



Alpha Zeta State News

*Seek Commitment, Embrace Connections and Celebrate Achievement
As We Share Our Vision, Strengthen Our Society*

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

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International Convention 2014

Nineteen Alpha Zeta State sisters joined with delegates from around the world to attend the 2014 International Convention in Indianapolis. New Jersey's delegates, including seven sisters attending an international convention for the first time, enjoyed five days of outstanding speakers, eye-opening workshops, entertaining presentations, wonderful accommodations, well-run meetings, and renewing and establishing genuine friendships.



Opening Session of DKG's 2014 International Convention

The convention speakers included keynote speaker Sarah Sladek, author of *The End of Membership As We Know It* and *Knowing Y: Engage the Next Generation Now*. Ron Rosenberg demonstrated how to double each participant's memory and Dr. Ellen Kennedy enlightened members concerning the effects of human trafficking. Then, too, more than 100 informative workshops were offered. It is no wonder the Jersey Girls described the convention experience as informative, enlightening, and motivating.

AZS remains especially proud of Carmela DeMarco, Claire Swanson, Judy Merz and Judi Nappi who served as workshop presenters. Carmela also participated as a panel member for a discussion on global peace and she was elected as the NE representative to the US Forum. Barbara Henderson represented New Jersey as a member of the international chorus and Barbara Smith and Joyce Palumbo enjoyed front row seats at the opening session by being in the first twenty-five members to register for the convention. Barbara was later randomly selected out of approximately 1,400 registrants as the "Big Winner" for the Meet the Block prize. She received a paid registration and meals to the 2016 International Convention in Nashville.

AZS is very appreciative of Irene Maskaly and Saula Cutter who substituted as state photographers for the event. The results of their talents may be viewed on the AZS website.

The convention concluded with the installation of Dr. Lyn Schmid as the 2014-2016 DKG International President. Dr. Schmid shared her vision for DKG and her theme for the biennium: *85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life*.



From the desk of Mary Conover, AZS President...

Sharing the Indy Experience...

Although the nineteen AZS sisters attending the 2014 DKG International Convention in Indianapolis didn't learn *everything* we need to know at Indy, we certainly learned a lot and about a lot of topics! Since each day was filled with speakers, workshops, meetings, and networking, it is not surprising that when I asked the Jersey Girls to share what they learned, I received seven pages of notes!

International is increasing efforts to share the convention experience with all members. This year the opening session was live streamed for members not in attendance to enjoy. Then too, information from workshops, including copies of hand-outs, is posted on the DKG website. What wonderful opportunities to vicariously attend an international convention!

Hopefully, AZS members will benefit not only from International's efforts to share the convention experience but also from AZS sisters' willingness to share their convention experiences. Undoubtedly, the Jersey Girls have shared stories of the laughter and friendships developed during the week and our wonderful volunteer photographers, Saula Cutter and Irene Maskaly, guided by State Photographer Michele Contala, have posted a visual record of the fun and events of the convention. However, perhaps even more important than our personal enjoyment – and convention certainly was fun – are the insights recorded by the nineteen Jersey Girls who attended.

We attended sessions on topics ranging from parliamentary procedures to crafting favors for meetings. However, information concerning attracting and retaining multi-generational members, the topic of keynote speaker Sarah Sladek, was of most interest to AZS sisters. Our interest in multigenerational membership reflects our state-wide commitment to include members of Generations X and Y as members and leaders in our chapters and to support involvement and mutual understanding and respect among all generations within our chapters. Furthermore, this topic directly connects with the challenge to chapters to "solve the equation" of initiating $2 X/Y + 2 \text{ or } > 2 X/Y/BB = S^2$ (4 AZS) prior to or at our state convention.

Therefore, I hope the following facts/insights selected from our #1 topic of interest, attracting and retaining multigenerational members, will allow every chapter to benefit from Convention 2014, via the nineteen sisters designated as the Jersey Girls of Indy.

