

## JUST TWO, LOOK WHAT WE CAN DO!

### A Membership Challenge

by Alpha Mu State President, Audrey Collins

I have been visiting chapters and focusing on membership as a key challenge for our state members. **JUST TWO, LOOK WHAT WE CAN DO!**

I am challenging each chapter to make it their goal to get two new or reinstated members before the state convention in 2019. If each chapter will make it their goal to gain two members, we could welcome at least 40 new members.

Membership is nothing new; however the continued drop in members in Montana is a critical concern. There are fewer individuals to carry out the work of the chapter and the state, fewer people accepting leadership responsibilities, and fewer dues dollars.

Special recognition will be given to those chapters who meet the challenge during our state convention in 2019. Keep in touch with me. If you are holding an initiation, I will cheer you on.

### INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- June 14-15, 2018
- Butte, Montana - place to be announced
- Guest - Carolyn Pittman, International President
- Everyone is invited. Make plans now to participate.

\*\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\*\*

### “Newsy” Notes

Nita Scott has been named Executive Director for Delta Kappa Gamma. She fills the vacancy left by the retirement of Sandra Smith-Bull on June 30, 2017. Thanks for their service to the Society and Congratulations to both on jobs well done.

Hailey Nicholson, a forward for the University of Montana Grizzly Women’s Basketball team is a native of Malta, MT. Her proud grandmother is Doris Nicholson-Whitley, the 1997-1999 Alpha Mu State President.

## DKGNext

### LOOKS AT THE FUTURE OF DKG

Jan Nerem, Omega

“If we did not have this 88-year old organization for women educators, what would we create and why?” That was the challenge presented to ten DKG members who met at International Headquarters in late September and were selected from 140 members who applied to participate. The group included past state presidents, people with committee experience at all levels and some with chapter experience and many questions. What about the Purposes of the Society - are they relevant, are we fulfilling them, does the order suggest importance and if so, how should they be reordered? How can we simplify the work of the Society?

International President Carolyn Pittman and members of the Headquarters Professional Staff facilitated the two-day session considering what DKG is now doing well and how the ideal Society would present itself, and what we needed to know and understand to sustain the future of DKG. Can we draw a blueprint to reach a million members around the world? Do we consider DKG to be an honor society, a professional organization, a society, or a social organization and what are the implications of each. What is the impact of DKG on education and on the world?

Members will be invited to express their opinions, suggestions and ideas during a session during the 2018 Leadership Workshop which will be facilitated by International President Carolyn Pittman and Jan Nerem who represented the Northwest Region. A second opportunity to hear from members will be presented during the International Convention in Austin, TX in July. **WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

### SIMPLIFY SIMPLIFY

International has announced that they will no longer require a biennial report from chapter presidents and committees. They have responded to a request to simplify the paperwork.

HOWEVER they have provided a SIMPLE survey to help state presidents gather information. I will be asking you to complete that survey to help me get a better picture of what’s going on in chapters around the state. I promise it will be quick and easy to do.

I will email it to all chapter presidents by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you don’t get the survey, please contact me. Thanks in advance for your help.

Audrey

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### “Sad” News

Word has been received of the passing of Dr. Alice Cheatley of Manitoba. Dr. Cheatley was a member of the Educational Foundation Board of Trustees and arranged three Seminars in Purposeful Living. She served as Second Vice-President of the Society in 1980-82 and was the recipient of the 1983 Achievement Award.



**“CONNECTING,  
MOVING FORWARD  
AND  
FOCUSING ON  
MEMBERSHIP”**

by

*Alpha Mu State President  
Audrey Collins*

I send warm greetings and hope you all had a blessed holiday season. As we enter January and make plans, resolutions and/or goals for the New Year, I hope that you are getting your DKG to-do list in order.

Since it is a new year, it seems like a perfect time to kick off a new state project. I asked for your ideas for a project and I appreciate your input. The project for the biennium will be IN TOUCH WITH TEACHERS, IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS. I wanted to launch a project that would tie all of our chapters together to achieve a greater good, but allow each chapter to place their focus on what is most meaningful to its members and its community. I want to be able to document the impact our DKG chapters have, but leave flexibility to address your own priorities.

