

Leadership Development Workshop

MSU CAMPUS...BOZEMAN...JUNE 11 and 12, 2014

So how long has it been since you slept (or tried to) in a college dorm—South Hedges to be exact? You missed a wonderful opportunity when you did not attend the 2014 Leadership event this year. AND we missed YOU.

Twenty-four members from thirteen chapters gathered to hear speaker Anne Camper, a professor of civil engineering at MSU as she told of her journey becoming a faculty member in engineering at MSU. In a role and a department which has traditionally been a man's world, she challenged women to "stop right up."

Barbara Whiting was the International representative for the event. She is the member-at-large on the Administrative Board—since the member-at-large represent all members, she will serve a four year term on the Board. Some of her topics included the characteristics of effective leaders, generational gifts and gaps and team building. A number of activities focused on leadership which involved the participants.

Ms. Whiting also brought information from International Headquarters and alerted members about the upcoming convention. Among her announcements was the announcement of the vacancy in the Executive Director's position.

Carman McSpadden, who is a facilitator for the Leadership/Marketing program at MSU, also spoke. Her topic was "Leadership and Purpose."

Activities planned for the day provided opportunities for members to get to know one another and to share their chapter experiences. A bit of apprehension was evident when the group arrived, but they left with some new colleagues with whom they may communicate.

Bozeman was beautiful – how can one not appreciate "the spacious skies."
Reporter Jan Nerem (Sigma Nu)

Fall Executive Board Meeting

The Fall Executive Board meeting for Alpha Mu State was held on September 13, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. A total of 30 members attended. New to the agenda this year was the projection of the 2013 Fall Executive Board minutes so they could be analyzed and discussed as a group. It helped to clarify the motions of the 2013 meeting.

The main themes for this year's meeting were to increase membership, how to support the International Project "Schools in Africa" and reports from those who attended the International Convention in Indianapolis this summer.

For new business, President Joan Micheletti proposed a PACE Award (President Award Chapter Excellence) program to recognize chapters that have achieved extraordinary accomplishments such as increasing membership and community projects. She will be contacting chapters with this information.

Each chapter president was given a RELEASE WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, **HOLD HARMLESS** form which **must be signed and returned to Alpha Mu State President Joan Micheletti by October 15, 2014**. State President Joan Micheletti in turn will sign one for Alpha Mu State and they will all be sent to Society Headquarters. This document will release the International Society from all liability in cases where chapters and states may violate copyright laws by using a poem, song, etc. without permission of the author.

Alphamusings editor Joyce English must have a written release from each individual whose name and/or picture is printed in *Alphamusings* or on the State Web Site.

Pat Jones will retire as State Treasurer at the end of the fiscal year. A Personnel Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Donna Lee (Kappa), Mary Jo Hamling (Zeta) and Eva English (Iota) has been appointed by the State President. Chapter presidents received a list of duties and a copy of the By-Laws pertinent to the position during the State Executive Board meeting. Completed applications should be sent to Donna Lee, 831 6th Street North, Glasgow, MT 59230 or emailed to delee2001@yahoo.com.

Several committee members emphasized the importance of meeting due dates. Many of these pertain to treasurers' reports, grants and scholarships. Be sure to check *Alphamusings* or the State Web Site for those deadlines. <http://alphamustate.weebly.com/>

Joyce English, chairman of The Catherine Nutterville Achievement Award committee, reminded those who are submitting nominations to start early as the application takes time to gather the information. The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2014.

It is important to notify the treasurer and the editor of changes in names and addresses. It affects all communications including the cost to mail *Alphamusings*. Another way to cut costs is to receive *Alphamusings* electronically. Let's all do our part if we can.

LaVonne Borgreen says, "As the Recording Secretary I have learned so much more about our organization and what it takes to be successful. I encourage all members to become more involved. Have a GREAT YEAR."
Reporter LaVonne Borgreen (Zeta)

SAVE THE DATES STATE CONVENTION

June 12,13, 14, 2015

Bozeman, Montana

Come to beautiful Bozeman, Montana for a gathering of friends, colleagues, women educators who share concerns for present educators and future educators. Alpha Mu State of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society welcomes you to join in the celebration of our organization and the many wonderful women that have been a part of DKG for many years.

You will meet, greet, sing, learn, take care of business, enjoy good friends and make new ones. Please plan to attend.