Generations X and Y:

- Rely on technology (*digital natives* as opposed to Baby Boomers who are *digital immigrants*)
- Value the global environment and diversity
- See self as independent of job as opposed to Baby Boomers who tend to identify with their employment
- See age/experience as no barrier to leadership or participation
- Seek to make a difference in their community and the world
- Consider time to be a precious commodity
- Offer DKG strengths of multi-tasking, creativity, uniqueness, innovativeness, being constant learners

To Encourage Generations X and Y Members:

- Provide opportunities for involvement in short-term and long-term projects (avoid monetary collections beyond dues)
- Communicate in brief and/or bulleted messages via multi technological avenues
- Avoid inclusiveness and stereotyping of age groups
- Share materials from international
- Plan short business meetings
- Utilize strengths of all generations

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"Challenge the chapters to solve the equation of $2X/Y + 2 \text{ or } > 2X/Y/BB = S^2$ (4AZS)"

Alpha Zeta State News

Official publication of the Alpha Zeta State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International published three times a year

2013-2015

Mary Conover,
President

Barbara Smith, *First Vice-President*

Sharon Long, *Second Vice-President*

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Carol Schwartz,
Recording Secretary
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Newsletter

Dr. Margaret Niemiec,
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Circulation

Sharing the Indy Experience...*Continued from Page 2*

For Success in Attracting Generations X and Y

- Develop new markets
- Build trust: Be consistent, transparent, and technologically available (Groups without websites may not be trusted!)
- Inspire evangelists for DKG
- Provide professional development opportunities
- Provide support for the challenges presented by today's educational settings
- Advertise the benefits of DKG membership as outcome-based benefits (What do members receive for their dues?)
- Adapt and share leadership
- Celebrate history but plan your destiny (become visionaries)
- Apply the EIO test to your chapter/state: Exclusive – What can you provide that no one else provides? Included – What do you provide that is included in the once-a-year dues? Online – Are you doing everything you can do online?
- Provide a solution to a need. Initiates join to solve a problem/meet a need. To stay they must find that solution.
- Involve members quickly after initiation. Generations X and Y join organizations IF the organization is seen as viable. They appreciate challenges and change.
- Include some activities just for fun
- Create an environment constantly promoting the benefits of membership

Benefits of DKG for All Members Include:

- Resume building
- Involvement in local projects
- Project SEE mentoring
- Scholarships/Stipends/Grants
- Opportunities for global involvement (World Fellowship, Schools for Africa, chapter projects)
- Leadership training
- Opportunities to be published
- In-service/professional development credits
- Travel opportunities
- Legislative awareness
- Transferability
- Personal growth
- Access to networking
- Recognition for excellence

In Planning Membership Strategies Consider:

- Recruit: Identify schools without members. Check with boards of education. Focus on benefits of membership. Show an interest in initiates.
- Engage: Involve initiates immediately. Make members feel appreciated; recognize them publicly and privately. Provide opportunities for success.
- Retain: Publicize chapter success. Involve all members. Transport to meetings, conventions, and conferences. Have fun!
- Reinstate: Sponsor an alumni night and reunite former members. Use personal contact with former members.

Contact any of the AZS members who attended for additional information/insights. Then too, if you want to “see” for yourself what information can be gained from an international or regional event, start packing for the Baltimore Conference, July 11-16, 2015 for fun, friendship, and information! Be there . . . for real!

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS International Convention 2014

*Courtesy of
Irene Maskaly and Saula Cutter*



The Finish Line Is in Sight, And the Winners Are ... The Chapters!

*Babette Wise and Faith Steinfert,
Rules/Bylaws Co-chairs*

While we certainly could not have predicted the challenges that we have faced since becoming Alpha Zeta State Rules and Bylaws Co-chairs, we also could not have known how grateful we would be for getting to know and work with the outstanding Alpha Zeta State women with whom we have shared this mission. Your updated Chapter Rules, so well aligned with the International Constitution and State Bylaws and reflective of individual chapter practices and policies, are a testament to your hard work and dedication to this undertaking. You are to be commended for persevering to see that they become a living, working document.

The finish line is in sight. With that in mind, the deadline for the final copy of chapter rules – revised and approved by your chapter -- has been set for June 1, 2015. We have all grown as a result of this project and as President Conover said, “We don’t need puzzles and mazes for our brain ... we have rules and bylaws.”

At the AZ State Meeting on September 6, 2014, the Rules and Bylaws Co-chairs presented proposals submitted by the Scholarship Committee for changing the Alpha Zeta State Standing Rules. We will present these proposals to the membership for a vote at the Alpha Zeta State Convention on April 18, 2015. One proposal will add language which will provide a consistent and specific time frame for submitting applications for scholarships, and the other will substitute a more precise and commonly used word for another outdated, less effective term. As this is a standing rule, in accordance with Article XV. D of the Alpha Zeta State Bylaws, the proposed changes to the Standing Rules may be amended at any annual convention by a majority vote of registered members in attendance at the business meeting.

We look forward to receiving the final approved copy of your chapter rules by June 1, 2015. In addition, when your chapter History and Archives Committee assembles, organizes, and updates selected materials for the archives at Georgian Court University, consider keeping a copy of your chapter rules in the archives.

