

JUST TWO...LOOK WHAT WE CAN DO IN LEADERSHIP...AS A TEAM

Leadership Workshop...Best Western Butte Plaza Inn
in Butte....June 14-15, 2018
Leadership Chairman Jan Nerem (Omega)

It's time for the Nominations Committee for each chapter to consider who will be their leadership teams for the upcoming year. What qualifications do each of those players need to make the team a winning one for the 2018-2020 biennium? What information do those players need to perform their duties? How will chapter members support their team? Hurrah for you!

Spring practice will begin at Alpha Mu State's biennial Leadership Workshop to be held at the Best Western Butte Plaza Inn in Butte on Thursday, June 14 and Friday, June 15. The Thursday session will begin at noon and will end by noon on Friday.

A block of rooms will be set aside at the Best Western Butte Plaza Inn in Butte. A complete agenda and registration forms will be available on the web site after April 1.



International President Carolyn Pittman will be the international representative to this year's workshop. Not only will she provide information and inspiration, but she will listen to see what our hopes and dreams are for the future of Alpha Mu State. State officers and related personnel will present information pertinent to their particular positions. This will be an information-packed day.

Ms. Pittman will speak on the State of DKG during dinner and will share details of the International Convention

on July 15-20 in Austin, TX. Presentation of recruitment awards, scholarships and Golden Legacy awards will be made.

Each member has the responsibility to participate in this opportunity for inspiration, to get information and to become a part of the DKG network. It is a rare occasion that the opportunity to ask questions of the international president presents itself to members of Alpha Mu State.

Picture courtesy of Carolyn Pittman.

SEE YOU IN BUTTE!

Educational Foundation Event at 2018 International Convention

What is a great way to spend Wednesday evening, July 18th during the Austin International Convention? Not in your room! Not making a restaurant search! Not paying a huge cover charge to see a local band!

Join the fun at THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF AUSTIN right in the JW Marriott Lone Star Ballroom when the DKG Educational Foundation hosts its second annual fundraising event. **Tickets for the event may be ordered on the Convention Registration form and are \$155 per person.**



Picture courtesy of Educational Foundation

COLLINS SELECTED FOR 2018 LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT

Jan Nerem (Omega)

Alpha Mu State President Audrey Collins has been selected to participate in the 2018 Leadership Management Seminar to be held at The University of Texas in Austin. Dates of the seminar are July 2-13. This class of thirty members has been selected from applicants from throughout the Society.

Sponsored by the Golden Gift Fund, the seminar was the result of the Golden Gift Fund established during the golden anniversary of the Society in 1979. The first Leadership Management Seminar was held in 1981 at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Past State President Joyce Fiechtner was a member of that group. Since then, eleven other members of Alpha Mu State have been selected to participate.

While in Austin, participants will be involved in sessions and workshops involving a leadership presence, personality and management styles, thinking on your feet, leading across generations and interpersonal communications. They will have an opportunity to explore Austin, visit Society Headquarters and take a ride through the Texas hill country.

Collins retired last spring; however, she is busy with other activities.

In this issue . . .

President's Message	2
Dates to Remember	2
Committee Reports	3
Chapter News	4



**CONNECTING,
MOVING FORWARD
AND
FOCUSING ON
MEMBERSHIP”**
by
**Alpha Mu State
President
Audrey Collins**

Spring is coming! Since we've all had to deal with the crazy winter this year, I know we're all anxious to see warmer days and melting snow. That may be why I choose to look forward and concentrate on thoughts of SPRING. Spring is a time of growth and renewal. I think that focusing on those key components of spring is essential for our organization.

Growth is not limited to the number of members in our chapter or state. We must look at growth in many areas. Fortunately, DKG provides so many growth opportunities, we need only choose to take advantage of them. You can select from many options for personal and professional growth. I encourage each of you to choose one way to grow this spring. Choose to try something new, learn a new skill, or step out of your comfort zone and do something different.

Renewal is a necessary part of any cycle that we wish to continue. Renewal is a vital element for the health of our organization. It can provide benefits that ripple far beyond what we are able to see. We can renew our friendships with DKG sisters in many ways. Take time to connect with someone you haven't seen for awhile. Let another member know how much you value her and her efforts or talents. The HOW you connect is up to you and what works best for you, but the important thing is that you make the connection.

We must also renew our resolve to move forward. It's very easy to get complacent and do what we've always done. We need to push ourselves to take that path which may be more challenging but will inevitably be more rewarding. In addition, we must renew our commitment. I know that if each of us asks ourselves, "What can I do?", we can make a long list of ideas. I also know if we collectively ask ourselves, "What can we do?", we can generate many plans that will improve our schools, our communities and our chapters. As these ideas turn into chapter projects, we can increase involvement and impact.

We need to renew our commitment to bettering education and our support of women and children. If we work together toward those common goals, we can make things happen.

Lastly, in a time of so much negativity and uncertainty, we need to renew our faith in the good that is in our world. We must stand together as our Founders did. We can draw positivity and validation from joining with our sisters and focusing on growth and renewal.

DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

April 13, 2018 - 78th Birthday of Alpha Mu State
May 11, 2018 - 89th Birthday of Delta Kappa Gamma
May 23, 2018 - Last day to book a room at the special block rate at the Best Western Butte Plaza Inn for Leadership Development
June 14-15, 2018 - Leadership Development Workshop Best Western Butte Plaza Inn
 June 16, 2018 -Deadline for early registration for International convention
 June 23, 2018 - Group rate cutoff date at the JW Marriott Hotel in Austin, TX
July 16-20, 2018 - International Convention at J. W. Marriott Hotel, Austin, TX - Monday through Friday
 Conference registration on www.dkg.org
 September 15, 2018 - State Executive Board
 Place to be announced
 December 10, 2018 - Champion of Education applications due to Lloyd-Ann McMahan
 2019 Northwest Regional Conference, Des Moines, Iowa

Mission Statement

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

ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ ΔΚΓ 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

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*.

Alpha Mu State Officers 2017-2019

President:

Audrey Collins, Omicron
PO Box 394
Drummond MT 59832-0394
(406) 288-3162
(406) 544-7479
collins@blackfoot.net

1st Vice-President:

Rebecca Marinko, Rho
101 3rd Ave. SE
Cut Bank MT 59427-3247
(406) 450-1488
(406) 897-4901
marinkorj@gmail.org

2nd Vice-President:

Doris Tollefson, Alpha Zeta
PO Box 296
Hinsdale MT 59241-0296
(406)364-2271
dtoll@nemont.net

Recording Secretary:

LaVonne Borgreen, Zeta
120 Sunset Street
Lewistown MT 59457-2225
(406) 375-4301
squigg@lewistown.net

Corresponding Secretary:

Ruth Anne Wilson-Jones, Phi
276 Noland Drive
Hamilton, MT 59840-3429
(406) 375-5621
rawj123@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Maureen Watt, Omicron
1112 Heather Drive
Anaconda MT 59711-2634
(406) 563-2031
maureen.watt@bresnan.net

Parliamentarian:

Barbara Mansfield, Lambda
808 Waverly Pl
Whitefish MT 59937-2474
(406)862-8201
barbjmansfield@bresnan.net

Immediate Past President:

Joan Micheletti, Tau
2939 St. Johns Ave
Billings MT 59106-6643
(406) 656-4725
joanscorner2@yahoo.com

Webmaster:

Eva English, Iota
PO Box 963
Harlem MT 59526-0963
(406) 353-7171
evaenglish@yahoo.com

State Editor

Joyce English, Alpha Zeta
PO Box 216
Hinsdale MT 59241-0216
(406) 364-2349
joyceenglish@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership

Alpha Mu State 2nd Vice President Doris Tollefson (Alpha Zeta)

The question for you is this: Has your chapter invited at least one person for membership? If you have done so, wonderful! If you haven't done so yet, keep looking for someone to invite to membership. You may have to look outside the box for a candidate but keep looking. Librarians, county extension agents and others would bring a fresh perspective to any chapter.

If your chapter is looking for a resource to show prospective members about the Society, you can download an orientation video from the DKG website. There are also a series of reorientation videos for all members to view. The videos include information about the history of the Society, the mission and vision of DKG and the benefits of belonging to DKG. It is always a good idea to be refreshed on the Society because it helps members remember the value of being part of this organization.

Take it upon yourself to provide the program for a chapter meeting and present these videos to your group. The videos can be downloaded from the DKG website at www.dkg.org. You will need to sign in to access the videos, and to do that, log in with your membership number as the username and put in the default password which is available from your chapter president. From there use the tabs to find the videos under the resources tab.

While you are on the website, explore other tabs to discover a wealth of information that is available to you and to your chapter. Be sure to visit the DKG website often for new and exciting information.

Educational Excellence (EEC)

Alpha Mu State 1st Vice President Rebecca Marinko (Rho)

The snowy, cold, windy weather brings to mind plans that never quite materialized due to being trapped indoors. It also brings to mind the opportunities available through DKG that, just like those winter plans, never seem to materialize.

At the chapter level, members have the opportunity to accept the challenges of leadership by becoming a chapter officer. Each member has a wealth of experience and information to share with others. Given the opportunity, chapter leadership lets those ideas come to life. There are also opportunities to serve on a committee of interest, present a program at a chapter meeting, actively work on a chapter project or invite a prospective member to join DKG.

One way to enrich the DKG experience is to participate in Alpha Mu State activities. The upcoming Leadership Development workshop in June would be a great way to get started. The workshop is open to everyone, not just state or chapter officers and it offers the opportunity for fellowship with other members while honing one's leadership skills. Several scholarship opportunities are available ranging from getting assistance to help fund an advanced degree to taking a special interest class with the lifelong learning grant. There are also opportunities for recruitment grants for women who are juniors in college and majoring in education. Pass along that application!

Attending the DKG International Convention in Austin in July is just one way to take advantage of international opportunities. Members are encouraged to apply for even more scholarships or international committees. There are opportunities to travel, become actively involved in political issues affecting education as well as discounts on insurance. You can even support the organization by using a Smile account when you make purchases from Amazon.

