



NORTH STAR NEWS

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Key Women Educators

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Dr. Phyllis VanBuren selected as nominee for Northwest Regional Director 2014-2016



Dr. Phyllis VanBuren, Minnesota, is the nominee for northwest regional director. She was the 2011-2013 Minnesota state organization president. VanBuren is professor at St. Cloud State University, teaching Spanish and German as well as supervising student teachers. She also writes and evaluates new test items in Spanish as a consultant for Educational Testing Service. VanBuren has been active at the chapter and state organization levels. She was awarded an Educational Foundation grant to purchase leadership training materials. She says, "Our 2012 International Leadership Management Seminar motto 'Learn, Lead, and Serve,' reflects my DKG journey. Now it is my time to serve."



Barbara Whiting will be the International Guest at the Tau State Conference in Duluth April 25-27, 2014.

Whiting was the Tau State President from 1999-2001. She is currently (2012-2016) the International Board Member-at-Large. Whiting has been instrumental in developing activities and strategies for increasing membership and strengthening Tau State Organization chapters.

Whiting also will be attending the Summer Retreat at St. Ben's University.

DKG Executive Director to retire in April

The Administrative Board has accepted Corlea Plowman's retirement date as April 24. Plowman came to Society Headquarters as Business Services Administrator (BSA) in January 2004. See extended article on the International website: www.dkg.org

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Thoughts From State President Kathy Patton

Theme: ACT: Achieving goals, Celebrating and Communicating Together

I love, love, love attending chapter meetings and meeting all of you. I have said this before but it bears repeating "What an awesome group of women in Tau State!". There are only three chapters I didn't have the opportunity to meet with yet. I am still working on getting those chapter scheduled. I am also happy to return to any chapter that invites me.

Here are some of the business things I have been working on. I am beginning to complete state reports, so you probably have already heard from me, if I didn't receive yours yet. I am also offering help to Kappa, Delta and Alpha Meta chapters as they organize and prepare for the 2014 Spring Conference in Duluth. The Executive Committee held a gotomeeting February 1st, to deal with state business. Chapter leadership has access to all reports in dropbox.

So far being your state president has been an exciting experience. I am leaning so much (and making some "oops" along the way). The most important thing I have learned to date is that I am not alone in this position. There are so many people who have and continue to help me do this job.

Remember- Share your accomplishments. There are so many wonderful things



Kathy Patton
Tau State President 2013-2015

happening across this state in your chapters. Risk doing something you haven't done before. Nominations for chapter officers is upon us. Say yes.

Kathy Patton
Tau State President
kpattondkg@yahoo.com

Join the DKG Network on the DKG.net website



Come to the summer retreat!



Plan now to attend the third annual Tau State summer retreat June 24th and 25th at St. Ben's. The theme this year is:

Women Moving Forward: learning, leading, and laughing!

Join in the fun as we learn from one another and from some inspiring books.

The summer retreat is for those who have attended in the past and all Tau members. Come and bring a friend. This is a chance to make new friends and reconnect with old friends. You'll leave refreshed and inspired!

Registration materials will be available at the state conference in Duluth. For more information or to volunteer to assist, contact Barbara Whiting, whitings@att.net.



June 24-25 at St. Ben's

Legislative Update

Judy Rohde, Legislative Chairperson

Hope you attended your precinct caucuses on February 4, 2014, at 7 PM. Information was shared about the content caucuses.

The 2014 Legislative session will begin the end of February. This is the year of the short session. When the Minnesota State Legislature is in session and the new national Congress is in session, there should be plenty of political news to share with our sisters.

I will continue to send out state and national legislative information to the chapter legislative contacts. For **NATIONAL NEWS** I will rely on the US Forum Connection which comes monthly for Delta Kappa Gamma. I will supplement this information with appropriate educational news from:

- NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) which has a Legislative Update and a Capitol Report.
- The League of Women Voters
- AAUW
- National Education Association/
American Federation of Teachers

For **STATE NEWS** the best resource I have comes from the Education Minnesota Capital Connection and the Teacher's Retirement Association. I am well aware that as a nonprofit organization we are not a political organization so, therefore, only factual information will be shared.