Thank you so much for your gracious support during this challenging as well as exciting time of making chapter rules rule!

Looking Forward to the 2015 AZS Convention Programs

Barbara Smith, AZS 1st Vice President/Program Planning Chair

Plans for the 2015 AZS Convention to be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Somerset, NJ, are underway.

This year we expect to have the pleasure of sharing our convention with a special guest speaker. Our next issue will announce her identity.

This year we look forward to having five workshops/presentations and one book discussion for both the morning and afternoon scheduled time allotments. The programs offer something for everyone, professionally and personally.

More details about the workshops will be posted in the winter newsletter along with the book discussion titles. Each chapter has the opportunity to vote on two books of their choice at their first chapter meeting of the year. All votes are due October 30th and the top two most popular books will be selected for the book discussions. The books will be announced via email to each chapter and will be posted on the web page for easy reference.

AZS always offers Professional Development Certificates for attendees at each workshop/presentation and book discussion. Facilitators distribute the certificates after the program is completed.

Please remember to register for the convention as soon as the registration is ready this year. It’s important for us to order our rooms through the hotel so AZS receives credit for booking the rooms for our convention. This helps to keep all our costs down so we can offer you a quality, fun and memorable convention.

More information will be provided as it becomes available. Watch the state website at <http://dkgalphazetastate-nj.weebly.com/> for the most recent information.

We are looking forward to a wonderful convention and seeing so many of our AZS members from around the state.

Attention All Artists!

We need you for an Alpha Zeta State Arts and Humanities display at the 2016 DKG Convention. Start planning your entries.... More details to follow. Questions: please contact...Irene Maskaly (wesrosee@verizon.net), Jan Wilson (janie918@optonline.net), Barbara Henderson, (barbnhen@yahoo.com), or Linda Adams (lin150@ptd.net).

Membership Update

Sharon Long, Membership Chair

The theme for out-going International President Beverly Helms' biennium and Convention 2014 was ***Sharing Our Vision ~ Strengthening Our Society***. In support of the 2012-2014 theme the keynote speaker and many of the workshops at the international convention held in Indianapolis spoke to the issues of membership. Delegates left the convention energized to recruit key women educators.

Alpha Zeta State has taken up the challenge to strengthen our society with a new initiative: **Solve the Equation for Success and Sustainability for AZS** - $2 X/Y + 2$ or $> 2 X/Y/BB = S^2$ (4 AZS). Translation: Two of any combinations of Generations X and/or Y + two or more of any generation equals success and sustainability for AZS.

Chapters initiating two women from Generations X and/or Y plus a minimum of two additional women from any generation from September 1, 2014 to April 18, 2015 will receive recognition at convention for supporting the success and sustainability of AZS.

Two forms, the Confirmation of Invitation to Membership (one per chapter) and the Recommendation for Membership/ Form 11 (one for each initiate) are due to state membership chair, Sharon Long, by **March 1st**. Both forms are posted on the state website.

GIVE A LITTLE... GAIN A LOT!

Making its runway debut at the June State meeting, this fashionable garment serves as a reminder of the benefits one can gain by taking a leadership role in one's chapter or our state's committees. This particular garment traveled to Indianapolis this summer.



AZS members on DKG

Several of our members have been appointed to take an active role on DKG committees. Claire Swanson (*Alpha*) is the 2014-2016 Chair of the International Communications and Publicity Committee; Judy Merz (*Alpha*) remains Editor of the Bulletin; Nora Pollard (*Lambda*) will serve on the Editorial Board, 2014-2018.

Carmela DeMarco continues her term as the elected Northeast Representative on the U.S. Forum Steering Committee. We are extremely proud of all of our sisters' work!

Wanted: Regional Conference Presenters

The staff and regional directors of DKG are excitedly planning for the 2015 regional conferences, including accepting proposals for the breakout sessions. The sessions should address one of the following strands: Technology, 21st Century Teaching and Learning, Personal & Professional Growth, or DKG Society.

Anyone wishing to present a breakout session may find the Proposal Form on the homepage of the DKG website under EVENTS, then CONFERENCES.

Completed forms for presenting at The Northeast Conference are due to Dr. Kay Clawson, Northeast Regional Director, no later than January 10, 2015. Let's share our AZS knowledge, talents, and ideas with our northeast sisters in Baltimore!!

Collegial Magazine Needs a Name

One of the exciting events of the Indianapolis Convention was the approval of a new DKG publication that will include practical tips related to teaching, reviews of educational materials and technology, as well as personal reflections and creative work.

