

WINTER 2008 ZETADATA- January 25, 2008

District Meetings Fast Approaching

Mark your calendars! The district meetings are right around the corner. The district directors have been working since August to make sure that these meetings will have something for everyone. Workshops dealing with Society business will be presented by Zeta State Membership, Communication, Legislative and Program of Work Committees at all three district meetings. Each district director has planned additional workshops on a variety of topics from "What Are You Reading" to hands on "Make and Take" session.

The first meeting is the Central District, Saturday, March 29, 2008, at Brandon High School. The Northern District Meeting will follow on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at Indianola Academy, and the Southern District Meeting will be Saturday, April 19, 2008, at the Perkinson Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Deadlines for each of the three meetings are listed on the registration form. The on-time registration fee is \$25.00; the late fee is \$40.00. All member participants must be registered in order to attend or present at the meetings. If you missed the registration form in the last ZETA DATA, the registration form is on page 7 of this issue.

District Directors will send directions to their meetings to all chapter presidents in their district, state officers and state committee chairmen as the time for the meetings approach. Be sure to come and be a part – Light the Way: Lead, Laugh, Learn.

Light the Way: Lead, Laugh, Learn

Happy New Year, Zeta State Sisters! I trust that the chapter meetings held this fall have been informative and fun-filled. I hope that each of you experienced a joyful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas. As your state president, I have had many opportunities to live our theme: "Light the Way: Lead, Laugh, Learn." As I attended various state committee meetings August through October, I have continued to learn many new facts concerning the inner workings of our committees.

Special thanks to First Vice President Linda Lightsey, who met on October 6, 2007, with the Program of Work Committee Chairman in the morning and the five Program of Work Committees that afternoon. An unexpected and unwanted stomach virus struck me just days prior to these meetings. While I deeply regretted having to miss being with everyone, these ladies were appreciative of the fact that I did not expose them to this "bug." I was confident that Linda would carry on with her usual grace and efficiency. As 2007 came to a close and 2008 began, I resolved to improve my general health by joining a fitness center. I will report my progress, so wish me luck! I encourage all of you, even those who do not make New Year's Resolutions, to make it your goal to be more active in our Society. Many activities are available allowing members to participate beyond the chapter level.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming leadership opportunities:

March 1 Zeta State Executive Board
Meeting at Copiah-Lincoln
Community
College in Wesson

March 29 Central District Meeting at
Brandon High School in Brandon

April 5 Northern District Meeting at
Indianola Academy in Indianola

April 19 Southern District Meeting at MS
Gulf Coast Community College,
Perkinson Campus

June 16-17 LAMP Officer/Member Training
at Lake Tiak O-Khata

July 22-27 International Convention in
Chicago, IL

Thank you, 2006-2008 Chapter Officers, for your hard work and dedication, which will continue through the spring. Strengthen your chapters by continuing to support your own chapter's work and by attending as many of the above mentioned events as possible. I challenge each one to "get hooked" on The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. You will be a better member for doing so, and the rewards you reap will be innumerable.

Jeanette Reinike
Zeta State President

BEDENBAUGH PARTICIPATES IN US-EGYPT EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Dr. Angela O. Bedenbaugh of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Southern Mississippi was selected to participate in the US-Egypt Education Conference in Cairo, Egypt. The conference sponsored by the People To People Ambassador Program included briefings by the US Ambassador to Egypt and by the Egyptian Minister of Education. Conference attendees visited several K-12 schools as well as the Mubarak School of Education at which certified Egyptian teachers receive additional professional development. The school visits allowed conference participants to develop professional relationships with Egyptian educators.

DISTRICT MEETINGS INCLUDE MDE INFO ON HUGE EDUCATION REFORM

Officials from the Mississippi Department of Education will be making a presentation at each of the district meetings on sweeping new legislation proposed by MDE. If enacted, this would represent the most drastic change in education since the Education Reform legislation of the early 1980s. Every Delta Kappa Gamma member needs to be informed about this effort and urge her legislator to support passage of the bill or bills which will bring about this change. Bill numbers and specific information about the legislation will be given. The person making the presentation will be able to answer all questions about the legislation and give an up-date as to where the legislation stands in the process in Jackson.

The U.S. Forum Committee of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International offers a FREE e-newsletter (U.S. Forum Connection) to any member wishing to subscribe. The U.S. Forum Connection seeks to keep members informed about legislation which impacts women, children and education. Any member wishing to subscribe may do so by sending a subscription request to Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu.

MARCH 12 LEGISLATIVE DAY SET

Zeta State Legislative Day will be held on Wednesday, March 12 at the State Capitol in Jackson. Our booth will be open starting at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the State Capitol. Attendees will be introduced in both the House and Senate chambers and will have the opportunity to meet legislators who come by the booth. The featured speaker for the day will be Nancy Loomer from The Parents Campaign which is a group devoted to improving the quality of education in Mississippi. They seek to keep parents informed about pending legislation and give parents a voice in what is happening in our Mississippi schools. Additionally attendees will be briefed by officials from the Mississippi Department of Education on the state of pending legislation which will directly impact schools.

