



The Nevadagram

An Official Publication
Of Alpha Chi
Vol. LIV April, 2018



COMING ATTRACTIONS

Theta April 14
Meeting and
Rancho San Rafael
guided Nature
Walk

Leadership
Revitalization
Workshop
Eureka
6/30/18
830-4
RSVP Susan
775-322-6386

2018
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
Austin, TX
July 16-20
Lots of possible
changes-be part of
it

March 15-16,
2019
Alpha Chi State
Convention
Gold Dust West
Casino Hotel
Carson City
Hosted by
Nu Chapter



Nevada State Organization
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Southwestern Regional Conference
July 4-7, 2017 Honolulu, Hawai'i

Nevada was well represented at the Southwest Regional Conference in Hawaii. In attendance were Alpha Chi State and International Past President Carol Mueller (Theta), Alpha Chi State President Susan Capistrant (Theta), Alpha Chi State 1st Vice President, Cheryl Anderson (Delta), Epsilon Chapter President Carolyn O'Mara, and Epsilon members Jennifer Neeman, Barbara Bernstein, and Lillian Thompson.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am honored to be the new Editor for Alpha Chi's Nevadagram. This publication can only be as good as the enthusiastic submission of articles from our chapters and officers. Thank you in advance for that.

This issue contains articles which have been submitted to Kami Hamilton and Cindy Frazier this past year, so is a catch-up issue.

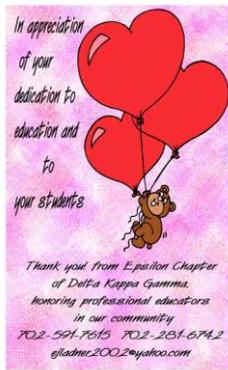
The next issue will contain highlights from the State Convention hosted by Lambda (which was wonderful) and any other news from the chapters.

Following are the deadlines for upcoming issues:

**July 6, October 1,
January 10, April 1.**

Please forward this information and newsletter to your publicity chair and president so that it can be distributed to all members.

Sincerely,
Gwen Anne Thacker
Nevadagram Editor
elkothack@yahoo.com
775-340-0870



Epsilon Chapter members delivered over 80 valentines and candy treats to teachers and staff at Robert Taylor Elementary School in Henderson, NV. At the chapter's January meeting, members enjoyed making the valentines and attaching candy treats. Each valentine had a special message of appreciation for teachers and staff from Epsilon Chapter members.

For several years, Epsilon Chapter has conducted several projects with this school. At Christmas time, members donate socks and underwear to students at the school. Submitted by Emily Ladner

NAME CHANGE?

Annie Webb Blanton started Delta Kappa Gamma in May 1929 where they had their first initiate. Back then, it was not accepted for women to run an organization. However, as sororities were allowed in 1929. Annie named Delta Kappa Gamma because it was a disguise with the Greek letters. DKG is a Society! Many get confused and think we are a sorority because of the Greek used in the name. Many members find themselves having to explain to others exactly what we are and what we stand for. If you were to pick a new name for DKG, what would you choose?

It was proposed that the name be changed to Women Educators International, or Key Women Educators. These titles explain exactly what we are and what we represent. I had a chance to use this title on the elevator when a gentleman asked what we were there for. He knew right away it was teachers and education. It was also mentioned that DKG is considering changing the term "initiation" to "induction." Attend International and be part of the discussion. Submitted by Marlene Killon, Omicron from Judy Merz, International, remarks at 2018 State.

Empowering the Individual

During Gamma's February 2018 meeting we had two wonderful speakers, Jim and Karen Edwards, and one guest who spoke Woof. That's right, Jim brought along his Guide Dog, Raj.

Jim began his presentation by introducing his wife, Karen, and Raj, his Guide Dog. He promised to tell his story and answer questions after a short video about Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB). The video explained to us the many steps in the training of the dogs and also the training and support given to the person receiving the dog. There is so much happening in the United States that can enhance the lives of the visually impaired. We need to spread the word!

After the video, Jim told us that Raj was his second dog. His long-time friend and partner, his first dog, became ill and died. Jim and Raj face each day's challenges with an "I can" approach. His visual impairment does not stop him from going, doing, and enjoying life.

Jim went through the same training with Raj as he did with his first dog. Jim couldn't say enough about the support the GDB provides. All of the services are provided free of charge, including

veterinary care, personalized training, and extensive post-graduation support.



Jim Edwards and Raj

Below is the phone number and website for the Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB).

(800) 295-4050

www.guidedogs.com

Submitted by Pat Goeppinger, Gamma

Thoughts from Theta Chapter

The year 2016-2017 was challenging and fruitful for our chapter. We continued to accomplish our regional duties. This past year we planned and hosted the annual Christmas luncheon for the northern Nevada State. We dined and enjoyed fellowship as we were serenaded by a barber shop quartet.