All DKG members have a chance to suggest a title and perhaps win a complimentary registration to the regional conference! Members may submit possible titles to bulletin@dkg.org by October 31st, 2014. Details concerning submission requirements for articles will be published in the DKG NEWS.

Scholarship/Stipend Committee AWARDEES AND DEADLINES

JoAnne Applegate and Jean Jaeger, Committee Chairs

The Scholarship/Stipend Committee is pleased to announce that two stipends were awarded at the September 2014 State Meeting. Virginia Holden of Omicron was awarded a \$300 grant to be used to register for a workshop entitled **Google Educator Boot Camp**. Janel Schaefer of Xi was awarded a \$900 grant to help with expenses related to her attendance at the ISTE 2015 Conference she will be attending. Congratulations to Virginia and Janel!

December 15 is the next deadline for applications for the Elizabeth Bozearth Scholarship, the Margaret Abel Scholarship and the Professional Growth Stipend. All information needed to apply can be found on the AZS web site.

AZ STATE CHAPTER NEWS



ALPHA CHAPTER:

Cathy Cleenput, *president*

Alpha Chapter started the year off with a fabulous watercolor lesson, "Strokes of Fellowship," led by our very own Cindy Martin. In addition to our regular meeting, Cindy conducted a lesson that let our sisters explore their inner artist. Cindy used her watercolor workshop to incorporate the arts into the classroom and our personal time. What a wonderful stress reducer!



Alpha's watercolor lesson

Claire Swanson is now the International Communications and Publicity Committee Chair! Claire traveled to Austin, Texas throughout the summer to attend meetings. Alpha is always proud of our sisters' involvement in DKG as well as their community service.

Patty Lynch, was selected Athletic Director of the Year for 2013-2014. Patty has been an Athletic Director for 6 years, which have been divided between Cedar Grove and Passaic Valley HS. She is active in the Big North Conference as chairperson for girls' soccer. As an Executive Committee member of the Passaic County Coaches Association, Patty is the director of ice hockey tournament and spring track events.

Peggy Firton is actively involved in the King's Kitchen program. Once a month they help fill a gap in Secaucus' Meals on Wheels program by providing cooked meals, and transporting them to Meals on Wheels recipients who don't have family or friends in the area. Through Peggy's inspiration, at our first meeting, we conducted a Food Bank collection which was tremendously successful.



BETA CHAPTER:

Kelly Johnson, *president*



Samples of Beta's dresses

Woodstown Presbyterian Church, home church of some of our Beta sisters, sponsors mission work in the Dominican Republic. In June, Beta Sisters worked together to create 36 pillow case dresses. Our Beta Chapter President, Kelly Johnson, received another 10 dresses donated by her neighbor making a grand total of 46 youth size dresses with 12 matching purses. Additionally, 18 pairs of shorts were purchased for the boys. Beta sisters hope to continue this service project next year.



GAMMA CHAPTER:

Saula Cutter, *president*

Gamma Chapter was well-represented at the DKG International Convention in Indianapolis. Sisters attending the convention returned to NJ refreshed, renewed, enthused and ready to meet the challenges presented to us by AZS President, Mary Conover. Our first time attendees reported that they now know how important it is for NJ to be well represented and plan on attending all future conventions.

Gamma sisters Toni Halsey and Allison Polanski were recognized at the International convention this summer. They have received their grant funds and are busy instituting their DKG funded S.T.E.A.M. Project in the East Windsor Public Schools.

Recently, Itea Bell changed positions. She is working for Johns Hopkins as a teacher advisor who provide resources and coaching in Philadelphia inner city schools and teaching at Penn State. We are so proud of Itea.

Gamma sister Jan Wilson recently published an article in the Art Educators of New Jersey annual, **Art Beat** magazine. "Morning's With Harry" chronicles how Jan was introduced to art and creativity.

During Gamma's October meeting, sisters created children's games for T.A.S.K., The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Other service projects this year include "Books for Babies" and the Hamilton Animal Shelter.



DELTA CHAPTER:

Karen Cohen, *president*

Delta Chapter held its 12th Annual Beat the Clock Against Breast Cancer 5K Run and 2-mile Walk on Saturday, September 27, 2014. The event attracted approximately 150 runners/walkers including 6 cancer survivors and the President and 1st Vice President of Iota, our sister chapter. In addition, many students from Middle Township High School Student Council, Girls and Boys Soccer, Boys Cross Country and Girls Field Hockey showed their support.