There will be more news to come in the January 2015 issue of *Alphamusings*.

Stay tuned!



**“COMMUNICATE
AND CONNECT TO
UNITE”**

by
**Alpha Mu State
President
Joan Micheletti**

Fall brings playgrounds filled with laughter and school bells that once again ring. Our Alpha Mu State chapters are gearing up with excitement, opportunities and new ideas. Welcome to all new chapter presidents and a special thank you to those of you who have stepped up to take on the office of chapter president for another biennium. Whether brand new or returning, I wish you all the best as you embark on your adventure. Chapter presidency is not a stand-alone job, but rather, it is a time spent with Delta Kappa Gamma sisters supporting each other toward common goals.

The Fall Executive Board met in Great Falls on September 13, 2014. Thank you to those who traveled from afar to spend time discussing DKG. We did have a time of sharing experiences from DKG International Convention which was held in Indianapolis this past summer. First Vice President Ruth Carlstrom, creatively presented a power point about Educational Excellence and Schools in Africa. Juli Dufresne provided a summary of a book by Sarah Sladek, *The End of Membership As We Know It*. The book is thought provoking and I encourage you to read it not only for the helpful information about organization membership, but also as an aid in understanding how younger generations think and make decisions.

My appreciation to Past State President Sally Macmillan and to Alpha Mu State Editor Joyce English for the tenacity in locating my errors in the Alpha Mu State roster of officers and committee information. Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairmen, please be looking via email for a corrected version of the 2014-2015 officer/committee roster, a list of 2014-2016 chapter presidents and the corrected minutes of the 2013 Fall Executive Board meeting which was held in Billings, September 2013.

Fall into step and do not **Fall** behind. Try not to **Fall** for someone giving away something too good to be true. Do **Fall** in love with whatever your passion.

Fall is a time to organize, to plan, to communicate, to connect and a time to re-unite.

NOMINATIONS

Leaders of Alpha Mu State
DUE **DECEMBER 1, 2014**

Forms are available on the state Web Site:

<http://alphamustate.weebly.com/>

Send to

Mary Meissner, Box 252, Fort Benton, MT
59442-0252

DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

October 15, 2014 - Chapter Presidents - Hold Harmless form due to State President Joan Micheletti

October 31, 2014 - Dues are Due

November 10, 2014 - Form 18As and 18A-S to state organization treasurer due

November 15, 2014 - Deadline to E-file 990 to IRS

December 1, 2014 - nominations for The Catherine Nutterville Achievement Award due to Joyce English

December 23, 2014 - deadline for the January issue of *Alphamusings*

January 3, 2015 - Education Foundation project Application due

February 1, 2015 - Report Forms for Chapter Presidents and Necrology due.

February 1, 2015 - State and International Scholarship applications due

March 1, 2015 - Applications for office of State Treasurer due to the ad hoc committee.

June 12,13, 14, 2015 - Alpha Mu State Convention in Billings

July 29, 2015 - August 1, 2015 - Northwest Regional Conference - Saskatchewan Hotel, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

July 5-9, 2016 - Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN



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State Editor Joyce English would like to thank proofreader Janice Nerem (Sigma Nu) for her help in getting *Alphamusings* ready for print for the past several years and especially for the time spent on this issue!

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2014-2016 DKG International Biennium Theme
**85 Years and Beyond:
Advancing Key women Educators for Life**

Leadership Development Workshop

Doris Tollefson (Alpha Zeta President)

Fun, food and fellowship awaited the officers of Alpha Mu State, related personnel and chapter presidents as they gathered on the campus of Montana State University (Go Cats!) on June 11 and 12 for the Leadership Development Workshop. Joining us was Barbara Whiting, 2012-2016 member-at-large of International Administrative Board of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Our festivities began with dinner at Lloyd-Ann McMahan's mountain-side home which has a breath-taking view of Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley. The evening was spent getting to know each other, talking about some of the challenges facing our chapters and participating in leadership activities. After the delightful evening, we drove down the mountain to the South Hedges dorm for the night.

The next morning we met in the Student Union building where the day began with presentations by two women on staff at Montana State University. Anne Camper brought us greetings from the university and the city of Bozeman and shared her journey to leadership. She was followed by Carmen McSpadden who spoke on leadership and purpose. Both women had researched our organization and addressed their information to our purposes.

