



NEWSETTE

A Note from the Editor

During a typical Summer edition of the Newsette you would be seeing photos and articles about West Virginia State’s Leadership Conference. You’d be reading articles about the State Achievement Award winner, Publication Awards, and photos of chapter meetings where new officers had been installed.

This edition is not the typical Summer Newsette. This Spring, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) spread across the world and affected everyone’s lives. No one has been untouched by this pandemic. Graduations have been cancelled, weddings postponed, schools converted to virtual learning, doctors appointments held over the phone, and so much more.

West Virginia State members were asked to contribute to this special edition of the Newsette with articles, poems, stories, and photos that represent Delta Kappa Gamma during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We hope this is a one-of-a-kind Newsette, and we return to our traditional editions in the Fall.

Connie Boggs
Newsette Editor

Island By Langston Hughes

Wave of sorrow,
Do not drown me now:
I see the island
Still ahead somehow.
I see the island
And its sands are fair:
Wave of sorrow, Take me there.

From: Langston Hughes, Selected Poems, NY: Knopf, 1989.

Resilience

By Rebecha Catlett
Eta Chapter

Faith and Optimism

Propelling me forward

As I swim

Through quicksand before

Traversing a mountain to

Stand at the summit

Arms raised high above my head,

Face to the sun,

Smiling.

A genuine smile

Deep and wide,

Cutting a winding path

Through the hard places

And rough crags.

The sunrise, gold and crimson

Meeting the storm clouds,

Undeniably cold and gray.

Bluebells shout and tulips whisper

Through raindrops

Deciding the rain is perfectly welcome.

Light trades places with darkness.

“It’s all about perspective,”

The stars remind me.

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A Note from the President...

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.



Author - Catherine M. O'Meara

Dear Ladies,

It has come to my attention that some of our chapters have already been working on scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and the like in anticipation of turning them in this year at our Leadership Convention (which didn't happen). Glenda suggested that you save them and add more to them to turn in to the Convention next year in Charleston.....April 23-25. We'll be happy to see them then.

May you all be safe and healthy in the next few weeks. Take care of yourselves and your families!

Christy Groves, Chairman
Publication Awards Committee

Here was a short anecdote about my virtual experiences during this pandemic;

Instead of planning for retirement, this pandemic has lead me to become a virtual teacher. My first zoom meeting with my fourth-grade class found me on one site with my students having a ball for ten minutes on the original zoom meeting site. My first text message was also memorable. I texted my colleague, "How many pumpkins do we need for a latitude /longitude project for four classes?" Part of her text message in return read, "I need 2. I" with the rest of the message on the next line. I read this as 21, so I came home from the farmer's market with 21 large basketball-sized pumpkins instead of two.

Peggy Grantham, Eta Chapter

Musings from our 1st Vice President...

One of the definitions of **resilience** in my Webster's Dictionary is---the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change. We, as a nation, are faced with the daily uncertainty of a serious health crisis that impacts our families, friends and ourselves. No matter how dire or tragic my situation may become, I always try to find some positive effect this crisis may provide. One of my fourth-grade students had this outlook on the day of Sept. 11th. My students were in their Physical Education class and I was listening to the TV grading papers as the tragedy unfolded before my eyes. My superintendent told parents they could take their children home if they so wished. By 11:00 a.m., I had 5 students left in my class looking very apprehensive and frightened. It was difficult to reassure them we were safe at school. My little guy, Dallas, wanted to share his positive outlook with us and said, "Hey, guys, this just means more chicken fries for us at lunch!"

My wish for all of our DKG sisters is the COVID-19 virus does not directly impact you. May you find a positive change in your life as we experience our new normal. It may be organized closets, better computer skills as we reach out to our family and friends, a chance to help our neighbors, or just enjoying the time to slow our hectic pace to enjoy that book we wanted to read. Stay safe.

Linda Arbogast, 1st Vice President

Musings from our 2nd Vice President...