Please spend some time in your chapters discussing the possibilities and make a plan to get IN TOUCH WITH TEACHERS, and work IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS. I will be sending chapter presidents a form to document and track your efforts. These efforts could be measured in terms of time, monetary support or events. I will offer some ideas but invite you to be creative and chart your own course. Please feel free to contact me with ideas, questions or concerns.

I know that many chapters already do projects that benefit schools, but I hope that all chapters will explore ways to increase their impact or find new ways to support teachers. My reasoning is twofold. By targeting direct contact with current teachers, I hope that you are able to identify prospective members while increasing the visibility of DKG in your local schools. Additionally, it fits with the International project to support early career educators.

I have one other important bit of news for 2018. International sent a message that they will no longer require a biennial report from presidents and committees. They have responded to a request to simplify the paperwork, so there will not be a Form 7 or Form 54 for 2018. They have provided a SIMPLE survey to help state presidents gather information. I will be asking you to complete that survey to help me have a better picture of what's going on in chapters around the state, but I promise it will be quick and easy to do! I will email it to all chapter presidents by January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you don't get it, please contact me. Thanks in advance for your help.

*I look forward to hearing about the exciting things happening in your chapters!*

**Alphamusings (USPS 014-760)**

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**DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER**

- February 1, 2018** - International Education Foundation - Cornet Individual Professional Development (CIPD) Awards
- February 1, 2018** - Applications for Alpha Mu State Scholarships due to Genelle Hocevar
- February 23, 2018** - Deadline for articles for March 2018 issue of *Alphamusings* due to Joyce English
- April 13, 2018** - 78<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Alpha Mu State
- May 11, 2018** - 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Delta Kappa Gamma
- June 14-15, 2018 - Leadership Development Seminar in Butte.
- July 16-20, 2018** - International Convention at J. W. Marriott Hotel, Austin, TX - Monday through Friday  
Room reservation block opens January 2, 2018.  
Events registration - watch [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)
- December 10, 2018 - Champion of Education applications due to Lloyd-Ann McMahan
- 2019 Northwest Regional Conference, Des Moines, Iowa

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2017 - 2019**

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Scholarships

Chairman Genelle Hocevar (Delta)

This year we are excited to offer four Alpha Mu State Scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 each for members who are: obtaining a minor, or obtaining a second bachelor's degree, or National Board Certification. Deadline for application is February 1, 2018. Members may receive this scholarship twice. They also have to have been a member for two years.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please go online to Alpha Mu State's website and download the form. You may also contact Genelle Hocevar at 3605 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. No., Great Falls, MT 59401 or at the following email: [genhocevar@gmail.com](mailto:genhocevar@gmail.com).

### Educational Excellence (EEC)

Alpha Mu State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rebecca Marinko (Rho)

If you are looking for a chapter project, you may want to consider the Support of Early Career Educators (SEE) established by the International Education Excellence Committee and adopted as an International DKG project in 2012.

Studies originally reported that 50% of new teachers left the teaching profession within five years. More recent studies by the US Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) show that it may actually be closer to 17% depending on how the data is interpreted. Teachers choose to leave for a variety of reasons, but the NCES data has shown that teachers are more likely to leave the profession for lack of support rather than lack of commitment to the profession. This same study reports that 92% of teachers who had a mentor were still teaching one year later as opposed to 86% still teaching that did not have a mentor.

Mentoring does not need to have a formal procedure. It can be as easy as stopping by a classroom to say hi, lending a supportive ear or dropping off some extra supplies. If time allows, a mentor could volunteer to do some of those tasks that always get set aside but never get done, such as organizing classroom material, offer bulletin board ideas, or tips for classroom management. Even a plate of cookies would be welcome. The DKG website suggests "support in appropriate and practical ways". That leaves the door wide open. You are limited only by your imagination.