During the course of the day, Alpha Mu State's officers and related personnel dispensed information about their various duties and the obligations of chapter presidents regarding due dates, forms and events. International guest, Barbara Whiting, was the main presenter for the workshop. She shared tips and ideas to make chapter meetings interesting as well research about the expectations of the different generations from which our membership comes. Each of the generations brings gifts to our organization and it is our job as chapter leaders to recognize those gifts and involve members in the work of our chapter.

We came away from the workshop enthused and ready to get to work in our chapters. This Leadership Development Workshop was fantastic and fun. Hopefully you will see some of the activities and ideas shared with us in your chapter meetings this coming year.

Leadership Development Workshop

Lloyd-Ann McMahan (Mu) Chairman

Inspirational, motivational, fun with a sense of camaraderie were just some of the highlights of the June 11-12, 2014 Leadership Development Workshop at MSU on the Bozeman campus. Meeting and making new friends and having three exceptional women give presentations put a sparkle in our lives.

Barbara Whiting of Minnesota, who is a member-at-large of the International Administrative Board, was our primary presenter for the two days and kept us on task with relevant information about leadership and activities that can be used with the membership.



Anne Camper, Ph.D., is professor of civil engineering at MSU and Associate Dean for Faculty and Administration in the College of Engineering. She was named a Regent's Professor for the Montana University System in 2013, the first woman and

engineer to receive that honor. She is internationally recognized for her expertise in water quality control. Also she has been instrumental in mentoring female students, making significant contributions to gender and race equity.



Lloyd-Ann McMahan and Anne Camper

Dr. Camper shared her story about being very shy, spending many hours by herself at the river on her parents farm developing a love of water in the small town of Darby. She very humbly stated that she has worked in a predominantly men's occupation but has had professors that mentored her and has been grateful to have received the honors due to their guidance. She encourages women to work hard with a can-do attitude and they can achieve and advance in any profession.

(continued on page 4)

(Leadership by Lloyd-Ann is continued here)

← Carmen McSpadden is the Director of the MSU Leadership Institute and Leadership Fellows Program. In addition, she also served as adjunct faculty in management of MSU's College of Business for five years. (Picture on left)

McSpadden's varied experiences, from serving as president of the Montana School Boards Association, the Gallatin County Planning Board, is President of the board of Headwaters Economics, whose purpose is to improve community development and land management decisions in the West and has been appointed by Governor Bullock to the Humanities Montana Board whose vision is to enrich the lives of all Montanans with conversations about the human experience by fostering inquiry and stimulating civil and informed conversations. She has received three Chamber of Commerce/MSU Alumni Awards for Excellence, MSU College of Business' Mentor of the year and the community Mediation Center's Peacemaker Award.

Carmen has written articles, spoken and facilitated topics for many varied groups on leadership, governance, negotiation, board/CEO relationship building, change management and goal setting.

She encouraged those attending to clarify their purposes toward leadership goals. She said, "Empowered leaders take on real responsibility and work to acquire leadership skills. They become actively involved, "You don't just sit on a board, you stand up and do something with passion and purpose."

Lloyd-Ann said, "I stand amazed at these women leaders and how much they have to offer our present and future leaders."

Memorable Moments of the DKG International Convention in Indianapolis

Madalen Sugrue (Omicron) reports:

The Convention was truly a delight. The three break-out sessions I liked of all those I attended were these

1. I enjoyed the opportunity of being with Dr. Muriel O'Tuel, author of "Footprints on the Heart" once again. Her session was so inspirational - *The Caring Path to Prosperity*. We had met at the International convention a few years ago and so we had much to discuss. She was filled with ideas on programs and membership.

2. *A Mirthful Spirit, Embracing Laughter and Wellness* - a session by Mary Huntley and Edna Thayer was one I'll always remember....attendees were in laughter and smiles all during the session.

3. The 2014 Educators Book Award was bestowed on Rachel Adams, author of "Raising Henry: A memoir of Motherhood, Disability and Discovery". This is a refreshing and exciting true story of her son who was born with Down Syndrome.

As attendees, we were kept quite busy with the many activities, sessions and exchanging happy thoughts of our Delta Kappa Gamma Society Sisters.