Pastor, author, motivational speaker, and televangelist, Robert Schuller once said, "Tough times never last, but tough people do". Never in our wildest dreams would we have thought that something like this coronavirus would hit our world and change our lives forever. Who knows what our future will look like once this pandemic is over? It's a humbling thought. In my wildest dreams, I would have never wished I'd bought stock in of all things, "toilet paper"! Oh, but I wish I had! The times we are facing are unprecedented, but as DKG members we are resilient. We are "tough" and we will last.

These past few months have been a challenge for all of us. Many of us have missed many wonderful opportunities. I missed a trip to North Carolina to celebrate an uncle's 80th birthday. Friends missed celebrating birthdays with their grandchildren; others postponed weddings and sadly, funerals. For the first time, that I am aware of, we were not able to hold a WV State Leadership Conference. How sad for our sisters of DKG. President, Dr. Glenda Wait held a short ZOOM meeting and 41 people joined to hear words of encouragement.

As new presidents are elected (now from a different platform than our traditional meeting format) they will begin yet another biennium, one of hope and promise. Some chapters are struggling with membership and with filling offices. The State membership committee is here to help. If you need assistance with membership concerns, please reach out (jenkinsvicki00@gmail.com). One idea worth sharing is the idea of a DKG buddy. We had electronic buddies for our members who did not use the computer. We made sure each member had all the information being transmitted throughout the chapter. This idea can be expanded to link veteran members with new members as a form of mentorship. The buddy role could be the new member sponsor or someone close to the new member (school colleague or friend). By calling, emailing, writing encouraging notes, etc., a new member can be made to feel valued and wanted. Isn't that what we all want, to feel valued and wanted? Let's join our hearts and minds together in fulfilling those seven purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma, the first of which is: **"To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship"**. We will last!

By Vicki Jenkins

Nu

Like many other organizations, our in-person meetings have been put on hold because of the "Safer at Home" restrictions. Our members have stayed in touch with one another, Betty McMillion remarked that each day she has friends checking on her. Meg Ashby and Margaret McCutcheon have sewn masks for family and friends. Several members have volunteered to distribute food boxes to families to replace the breakfasts and lunches children would have received at school. Lauren Jarroll has been videotaped reading stories for the children's lesson in worship services at Summersville Presbyterian Church.

We have elected our next biennium's officers electronically, as well as selecting the recipient of our Recruitment Grant. Rotha Young has been elected to be Nu Chapter's President. She will be assisted by Dr. Marilyn Rogers, Peggy Crowe, Ramona Beverage, Carol Marsh, Linda Taylor, Sharon Lipps, and Lauren Jarroll. We are planning to have picnic this summer, to "wrap up" any unfinished business of the 2018-2020 biennium.

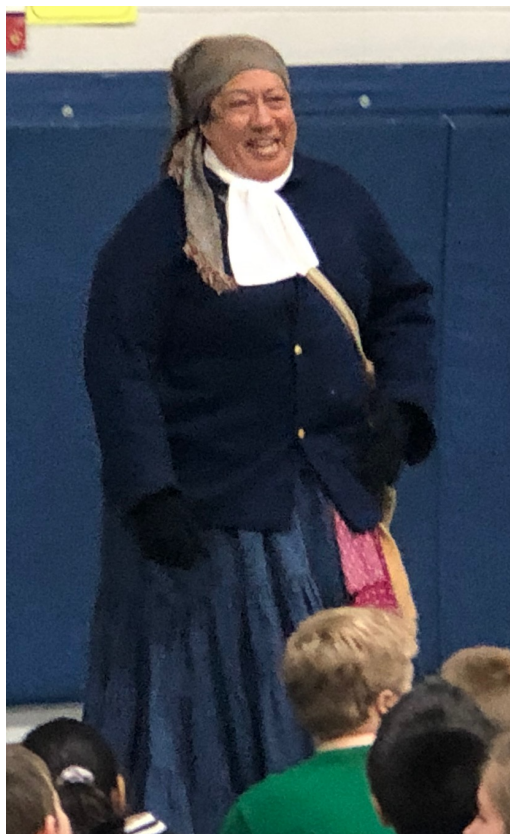


News from the Chapters

Alpha Beta

On Monday, March 9, Harriet Tubman visited the fourth & fifth graders at Buckhannon Academy Elementary School in Buckhannon, compliments of Alpha Beta chapter. Ms. Ilene Evans, in coordination with the History Alive program & Voices from the Earth, performed as Harriet Tubman. Using singing & student participation, Miss Ilene told the story of Harriet's involvement with the Underground Railroad.