The benefits of a mentor/mentee relationship are two-fold. The early career teacher gains support and friendship of a veteran teacher, but the mentor also gains a new friend who also has ideas to share. The mentor has a chance to develop or put to use some of those leadership skills that have been lying dormant, share tips that have contributed to their success as a teacher, and gather new things to try. Forming new professional connections can bolster confidence and improve morale.

To get started, contact your local school district for names of teachers new to the profession, or even offer to befriend student teachers. Who knows? You may even find a future new member for your chapter. At the very least, you will have a new friend.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

### Champion of Education

Chairman Lloyd-Ann McMahan ((Mu)

Does your chapter have an "Educational Hero?" A person outside of the school system that has made a difference for your chapter and a project that you support or that you have seen. This hero may support a cause that is not directly related to your chapter but does impact education in your community.

Begin to think about the different heroes that are quietly at work in your community and start gathering information to support a nomination for this award.

The Champion of Education will be awarded at the 2019 Alpha Mu State Convention. The deadline for the nomination to be submitted is December 10, 2018. I hear you saying, "Why now, that is a year away!"

The application form will be sent to each chapter president and hope that you will begin looking for an "Educational Hero."

Committee Reports continued from page 3.

## Finance

Chairman Rita Fish (Mu)

The duties of the Finance Committee are to propose a balanced budget for adoption by the executive board and provide for an annual audit of the state treasurer's records. On September 8, 2017 the finance committee met in Great Falls. They prepared a balanced budget and audited the treasurer's book. The budget was approved by the Executive Board during its meeting on Saturday.

Chapter Treasurers, please remember this is the year for annual reports. Please send the chapter report to Rita Fish at [difish7380@gmail.com](mailto:difish7380@gmail.com) or Rita Fish, 7380 So. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave, Bozeman, Montana 59718, as soon as possible, prior to February 1, 2018 deadline.

The finance committee wishes everyone a very Happy New Year and we extend thanks to all the members that got their dues in before the October deadline.

Committee members: Chairman Rita Fish (Mu), Pat Jones (Gamma), Rosanne Jones (Upsilon), Maureen Watt (Omicron), Treasurer - ex-officio and State President Audrey Collins, ex-officio.

## Golden Legacy

Chairman Charmaine Mansheim

Two applications have been received for mini-grant money. Although today is only the 10<sup>th</sup> and the due date is December 11<sup>th</sup>. The committee will receive a copy of the applications to review and then will let them know by January 29, 2018 if approved and then the state treasurer will send them their money to be used for their projects.

No information has been received of anyone contributing to Golden Legacy. Funds may be given in honor of or in memory of someone. A gift of \$50.00 or more entitles the name of the honoree and the contributor to be listed in the Scroll of Honor. This money is put in the Golden Legacy Fund for these mini-grants or other projects of value to members. Money can be sent to the state treasurer or to Chairman Charmaine Mansheim.

## Membership

Alpha Mu State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Doris Tollefson (Alpha Zeta)

How is it going in your chapter with membership? Have you used the resources available to you on the DKG website? Are you actively seeking new member prospects? Are you connecting with the members in your chapter?

We are well into our new DKG year, but as we look forward to a new calendar year, it is a good time to assess our goals and to see where we are going. While you are looking at chapter goals, I hope that mining for new members is one of your top goals. If it isn't, then ask why it isn't.

Our state president is asking each chapter to invite and initiate two new members this year. That is a reasonable and reachable goal, but not one that will be achieved without some work. If each chapter initiated two new members in the next couple of months, we could increase our state membership by forty new members!

Many of the chapters in Alpha Mu State are much like my own—becoming a chapter of retired teachers. I usually am a Pollyanna type of person, thinking that things will work out, but I am to the point of thinking that if we don't do something soon about

increasing our membership, it will be too late to keep this vital organization going. I don't want to rain on the parade or be sour grapes, but keeping our head in the sand isn't going to work either. If our organization is going to remain strong, we must increase the members in our chapters now, not at some point in the future.

Finding and inviting key women educators to membership in DKG doesn't just happen with a blink of an eye. It requires a chapter to make it a priority and then working to make that priority happen. So I ask that each Alpha Mu State chapter make a resolution for 2018. Find, invite and initiate two members into your chapter. Many blessings to all the chapters in Alpha Mu State in 2018.

