

Rebecca Marinko honored by Arts & Humanities Jury



The Arts & Humanities Jury of DKG has announced the publication of photographs submitted by Rho Chapter member Rebecca Marinko, a counselor at Cut Bank High School. Rebecca was initiated into Rho Chapter in 1991 and has served as chapter president, on state committees and was selected as a member of the 2010 Leadership Management Seminar. She attended the 2016 International Convention in Nashville.

Chairman of the Arts and Humanities Jury, Jackie Thomas, announced that Rebecca has three photographs on the current DKG Gallery of Fine Arts. They are *An Evening on Lake McDonald* and *Wild Goose Island Reflection* (both taken in Glacier Park), and *Columbine*. They can be viewed at www.dkg.org Gallery of Fine Arts.

The Arts and Humanities Jury will select entries for the spring presentation until February 1, 2017. Alpha Mu State members congratulated Rebecca on her fine work.

Author Jennifer McIlwee Meyers to speak in Great Falls.

Jan Nerem (Sigma Nu)

Jennifer McIlwee Myers, author of *Growing Up with Sensory Issues: Insider Tips from a Woman with Autism*, will present a day-long AUTISM AWARENESS workshop in Great Falls on Saturday, March 25, 2017. The event will be held at the Best Western Heritage Inn (1700 Fox Farm Road) beginning at 9:00 AM and ending at 3:00 PM. Cost of the session is \$20 and CEU credits are available for \$20. To register go to Eventbrite.com and select Autism Awareness.

Ms. Myers was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome in mid-2002 and has since spent much time and energy on absorbing and disseminating information about AS and other autism spectrum disorders. She currently lives in Southern California with her husband Gary.

Ms. Myers writes: "As a child, I could not understand how other people could fail to smell and hear things that came through to me loud and clear. I would sometimes be able to smell something burning and therefore need to find out what it was (to make sure it was someone's barbeque grill and not, say, a huge and dangerous fire that was going to kill us all). Adults and kids alike would tell me that I didn't smell anything and that I was being silly and worrying for nothing...When you smell, feel, taste, or otherwise sense something going on and the people around you tell you that it's not real, you can wind up feeling nervous, paranoid and alienated pretty fast."

Ms. Myers' presentation, *Understanding Life Skills, Intense Interests and Meltdowns* is real. Her message is insightful. Laced with humor, Ms. Meyers shares tips and methods in tackling one of the largest sets of challenges for a child with special needs.

Application for supporting funds has been made to the Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Maureen Watt (Omicron) who is a member of the International Educational Excellence committee.



SAVE THE DATES!

ALPHA MU STATE CONVENTION

Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish
June 9 - 11, 2017

"Climb Every Mountain"

Be inspired by International Representative
Dr. Hannah Fowler, International Member at Large

Connect with colleagues, attend a variety of workshops and enjoy the beauty of northwestern Montana

Registration forms will be emailed to chapter presidents and posted on the state website by February 1, 2017.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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*Alpha Mu State
President
Audrey Collins*

Greetings to the members of Alpha Mu State! I hope everyone had a lovely holiday with time to spend making memories with loved ones. As I considered what my focus for this article should be, it was natural to look toward the resolutions we all make this time of year. Some last better than others, but I hope we can all include some DKG goals in our coming year. A New Year is like a new book with blank pages. It is up to each of us to fill our pages and write our stories.

I would suggest that we all include DKG in our books. First write Chapter Pages. I encourage you to connect or re-connect with your chapter members. Call a friend for coffee, offer to carpool to a meeting, work on a project together, send a card or note to a sister who has moved away or is in a nursing home.

I would also contend that adding some Alpha Mu State pages to your book would offer great rewards. Do make plans to attend the State Convention in Whitefish June 9-11. You will have the chance to meet and hear DKG International Member-at-Large (2014-2018), Dr. Hanna W. Fowler address our attendees. She has a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to share. I know you'll not be disappointed if you take advantage of this opportunity. Other things to consider including in your State pages may be serving on a committee or seeking a state office.

