevention initiative and continues on the SOAR committee. Carolyn has been a strong and vocal advocate for Faribault’s diverse newcomers. She speaks to civic groups about what she has learned about the difficulties that immigrants and refugees face. She uses Facebook to inform social media contacts about the opportunities for intercultural understanding. Currently, she is working with others to address hunger insecurity in Faribault. The hope is that this work will result in afterschool meals provided to youth in their homes who may have little access to nutritious and adequate food supplies.

Cory attended the May 1 meeting of Pi Chapter and presented another certificate to Carolyn.