Staying in Touch with Susie

As I reflect on the recent Alpha Phi State Convention held in Parkersburg, I smile a lot as I recall the good friends and good times at the Blennerhassett Hotel. The training session for the 1st Vice Presidents and program chairmen was quite successful. Folders with information and report forms were distributed to every chapter and should be in the hands of the chapter officers as you plan the programs and activities for the coming year. Please let me know if you have any questions about the handouts.

Thank you to those chapters that completed their reports this year! Let’s stay in touch!!

Marilyn “Susie” Rogers
Alpha Phi State 1st Vice President
Msrogers2@frontier.com

First Alpha Phi State Honor Chapter Awards Presented

Twelve chapters were honored at convention for their outstanding contributions to our society’s mission at the local, state, and international levels. The chapters receiving the prestigious 2014 Honor Chapter Award were Beta, Harriet Leurant, president; Gamma, Jean Hinzman, president; Eta, Peggy Grantham, president; Mu, Allison Miller, president; Nu, Lisa Bennett, president; Xi, Glenda Wait, president; Omicron, Barbara Tabaretti, president; Omega, Linda Cole, president; Alpha Gamma, Barbara Holecapple, president; Alpha Delta, Sherry Poole, president; Alpha Kappa, Melinda Chambers, president; and Upsilon (honorable mention), Barbara Van Beveren, president.

Sandra “Cookey” Gunther Awarded 2014 Alpha Phi State Achievement Award

Sandra (Cookey) Gunther, member of Alpha Delta Chapter, was awarded the Alpha Phi Achievement Award at the State Conference in Parkersburg. Cookey served as Alpha Phi State President during the 2011-2013 biennium and as regional director in 2005-2007. She is past president of Alpha Delta Chapter and served as chairman of numerous state and chapter committees. Sandra’s contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma also included an impressive level of involvement in conventions and workshops. Cookey has a bachelor’s degree from Morris Harvey and a master’s degree from West Virginia University. She served as an English teacher at Ripley High School and as head of the English Department for 15 years.

In keeping with tradition, Rosanne Glover, the 2013 recipient, made the presentation.

Rosanne prepared a small basket of gifts to symbolize Cookey’s contributions to our Society. Included in the basket were:

- a small ‘made and take kit’—which symbolized Cookey’s years of “tilling the soils” of our West Virginia Chapters to encourage growth;
- a pair of gloves—to protect her hands—hands of dedication;
- a music clef—symbolic of her years as a participant in our Alpha Phi State Convention Choir;
- a notebook—which symbolized the “logging” of many miles to attend numerous state conventions, six North East Regional Conferences and four International Conventions;
- an apple—for the teacher—symbolizing the “fruit of the spirit—the spirit of our Society;
- a star—a star of service to our organization;
- a bottle of lotion—with the fragrance “Beautiful Day” to symbolize the beauty of the day Cookey was recognized for her contributions to education and to Delta Kappa Gamma.
- The final item added was a snack—Cookies, of course for our very own, Cookey Gunther.

During her acceptance remarks, Cookey delighted attendees with one of her impromptu bits of humor. Members recalled her tenure as state president as professional and productive, but also as an inviting time of warmth and collegiality. Many members remembered her Newslette column “Cookey’s Chatter.”
SISTERS BY HEART
Sharing Our Vision. Strengthening Our Chapters

It is difficult to believe that a year of the 2013-2015 Alpha Phi State Biennium is gone! Without question, I have made significant observations during twenty-three (23) chapter visits. Those chapters that remain strong have stable leadership, are prudent and realistic in the planning of programs and finances and work together in an environment of mutual respect. I have learned that leaders do not know everything! Great leaders ask questions, seek input, and dare to take a different path! New challenges will lead to new adventures! I feel that I have become a stronger leader because of the opportunity to work with other strong leaders in Alpha Phi State CHAPTERS. Working together is what strengthens our “sisterhood.”

I thank those that served as a chapter officer during the 2012-2014 biennium. I thank all the many ladies that have graciously taken a leadership role in their chapter for the 2014-2016 biennium. As we embark upon the second year of the 2013-2015 biennium, it is my hope that we will continue to focus on the excitement of leadership and sisterhood of this great society! Remember that you are a great leader in a society, not a sorority. Invite friends to join, share the fun, and have an adventure in leadership.

Patty Cook
2013-2015 Alpha Phi State President

Three Members Receive State Scholarship Awards

The following scholarship awards were presented at the Alpha Phi State Convention:

- Gertrude Roberts Scholarship ($1,000) for Doctoral or Post-Doctoral Study was given to Shelly Ratliff who is a member of Alpha Zeta since 2008. She resides in Glenville, WV, and is pursuing a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in literacy at Marshall University. She is working on her dissertation and plans to graduate in August or December of 2014. She has been employed at Glenville State since August 2008 as an Assistant Professor of Education.