You could author some Regional pages by attending Northwest Regional Conference in Spearfish, South Dakota June 28-July 1. Check out the info posted on the International website at www.dkg.org and start making plans now.

This list would not be complete without looking toward International pages. In 2016, we had members who submitted works and were selected for the International On-Line Fine Arts Gallery, had an article published in the DKG *Collegial Exchange* and served on international committees. These are all opportunities available to every member who is willing to seek them out.

In closing, I just want to send a thank you to all of you who have offered support and assistance as I embarked on this journey as your state president. I also appreciate the chapters that have extended invitations for me to visit. I will be finalizing that schedule very soon but will be happy to add on, as possible, if there are other requests. I'm looking forward to some road trips resulting in genuine spiritual fellowship with DKG sisters! There is much to be added to my book and I hope you'll join me as you add to yours.

All my best to you in 2017.

DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1, 2017 - Scholarship applications due to Linda Clark, Chairman

March 1, 2017 - Deadline for State Treasurer position Application form

March 1, 2017 - Deadline for Champion of Education application.

April 15, 2017 - committee reports for Convention due to State President

June 9-11, 2017 - Alpha Mu State Convention at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish (Watch *Alphamusings* for more information)

June 28-July 1, 2017 - NW Regional Conference in Spearfish, South Dakota

Audrey Collins received her State President's pin from Maureen Watt at an Omicron meeting.



NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

June 28 - July 1, 2017
Spearfish, South Dakota

In beautiful Black Hills Country.

Watch for further information.

Alphamusings (USPS 014-760)

A publication of Alpha Mu State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, published at: PO Box 216, Hinsdale MT 59241-0216. Editor: Joyce English, Box 216, Hinsdale MT 59241-0216. Published four times yearly: October, January, March and May. Periodical Postage paid at Hinsdale MT 59241-0216. Annual Membership dues include a subscription to *Alphamusings*.

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2016 Fall Executive Board Meeting

LaVonne Borgreen (Zeta) Alpha Mu State Recording Secretary

The Fall Executive Board Meeting for Alpha Mu State was held on September 17, 2016 at the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings. Attending were three elected officers, four related personnel, fourteen chapter presidents or their representatives and five past state presidents for a total of eighteen members.

Maureen Watt (Omicron) gave a detailed explanation of the difference between By-Laws and Standing Rules. By-Laws are listed in outline form and can be changed by a vote at the State Convention. Standing Rules are in boxes in the current edition and are listed with a decimal (eg. 8.14). Standing Rules can be changed at any meeting of the Alpha Mu State Executive Board. If you want to make any changes the form can be found on line.

Audrey Collins (Omicron) explained that the restructuring of the Educational Excellence Committee has been successful due to the leadership of the subcommittees which include Music, Recruitment and Professional Affairs led by Lorrann Depner (Alpha Gamma); Personal Growth and Services and Lifelong Learning led by Lori McCurdy (Upsilon); and legislative led by Jan Counter (Alpha Lambda).

As of the Fall Meeting no one has yet applied for a scholarship according to Linda Clark (Theta), chairman of that committee.

Chapters are encouraged to nominate someone in their communities for the Champion of Education. Chairman Mary Meissner (Omega) provided a nomination form.

Alpha Eta Chapter and Tau Chapter were dissolved at the meeting.

Pat Jones has still not been able to retire as State Treasurer. An Adhoc Personnel Committee was formed which included Jan Nerem, Charmaine Mansheim and Eva English. If you are interested in this position contact the committee.

There are several conferences and conventions to attend next summer. Look for these announcements in *Alphamusings*.

Committee reports need to be submitted to the State President by April 15, 2017 in order to be included for the State Convention which will be June 9-11 at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish.