41th Children's Book Festival will be at the University of Southern Mississippi on April 2-4, 2008. Pat Mora will be receiving the Southern Miss Medallion for her contributions to children's literature. Other presenters are James Ransome, Vicki Cobb, Will Weaver, Loris Lesynski, and storyteller Gerald Hausman. Of particular interest to two Alpha Gamma members, Kimberly Willis Holt will be introduced by President Martha Saunders before giving the de Grummond lecture. Either Ellen Ruffin or Virginia Ann Butler will be glad to tell you more than you want to know about Kimberly! Check the website at www.childrensbookfestival.org for more information. Helpful hint: If you teach reading or writing in any way to children, you could ask for professional leave to attend. It has been granted in times past for those who asked!...Courtesy Virginia Ann Butler, Alpha Gamma

CORRECTION TO FALL 2007 ZETA DATA ARTICLE

We extend our apologies to Tammy Brewer, Pi Chapter, and Lou Miley Johnson, Tau Chapter, for omitting their names from the list of participants in the 2007 Zeta State Leadership Management Seminar.

Report of the Task Force on International Committee Structure

Action taken by the 2006 International Convention resulted in Ad Hoc Committee to study the structure of Society committees in an effort to help them operate more efficiently, eliminate redundancies, and exercise greater stewardship over society funds. Each of the five regions established a task force comprised of one

member from each state. Each task force met at its regional conference to give input/make recommendations regarding the structure of the Society Committees. The information gathered at five meetings was sent to Carolyn Rants, International First Vice President, who compiled the following master list of concerns: Ten areas of concern came from the task force meetings. Items that came from more than one region Face-to-face meetings are needed at least once during the biennium. It is important that all regions be represented on the committees. Committees need to explore other ways to meet instead of traveling to Austin for all meetings. Ideas suggested the following: Tele-conference
Video computer conferencing
State communication fiber optic networks
Hold face to face meetings at the International Conventions and Regional Conferences, perhaps the day ahead of the event. Members would already be in attendance. Then other meetings could be handled in a variety of electronic formats. (This might necessitate some changes as to when committees are appointed and representation on them.)
Using electronic technology to accomplish more of the committee work might encourage younger members to apply to serve on international committees.
Training would be needed to use electronic tools efficiently and effectively.
New electronic ideas should not be implemented all at once. Move into this phase gradually. Combine membership and Expansion Committees. Expansion should work at starting new state organizations not adding more chapters within the state.

Program of Work Committee is too large.
Responsibilities seem to overlap and sometimes seem disconnected. Turf issues from various committees emerge. Combine the separate program of work committees into one committee with fewer members—10-12 rather than 22. Each region should be represented on this committee in some way. But projects or specific items could be carried out by persons within one or two regions. Program of Work committee could be an “umbrella” committee with subgroups under it. This committee should be an Action Planning and Implementation Team. Projects might fit under this committee.

Combine Research and Professional Affairs Committees into one. Should Society be conducting research? This committee needs better goals about what it should be accomplishing. The combined committee could handle projects which appear to appeal to members.

A separate Arts Committee is not needed. Arts emphasis should be combined with music under Program Committee. Instead of a music representative it should be an Arts representative.

Disband the Insurance Committee. Insurance details could be handled by professional staff. Does not apply to European and Latin American members.

Increase duties of Communications Committee to include a marketing component.

Increase Society awareness

Move World Fellowship Committee and Golden Gift Committee to the Educational Foundation.

A number of other ideas emerged for the discussions: Observations about Work of the Committees The missions of the Society should dictate the need for committees. Decide first what we need to do to grow and strengthen the Society; then let those answers determine which and how many committees are needed. International committees must communicate with states. Members feel a lack of connection between what happens at the International Committees and how that relates to states and chapters. Communication must go both down and up. A consistent focus is needed from biennium to biennium in order to accomplish goals. Chapter and state members receive information about a goal or project and commence working on it about the time the next biennium institutes a new one. Perhaps there should be one focus so that it becomes the key element by which the Society is known.

Scholarship, World Fellowship, and Nominations Committees should utilize more electronic methods to conduct their work. Committee members must indicate receiving email messages. This came out in several different ways, but if we are to emphasize use of electronic technology we must use it effectively.

State organization officers should be elected early enough to enable appropriate communication about attendance at Leadership Development at Regional Conferences.

Change scholarship requirements to include grants for chapter leadership development and conference

attendance rather than just scholarships for doctoral study. Quality committee work and expectations should be stressed. The Society needs to become leaner and keener.

Educational projects are good and should be encouraged. Research could be a part of these projects.

Committees need to operate within a budget. Committee structure should provide for “quicker” or more flexible action; terms should be limited to the task not to biennium.

Committee functions and tasks are not always clearly understood by members.

Other Suggestions about Committee Structure

Combine International Speakers Fund with another committee.