- The State Founders Scholarship ($1,000) for Doctoral or Post-Doctoral Study was presented to Sara Sweeney of Washington, PA. She is working on her Doctorate from West Virginia University. She is working on her dissertation and plans to graduate in 2015.

- The Master’s Degree Plus Scholarship ($600) was presented to Twila Veltri, a member of Gamma Chapter and a Title I teacher at Tunnelton-Denver Elementary School in Preston County. She completed a Master’s degree in Reading and a Master’s degree in Special Education from West Virginia University. She is pursuing additional graduate studies to enhance her special education background in the area of Autism studies through Marshall University. She is the mother of an 8-year old daughter and an 18-year old son.

Chapter Presidents 2014-2016

- Alpha: Diane Bowsher
- Beta: Karen Winter
- Gamma: Jamie Merendino
- Delta: Martha McGovern
- Epsilon: Sara Sweeney
-Eta: Vicki Jenkins
-Theta: Laura Tracy Baisden
-Iota: Katy Montgomery
-Kappa: Sharon Clagett
-Lambda: Dr. Sharon Harsh
-Mu: Allison Miller
-Nu: Rossie Thomas
-Xi: Linda Ramsey
-Pi: Jacqueline Aleshire
-Tau: Elaine McClaughray
-Upsilon: Barb Van Beveren
-Phi: Rebecca Wilson
-Chi: Ann Flint
-Omega: Sharon Burns
-Alpha Beta: Carol Shenski
-Alpha Delta: Robin Chancey
-Alpha Epsilon: Janet Mundell
-Alpha Zeta: Nancy McVaney
-Alpha Eta: Melinda Clay
-Alpha Kappa: Ann Warner
-Alpha Mu: Debbie Takach
-Alpha Nu: Nancy Lemon

NOTICE
The 2014 fall issue of the Alpha Phi State Newsette will not be mailed. You may access it on line at www.dkgwv.org after September 20th.

Summer 2014
ALPHA PHI NEWSETTE

BETA
Karen Winter, Susan Harpold, Katy Kruk, Barbara Tabaretti, and Harriet Leurant attended the State Convention which was a grand experience. The Executive Board voted favorably for Omicron Chapter to merge back into Beta Chapter. Karen Winter is the new Beta president, and Beta was one of the Honor Chapters.

ETER
Rachel Potts, one of the new members, is Jefferson County Teacher of the Year.

KAPPA
Cindy Yazvac continues to teach the game of marbles to area youth at her church. Several of her players competed in the Harrison County Marble Tournament on May 1. One player took the top prize at the county competition and four earned the right to represent Harrison County this summer at the 91st Annual National Marbles Tournament on the beach in Wildwood, New Jersey. All of her marble players are also invited to represent our area at the American Marble Tournament in July.

XI
Pasquale’s Restaurant in Beckley, WV was the setting for Xi Chapter’s May 22 meeting, ending our 2013-2014 school year. Joyce Mills, chairman of the Founder’s Day Committee, presented the program, honoring our founders. New officers for 2014-2016 were installed by Elizabeth Vance, parliamentarian.

CHAPTER NEWS

Barbara Owens has accepted the position of Standing Committee Chairperson of Retirement Education with the WV Association of Retired School Employees (WVARSE).

Carol Williams was elected vice-president of the Roane County Chapter of the WV Association of Retired School Employees.

Deloris Lipp retired June 30.

NU
At our March meeting, we had a “bake-less” bake sale to raise money for the recruitment grant and state convention expenses. Lydia Young and Tammi Gregory presented a program on new curriculum policies. At our May meeting Meg Ashby and Roths Young presented a program on how to improve your memory.

Bonnie Harper, a senior at Richwood High School, was selected as the Recruitment Grant recipient.

XII
Pasquale’s Restaurant in Beckley, WV was the setting for Xi Chapter’s May 22 meeting, ending our 2013-2014 school year. Joyce Mills, chairman of the Founder’s Day Committee, presented the program, honoring our founders. New officers for 2014-2016 were installed by Elizabeth Vance, parliamentarian.

Glenda Wait was recognized for her leadership and presented a gift of appreciation.

Elizabeth Vance, an active and devoted member for many years will be moving to Hilton Head, SC, and will be truly missed. However, she will remain a member and hopefully will visit often.

MU
Mae Stevens passed her Citizenship test this spring. Allison Miller was elected as Member-at-Large at the WV Council of Teachers of Mathematics for the next two years.

OMEGA
Clarity Gill attended the National Art Education Conference in San Diego in March. She will be traveling to Greece and Italy in June with “People to People,” and as the local AFT President, she will be participating in AFT-WV activities in June and July.

ALPHA DELTA
Band Directors, Sherry Poole and Radonna Hess were inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Elite bandmasters’ fraternity at the 2014 WV State Music Convention in Wheeling, WV in March.