Again this year, Delta Chapter teamed up with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. Although the final figures have not yet been calculated, it is anticipated that we will be donating over \$4,000 to the American Cancer Society to be earmarked for the research and treatment of breast cancer. In addition, we are again able to fund our scholarship program which awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a responsible and academically-focused graduating high school senior who plans to further his/her education.

Delta chapter is grateful to our many sponsors and supporters which include over 38 local businesses, organizations, and individuals without whom the continued success of this project would not be possible.

AZS CHAPTER NEWS

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Cancer survivors, l to r: Candice Zachowski (Iota president), and Delta sisters, Arlene Ostrander, Marge Corson, Karen McCool (Delta past president), Karen Cohen (Delta President) and Sue Pohle After Delta's 5K Run and 2M Walk

EPSILON CHAPTER:

Pam Raynor, *president*

Epsilon Chapter has accomplished much in recent months. The revisions of our Chapter Rules are near completion, thanks in part to our past president, Barbara Henderson. We have collected over \$250 for "Change for Africa". At our September meeting, we filled six large bins of school supplies for DASI in Sussex County and DARCC in Warren County, two of our local organizations that help mothers and children in shelters. Family Solutions, a group that offers short term housing for homeless families, also received needed school supplies. Our first technology night held in mid-October focused on helping sisters with their questions about iPhone/Smart phones and iPads. Our free math tutoring for grades 2-6 began in mid-October in a store front on Main Street, Hackettstown.

The individual accomplishments and successes of Epsilon's sisters are shared in their president's newsletter. Many of the sisters are busy making presentations for their local libraries, at the UN, in Atlantic City for NJEA, and down in DC. Summer adventures took sisters across the USA as well as around the world.

ETA

CHAPTER:

Victoria Warner, *president*

Eta sister Jeanne DelColle and "future Eta sister", Jeanne Muzi, were honored by First Lady MaryPat Christie and the Drumthwacket Foundation on September 30 for a 4th grade unit on NJ inventors that is now on the Foundation website. Lessons are free for educators and celebrate some of the lesser known inventors/inventions of NJ.

Eta sister Jeanne DelColle was a guest panelist at a CCSO conference in Boston on teacher preparation, where she presented a practitioner's perspective and shared some of the work she is currently doing at Stockton. She also presented recommendations on teacher induction from the Garden State Alliance for Strengthening Education at their Taking Back the Profession conference. Jeanne led a peer learning circle on teacher leadership at the NEA Foundation Cross-Site Convening which was keynoted by Marian Wright Edelman and Linda Darling Hammond.

IOTA CHAPTER:



Candice Zachowski, *president*

Camy Kobylinski was hired by NJEA in July 2014 as an Associate Director in the Development and Instructional Issue Division. Debi Steineder was elected to 2nd Vice-President of Atlantic County Council of Education at the spring voting. Candy Zachowski was elected to 1st Vice-President of Gloucester County Retired Educators Association. Arnetta Johnson was elected to 2nd Vice-President of Gloucester County Retired Educators Association. Denise McDermott was elected to Recording Secretary of Gloucester County Retired Educators Association.



KAPPA CHAPTER:

TER:

Mimi Weis, *president*

Five members of Kappa Chapter participated in the 24th Annual Golf Classic and 1st Annual Tennis Classic to support The Arc of Bergen and Passaic. This event was held at the Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ, on October 6, 2014. Kappa's Kathy Walsh, CEO of Arc, headed the Classic, which is the major fund-raiser for Arc, an organization dedicated to assisting individuals and their families with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Kappa President Mimi Weis, co-chair of the Tennis Classic, won the tennis competition. Mimi will chair the Program and Services Committee for The Arc. Pam Miller, a member of the Finance Committee and Second Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, played in the Golf Classic along with Lynn Smith. Betty Hoehne was honored as Emeritus Trustee of The Arc's Board of Trustees and will continue to serve on the Board. Andy Gatto, the new president of The Arc Foundation, paid a fine tribute to Betty Hoehne, who is Immediate Past President of the Foundation.



LAMBDA

DA CHAPTER:

Annabelle Boehm, *president*

Lambda is proud to announce that our sister, Dr. Marilyn Gonyo, has been awarded the Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey (LDANJ) Volunteer of the Year for 2013! We are so proud of all your hard work and dedication!

Dr. Nora Pollard was appointed by International President Dr. Lyn Schmid to a four year term as a member of the Editorial Board. In her role as a member of the Editorial Board, Nora spent two days at headquarters in Austin, TX with fellow board members and editor Dr. Judy Metz reviewing articles, setting themes for the Bulletin for this biennium, and discussing the new collegial journal that was approved at the international convention this summer.

Lambda news continues on next page.