International Convention Addresses Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Standing Rules

Audrey Collins (Omicron) Alpha Mu State 2nd Vice President

For those who have never been to a DKG International Convention, the general sessions dealing with proposed changes to

our governing documents are quite an experience. Seeing these proceedings in action is a chance to see a democratic process at work. At this year's convention, there were several topics that became quite controversial and some that were easily settled. Some of the highlights included:

A proposal was brought forth to change the method of the elections of the president, first vice-president and second vice-president to a vote by all members present at convention instead of weighted voting with ballots cast by each state organization president. The rational that members would have a more direct voice in elections did not carry the motion. There was concern that all states would not have an equal voice because some states have so many more members and therefore more members attending the conventions and smaller organizations would not be fairly represented. The motion failed and the current election process will continue.

There was also a proposal to change the language concerning regional conferences to "may instead of shall" hold five regional conferences each biennium. This would have allowed for regions to not hold the conference, combine regions, etc. The reasoning for this proposal was to save the Society money. It prompted a good deal of discussion. But in the end did not pass.

A proposal to change the number of members required to establish a new state organization (for example: a new member country) to 60 was introduced and amended before passing at a compromise number of 40 members. It was felt this is a minimum needed to make a new organization sustainable.

One last item to highlight was a discussion of the Society publications. There was a question about *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin* which is a juried journal for academic articles and whether that meets the needs of the members. It was decided that it does provide an important avenue to publish research for those members working toward higher degrees but that a practical collegial magazine would better meet the needs of other members. In the end, it was decided that *The Bulletin* would be published three times per year and be available on line and that a new collegial magazine would be mailed twice per year.

This is just a sampling of the items submitted and I would encourage you to watch the international web site and mailings to get a more complete picture.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

U.S. Forum

Mary Barnett (Phi) Legislative chairman

The National Women History Museum bill passed the House and was sent to the Senate. There a vote has been put on hold. Senator Lee (UT) and Senator Coburn (OK) both of whom give as their reason for opposing the bill is that Federal money should not be used to pay for the commission in spite of the fact that the bill specifically prohibits any Federal funds being used on the study of the actual museum.

Recently introduced bill called THE STUDENT TESTING IMPROVEMENT and ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HR 4172) would change the number of tests which students in grades 3-12 must take. The current law is a re-authorization of (ESEA) called the No Child Left Behind. This proposed legislation would change from a total of fourteen tests to a total of six tests.

Mary will keep us posted on further issues.

Scholarship

Linda Clark (Theta) Chairman

Linda Clark writes: "Every chapter has or will receive an envelope with two complete scholarship application forms. So, there should be no excuse for you to put off your educational endeavors. It is time to start, work on, or complete, your Master's or Doctoral Degree! Do this for yourself! We all know how expensive graduate credits can be, but don't let that stop you. Let Delta Kappa Gamma help make your dreams of furthering your education come true!

"Every year Alpha Mu State offers four \$500 scholarships for members who are seeking an advanced degree. In addition, during odd-numbered years, the Memorial Endowment Scholarship is available to those who are pursuing a doctoral degree. Many Alpha Mu State members are qualified to apply for these scholarships and we are determined to give this money away! **Please** consider applying this year! The recipient of one of these awards could very well be YOU!

"If you want to apply and have not yet received a copy of the application form contact your chapter president or, contact me at the address below and I will see that you receive one. Also, I have been in contact with Eva English and asked her to include Scholarship Application forms on the State Web Site.

"Completed applications are due to Scholarship Chairman Linda Clark by **February 1, 2015**. They should be mailed to Linda Clark, State Scholarship Chairman, 321 3rd Avenue Southwest, Sidney, MT 59270-4033, Telephone 406-488-3553 or email ljklark@yahoo.com."

Professional Affairs

Lorran Depner (Alpha Gamma) Chairman



The Professional Affairs committee is proud to announce that MSU-Bozeman student, Jordyn Steele, is the recipient of the Helen Adams 2014 Recruitment Grant. Jordyn is entering her senior year majoring in history and pursuing a minor in Japanese.

Jordyn's background in formal education began in a Japanese immersion program and continued in an alternative school called Stellar Secondary. Both of these programs were the impetus for Jordyn to continue her education at MSU-Bozeman. A couple of years ago, Jordyn and a friend collaborated and designed a curriculum to teach 20 classmates the Japanese language and culture. This past year she has used this same curriculum in an after-school setting to teach Japanese to junior high age students.