Tau State Program Chair Needs 2012-2013 Chapter Programs

Diane Wippler, Chair

Tau State Program Chair Diane Wippler is diligently trying to collect a list of 2013-2014 chapter programs that were requested in October. The copy given to members; here is no special form for rewriting the information. I still need 2013-2013 chapter programs from Iota, Mu, Nu, Pi, Sigma, Alpha Iota, Alpha Kappa, & Beta Alpha.

In addition, a 2012 - 2014 Biennial Report must be sent to DKG Headquarters in February. I must receive a copy of Form 26(Jan. 2012 – Dec. 2013) from each chapter that summarizes your chapter programs by February 1, 2014.

Jeannette Fair Award To Be Presented at Tau State Conference

The communications committee is busy reading the nominations for the Jeannette Fair Book award. A decision will be made very late in March. The award will be announced at the Saturday luncheon of the spring convention in Duluth.

Marcia Essman

Communications Committee
maress625@gmail.com

Professional Affairs Committee Announces Grant-in Aid Progress

Nancy Welken, Chair

The committee has received two completed applications for the Recruitment Grant, and met on January 15th. There are also two applications for the Honoree Nomination.

These applications are being forwarded to all committee members. They will have two weeks to evaluate them and rank them. When all four members have ranked them, the committee will meet and make a final decision. The recipients will be notified by the end of February. The awards will be presented at the 2014 Spring Conference in Duluth.

Technology Update

*Laurie Huston, Webmaster/
Technology Chair*

The \$62 fee for hosting our website on the International server has been paid.

I have been working on getting the Tau State website re-declared a certified link by International since October 2013. I was asked to make some changes that were completed in December 2013. The committee member in charge of our request was informed of the completed updates, but her e-mail response to me went astray. We now have been reconnected. I have addressed her final concerns on the website, and her recommendation that our website be certified will be submitted soon.

We must follow the legal requirements outlined in International's Standards for Society Website Certification. Therefore, if you wish to have a form, registration information, or an edition of the North Star News posted on the Tau State website, it means you have obtained specific written consent (and are keeping it on file) if the item to be posted includes: mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone/fax numbers, news and/or pictures of an individual or group, and/or copyrighted materials including artwork and text.

International would like to see more photographs on our website. With this in mind and the above-mentioned need for written consent, I would like a photo release statement with required signature to routinely be included on the registration forms for



Tau State Executive Board meetings and conferences/conventions.

Please forward (electronically) to me photographs of Delta Kappa Gamma activities happening in Tau State that you would like to have shown on our website. Laurie Huston, Webmaster/
Technology Chair
dkglkhuston@comcast.net



Finance Committee seeks financial reports

Tau State Finance Committee requests all chapters to send their financial report to Mary Snorek, 21 Franklin Ave SE, Wadena, MN 5482 or, dovems@charter.net as soon as possible for year end reports.

Leadership Focus Group Meets To Discuss Ideas

Ann Vanvick Second Vice President

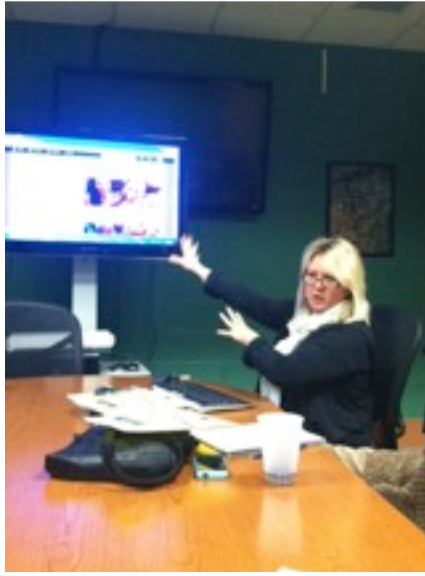
I have enjoyed meeting with the Metro chapter president/ leadership focus group created by President Kathy Patton. The group has met once and plans on meeting again February 15th. It has been great getting to know them and has been a very valuable way of sharing ideas. We have started reading "The End of Membership As We Know It, Building the Fortune-Flipping, Must-Have Association of the Next Century" by Sarah L. Sladek. Change is not easy but necessary if we are to grow as an organization. This book has realistic, useful advice and is a "must" read for all our members. "The sun did not shine. It was too wet to play. So we sat in the house. All that cold, cold, wet day." — [Dr. Seuss, The Cat in the Hat](#)