As part of the Community Connection Program under the direction of Gillette White and Morgan Tuss, we were the first group to participate. The group ate lunch with the students and enjoyed a tour of the facilities. We had a wonderful time at the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee

Rita Fish (Mu) Chairman

The finance committee is comprised of three members plus the state treasurer and the state president as ex-officio members without a vote. The role is to design a balanced budget that is presented to the Executive Board for approval. The committee met at 7:30 p.m. in Billings, Montana on September 17, 2016 at the Hilton Garden Inn prior to the Fall Executive Board meeting of Alpha Mu State. The state treasurer's books were audited by the Finance Committee and the committee began working on a balanced budget. On Saturday, September 18, 2016 the committee and the state president met at the Administration Office of the Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch and prepared a balanced budget to present to the Executive Board later that day. 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 Maureen Watt for substituting for Anne Bogut, Omicron, and Janice Carter, Rho, and attending the meeting in Billings and for her dedication in serving the members of Alpha Mu State.

Best wishes to everyone for the New Year.

Membership

Doris Tollefson (Alpha Zeta) Second Vice-President

My wishes for all the chapters in Alpha Mu State is that you keep working diligently to invite people to membership in Delta Kappa Gamma as well as working to keep present members involved and active in chapter activities.

If you have not gathered prospect cards of possible women in your area to invite to membership or considered inviting people to join your chapter, there is never a better time than a new year to start out with a positive outlook.

Of course, we all know that people move, and it can be challenging for a member to find a new chapter. The chapter president and/or membership chairman can make a transfer go smoothly. If someone in your chapter is moving, your chapter president should notify the chapter president in the area to which the member is moving.

Chapter presidents know which chapters in the state have dissolved and those women can be invited to join a near-by chapter. Working with the chapter president and/or the membership chairman can help make a move to a new chapter as stress-free as possible. The chapter president and the membership chairman can assist anyone who is moving to a new area and wishes to find a near-by DKG chapter to continue with membership.

To help with member transfers, the following information from the International website is useful:

- When you receive information about a member in transition, call them and welcome them to your chapter.
- Obtain a Transfer Receipt from the DKG website and submit it to International Headquarters.
- Any member who is relocating should continue to pay dues to her home chapter until the transfer process is complete.

To help members who are moving and are not sure what chapters are available, the following information from the website will be helpful:

- Society Headquarters can assist you with your transfer. Use the **Transfer Request Form** if you know the name of your new chapter. An email to mem@dkg.org can help you to locate a chapter in your new area.
- If your search for a new chapter president extends through September and October, pay dues to your previous chapter in order to avoid dropped membership.
- Chapters do not vote to accept transferred members.

Champion of Education

Mary Meissner (Omega) Chairman

Please start your 2017 To-Do list with these words: Nominate a deserving person or group for Alpha Mu State's Champion of Education award. The nomination form asks for a general introduction of the nominee, the contribution to education and why the nomination is worthy of recognition. It's that simple. The deadline for submission to Chairman Mary Meissner is **March 1, 2017**. A committee made up of former Alpha Mu State presidents will decide the winner. The purpose of the award is to recognize persons who are not members of DKG but who have made a significant contribution to education in a community where there is a Delta Kappa Gamma chapter.

The Champion of Education award will be presented at the state convention in Whitefish. The honor reflects the hours and the

energy the person or the organization has put into education outside a classroom. At the same time the honor recognizes Alpha Mu State as a visible and viable education organization.

The form is available from the Alpha Mu State website or contact Mary Meissner at 406-622-3605. Send your completed nomination to her at Box 252, Fort Benton, MT 59442 or to 29essex@itstriangle.com by or before the deadline. Your to-do list will be shorter and someone will soon know they are appreciated.

Update from the Excellence in Education Committee

Audrey Collins, Alpha Mu State President

This committee covers so many important areas of our organization that there is always lots going on. We are fortunate to have members willing to carry the load of the work of the sub-committees that keep things running smoothly. These committee members provide information regarding current news and opportunities in your *Alphamusings*. Please contact myself or those members for more information.