Combine Membership and Communications/Marketing.

Combine Personal Growth and Services and Professional Affairs.

Combine Leadership Development and Personal Growth and Services.

Educators Book Award committee might consider providing an award on a rotating basis to other areas in the arts such as music, art, book illustrators, etc.

Eliminate Research Committee and have other committees charged with doing the research associated with their respective responsibilities.

Select committee members on the basis of expertise/knowledge/skills/experience rather than at random or by geographical location. Appointments should avoid inbreeding. Appoint committee members based on proportion of members from state, country, or region.

Share concept that all International committees do not need to be replicated at the state and chapter levels.

Design a totally new committee structure. Each of the groups listed would be interconnected with the other groups. Membership is of overall importance. Links between each of the committees are important

In the near future Zeta State is going to be asked to prioritize the first ten items. As you read and think about these, let Linda Lightsey know your thoughts and concerns (her contact information is printed in your chapter yearbook). We want whatever changes are made at the International level to reflect input from every member of the Society. This is our opportunity to have a say in effecting those changes

LAMP Retreat Set for June 16-17

The 2006-2008 biennium is rapidly drawing to a close. If chapter Nominations Committees are not already at work deciding on new officers, they soon will be. If you are asked to serve in an office, don't hesitate to accept the honor. You'll have ample assistance and support from your own chapter members, and if you are asked to serve as your chapter's president, first vice president (usually the program chairman), or treasurer, Chairman Nancy Jay and the Zeta State Leadership Development Committee will help you prepare for the job that lies ahead by conducting the LAMP (Leader and Member Preparedness) Retreat at Lake Tiak O'Khata, June 16 and 17.

Chapter presidents and first vice presidents will be involved in training sessions Monday afternoon and Tuesday until noon. The treasurers' session will take place Tuesday morning. The down-to-earth, practical information shared in these sessions will be invaluable as you lead your chapter during the 2008-2010 biennium, and the opportunity to share questions and concerns about your position and your chapter will bolster your confidence as you carry out your duties.

One of the most important tasks of the newly elected president is the appointment of her committee chairmen. Chapter Membership and Communications Committee Chairmen will have the opportunity to participate in training for their responsibilities as well.

Maintaining a vital, interested membership is essential to having a strong chapter. On Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, Zeta State Membership Committee Chairman Toni Cook will work with chapter Membership Committee chairmen on ideas to recruit, retain, and involve more members in work at all levels of the Society, while Sylvia Gambill, Zeta State Communications Committee Chairman, will conduct a Tuesday morning session on methods of keeping chapter members informed via effective chapter newsletters and other methods of communication. Finally, the Leadership Development Committee encourages the attendance of ALL chapter members who would like to learn how they can become more involved in their chapter and state and how they can be instrumental in improving chapter meetings. Special sessions are planned for those who just “want to come to beautiful, serene Lake Tiak O'Khata,” especially new members. Come to support your new chapter officers and to learn more about our Society and its work.

Personal Growth and Services

Now is the ideal time for chapter Personal Growth and Services Committee Chairmen to encourage chapter members to participate in the many activities, events, and opportunities available to all members: the spring district meetings, the June LAMP Retreat, and the 2008 International Convention in Chicago, Illinois. At both the district meetings and LAMP, the Zeta State Program of Work Committee will conduct sessions offering

program ideas that revolve around a number of timely topics, including mentoring and implementing the Numeracy and Literacy projects. The state committee is making an effort to use e-mail to communicate to chapter counterparts easy-to-implement program ideas that will provide all members the opportunity for personal enrichment. We welcome your input and program ideas and hope to see all of you at the district meetings and LAMP.

Bonnie Perritt Peagler, Zeta State PERSONAL
GROWTH AND SERVICES Chairman

Northern District Meeting Directions

Indianola is located at the intersection of Highway 82 and Highway 49 West. At the red light at this intersection, turn west on Highway 82. At the next red light which is on the east side McDonald's, turn on Dorsett Drive. You will see Indianola Academy at the end of this street. Three buildings have white columns. The meeting will be in the center building with white columns.

Central District Meeting Directions

Take Exit 54 (Puckett/Riley Exit) off of I-20.
(Home Depot is visible from the interstate.)
Continue west on Hwy. 18 for 4.7 miles.
Brandon High School is on the right at the 4th traffic light. When you turn onto the campus, drive past the front of the school and park on the west side. Enter the campus through the gated entrance. (The 3rd traffic light on Hwy. 18 is Hwy. 468 if that is a closer route for some of you.)

Southern District Meeting Directions

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College,
Perkinston Campus .
Take the MGCCC Exit off Highway 49 (south of Wiggins). Turn west onto Main Street. (Those traveling from the South will have to cross the railroad tracks).
Take the first right after the 4-way stop, the main entrance to the Campus. As you enter the campus bear left to the Stop sign and find a parking place. Look for DKG signs to "Light the Way" to Malone Hall for refreshments and the General Session.