## Communications

Sandi Shawhan (Alpha Alpha)

Communication in this digital age can be both a blessing and a curse. So many of us depend on our phones, messaging and email, that it has just become second nature. The thing we need to remember with our chapter communication is that not all our members are fully comfortable with these electronic devices. We are trying to move to more electronic communication because of the cost and time saving it allows. Please remember your sisters who may rely on more traditional means of communication with a phone call, a note or a visit.

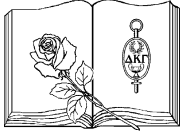
For those of you who have taken the digital plunge, look for the many ways you can keep your members informed. At Alpha Alpha we get email reminders of upcoming meetings and events. A member tries to drop everyone an email after the meeting to inform ones who were unable to attend what great things are happening. This also helps to remind everyone of key issues from the meeting and any upcoming responsibilities. Many of us use group texts to share information as well.

Do any of your chapters use Skype, FaceTime or Google Hangout for members who are unable to attend meetings? These programs allow homebound sisters a chance to see and participate in a meeting, even if they are confined to home. What a great way to make them feel like they are still a vital part of our sisterhood!

If you have a favorite method of communication, please share it. Keeping our members informed is such an important factor in maintaining our membership.

### A REMINDER TO CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

- Report the death of a member immediately following the death on Form 6. Send it to State Membership Chairman Doris Tollefson, State Treasurer Maureen Watt and to the Membership Services Administrator at International Headquarters. All can be submitted electronically.
- Send the Editor a copy of Form 6 along with an obituary that highlights the member's service to Delta Kappa Gamma.
- Enclose a recent picture, if possible, along with permission to publish it in *Alphamusings*.



**WHITE ROSES  
OF  
REMEMBRANCE**

“A Moment to Remember...  
A Lifetime to Honor.”

† † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Roberta Louise Snively, Gamma Chapter, October 25, 2017

Judy Martz, State honorary member, October 30, 2017

Pearl (Irene) McAllister, Upsilon Chapter, December 4, 2017

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**Roberta Louise Snively**

1929 - 2017

Roberta Louise Snively, 88, of Billings passed away peacefully on October 25, 2017. She was born on October 10, 1929 in Roundup to Robert and Nola Tallman and was the oldest of three girls. The family moved to Billings when Roberta was in the sixth grade. She graduated from Billings Senior High School in 1947.

Roberta received her Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree from Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University-Billings).

Roberta taught second and third grades in St. Zavier, Montana and sixth grade in Hardin, Montana. After obtaining a Master's Degree, she became Big Horn County Superintendent of Schools in 1971. She served in this position until December 1992.

She was president and vice-president of The Montana Association of County Superintendents. Roberta was active in her church, teacher organizations and The Order of the Eastern Star. Over the years she enjoyed collecting tea cups and bells, sewing and quilting.

Roberta was initiated into Gamma Chapter on April 27, 1968. At the state level she served on the Leadership committee and the Research committee. She was president of Gamma Chapter from 1980-1982 and served on many committees.

Roberta is survived by two sisters, Nola Galich and Carol Tallman (both are members of Gamma Chapter), a son, two daughters, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

submitted by Pat Jones, President Gamma Chapter

**Judy Martz**

1943- 2017

Former Governor, Judy Martz passed away October 30, 2017. She was initiated as an honorary member of Alpha Mu State at the executive board meeting in 1999. In 1962 she was named as Miss Rodeo Montana and then was runner up to the Miss Rodeo America competition. She was a member of the 1963 U.S. World Speed Skating Team and a member of the U.S. Olympic Speed Skating Team at the 1964 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria.

She was the Lieutenant Governor under Governor Marc Racicot before being elected the first and only woman governor of Montana. She served only one term from 2001-2005.

Her body lay in state in the rotunda of the State Capitol before her Celebration of Life in the Butte Civic Center.

submitted by Maureen Watt (Omicron)

**More About Judy Martz**



Judy Martz, lieutenant governor of Montana, was initiated as an honorary member of Alpha Mu State during the Fall Executive Board Meeting at Boulder Hot Springs. Judy was recommended by Beta Chapter of Butte during the 1998 Fall Executive Board Meeting.