From the International Committee, we see the three goals of this committee as:

- Empowering women through leadership opportunities
- Engaging educators in purposeful programs and projects
- Creating global involvement

There are many resources on the website to assist chapters in adopting these goals and incorporating them into chapter happenings. Take some time to check out what they have to offer and share the things you do with the rest of us!

Scholarship Committee

Linda Clark (Theta) Chairman

The Alpha Mu State Convention is coming in June 2017! During convention we will award the Alpha Mu State Scholarships. All DKG members working on advanced degrees are encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible so that the committee can select the recipient (s).

Each chapter should have received a hard copy of the Scholarship Application packet, (I did have one envelope returned, though). If you need an application, please contact me (Linda Clark, 406-488-3553 or ljkclark@yahoo.com), ask your chapter president for the one given/mailed to her or go to the Alpha Mu State website and download one from there.

February 1, 2017 is the deadline to submit your application so get started on it immediately and pop it in the mail. I look forward to a stuffed mailbox!

Golden Legacy Committee

Charmaine Mansheim (Alpha Alpha) Chairman

The Golden Legacy Committee is again looking at two \$200.00 mini-grant applications. We will let them know in January if they will receive the money for their projects.

The money for the mini-grants comes from the interest from the Golden Legacy Fund. It is to be used to plan and promote activities which make a significant contribution to the future of Alpha Mu State.

We gave grants to three projects in the fall. They will report at the state convention in June. I gave a report in the last *Alphamusings* so if you need added information check that article.

I wish the best for you all in 2017 and will see you all in June at the State Convention.

Communication and Publicity

Rosemary Weber (Theta) Co-Chairman
LaVonne Roland (Theta) Co-Chairman

Grow a garden of Possibilities

Seeds are the foundation of any garden and blooms are visible proof of a vibrant living garden. Delta Kappa Gamma is our garden to tend. In Alpha Mu State’s garden, members span the generations. Our “seasoned” members plant the seeds of wisdom and experience. The younger members are the bright blossoms of promise of the societies future. “Growing Possibilities” is the most important mission our State faces. Chapters are the best place to start this process and communication is the critical gardening tool. Veteran sisters hold the growth of the society in their capable hands. Their efforts will grow the possibilities of our newest sisters, and in turn strengthen the vision and mission of DKG.

The State Communication Committee suggests the following to strengthen and grow communication among generations.

- 1). Pair newer members with knowledgeable members - engaging before, during and after meetings.
- 2). Learn and use technology favored by younger members - texting, emailing and other forms of social media - to reach out and encourage membership and meeting attendance.
- 3). Introduce yourself to new members and find a common area of interest, then follow up after the initial contact.
- 4). Carpool to meetings.
- 5). Encourage new members to bring a friend to join them in your chapter.

Several chapters are using the New Membership Recruitment Program with great success. Has your chapter investigated that gardening tool? (Full details are at www.dkg.org).

Vibrant, growing chapters use these suggestions and more. Make sure your chapter is growing in every way possible. Grow the possibilities...Membership Matters! Adapted from TN DKG newsletter.

Treasurer’s Search

Jan Nerem (Sigma Nu) Chairman of Adhoc Personnel Committee

The treasurer’s position on the Alpha Mu State Executive Board will become vacant on July 1, 2017.

Duties include:

- Receive and pay out all monies belonging to Alpha Mu State.
- Keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures. Keep a file of receipts, bills, cancelled checks and bank statements.
- File the required tax receipts.
- Submit the accounts for an annual audit.
- Pay the annual bonding company fees and inform the bonding company of the names and addresses of current state and chapter treasurers.
- Rent a safety deposit box.
- Secure appropriate signature cards for each state account in a banking institution and for the safety deposit box.
- Obtain the signatures of the president and the treasurer and file the signed cards with the appropriate institutions by July 1.
- Keep an up-to-date file of state members and a record of all members whose memberships have been terminated.

Serve as an ex-officio member of the State Finance Committee.

Serve as an ex-officio member, without vote, on the State Executive Board.

A stipend of \$500 per year is currently paid to the State Treasurer.