Alpha Beta chapter is happy to sponsor this opportunity to bring the life of this amazing woman to the students. Delta Kappa Gamma celebrates & encourages women to be leaders: this program definitely shows a strong woman leading others.



Alpha Beta recognizes

Bea Burnside - Buckhannon-Upshur High School Teacher of the Year

Kayla Yocum - Union Elementary School Teacher of the Year

Mu

Mu Chapter's March meeting was held on March 7th at Spencer Elementary School. Members enjoyed a brunch prepared by Roane County members. The program was a Spring craft make and take led by Doris Weekley.



Amber Taylor, Erika Harper, and Doris Weekley make wash cloth bunnies.

Alpha Kappa

As things are slowly getting back to normal, we are hoping that we will be fully back by October. Hopefully, we will be able to have a summer executive planning committee to plan our next biennial so that we can get our handbooks ready.

We have selected officers by internet and have submitted them to state and national. We are encouraging everyone to pay their dues by June 1, have collected money for the Thirst for Learning Project, and we are still collecting items for the Domestic Violence Shelter. In addition, we are collecting WVU items for the West Virginia School in Argentina started by Ruby Alvaro's exchange student.

Madison Wilkins from Hampshire County received the chapter scholarship. Rosanne Glover was selected as a CWU Key Woman and in December she accompanied one of her former students, Mindy Cookman Ratcliff, as she performed at a private event at the White House.

Eta

Eta Chapter members continued to complete important and inspiring work during this unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty. In April, Eta Chapter awarded \$700 Grants-In-Aid to three very deserving women pursuing degrees in education at Shepherd University. The Grants-In-Aid Committee, co-chaired by members Laura Richmond and Julia Linaweaver, planned and organized extremely successful AND FUN fundraisers, including two themed auctions, in order to make these impressive awards possible (\$2,100 total). Laura Richmond worked closely with the staff at Shepherd University to ensure that the awards would be granted to the recipients in a timely fashion, in spite of the challenges posed by COVID-19. Eta Chapter's longstanding Grants-in-Aid program serves to support local Early Career Educators.

Eta Chapter's next meeting will be in September in Berkeley County. At that time the new members will be inducted and officers will be installed. Members can't wait to be together again!

Alpha Epsilon

Three members of Alpha Epsilon are celebrating 50 years of membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. They are Melva Hess, Darlene Fink, and Vera Graham. They will receive 50-year pins for their dedication to Delta Kappa Gamma.

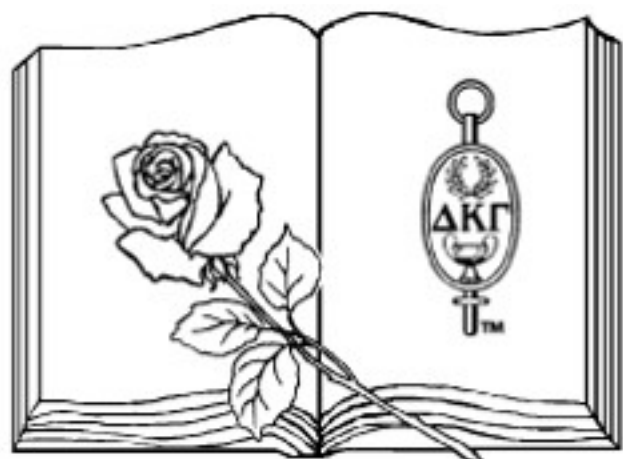


Thoughts About the Coronavirus

Vickie Skavenski

White Roses

Dr. Esther Gail Dryer (Alpha Beta)
February 2, 2020

*Condolences*

Rebecca Custer (Eta Chapter) in the death of her son, Christopher Custer.