Hope this finds you and the weather warming up!
Ann Vanvick Tau State Second Vice President
alvanvic@gmail.com

CHAPTER NEWS

Membership Committee Seeks Additional Members

Kim Kusler, Membership Chair



New initiate to Kappa Chapter, Julie Stauber presents information on Twitter and other social media used in instruction with her students in English Language Arts at the January Kappa Chapter meeting. Co-Presidents Diane Wippler and Kathy Nelson chaired the meeting held at Proctor High School. Carol Kelley hosted the event.

The Membership Committee would welcome one or two more members. Chapter Presidents may feel free to encourage members to contact Kim Kusler for more information.

Committee Goals:

The Membership Committee will continue to support the following goals: 1) Increase membership in Delta Kappa Gamma by assisting local chapters with strategies to encourage growth and interest in the society, 2) Support chapters with membership concerns, 3) Support the state Delta Kappa Gamma President and the society as a whole by assisting with tasks and communications as requested (i.e. the state retreat and correspondence with chapters in trouble).

Chapter Concerns:

The dissolution of Alpha Pi Chapter was voted on and granted by the Executive Board at their fall meeting on October 5th, 2013.

Alpha Gamma Chapter is considering dissolution. If they

decide to dissolve, full board approval will be required this spring.

Chapter Membership Chairs are reminded that the Chapter Necrology Report – Form 2 and the Chapter Membership Committee Report – Form 36 are due by February 1st, 2014. These completed forms should be sent to Kim Kusler (email below) and to the Chapter President. A copy of each should be placed in the Chapter file. The Necrology Report should also be sent to the State Necrology Chair. In addition, membership chairs of chapters having completed the member profile data surveys should compile the information on the Chapter Profile (Form 80) and upload the information to “Survey Monkey” as soon as possible using the link available on the front page of the Delta Kappa Gamma website.

Kim Kusler
218-444-8265 or 218-766-2969

tkusler@paulbunyan.net
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United States Forum Set For March 16-19, 2014

The [United States Forum](#) supports non-partisan federal legislation in the interests of education and women educators. We provide U.S. members of DKG with relevant information on pending issues and legislator contact numbers to enable more effective advocacy. Our 2014 National Legislative Seminar will be March 16th-19th in Arlington, VA.

Holiday Inn/National Airport/Crystal City

2650 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 684-7200

Contact [Kathy Boyer](#) for details or see the [website](#).



Updates on Tau State Conference April 25-27, 2014

Diane Wippler, 2014 Conference Report
Members: Kappa, Delta, and Alpha Meta Chapters

Members of these chapters have been hard at work. In October, Kathy Patton, Kathy Nelson, Diane Rauschenfels, and Diane Wippler met with staff at the Holiday Inn regarding the site and our needs. The Holiday Inn is undergoing remodeling but areas we will be using should all be finished by April. Diane R. and Diane W. were going to finalize menus the next week.

Kappa chapter has been working on finalizing the session presenters, and entertainment. They are also trying to line up activities to showcase Duluth for Friday prior to the start of the conference.

We are very excited and please to have Barbara Whiting as our International Guest.

Updates as of January 2014:

1. ***Socks for children - Kids Kloset.***

We will ask every attendee to bring a pair of socks to the conference. We'll have a tree or some other display for the socks.

2. ***Door prizes*** - We'll ask every attendee to bring a wrapped door prize to the conference.

3. ***Silent Auction*** - We'll ask each chapter to make & bring a basket for the silent auction. Hosting chapters Kappa and Delta should bring several baskets for the auction.

4. ***Hotel information-***

Hospitality Room will be available to all attendees Friday and Saturday nights.

Meal Costs: Sat luncheon - \$16;
Sat banquet - \$26; Sunday
brunch - \$16.

We cannot bring our own cake for dessert at Sat luncheon.