It is the responsibility of the State Treasurer to attend Executive Board Meetings and State Conventions. Training for state treasurers is provided prior to the opening of the Regional Conference which will be held in Spearfish, SD on June 28, 2017. The conference extends through July 1.

A list of the duties plus an application form is available on the Alpha Mu State Website. Completed forms are due by March 1, 2017.

Questions regarding the position may be addressed to Jan Nerem, 1819 4th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405, phone 406-761-6643, or email jann75@charter.net.

Chapter News: Iota Chapter

Sandra McNeill (Iota Chapter)

This fall Iota Chapter welcomed into membership Bonnie Ortner and the reinstatement of Bonnie Hellman. Bonnie Ortner is the resource teacher at Chinook High School. Bonnie Hellman is a retired teacher from Harlem Elementary School. She was initiated into Iota Chapter on September 20, 1980

In November Bonnie Williamson of Havre came to our meeting and gave a presentation on the health benefits of Yogo exercises.



Iota President Colleen Brommer and Bonnie Hellman



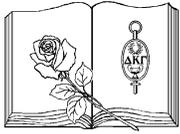
Bonnie Ortner
Iota new member



Plan to attend the Alpha Mu State Convention
at the Grouse Mountain Lodge
in Whitefish, Montana
on June 9-11, 2017.

Meet Dr. Hanna Fowler, International Representative





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



A LPHAMUSINGS
(USPS 014-760)
PUBLICATION OF THE ALPHA MU STATE
ORGANIZATION, MONTANA

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Vol. 70, No.2, January 2017

Periodicals - Postage paid at Hinsdale MT 59241

Published four times yearly, October, January, March, and May
Annual state membership dues include subscription to *Alphamusings*

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Myra Miller, Nu Chapter, August 6, 2016

Mary Patricia Baker, Kappa Chapter, October 14, 2016

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Mary Patricia Baker

1932 - 2016

Mary Patricia Baker, 84, of Billings, formerly of Glasgow, passed away on Friday, October 14, 2016 at The Springs at Grand Park in Billings, Montana. Pat was born September 12, 1932 on Sunnybrook Farm in the Garland community East of Powell, Wyoming. She was the daughter of Percy and Beth Cabbage. Percy died before Pat was five years old. Beth later married Tesla Green and he adopted Pat.

Pat graduated from Powell High School in 1950 and continued her education at MSU in Bozeman. She was a member of the Chi Omega sorority and was active in many campus organizations. These four college years were the most defining years of her life. She made many lifelong friends while at MSU. She graduated in 1954 with a degree in Physical Education and Business Education. Pat then went to Glasgow in the fall of 1954 and began her teaching career at Glasgow High School. She met and married Bob Baker of Glasgow on June 10, 1955. This marriage was blessed with two sons, Dirk and Bo. After the birth of her two sons, Pat was a stay-at-home mom until the boys started school. In 1969 she returned to full-time teaching until June 1992 when she retired after 32 years in the classroom. On April 1994 she was appointed Valley County Superintendent of Schools. In April 1997 she resigned due to family illness. After Bob passed away, she moved to Billings in October 2005 to be closer to her grandkids.

Pat was a member of P.E.O., First Congregational Church of Glasgow, where she taught Sunday school for many years. Delta Kappa Gamma Society International a teachers honorary and served a term as Kappa Chapter president in addition to other offices and committees. She was also a member of Mountain Ash Homeowners Association and was the president for one year. Pat was active in Global Grannies, where she made many friends and got to see some of the world. She was also a very proud lifetime member of the MSU Alumni Association.

Her biggest joy in life was spending time with her sons and their families. Pat especially enjoyed spending time at the Pines cabin with the family. Her four grandchildren were the joy of her life. She always enjoyed seeing former students and reminiscing about Glasgow High School. She maintained contact with many of her students throughout the years. Pat touched many lives during her time at Glasgow High School and many of her students speak fondly of her. Past students may remember her strong reminder about not running the the halls or wearing a hat in school.

Please send address changes to:
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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.

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