



Joyce Fiechtner

1930 - 2015

Past State President and education leader Joyce N. Fiechtner, 84, of Laurel, died November 16, 2015 at Aspen Meadows Retirement Home in Billings.

Joyce was a twin born third into a family of ten children to Nels and Evelyn (Northnogel) Ness on November 29, 1930 in Medora, ND. Her family moved to Laurel when she was six years old where she was

educated and she graduated from Laurel High School in 1950.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and School Administrative Certificate from the University of Montana and a Master of Arts degree from Eastern Montana College. In addition to her teaching career in public schools as a classroom teacher, reading specialist and administrator, she was passionate about creating education career opportunities for women through her tireless leadership in Delta Kappa Gamma.

Joyce was initiated into Alpha Mu State's Tau Chapter in 1968 and became an enthusiastic and involved member where she served as an officer and committee participant. She received the Alpha Mu State Alice Lausted Scholarship to help complete her endorsement in school administration. She received the stipend to attend the Seminar in Purposeful Living in 1986 in Lancaster, PA.

She was installed as State President at the convention in Kalispell in April, 1989. She selected *"Don't follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."* Anon. She indeed did blaze a trail for Alpha Mu State as she led us through the Golden Anniversary celebration in 1990. The Golden Legacy was begun, Alpha Mu Chapter was installed with 18 members and International President Marge Allen was the international guest. The international guest to the 1991 convention was Past International President Dr. Barbara Baker – two presidents in one biennium.

Joyce participated in the first Leadership/Management Seminar sponsored by the Golden Gift Fund at Baylor University in Waco, TX. She also served on the International Membership and Expansion Committees. She attended several regional conferences and international conventions where she presented a variety of workshops on personal and Society subjects.

After graduation from Laurel High School, she married Walter Hall in 1950 and they had four children. They divorced and in 1974 she married Raymond Fiechtner who survives along with her children Russ (Wilma) Hall, Merrilee Curry, Earl (Colleen) Hall, Renie (Matt) Gibson, stepchildren: Steve (Joyce) Fiechtner, Brian (Bonnie) Fiechtner, Debbie (Roc Apple) Fiechtner, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Marilyn Scheidecker, Ardyth (Don) Brown, Fern (Ted) Montgomery, Glenda Martin, Valley (Ed) Lowrance and brother, Ivan Ness.

With her husband and best friend, Ray, Joyce enjoyed spending time with her family and grandchildren and loved traveling to visit

them. When she was home, Joyce and her twin sister, Janet, spent many hours painting, working on craft projects and socializing with their friends and family.

Preceding her in death was her twin sister, Janet Sorg, brother-in-law, Bill Sorg, sister, Grace (Sparky) Barthuly and brother Terry (Monica) Ness.

A memorial Service for Joyce was held at the United Methodist Church in Laurel. Burial was at the Laurel Cemetery.

"Leave a trail." That is the challenge that Joyce's leadership, passion and commitment left for us as members of Alpha Mu State.

submitted by Janice Nerem (Sigma Nu)



Champion of Education Award

by Chairman Mary Meissner (Omega)

Alpha Mu State's Champion of Education award will be presented at the 2017 state convention. Look into your community to find a nominee - not a teacher or group employed in a school system - but someone who encourages and supports learning and training outside the classroom.

As Yogi Berra said, *"You can see a lot by just looking."* Then go to the Alpha Mu State website to find the form and learn what information is necessary to include in the application. Nominations may be submitted by chapters and individuals along with a description of the individual's contribution to education. The selection is made by the past state presidents.

It's not too soon to be looking for a candidate to be recognized by Alpha Mu State and in turn to have this organization recognized by others.

Don't procrastinate!

Scholarships

by Chairman Linda Clark (Theta)

At the Fall Executive Board meeting a packet of scholarship information was given to every chapter represented. All chapters that were not represented received a packet of information via snail mail. The deadline for returning completed applications to me is February 1, 2016. As soon as I receive applications I will make sure that the other members of the Alpha Mu State Scholarship Committee get the chance to see them and together we will choose which applicant(s) will be awarded scholarships.

All Alpha Mu State Delta Kappa Gamma members pursuing an advanced degree are eligible to apply. The process is simple and the reward, great! Now, DKG members, get busy and forward your completed applications to me by the deadline and remember that there is no such thing as sending applications in too early!

I am thankful to the other members of the Scholarship Committee, Cathy Stone (Alpha) and Kathy Stuart (Delta), who have agreed to serve during this biennium and I look forward to giving them lots and lots and lots of work to do.



Alpha Mu State President Mary Vaira

As we are about to embark upon a new year, I am making resolutions just as many of you are possibly doing at this time. I am also pondering about how we can fuel Delta Kappa Gamma’s future.

Therefore, I have set some goals that I’m determined to accomplish, but I can’t do this without your continued assistance and dedication. Two goals that we can work towards are to not have more chapters dissolve and strive to increase and maintain membership within our society. These are attainable goals that we can manage as we creatively network with other professionals.

Ladies, we need to invite potential members to visit our chapter meetings in order for them to catch our Delta Kappa Gamma fever. There are professional women working within our communities not only in our local schools, but in county positions, in our colleges, in our medical facilities, and in various tutoring franchises, for example. Let’s network with these women as we enthusiastically share with them what Delta Kappa Gamma has to offer.

I have had the pleasure of visiting with several chapters within the first few months of this biennium. Theta Chapter was the first invitation that I was issued. This was very fitting, as this was the chapter to which I belonged when I first became a member. It was delightful to see so many of my Delta Kappa Gamma friends and to learn about some of the activities in which they are involved.