LAMBDA NEWS continued.

AZS CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from previous page.

In her professional role Dr. Pollard was recently promoted to the position of Senior Disability Policy Coordinator at ETS. In her capacity at ETS, Nora has been accepted to present at several local and national conferences. In October, she will present at the New Jersey Affiliate of the Learning Disability Association on the topic of applying for testing accommodations. Nora will present the same topic at the International Dyslexia Association Conference in San Diego in November as well as at The Learning Disability Association Conference in February.

Some of our sisters participated in various professional development activities. Annabelle Boehm and Gayle Faulkner attended the Take Back the Profession Conference on September 27, 2014. Dr. Barbara Glazewski and Annabelle Boehm attended a workshop on classroom teaming strategies sponsored by Kean University on September 19, 2014. Annabelle Boehm will be attending the NJ Association of Learning Consultants Fall Symposium on October 24, 2014 for the new Woodcock Johnson IV training.



M U CHAPTER: Kathy Frieriep, *president*



Mu is celebrating its 45th year as a chapter! Our September meeting included a scrumptious birthday cake, baked by Natalie Smith, Program Chair, in honor of this occasion. Readers might recognize her name - Natalie did a terrific job leading the Jodi Picoult book discussion at AZ State's Convention last April.

Lillie Hendry, a charter member, has begun a video documentary project commemorating the 100 year history of the Court Street School in Freehold and its continuing significance as a community center today. Built in 1915, this was originally a segregated school. Freehold Boro was one of the first school districts in NJ to become integrated in the years between 1950 and 1952. The Court Street School became an integrated K-3 school and remained open until 1974. Lillie was instrumental in creating the Court Street School Education Community Center (CSSECC) to restore and preserve this historic site. The Center's work and value is summarized in the excerpt below from the 1997 Statement of Tribute recorded in the Congressional Record of the House of Representatives:

"In April 1990, the CSSECC began the planning and renovation of the school. Now, the CSSECC is ready to open the doors of this historical landmark for the entire Freehold community to see. This new community center will provide needed programs and support to area youth and their families."

Community centers, like the one in Freehold, are important infrastructures that help facilitate a stronger, compassionate community. It is in this spirit that the CSSECC has stated its mission: "To inspire hope in our children with a team of parents, teachers, volunteers, and CSSECC support staff, singularly dedicated to instill in each child the belief that he or she is a unique gift of perfect love."

Mu supports the work of the CSSECC and Lillie Hendry. As a charter member and a non-stop educator on a mission, she is an inspiration to us all. AZ State agrees and awarded a Professional Growth Stipend to Lillie Hendry in support of her documentary project this year.



XI CHAPTER:

Janel Schafer, *President*



Through its fundraising efforts, Xi Chapter has been able to award several grants and scholarship funds in Atlantic County. This spring, Xi Chapter selected two local educators as recipients of our Teachers Helping Teachers Grants. These grants have allowed these educators to enhance and expand their students' academic experiences.

Our first recipient, Mrs. Mary Ann Devine, engaged her seventh grade Science and Social Studies students in researching and creating unique curriculum-based activities and displays all year long. In June, her Northfield Community School students held an "Imagineering Expo." She used our grant of \$200 to support this creative STEM program.

Our second recipient, Mrs. Cheryl Bonsall, is a Northfield Media Specialist who teaches second through fourth grade students. She had noted that the library's current supply of National Audubon Society Field Guides were immensely popular with her students but were old and in need of replacement. She utilized her grant to purchase nineteen new field guides for the school library. Her enthusiasm and desire to accommodate the reading interests of the students serves to enrich their educational experiences.

Spring of 2015 will be an exciting time, as we offer the inaugural Sisters of Xi Book Award. This \$250 academic scholarship will aid a female undergraduate student majoring in education at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Claudine Keenan, Dean of Education, has offered to host the awards ceremony at the school.

Xi Chapter congratulates these outstanding teachers for their innovative ideas and commitment to expanding student learning beyond the existing classroom curriculum. We are happy to offer financial assistance to an aspiring educator and potential future sister of Delta Kappa Gamma International.



OMICRON CHAPTER:

Gail Starr, *president*



Dr. Judith Stagmier Nappi's article, "The Teacher Leader: Improving Schools by Building Social Capital through Shared Leadership," was published in the DKG Bulletin. At the 2014 DKG International Convention, Judy presented a workshop on the same topic. Participants gained an understanding of how teacher leaders can work within their schools and districts to support teachers, programs, and students.