ALPHA KAPPA
Jennifer (JJ) Butts was selected Moorfield Intermediate School Teacher of the Year.

Donna See will be retiring on June 30, 2014, from the WV School for the Deaf and Blind.

ALPHA MU
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Alpha Mu Chapter met on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at Cameron Middle/High School. Whitney Healy took us on a tour of the lovely new facility.

President Linda Gardill called the meeting to order following the tour. She shared the AKT display board and gave a brief overview of the society’s beginnings and described our chapter’s projects.

Because we did not have our bake sale at the Court House this spring, we will be raffling another gift card wreath. We will also be doing the Flea Market at St. Jude on June 14.

A Huge THANK YOU to Delta Chapter for hosting an outstanding state convention.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eta
Jana Grantham Barrett  Ruth Potts
Ann Eberson  Rachel Ringer
Kristin Friend  Colleen Stotler
Kandy Kulus  Elaine Unmone
Tia Myers  Sonja Waters
Rachel Potts  Heather Williams

Kappa
Heidi Griffth  Natalie Coots
Nu  Mildred Sancy
Mary Dale Kruse  Amanda Meadows

Xi
Barbara Holesapple  Donna Heliger
Martha Ashworth  Wilhelminia Ashworth

Alpha Phi State extends deepest sympathy to the following members and their families:
- in the death of their in-law, in the death of their brother, in the death of their grandfather, in the death of their mother-in-law, in the death of their father, and in the death of their son.  

Alpha Phi State extends deepest sympathy to the following members and their families:
- in the death of their husband, to the following members and their families:

-- Alpha Phi State extends deepest sympathy to the following members and their families:

Welcome New Babies

Mu
Congratulations to Ashley Williams and her husband, on the birth of their fifth child, Maxwell Bo, born on February 22, 2014.

Alpha Mu
Congratulations to Katy Dantrassy and her husband on the birth of their daughter, Gabrielle.

Also, congratulations to Sue Alkire (Alpha Kappa) on the birth of a grandson.

R.O.S.E. AWARD

“Recognizing Our Star Educators”
It is a pleasure to recognize these ladies who have the “wisdom to share and the passion to care.”

Rebecca Catlett - Eta
Regina Sherman - Eta
Robin Chancey - Alpha Delta
Kadonna Hess - Alpha Delta
Sherry Poole - Alpha Delta
Mary Gunter - Alpha Delta
Vicki Saville - Alpha Delta

2014 Chapter Milestone Birthdays

45 Years
Alpha Epsilon – April 12, 1969

50 Years
Tau – March 31, 1964
Uspsilon – May 9, 1964
Phi – May 16, 1964

60 Years
Nu – July 24, 1954

65 Years
Iota – October 22, 1949

BRAVO!! BRAVO!!

“Bravo” and special thanks to the twenty-two (yes, we counted them ... 22!!) awesome ladies who participated in the Alpha Phi State Chorus at Convention in Parkersburg! With very limited rehearsal time, these amazing vocalists presented an enjoyable sing-along if you like, toe-tapping program at the President’s Banquet, and two beautiful selections for the Memorial Service. This group of ladies was living proof that Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters are truly “Sisters by Heart”!

Sincere appreciation is extended to each and every vocalist and our accompanist, for your time, effort, and willingness to create memorable musical moments that inspired all in attendance. Add to that the energetic and happy personalities, smiles galore, and unbridled dedication of everyone participating, and you have the recipe for One Fabulous Chorus!! It was certainly an unforgettable musical weekend!

Two final notes (no pun intended):

1. I would be extremely appreciative if those ladies who did not pre-register to sing in the chorus would send me your name, chapter name, and voice part. In my child-like enthusiasm and excitement of working with such a large group, I failed to have you sign in – oops! Please accept my apology! I would love to include your names in my files!

2. If you still have the music that was performed, kindly send it to me at the address below. Two of the selections are the property of Alpha Phi State and one is the property of my church. Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

Again, my thanks for an incredible time of music making, sharing, and getting to know you all better! May you always be blessed with a song in your heart!

Kathy Bennett, Eta, Alpha Phi Music Chairman
P.O. Box 183, Bunker Hill, WV 25413
ronandkathybennett@hotmail.com
2014 ALPHA PHI STATE

Executive Committee Worked Hard on Friday Afternoon

Members Looked for Good Deals at Friday Evening Auction

Members and Officers Directed Their Attention to Society Business

Outstanding Workshops and Training Were Offered to Chapter Officers and Members

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Chapter Projects Were Evaluated By Judges

Founder’s Day Luncheon Was Well Attended and Enjoyed By All

Banquet Attendees Enjoyed Good Food, Renewed Friendships, Heard Excellent Speakers and Honored Their Sisters

2014 Convention Concluded with Memorial Service and Awards Breakfast