President of Beta Chapter Rose Gray introduced Judy as a person whom she knew from grade school. She mentioned qualities

of caring even at grade school for younger children. Judy spoke of her family connections and her own personal appreciation of teachers. She also explained why she always wears a turtle pin - “The turtle is the only animal that gets ahead by sticking its neck out!”

Judy was a fourth general Montanan and spent most of her life in Butte. She and her husband, Harry, own Martz Disposal Service in Butte. They are parents of two grown children, Justin and Stacey. Judy was one of the first two women to earn a place on the US Olympic women's speed skating team. She has coached power-skating and served on the Board of Directors for the Young Hockey Association. She had many other accomplishments and was interested and cared about youth of Montana.

She worked as a field representative for U.S. Senator Conrad Burns from 1989 to 1995. Judy was elected the first and only women governor of Montana from 2001-2005. She did not seek a second term.

submitted by Jan Nerem (Omega)

Picture of Judy Martz courtesy of

<http://formergovernors.mt.gov/martz/bios/martzbio.asp>

**Pearl Irene McAllister**

1932 - 2017

Upsilon Chapter said goodbye to longtime member Irene McAllister, age 85, who passed away December 4, 2017. Irene was born in 1932 and grew up in Kalispell. She received her elementary education degree from Abilene Christian College in Texas. She married Vern McAllister in 1966; the two lived on the family farm in Pablo for many years, where she enjoyed the view of the Mission Mountains each day.

Irene taught first through fourth grades for 25 years. The last 14 years of her career in the Ronan/Pablo school district. Following her retirement, she continued to volunteer in the Pablo Elementary School library. She loved children!

Irene was a 40 year member of Delta Kappa Gamma; she received a certificate of recognition at the state convention in June. She'll be remembered for her love of reading, her flower gardens and her support of the Church of Christ in Ronan. The memorial service was held December 18, 2017 in Polson.

submitted by Lori McCurdy, President Upsilon Chapter

**Mission Statement**

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

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The members of the Alpha Mu State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promote quality education and the professional development of Montana women educators.

# Chapter News:

## Alpha Chapter

Shirley Thomas (Alpha)

### *Suicide Prevention Workshop*

Alpha Chapter hosted a workshop on Suicide Awareness and Prevention. Breathe, Let's Start a Conversation instructed QPR (Question-Persuade-Refer), a gateway program that teaches people to recognize the signs and how to ask someone if they are thinking of suicide. Co-facilitators were from the East Helena Suicide Prevention and Awareness Coalition.

Suicide is a severe problem in our country and especially Montana. There have been several young people that completed suicide recently so Alpha Chapter hosted this workshop to inform people on how to deal with someone who is contemplating it. Attendees felt it was worthwhile and they came away with some additional information on how to help with this sad situation which impacts all ages of society.

## Iota Chapter

Colleen Brommer, President Iota Chapter



Iota Chapter welcomed two new members at their first meeting of the program year on September 18, 2017. Julie Terry and Tammy Edwards, both teachers in the Chinook School System were initiated following a dinner meeting.



## *ALPHAMUSINGS*

(USPS 014-760)

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Address to go directly to the Montana web site:

<http://alphamustate.weebly.com>

## Need Money for Projects, Seminars or Professional Growth?

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation

Apply for an Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award by February 1, 2018.

Take advantage of opportunities to apply for funds that are available to individuals, chapters, or state organizations. Funds are available for events and activities that occur between March 15, 2018 and October 15, 2018.

To apply for funds, go to [www.dkgef.org](http://www.dkgef.org) for application forms and project guidelines.

In 2016-2017 the Cornetet funds have provided \$8,174 in professional development grants, seminars and \$45,271 for professional development individual awards. The Educational Foundation web site [www.dkgef.org](http://www.dkgef.org) gives descriptions of projects approved.



Alpha Mu State is now on Facebook! "LIKE" and follow us for all updates: Alpha Mu State, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