Our chapter was also very busy with our other yearly activities. Our monthly meetings upheld our Society purposes. We experienced an African safari as a fellow member shared her experience in Africa. We visited the Nevada Historical Society, and we learned about the 2017 legislative action regarding PERS. Our annual Art Show, Craft Fair was again a great success. Some of the proceeds from the fair will be used to promote excellence in education. Through our varied activities we stimulated the personal and professional growth of our members. We wrapped up our year in May with our Founders' Day potluck luncheon where we enjoyed genuine friendship.

One of our members, Susan Capistrant, was elected Nevada State President. We are very happy to have Sue oversee our entire state and to continue as an active Theta member. She attended the Southwest Regional Conference in Honolulu

Alpha Chapter was invited to join us in October for a presentation by Reno Councilwoman Naomi Duerr about the future of Reno. Ms. Duerr is an excellent speaker with a wealth of information that we are contemplating inviting her again.

Theta ladies always enjoy the opportunity for field trips in the community. In November we visited the Nevada Museum of Art with a docent tour of the exhibit, "Unsettled," displaying art from the Greater West, which is a geographic region from Alaska to Patagonia and from Australia to the American West. Our April trip will be to the Rancho San Rafael Arboretum in Reno for a guided nature walk. Of course, lunch is always included on our outings.

We have also enjoyed excellent presentations from Aria Overli from ACTIONN about homelessness in Reno and Zanny Marsh from the Red Cross about their services and how to prepare and store an emergency backpack in case a real emergency arises.

For our February meeting, we invited our spouses to join us. After all, they have always supported our time and efforts with the chapter. During our meeting, the gentlemen went to breakfast at a nearby IHOP. They evidently had a good time getting to know each other and returned to us with smiling faces.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER --Theta's 6th annual Arts & Crafts Faire will be held on May 5, 9am-3pm, at the Moana Nursery in Reno. We invite everyone to come by and browse or purchase a last-minute Mother's Day gift. This is our most successful fundraiser.

GRANTS-IN-AID – Our chapter is now providing grants-in-aid (up to \$500) for WCSD employees who may need extra funding to accomplish special projects. The WCSD has volunteered to distribute information and forward applications to Ardynne Sprinkle, who is the creator and Chair of our Mini-grant Committee. This year Vaughn Middle School received a grant to purchase multiple copies of "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio which will be used to teach students empathy and kindness to each other.

Submitted by Carol Cardillo

Delta Details

Delta chapter's major philanthropic project provides books, note books and pencils to students in transition from Douglas County and Carson. This year 261 students will be going home with home book bags for summer reading.



Delta Details (continued)



In March, Sherry Rupert, Executive Director of the State of Nevada Indian Commission gave a special tour Stewart Indian School. for our group. She presented a power point of the historical background of the school. We then walked around the campus.



Gamma News

In November the portable pockets project for the Veteran's home was completed. Pat dropped them off with the staff for inclusion in their Christmas stockings this year.

We had the December gathering at Shannon's where we had the pleasure of initiating Nancy Ramsay into our organization along with our gift exchange and purse collection for Shade Tree. And we had a surprise visitor – our own Joyce King [now living the southern life in Tennessee] was in town and dropped in for a visit. Pat and Shannon delivered the purses later to Shade Tree.

Pat and Karen have been working with a local Girl Scout Troop on a project integrating DKG and the girls into a service project for a local pre-school class and will be meeting to create puppets that will be used to enhance the reading and sharing of several children's books with the preschoolers.

Omicron Comments

Omicron hosted a fun and fruitful fundraiser – an adult spelling bee – which brought in many dollars to their chapter coffers. Most of the profit is used for Apple Mini Grants for local teachers. The community was involved and are looking forward to the next one. We used social media as an extra advertising method,

Lambda's Latest Lines

In addition to their busy schedule of planning the 2018 State Convention, Lambda members enjoyed a Winter Wine Fest at the Donner Springs Clubhouse.

Nu Notes

Nu Chapter has enjoyed joining with other chapters for fun activities. We have had a demonstration on qi Gong and an information speech on Transforming Youth which is a group in Reno helping homeless and drug problem children. We have participated in the Carson High Craft Fair and are continuing the Nevada Flag fundraiser. We have provided robes and pajamas for the Austin House which is a home situation for infant to 18 who are in need of housing for various domestic violence issues. It serves Carson City, Douglas County, and Lyon County. Each year Nu Chapter donates a lovely scrapbook (made by member Cathy Barbie) and several children's books to the 1st baby born at Carson Tahoe Hospital.

Alpha News

One of Alpha Chapter's goals this year has been to learn about and support local organizations dealing with families and children. We continue to support the Domestic Violence Resource Center (formally CAAW), Awaken, and the Second Judicial Family Court.