Anna Flint (Mu Chapter) in the death of her husband in April.

Jackie McDaniels (Alpha Beta) in the death of her brother, Jeff.

Carolyn Harper (Alpha Kappa) on the death of her husband.

Rosanne Harper Glover (Alpha Kappa) on the death of her brother.

Peggy High (Alpha Kappa) on the death of her sister.

Bett Sims (Eta Chapter) in the death of her father, Ken Sims.

Our president, Glenda Wait, says that we must be resilient. I think West Virginia teachers have always been resilient, and after 34 years in the public school system, I am convinced that we probably have done more with our students with less resources than any other state. We didn't always have everything, but we made sure that our students didn't suffer if we had to take the money from our own pockets.

I still have 80 rose suckers frozen that will appear somewhere along the way, and if you are interested in a painting project next year at the state meeting, let me know—I have a really nice home canvas ready that we didn't use at our joint meeting with Eta.

That said, I would like to look at some of the positive things that were the result of this virus and our period of isolation.

- Life slowed down for most of us. We were no longer rushing to meetings and preparing presentations for meetings. We just had time to stop and breathe.
- Closets that had not been touched in years were cleaned because we suddenly had the time. Goodwill, the Salvation Army, and Thrift stores will greatly benefit from this. Alpha Kappa is saving slightly used bras which we plan to collect in October along with feminine products for the Domestic Violence Shelter.
- Our flowerbeds have probably never looked better, and we have had time to paint and fix the many items on our lists.
- Judging by the lack of flour and yeast in stores, I think there is a whole new generation learning the joy of baking your own bread.
- Many beginners have picked up crocheting, embroidery, and quilting by ordering kits online.
- We have learned to call and check on our neighbors.
- We have made masks which have been distributed to local businesses, the nursing homes, churches, fire and rescue squads, local trucking firms, etc. This not only gave us the opportunity to help others, but it cleaned out all those pieces of fabric that we had stashed away.
- Finally, if you are like me, you thought about a day that you would quit coloring your hair and just go natural. The only bad thing was that you didn't want people seeing all the different stages. I had my hair cut short in January and since no one has really seen me that much, you will be surprised at this new shade. I hope many more of you took advantage of this time, too.



LEADING WOMEN EDUCATORS
IMPACTING EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

Blast from the Past... Summer 2000

Here's a photograph from the Summer 2000 edition of the Newsette featuring State Achievement winners. At the 2000 State Convention, Carol Watson was honored with the award. In the article, Carol said "The honor of receiving this award cannot be stated... So many people have helped to be my guides and to be my mentors. The Society and its members have given so much to me."



Carol Watson (back, right) was joined by her *Alpha Phi* State Achievement Award sisters who hold the prestigious award. Seated Helen Kiser, *Phi*, 1981; Gladys Gwynn, *Xi*, 1987; Catherine Apel, *Alpha*, 1985; Phyllis Osenton, *Theta*, 1988; Standing: Frances Witten, *Phi*, 1990; Eleanor Ann Shirley, *Eta*, 1991; Kathryne Williams, *Xi*, 1995; Rebecca Wood, *Alpha*, 1996; Kathleen Bennett, *Eta*, 1997; Alberta Huggins, *Epsilon*, 1998; Margaret Sims, *Epsilon*, 1999; Carol Watson, *Alpha*, 2000. Absent for the photo were Beatrice Harvey, *Iota*, 1971; Winifred Newman, *Beta*, 1972; Laura Hedrick, *Delta*, 1975; Catherine Morrison, *Kappa*, 1983; Margaret Grizzell, *Beta*, 1984; Billie Jean Hutsepiller, *Iota*, 1992; Emma Mae Matthews, *Chi*, 1994.

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DKG™



West Virginia
State Organization