Jordyn will finish her degree at MSU-Bozeman this year. After graduation, she wants to pursue an internship (possibly a career) in Japan. Her goal is to teach Japanese at an English-speaking school. Jordyn shared her philosophy of education on her application: "My philosophy of education includes the ideas that not everyone learns the same way and that education is meant to be synthesized with everyday life. These new ideals have further encouraged my own passion in wanting to be an educator"

Congratulations Jordyn and best wishes on your future endeavors!!

Personal Growth and Services

Lori McCurdy (Upsilon) Chairman

The **Personal Growth and Services** committee has awarded its first Lifelong Learning grant of the school year to Sigma Nu member Penny Hughes-Briant. An educator who taught in New Mexico for



seven years and the University of Great Falls for 28 years. Penny retired in 2007. She received a \$200 grant for classes in digital photography. She purchased a Pentax DSLK camera this summer and through her classes, hopes to learn all

the 'bells and whistles' about her hobby. When she is not supervising student teachers, you will find Penny taking pictures of her travels. Congratulations on your award!

Chapter presidents, look for the Lifelong Learning grant application and ideas for more personal-growth activities to be emailed to you in October.

Golden Legacy

Mary Meissner (Omega) Chairman

! Montana chapters are invited to apply for a **Golden Legacy** mini-grant. The executive board has authorized five \$200 grants to be made available for 2014-2015. The deadline for the application is December 10, 2014. Requirements are simple.

! Just send the following information to Mary Meissner, Golden Legacy Chairman: chapter name, number of chapter members, names and mailing addresses of chapter officers, a project description, a plan for raising the required matching funds, the expected impact the project will have on the community, the name and phone number of the person completing the application. Successful chapters will be notified by January 30, 2015.

! Two simple follow up reports are requested: the first one in April when the project is in its beginning stages and the second, when the project is complete.

! Please send the application and follow-up reports to Mary Meissner, Box 252, Fort Benton, MT 59442-0252 or email 29essex@itstriangle.com.

Rules

Marilyn Hamer (Sigma Nu) Chairman

It is that time of the biennium again. You have an opportunity to propose changes to Alpha Mu State Bylaws and Standing Rules. Take a good look at what we have now and propose any changes you think need to be made, and give a good reason for the change. Send all changes to 1722 Montana Avenue, Black Eagle, MT 59414-1802 or email address at marilyn_hamer@msn.com. All changes are due by December 1, 2014.

Webmaster

Eva English (Iota)

Greetings from your Alpha Mu State Webmaster. We are in the process of developing a new web site and setting up a new address. To see what we've done so far, please visit:

<http://alphamustate.weebly.com>.

Also, did you know we have a Facebook Page? If not, log on to your Facebook account and search for "Alpha Mu State Delta Kappa Gamma International" then give us a LIKE.

The Catherine Nutterville Achievement Award.

Nomination form deadline is December 1, 2014

Chapters should remember to choose an active member for this award who has made outstanding contributions to education and who has rendered exceptional service to the Society at the chapter and state level. Forms are available from Joyce English, Box 216, Hinsdale MT 59242-0216 or on the state web site:

<http://alphamustate.weebly.com>

Chapter News:

Phi Chapter

Past Alpha Mu State President Marolane Stevenson, a counselor at Big Sky High School, retired from the Missoula County Public Schools system after 44 1/2 years. Congratulations, Marolane.

Upsilon Chapter



Adam and Lesley Fansher from Polson reading a book to their daughter, Anna. The Polson couple received one of the *Books for Babies* bags.

Upsilon chapter received its second \$2000 grant from the DKG Educational Foundation to help support the “*Books for Babies*” project. The group provides bags

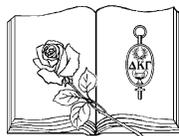
filled with books, an educational DVD and information about the importance of early literacy to new mothers at St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson and St. Luke’s Hospital in Ronan. It’s one of Upsilon’s most successful service projects.

Congratulations to Melissa Bahr who will be featured on KECI this fall as a Gold Star teacher! Melissa teaches Language Arts and reading at Polson Middle School and was nominated by a former student who now attends Polson High School. Keep up the good work, Melissa!
Reporter Lori McCurdy (Upsilon)

Iota Chapter

Iota chapter sponsored a table at the April 27, 2014 fourth annual Wellness Tea hosted by the Healthy Actions Recruitment Team (HART). The tea is a fundraiser for HART which works to promote health and wellness programs and services in Blaine, Phillips and Hill counties. Iota member, Libby Kuntz, was one of the guest speakers at the tea.