In September we were honored to be given inside information and take a tour of the Jan Evans Juvenile Justice Center. Following our tour Judge Ethan Walker explained the need for a reading and waiting room for children whose parents were meeting in the courtroom at the judicial center on Sierra Street. Currently children must wait in the hall outside the courtroom. Member Eva Wick-Lerud reported that currently there are organizations that are providing painting, shelving and new books for the reading room. Alpha chapter will help with the furnishings and books. Alpha will indicate reading levels on books and help keep books in stock. The hope is that every child will leave the reading room with a new book on his/her reading level.

Another goal is to increase chapter interaction by inviting other Reno chapters to attend some of our meetings and hope that they will reciprocate. In October Theta Chapter invited us to a joint meeting at the Southwest Reno Library to hear Reno City Councilwoman Naomi Duerr talk about some of Reno's current concerns and ask for our input. In February several members of Xi Chapter responded to our invitation to join us on a docent led tour of the Nevada Museum of Art.

We continue to offer a \$2,000 grant-in-aid for women participating in their teaching internship. This has made a big difference in the lives of the women during their internship.

Submitted by Melinda Whitney-Alpha Chapter Communications

A Message from Alpha Chi State 1st Vice President, Cheryl Anderson:

I want to congratulate, and extend my thanks to, Lambda chapter, for their hard work hosting an outstanding state convention! Fun was had by all! The speakers were exceptional; the venue was perfect; the food was wonderful; the schedule's programs and presentations were beautifully organized; and the museum tour was an added bonus! You are to be commended on a job well-done!

On a personal note, I would like to thank our Alpha Chi State Past President, Maxine Emm, for preparing our executive board and general session meeting agenda, for guiding Karen and myself with our convention responsibilities, for sharing with me her binder and spreadsheet idea for collecting the Gold Key information, and above all, for staying in constant communication with all of us to monitor any questions or concerns. We appreciate your expertise and leadership, Maxine!

I would also like to thank the following people: Cindy Frazer, for preparing the communication awards for me to present at convention, posting my revised Gold Key application and information letter to chapter presidents on our Alpha Chi State website, and assisting me with gathering chapter website and newsletter documentation for Gold Key; Karen Laskowski, for helping me organize chapter necrology reports for Gold Key, and working as a team to present a memorable Ceremony of Remembrance at convention; Heidi Hull, for keeping Karen and me up-to-date on membership numbers, and helping me gather chapter dues and fees information for Gold Key; and, of course, our chapter presidents, for their diligence in getting their reports, yearbooks, and newsletters to me for convention awards, and their patience with my numerous reminders and questions.

I am so looking forward to our 2018-2019 year in Delta Kappa Gamma, and our next State Convention hosted by Nu chapter!

A final request – please keep in your thoughts and prayers Minnis Alderman, Virginia Hays, and Lina Sharp, who were unable to join us at convention due to their health.

From the State Treasurer

I just wanted everyone to know where we are financially. Dues are the life blood and it's especially important to get dues in as close to early November as possible. We took in \$10,979 in dues and scholarship fees. It sounds like a lot and it is, but it also gets dispersed just as rapidly. For each active member we retain \$11 and for each reserve we retain \$3, so we kept \$2,477.90. Of the \$1 sent in for scholarship we get 80 cents with the rest to International. We gained \$174.40 and awarded a \$500 scholarship. Don't worry, our Annie Webb Blanton account has a healthy \$7,446.17 currently. Some of our money is tied up in the permanent fund. We must keep a certain percentage there based on a very complex formula. Currently \$1,450 of our assets are in that account. International is looking at doing away with permanent funds in states without any buildings, so keep your fingers crossed. We still have some checks to be cashed so our checking account has roughly \$5,100. Hopefully, this has given you a better understanding of our finances.

Heidi Hull, Alpha Chi State Treasurer

ALPHA KAPPA (California State) SQUARES

At their annual January retreat at Villa Maria Del Mar, in Santa Cruz, Alpha Kappa sisters made play squares for the Blind Babies Foundation. This is a non-profit organization that supports blind and visually impaired infants and toddlers with early intervention and education services. With combined creativity and camaraderie, 33 play squares were made, using colors with sharp contrasts, interesting textures, and fun activities to provide visual stimulation. Teachers from the foundation use these twelve-inch squares when they meet with children and families to provide visual support. It was a great activity, enjoyed by all. Submitted by Cindy Frazer.



**SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 15-16, 2019**

**ALPHA CHI STATE
CONVENTION**

**The Delta Kappa Gamma
Society International**

**GOLD DUST WEST CASINO HOTEL
CARSON CITY, NV**

HOSTED BY NU CHAPTER

*“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can
change the world.” — Malala Yousafzai*