Congratulations to Omicron sister Barbara Smith who was selected for reserved seating at the Opening Session of this past DKG International Convention held in Indianapolis by

Omicron news continues on next page.

AZS CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from previous page.

OMICRON NEWS continued.

responding to a DKG email blast from International. In addition, Barb won an International Convention raffle prize package, which included a paid registration for the next International Convention as well as several paid meals.

On August 13, 2014, eleven Omicron sisters traveled to Wilmington, Delaware for a tour of the Rockwood Museum guided by Irene Maskaly of Iota Chapter. The museum depicts the way of life during the turn of the 20th century. A special thank you to Irene for taking the time to give our sisters such an extensive tour of this wonderful mansion, which was built in the 1850's by Joseph Shipley, a Quaker merchant banker.



PI CHAPTER:

Robin Atkins, *president*

As part of Pi's SEE project, a "Teacher Shower" for early career educators was held at our first dinner meeting on Oct. 6th. Donations of classroom items and desk supplies from the members filled nine gift bags which were raffled off and given as a surprise to several appreciative new teachers.

A money donation of \$460 was collected at the meeting and given to the American Cancer Society Team Jane Flanagan, a member of Xi Chapter, toward her "Strides Against Cancer" walk goal and in celebration of her success as a survivor.

The highlight of the dinner meeting was guest speaker, renowned author, Tracy Higley. Tracy gave Pi Chapter a look into her travels and her research. She is an author of ancient historical fiction. Tracy made her books available for purchase, signed books for members, and donated a box of her books to teachers for classroom reading of informational texts to comply with the Common Core Standards.

In September the retired Pi members known as "The Formers" purchased tote bags for the working sisters. The Formers gift wrapped the totes and hand delivered them to the members' schools during the opening in-service programs.



RHO CHAPTER:

Dr. Margaret Niemiec, *president*

Agnes Szwec, a charter member of Rho Chapter, was the 2014 recipient of the St. Edward Appreciation Award bestowed on her by St. Edward the Confessor parish in Milford, NJ. Born in 1920, five years before the parish church was built, Agnes' life demonstrates a commitment to parish life and her faith community. She was part of the first class to receive First Holy Communion in 1926. Agnes collected flowers to decorate the church, cleaned the pastor's apart-

ment, and would sing at mass and then go to her "day job" as a teacher. Playing the organ at masses, directing the choir, recruiting children for the children's choir, and extending herself to participate in the Diocesan Choir, as well, were amongst Agnes' accomplishments. Agnes' commitment to St. Edward's included teaching Religious Education, participating in Bible Study and Book Clubs, and much more, all while raising her own seven children. Agnes continues to serve the parish as its historian. Rho Chapter salutes this remarkable woman, the first recipient of the St. Edward Appreciation Award.

Anne Marie Ehler, second vice president of Rho Chapter, attended the summer institute on The Teaching of Reading at Columbia University. Founded by Lucy Calkins, it is an intensive workshop that examines all aspects of Reader's Workshop. During the five days of the institute, attendees explore curriculum development, units of study in reading workshop, comprehension strategy instruction and more.

We began our new year with our revised Chapter Rules which we approved in June. Our efforts at fundraising began at our October 16th dinner meeting with a display and sale of jewelry. Our sisters brought supplies of diapers and baby products for donation to The Center for Great Expectations. Baby blankets made by sisters at our June meeting and throughout the summer were given to the Center.



SIGMA CHAPTER:

Charlotte Orfe, *president*

In order to meet the challenge by DKG International to bring in new members from generations X and Y the members of Sigma realized a new strategy was needed. We needed to make changes and to adopt a new culture of membership that would appeal to cohorts of generation X and Y. As a result, we planned two informal get-togethers in members' homes. In August before the demands of school started, we invited six early educators to a "Wine and Cheese and Decadent Desserts" event. A small group of our members met with the young women in a casual informal gathering. We were able to talk in small groups and give the young women a chance to tell us about themselves. We provided time for the women to talk with each other in their cohort. When we gathered as a group, we told the young guests about the benefits of membership in DKG. We asked them how we could support them in their classrooms throughout the year as well as what programs we could provide to help. The result surprised us. The young women told us of the challenges they faced and very rich conversations resulted. The young teachers were eager to share some of their concerns and fears about teaching. They asked questions and asked for advice. The young women were very appreciative and have expressed an interest in becoming a part of DKG.

We repeated the process on October 9, 2014 with a potluck dinner to target six seasoned teachers and administrators in generation X. We also invited the generation Y teachers again and four returned. This time the rich conversations were incredible. All age barriers disappeared and the energy and passion for teaching was so evident. People were sharing book titles, websites, and ideas. The very newest

Sigma news continues on next page.