Iota Chapter offers a \$250 recruitment award to a Blaine County graduating senior girl entering the field of education. The 2014 recipient is Emily Dennis of Chinook who will be studying to be a physical education and health teacher at Montana State University.
Reporter Sandra McNeil (Iota)



**WHITE ROSES
OF
REMEMBRANCE**
“A Moment to Remember...
A lifetime to Honor.”

- Chloe Veda Jacobs, Delta, January 17, 2014*
- Verna Stoneberg, Alpha, March 23, 2014*
- Dora Howard, Alpha, May 4, 2014*
- Ruth Hamilton, Sigma Nu, July 16, 2014*
- Mary Fowlkes, Gamma, August 6, 2014*
- Mary Ann Beck, Delta, September 1, 2014*



Dora Howard
(1924-2014)



Dora was born November 24, 1924 at home on their Paradise Valley ranch, to parents, J. Franklin and Lucile (Gates) Overcast. She attended grades 1-8 at the two-room North Fork School and graduated as a co-valedictorian of the Chinook High School’s class of 1942.

After attending Northern Montana College for one year, she taught at the rural Hebbleman School a few miles from home and then returned to NMC for a second year. This was followed by four years of teaching in the Choteau Public Schools.

Dora and Stanley W. Howard were married in the Chinook Methodist Church on December 19, 1948. Their courtship of three months led to a union lasting over 65 years until Stan’s passing on March 3, 2014.

Stan’s work with the Montana Extension Service required several moves--to Hamilton where son Doug was born in 1951, to Bozeman, to Townsend where daughter Jane joined the family in 1955 and then back to Bozeman. The move to Bozeman enabled Dora to complete a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education at Montana State College in 1963. She taught in Dillon and later in Helena. She loved the 25 years she taught and considered teaching young children a privilege.

Volunteering was very important to Dora. She looked for opportunities wherever the family lived. She recalled one of the most interesting and rewarding projects was being the organizer and director of a UNICEF drive for the city of Bozeman in the 50’s.

Dora was an enthusiastic, active member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 40 years. She served as state treasurer for twelve years, state historian for many years and attended many regional conferences and a several International Conventions.

She also belonged to Plymouth Congregational Church, Helena Friendship Force, Last Chance Gulch Corral of the Westerners, P.E.O. Chapter O, friends of the Montana Historical Society and the Montana Retired Educators Association. She enjoyed working with genealogy, history and travel.

Dora passed away on Sunday, May 4, 2014.



**GOLDEN LEGACY FUND
SCROLL OF HONOR**

Ardice Kuehner in memory of Gertrude Weishaar
Ardice Kuehner in memory of Dora Howard



Mary Fowlkes
(1921-2014)

Mary Jayne Boies Saunders Fowlkes, a long-time Billings teacher, died on August 6, 2014 in Chula Vista, California. She was born on a Cabin Creek homestead near Moorcroft, Wyoming on March 31, 1921, the daughter of John Luther Boies and Georgia Agnes Fuller Boies.

She taught first grade in Billings from 1954-1982. Her passion for words, storytelling and teaching children to read remains an inspiration for her friends, family and students. She was active in the Presbyterian Church, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and Beta Sigma Phi. She was initiated into Gamma Chapter February 1, 1960.

In 1941 she married Howard Saunders, who died in October 1950. Fred Fowlkes of Billings became her second husband. After Fred's death in 2001, she moved to California to be near her daughter, Anne.



Ruth Leeper Hamilton
(1912-2014)



Ruth Leeper Hamilton was born November 15, 1912 in Rush County Kansas on the homestead of her grandparents in the same house in which her mother had been born twenty-two years earlier.

Ruth, 101, passed away July 16, 2014 at Highgate Senior Living in Great Falls of natural causes.

Ruth attended Kansas State University where she was a member of the Tri Delta sorority. She attended the Great Falls College of Education and earned a Bachelor's degree.

She began her teaching career in the 1930's in one room schools in dust laden and depressed rural Kansas. During WWII she taught in the Los Angeles School District in Reseda, California. In Great Falls she was on the faculty of the Largent School where she often referred to herself and other teachers as the "Largent Lovelies". Later she became one of the first special education teachers in Great Falls Public Schools, a position she held for fourteen years. She was initiated into Sigma Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International on April 1, 1965.