Most importantly, DKG members have opportunities to network with other members, online or in person, share experiences, laugh and enjoy the fellowship of women who have devoted their lives to education. The opportunities are there, do not let the snow, wind and cold keep you from taking advantage of those that may be of interest. Check out the DKG and Alpha Mu State web sites for even more ideas.

Expansion Committee Focuses on Membership

Expansion Committee Chairman Madalen Sugrue (Omicron)

The Expansion Committee continues to encourage chapters to build membership by working to regain, maintain and increase the number of members. We suggest that you explore all avenues to do this. We offer these ideas to get you started:

1. Contact members from dissolved chapters to invite them to transfer to other chapters.
2. Contact former members and invite them to reinstate their membership.
3. Look for members that are representative of roles other than teachers; think of anyone that educates in any capacity.

International provides many resources to support membership, as well. If you go to www.dkg.org and then click on the Tools tab, you will find the Membership/Recruitment Plan with everything you need, all ready-to-use! In the Program Ideas for Chapters, international offers this idea: "A chapter hosted a

(Expansion Committee continues from page 3)

“25th Anniversary Reunion” where members invited former members to join them in a reunion celebration. The turnout was great, friendships were renewed and some members were reinstated.” Utilize the resources available to support your efforts.

There are chapters that have found success with these or other strategies. One chapter used the Recruitment Plan and Prospect Cards and gained several new members. Another chapter held a tea and invited a wide range of potential members to attend. Only a few attended, but those who came and some that were unable to, joined the chapter. Four new members, as a result of hosting a Membership Tea, is definitely a victory! Share your success stories with us so that we can share them with others.

We are available to support and to assist chapters who need help to strengthen membership. Please contact us if we can help you.

Chapter News:**Iota Chapter**

In November Donna Miller spoke on her creative and critical thinking website called *Thinking Zone*. Donna has designed learning and thinking tools for teachers to use in their classrooms to motivate creativity and encourage critical thinking in their students.

To check out *Thinking Zone* go to: Thinking Zone, Donna Miller, 280 Do Drop In Road, Chinook, MT 59523. Website: www.thinkingzone.org

In January Loraine Verploegen spoke on “Plant a Seed: Read”. This nonprofit supports early literacy development and is connected to the Dollywood Foundation’s Imagination Library. Loraine is the representative for Hill and Blaine Counties and told how individuals could sponsor a child from birth to age five.

submitted by Sandra McNeill (Iota)

Omega Chapter**GFHS PSYCH TEACHER HOSTS BREAKFAST CLUB**

Psychology teacher Ann Simkins wrote that this winter Great Falls has been bitterly cold. I am someone that really cannot keep warm without something warm and solid in my stomach. Helps me really focus and get through the school day. I received an electric kettle for Christmas and thought this was my solution. I could get a giant box of instant oatmeal and my breakfasts would be taken care of.

Now I am usually at school about 7:15 a.m. every day and I have a few students who choose my classroom for a quiet place to start their day. Every once in a while I noticed that some of my kids were watching me getting ready for the day. Since the aroma would envelope my classroom, I’d offer them an oatmeal.

Now, Great Falls High has a 48% free and reduced lunch population but for some kids, breakfast pizza is not appealing. I know that it is not necessarily something that sticks in your gut like a warm bowl of oatmeal. The trend started to catch on and my classroom has become a bit of a breakfast club for those that want to come in in the mornings. I have students from all backgrounds and we share stories and look up weird stories about psychology (my teaching assignment for the year), politics (these students really want to have a dialogue and in society it is hard to have a discussion without a lot of yelling these days), and anything that is generally on their minds.

I find it is wonderful that before school I can give these students my time and oatmeal to help start their day out right. . . warm, heard and valued! submitted by Ruth Carlstrom, President Omega Chapter

**A LPHAMUSINGS**

(USPS 014-760)

PUBLICATION OF THE ALPHA MU STATE ORGANIZATION, MONTANA

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Vol. 71, No.3, March 2018

Periodicals - Postage paid at Hinsdale MT 59241

Published four times yearly, October, January, March, and May

Annual state membership dues include subscription to *Alphamusings*

Joyce English, Editor, PO Box 216, Hinsdale MT 59241

joyceenglish@yahoo.com

Postmaster, Please send address changes to:
Joyce English, State Editor
PO Box 216, Hinsdale MT 59241-0216

Friends of Autism in Great Falls invites you to

Autism: Managing Frustration & Anxiety and Teaching Social Skills

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 9 AM - 4 PM
Hilton Garden Inn - 2520 14th Street Southwest

Speaker: Jeb Baker PhD.

Author of No More Meltdowns, The Social Skills Picture Books Series, Preparing for Life, and Social Skills Training.
Director of the Social Skills Training Project, travels internationally, to educate about autism.

Cost \$20.. CEUs available

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/friends-of-autism-great-falls-12180049674>



A bouquet of roses and a BIG THANK YOU to Janice Nerem for the hours she spends proofreading *Alphamusings* and helping the state editor with articles. My job could not be done without your help.

You are very much appreciated!

Thank you! Joyce English

(Clipart comes from Pixabay.com)