AZS CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from previous page.

SIGMA NEWS continued.

teachers were asking for ideas from the experienced teachers. People were reluctant to leave. All of the teachers that attended have expressed a desire to become a part of DKG.

Sisters felt that the energy evident in these multi-generational gatherings expressed the very spirit and purpose of DKG of advancing key women educators and supporting excellence in education.

On September 27th, Sigma held its first meeting of the new year. Plans for the year were discussed and our chapter rules were passed. The highlight of our meeting was our guest speaker, Sister Karen Dietrich SSJ, PhD, Executive Director of Catholic Partnership Schools. (www.catholicpartnershipschoools.org) She spoke of the accomplishments of the organization, the staff and student population. Everyone was impressed by the achievements and success of CPS. Sister asked that anything we could offer CPS as a group or individuals would be greatly appreciated by all, especially the children. Members responded with donations of their time, materials and professional services. Sigma will be working with 2 of the 5 schools in CPS. The event was topped off with a delicious lunch at La Terrazza Restaurant.



TAU CHAPTER:

Susan Beekman, *president*

A theme that has run through our chapter's programs over the past several years has been "Diversity in Educational Settings." Each year we have read and discussed a book about young immigrants struggling to become acclimated to life in the United States. Our chapter's social outreach project, chaired by Roni Tohia, is the Literacy Volunteers of Morris County (LVMC), a tutoring program for ESL adults. At each of our meetings Roni collects voluntary contributions to LVMC and often spends part of her summer vacations tutoring there. This fall Roni is also teaching an eight-week evening class for ESL students at Berkeley College in Dover for LVMC.

Tau members always look forward to join with Alpha, Epsilon, Theta and Kappa sisters for our annual Combined Northern Chapters meeting. This past March we also focused on diversity for our program. Roni chaired a panel discussion of sisters from some of the northern chapters to share ways in which they had worked with non-English speaking students. Linda Rynd of Theta shared her experiences with working with adult immigrants who had joined her church. It was both fun and inspiring to hear Ginny Jones from Alpha, who has worked with Literacy Volunteers in Sussex County, compare her experiences with Roni's. Our guest speaker was Debbie Leon, Executive Director of LVMC.



Jersey Girls at work

Memories from the September 2014 AZS State Meeting

Michelle Contala, AZS Photographer



ASZ Convention



2015

SAVE THE DATES!

Maryjean DiRoberto, Convention Chair

Planning for **Convention 2015** at the Somerset Doubletree is well underway, so hold April 17th -19th for an exciting weekend! Room prices (double - \$131.10, triple - \$142.60, quad - \$154.10) will include the buffet breakfast once again.

We will continue to update the State website with current information concerning registration dates and deadlines. Chapter responsibilities will remain the same as last year and are posted on the website. The January meeting will be very important for chapter convention chairs, so please ensure that your chapter is represented.

Rally your sisters early to plan for a weekend filled with fellowship and fun as we continue to fulfill the purposes of our society.

Dates and Deadlines

October 2014:

- 31 - Nomination and Endorsement forms for AZS officers due
- 31 - Recertification of chapter websites Form 72 due
- 31 - Chapter votes for Convention book discussions due
- 31 - Name suggestions for new DKG collegial publication due

November 2014:

- 1 - Chapter responses to AZS Awards Survey due to Barbara Henderson
- 1 - CTAUN Best Practices Award application due
- 15 - Chapter dues and Form 18 due to Ellen Hahn

December 2014:

- 15 - Applications for AZS Elizabeth Bozearth Scholarship, AZS Professional Growth Stipend and Margaret Abel Scholarship Award due

January 2015:

- 10 - Presenter application forms for the Northeast Regional Conference due
- 10 - State meeting
- 23 - AZS News due
- 30 - CTAUN conference

March 2015:

- 1 - Confirmation of Invitation to Membership and the Recommendation for Membership/ Form 11 due

April 2015:

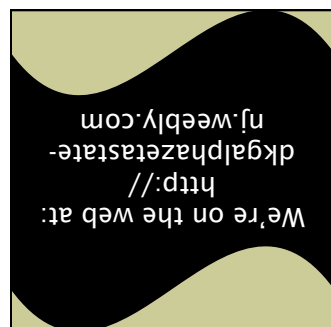
- 17, 18, 19 - AZS State Convention
- 30 - AZS News due

June 2015:

- 6 - AZS Chapter Officers' Training

July 2015:

- 6 - 11 - Northeast Regional Conference, Baltimore, MD



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