Friday night: Coffee & Bars - \$5

Hotel Rooms: \$89 + tax

5. Registration: \$40 - \$45. We want to keep it at \$40 but may have to increase that amount.

Friday Tours Available

Three exciting tour options will be offered on Friday afternoon, April 25, 2014 from 3-5 pm.

1. Explore **The Duluth Depot**, home of the St Louis County Historical Society, Art Institute, Lake Superior Railroad

Museum, Immigration Museum and Veterans Hall.

2. Tour historic **Fairlawn Mansion** in Superior, WI built in 1890 in Queen Anne Victorian style by the lumber and mining baron, Martin Pattison. The mansion later served as a children's home from 1920 - 1964.
3. Visit the **Glensheen Estate**, a Jacobean style mansion on Lake Superior, built by Chester and Clara Congdon in 1905. The 38 room mansion is owned by the University of Minnesota Duluth and is on the U.S. National Register of Historic places. Fairlawn Museum in Superior, WI.



Data Base manager summarizes state activities

Rosalie Huston

rosaliehuston@gmail.com

Completed: Purchase of New Computer and Software for Database Manager

The Tau State Ad Hoc Computer Committee completed research and submitted a computer and software purchase proposal to the state executive committee in December. Final authorization was then given to the state database manager to purchase a HP Pavilion computer and Microsoft Office Home and Student software (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Note). Taking advantage of holiday sales and rebate offers, the total purchase came in well below budget.

Completed: Distribution of Tau State Membership Directory

The data base manager processed all membership information submitted by letter, e-mail, telephone, and chapter audit lists along with membership information forwarded by Tau State Treasurer Dianna Brusven. The 2013-14 Tau State Membership Directory was emailed to executive board members in Word, Excel, and PDF formats on January 21. This task was both easier and more difficult than in past years due to the commitment of using the newly purchased computer and software to complete this project.

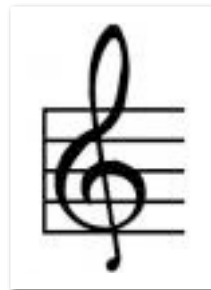
Current Task: Transfer of Database Records

The database manager is working on moving data files from the "old non-wireless Mac" computer to the "new Wi-Fi HP" computer. The files include membership information, state executive board business, and database committee reports going back over ten years. Moving FileMaker Pro and AppleWorks/Clarworks files requires translation and saving on a flash drive in order to transfer data to the new computer. At this point, all membership records and the current membership database are safely installed on the new computer. The database manager plans to finish the transfer of all records by the end of February.

Current Task: Assistance to the 2014 Tau State Conference Committee

As a member of state convention /conference facilitation committee, the data base manager has met with the 2014 committee to share information and establish ways that the data base manager can help the hosting chapters. Using information

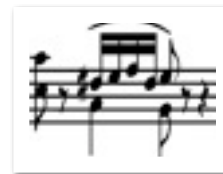
provided by the convention registrar, the data base manager will produce the hanging name tags and name labels to organize various conference materials along with producing folder logos, meal tickets, and workshop tickets for the upcoming state conference in April.



Happy
Warblers
Seeks
Songsters

Sally L. Nyhus, Music Chair

I will be busy working on the program for the Happy Warblers to perform at the spring conference, which will reflect President Kathy's theme. Please let your chapter members know that they (and you) are "chordially" (as Jewell always said!) invited to e-mail or snail mail me if they (and you) are planning to participate or if you need more information or would like to help.



Looking forward to seeing everyone in Duluth at the Duluth Holiday Inn, April 25 – 27, 2014, for the spring conference and the rehearsal and The Happy Warblers program! And, as always, there will be lots more music at the conference.

Past State President Phyllis VanBuren Selected as International Speaker for DKG

In 1982, thirty years after Canada joined The Society making DKG an international organization, the International Speakers Fund began to promote better cultural understanding among the member countries. Twice a year state presidents may request (electronically) an International speaker from the list of selected speakers. Among the goals of the International Speakers Fund committee is to provide program enrichment to the state organizations and to promote personal growth and increased cultural understanding through the exchange of speakers among member countries.