In November, the President’s Brunch was held in Billings when Tau, Alpha Alpha, Gamma and Alpha Mu met. I was pleased that this meeting was so well attended. Charmaine Mansheim even invited a guest!

With this kind of enthusiasm, we can nurture Alpha Mu State as we continue to *Fuel Our Future* of Delta Kappa Gamma in this biennium and beyond.

Mission Statement

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

ΔΚΓ
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.

Communicate with International Headquarters:
888 / 762-4685 (toll-free in Canada, U.S.)
512 / 478-5748 FAX: 512 / 478-3961
web site address: www.dkg.org

Address to go directly to the Montana web site:
<http://alphamustate.weebly.com>



Alpha Mu State is now on Facebook! “LIKE” and follow us for all updates: Alpha Mu State, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 1, 2016 - International Scholarship applications due to Scholarship Chairman Linda Clark,
- February 1, 2016 - Biennial reports due to State President Mary Vaira
- February 1, 2016 - Cornetet Professional Development Award application due
- April 1, 2016 - If you received a doctorate degree during this biennium send required documentation to societyoper@dkg.org
- July 5-9, 2016 - Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN
- June 26-July 1, 2017 - NW Regional Conference in Spearfish, South Dakota
- 2018 - International Convention in Austin, Texas

Tetra Council Brunch

Submitted by Charmaine Mansheim (Alpha)

Thirty seven ladies attended the brunch on November 14, 2015. Charmaine brought a guest - Katie Krumdieck-she is the music coordinator at Apostles Church and teaches music at Blue Creek School.

The baskets were beautiful and everyone was anxious to win one. Jody Dringman and Sandi Shawhan. each won a basket. Jody invited us to her house to share the wine. She won our basket. Give her a call and she will tell you date and time! I believe the date is December 5 but check for sure. Joan Micheletti had made the centerpieces and names were drawn for them to see who would take them home. Our guest won one. They were a tall fall arrangement—very beautiful. Thanks, Joan.

The guest speaker was Alpha Mu State President Mary Vaira. She spoke on membership and how some changes are in the works to make DKG more appealing to the younger generation. We need to get more members to keep this organization growing and working. Her daughter also attended. She was her driver as Mary had flown in from Golva, North Dakota.

The meeting in December is the time to decorate the tree at the Festival of Trees. The January meeting will be at Charmaine’s. This is not a brunch and you won’t see snowmen but Christmas stuff as I will be gone until the day before and will not have put it away. So be prepared!!

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Golden Legacy

by Mary Meissner (Omega) 2013-2015 Chairman

Montana Chapters, it's time to mine some gold. Not 'in them thar hills' but right here at the Alpha Mu State Golden Legacy gold mine! In the past, the profits from the gold of this mine have been used in many different ways. Here are some examples: books to the Shodair Childrens' Home, software for I-Pads at the Childrens' Receiving Home, support for homeless students, comforters for cancer patients, bags of goodies for new teachers, playground equipment and books for babies. All were very worthwhile projects.

These prospecting opportunities exist because the Golden Legacy funds \$200.00 mini-grants which are offered annually. Chapters must send in a completed application and have available matching funds. Deadlines do apply so please be aware of those dates. The application form can be found on the Alpha Mu State website at <http://alphamustate.weebly.com>

It's your turn to grab those Golden Legacy nuggets and turn them into a gift for your community and a rewarding project for your chapter.

The legacy is sustained by the generosity of individuals and chapters who have donated over time to honor members, chapters and important events. You can salt the mine and help support the Golden Legacy fund with your donation. Any amount is welcome. A donation over \$50.00 places names on the Scroll of Honor.

Please contact 2015-2017 Golden Legacy Chairman Charmaine Mansheim if you have questions. (Apologies to Mary as this article was supposed to be included in the October 2015 issue of *Alphamusings*.)

Finance

by Rita Fish (Mu) Chairman

The finance committee is comprised of three members plus the state treasurer and the state president as ex-officio member without a vote. The role is to design a balanced budget that is presented to the Executive Board for approval. The committee met at 7:00 a.m. in Billings on September 1, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn prior to the Fall Executive Board meeting of Alpha Mu State. A balanced budget was prepared. The state treasurer's books were audited the evening before by the Finance Committee. On Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Fall Executive Board meeting, the proposed budget was presented to the board and accepted.

Thank you chapter treasurers for your hours of getting your chapter dues collected and your report to the state treasurer.

I would like to thank the Finance Committee for attending the meeting in Billings, and for their dedication in serving the members of Alpha Mu State. Finance Committee members: Anne Bogut (Omicron), Janice Carter (Rho), ex-officio members: State Treasurer Pat Jones (Gamma) and State President Mary Vaira (Alpha Alpha).

Best wishes to everyone for the New Year.

Rules

by State Parliamentarian Maureen Watt (Omicron) Rules Chairman

Alpha Mu State By-Laws and Standing Rules have a new look. The By-Laws are listed as Roman numerals with the standing rules that pertain to them in an indented box below. They can be downloaded from the Alpha Mu State website. If your chapter hasn't downloaded a copy they are available for anyone to use. As a reminder, changes to the standing rules can be made at any executive board meeting and changes to the By-Laws only at the convention. Take the time to look these over and think about any changes you may want to make. The forms will be available fall 2016.

Each chapter should also review their Chapter Rules and send me an updated copy if you have made changes. These are to be in concert with the State and International Constitution and By-Laws. If you have any questions of what should be in those, please contact me or you can use the *Go-To Guide* from International (a pdf download is available from dkg.org). The information is listed in Appendix B.

As your state parliamentarian, I am urging each of you to read your chapter rules, the State By-Laws and Standing Rules. These are governing documents for us and each member should be knowledgeable about these.