Ruth married John Wesley Leeper in 1935 in Garden City, Kansas. In 1941, Ruth and John left Kansas because of debilitating dust storms and a declining economy to join her parents, Walter and Deana Hopkins, in Great Falls. Shortly after arriving in Great Falls, World War II broke out and John volunteered for service in the US Army as a pharmacist. He was honorably discharged in 1946 as a disabled veteran. Ruth worked for the Army Air Force in Great Falls at East Base and later went to California to join her husband.

After the war they moved back to the Great falls area. John passed away in 1980. Ruth married Mack Hamilton in 1986 and he passed away in 1996.



C. Veda Jacobs
(1916-2014)

C. Veda Jacobs passed away January 17, 2014 in Mesa, Arizona. Veda was born in Bozeman, Montana on April 22, 1916 to Henry and Chloe Jacobs. She had an older sister, Alice Erlene Andes and an older brother, Donald Jacobs. She was the great granddaughter of Gallatin Valley pioneer, John E. Reese of Reese Creek.

Veda attended the Old Gallatin High School and graduated in 1934. She graduated from Montana State College (now Montana State University) in 1938 with a degree in biology and a Masters in Botany from Montana State. Veda taught math and science in Longview, Washington, Frazer and St. Ignatius, Montana and she completed her forty-three year career in the Great Falls Public Schools.

Veda was very active in the Montana Wilderness Association and the Audubon Society, the Business and Professional Women's Association and was an ordained elder for 23 years in the Community of Christ Church.

Veda was initiated into Delta Chapter and was chairman of several committees in Delta Chapter. She was state corresponding secretary for State President Gertrude Olson. Her last office was as parliamentarian for Delta Chapter. We really miss Veda's dry humor, sparkling wit, friendship and support.

submitted by Kathy Stuart (Delta)



Verna A. Stoneberg
(1915-2014)



Verna A. Stoneberg of Helena passed away March 23, 2014 in Helena. She was born October 16, 1915 in Ringling, Montana to Louis and Theodora (Vinningland) Arthun. She received her education and graduated from high school in Ringling. Verna received her B.S. Degree in Education from Western Montana College in Dillon. She and Allen Stoneberg were married November 21, 1937 in Helena, Montana.

Verna taught at Central School in Helena where she was loved by her students. Verna retired from teaching in 1978 so that she and Allen could spend winters in Arizona for twenty years.

Verna was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. She was active in teaching Sunday school, Church Choir, and women's church groups. She was also a member of Kappa Kappa Iota, P.T.A., M.E.A., N.E.A., AARP and Retired Teachers and was a Cub Scout Mother and Brownie Leader. She loved children dearly as well as many people. She enjoyed working with people, loved reading, traveling, sewing, homemaking, and enjoyed her family and extended family, especially grandchildren and friends, nieces and nephews.

Verna was initiated into Alpha Chapter in December 1966. She was a faithful member and served on many chapter committees.



(obituaries continued on page 8)

(obituaries continued from page 7)

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Mary Ann Beck

(1949-2014)

Mary Ann Beck, 65, died on September 1, 2014 at Peace Hospice in Great Falls following a two year battle with breast cancer. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and sons-in-law, five grandchildren, six siblings and a sister-in-law.

Mary Ann Dalke, the youngest of eight children, was born May 23, 1949 in Great Falls. She attended Great Falls High School and graduated from Eastern Montana University in Billings. Thirty-two of her thirty-three years of teaching were at Great Falls High School.

Mary Ann married Kenneth Beck on June 5, 1971. Mary Ann was an active member of 4-H, DECA and the local golf and bowling leagues.

She most enjoyed time with her family, whether at home, shopping with her daughters and grandchildren, getting together with her siblings, or anything that involved sharing memories from childhood and laughter with those she loved. She always erred on the side of compassionate understanding when interacting with students, fellow staff members, friends and family alike.

Mary Ann was initiated into Delta Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in 1986. She was a loyal member and served on many committees. Her last position was as chapter treasurer which she held for 18 years. We will miss her friendly smile, teasing manner and caring attitude. She was a true friend of all.

submitted by Kathy Stuart (Delta)

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Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

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The members of the Alpha Mu State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promote quality education and the professional development of Montana women educators.



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