On October 3, 2013, Dr. Phyllis E. VanBuren left for Baja California as an invited International speaker for the fourth annual state conference. On Friday, she also spoke to about eighty (80) students at a public high school about the importance of being bilingual at a professional level as a means of enhancing economic possibilities in a career as opposed to just securing a job. She also shared the immediate benefits of academic benefits while yet enrolled in school. In Tijuana the benefits of cultural awareness and understanding entailed in the intensive study of another language and culture are vital.

Friday evening Phyllis had the honor of participating in the initiation of two new members into Alpha chapter. She even had the privilege of helping translate the contemporary ceremony into Spanish. The next morning Dr. VanBuren returned to the high school, the site of the conference on planning and assessment in the classroom. Attendees at the conference came from San Diego (the sponsors of the expansion into Baja California in 1997), the two hosting chapters (Alpha in Tijuana and Beta in Ensenada), and the community. In her presentation to open the conference, Phyllis encouraged the accomplished educators to consider the ten (10) intelligences suggested by Howard Gardner as a means to provide instruction to the strengths of each student and as tools to expand the comfort level of each learner by using the tools of other intelligences to expose them to other ways to consider a topic and acquire knowledge and skills. She suggested using contracts signed



Dr. Phyllis E. VanBuren shared ideas on planning and assessment in the classroom at the Baja California State Conference in October in Tijuana/Ensenada, México.

by the student and teacher in formative and summative assessments as a way to give students a voice in electing some of the ways in which they choose to demonstrate mastery of lessons/units, as well as required work for all that satisfy the objectives as determined by the teacher/school. Other presenters looked to the Web for resources to engage students in active learning and assessment. Another challenged the attendees to set the bar higher and to support the students in achieving those higher goals since they are the ones who will be charged with making the decision for us and for society in future years. They need to be prepared to meet the challenge with knowledge and skills in order to assure high standards of living. In true DKG tradition, Alpha and Beta chapters treated Phyllis to experiential learning on Sunday. Since the conference was in Tijuana, the excursion was near Ensenada. The first stop provided a gastronomic adventure with a buffet of typical Mexican dishes accompanied by several musical groups. At the L.A. Cetto vineyard, the DKG sisters had an informational tour on the art of producing quality wines that are

exported to twenty-two (22) countries. The group then visited a historic hotel in Ensenada that has now been restored for community events. The visit ended with a seafood dinner at a restaurant frequented by the locals. Returning to Tijuana on the scenic drive along the Pacific Coast, the members of Alpha chapter and Phyllis enjoyed a spectacular sunset that changed with each curve in the road. Two chapter members accompanied Dr. VanBuren on the return trip to San Diego's airport—one to drive the car and the other to walk with her across the border—another unique cultural experience. Albeit a short trip, it is definitely rewarding for both the inviting chapter/s and the International speaker. Phyllis was pleased to be able to address the students, the conference and the hostesses in Spanish, but there is no prerequisite to speak the language of the hosting chapter/country. More information about the committee, the application process/deadlines and the goals are available on the International website.

“Silver and Gold” – Strengthening Chapters by Retaining Members

Submitted by Kim Kusler, Membership Chair

*Make new friends
But keep the old;
One is silver
And the other gold.*

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. Our state chapters often focus on recruiting the new, “silver” members, which is very important. But do we do enough to retain the “gold”—our valuable, current members?

Belonging to Delta Kappa Gamma is not a function of paying dues, receiving benefits, or wearing pins. Belonging *is* a function of **commitment**. Current members need to see a reason for their chapter’s existence, and they need to feel its causes are worthwhile and important. Members need to **connect**—to enjoy each other’s company and to share common purposes. The membership committees of our state chapters may wish to examine member retention practices and to try a few new ideas to “keep the gold”:

- Survey members regarding meeting times, locations, and agendas. Change meeting formats to best meet the needs or interests of members.
- Offer Continuing Education Units, when appropriate, for participation in chapter meetings and activities.
- Participate in and support community projects that are of interest to members, such as “Books for Babies”, the local Food Shelf, “Backpack Buddies”, or public library programming.
- Offer social events, such as teas or dessert gatherings at members’ homes or local venues, during months when there are no chapter meetings.
- Foster relationships among members by using “getting to know you” icebreakers or by pairing member “interview buddies” at each meeting.

- Contact members who have missed meetings by phone, email, or with a personal visit.
- Honor members’ talents by asking them to present their skills or interests at meetings.
- Celebrate by offering certificates of recognition or small gifts for women who reach membership milestones (20, 30, or 40 years) or who achieve their professional goals, such as earning Master’s or Doctoral degrees.

Chapter members will feel special and become more involved when they feel a personal connection to other members and to the goals and causes of the chapter. Remember—“Silver” and “Gold” will strengthen our chapters—new friends and old.

*Silver is precious,
Gold is too.*



Celebrate!



Tau State Conference

You don't want to be saying "Oh darn I missed that!" when everyone returns from the spring conference in Duluth saying that they learned so much, had so much fun, and connected with so many intelligent, amazing women educators.

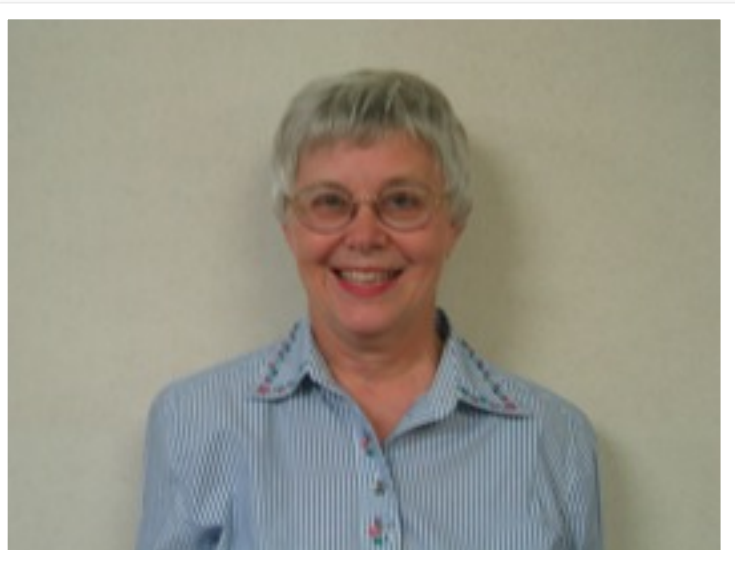
Get it in your calendar right now. Put a reminder in your calendar, phone or post it on your refrigerator. Registration will be coming out March 1.

Ok, do you have it in your calendar? We are sending out a separate email to all chapters with registration information. We didn't want you to miss it in the North Star News when there is already so much good information in that.

Your chapter leadership will get the information out to you right away in March and it will also be posted on the Tau State web site.

No excuses now. We want to see each and everyone one of you in Duluth in April. Come early and go one or more of the tours they are lining up to showcase Duluth.

Tau State Spring Conference
April 25-27, 2014
Duluth Holiday Inn



Carol Vick, Eta chapter, celebrates fifty years as a Tau State member.

Diane Wippler, Kappa chapter, is now a College in the Schools Mentor at Fond du Lac Tribal Community College.

Robbie Johnson, Sigma chapter, was named Board Member Emeritus to the White Bear Center for the Arts.



"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

*Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters,
Plan to join us
for the 2014 Tau State Conference;
April 25-27, 2014 at the Duluth Holiday Inn in
beautiful Duluth, Minnesota!*



Lake Superior will enchant you, Your Kappa sisters
will entertain, engage, and inspire you!

Join us for this weekend of fun with...

Key Note speaker - Michelle Lee, KBJR News Anchor and Body Builder
"A Leadership with Style" presentation by Phyllis Van Buren
Entertainment with several vocal groups
Choose to attend learning sessions from a wealth of choices including...

- The historic Fairlawn Museum Children's Home
- Human Trafficking
- An International Perspective from Kenyan teachers
- Amberwing
- Math using Manipulatives
- Use of i-pad Technology in the classroom
- A Dr. Seuss Presentation
- An early childhood author
- For those who are exercise-minded, we are planning a morning stroll on the beautiful Duluth Lakewalk as well as exercising with "Zumba **Gold.**"

Mark your calendars! Make plans to join us this spring!

Your Northeast DKG Sisters...Kappa Chapter in Duluth and Delta Chapter in Hibbing