

Thank You

Dear Montana members,

Thank you for including me in your leadership training. I am impressed with the present and rising leaders in your state. You are committed to doing what is best for your chapters and the future of DKG in Montana State Organization.

Thank you for the book of pictures of Montana. It is a PERFECT reminder of the lovely members in a beautiful state. I enjoyed very much our conversations and our learning together.

My best wishes extended to all your endeavors to grow your membership and your leadership.

International President Carolyn Pittman

MONTANA STATE ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATES IN THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



(Back row) Joyce English (Alpha Zeta), Eva English (Iota), Rebecca Marinko (Rho). (sitting) Lloyd-Ann McMahan (Mu), Maureen Watt (Omicron), State President Audrey Collins, Janice Nerem (Omega)

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ALPHAMUSINGS TO GO GREEN WITH YOUR HELP

Starting with the January 2019 issue, *Alphamusings* will only be sent electronically through email. The Montana State Organization Executive Board at the September 2018 meeting made the decision to move into the electronic era and publish paperless. This means that the October issue of *Alphamusings* will be the last issue that will be printed and mailed.

Has your chapter membership chairman sent in current email addresses for all your members to International and to State Editor Joyce English? These addresses are needed so you will receive *Alphamusings*. Now is a good time to check to see that they have the correct address. (dkg.org/mydkg) You may have changed your email address and did not notify your chapter, International or the State Editor.

For those without email addresses, it will be the responsibility of someone in your chapter to see that the newsletter is copied and passed on to you. The newsletter is also available on the Montana website (<http://alphamustate.weebly.com>)

This decision was not made lightly. However, due to the problems with mailing the newsletter plus the cost of publishing and mailing it was the decision of the Board to take this action.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT HEADLINES LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Twenty-two members representing eight chapters participated in the 2018 Leadership Workshop held at the Best Western Plus Butte Plaza Inn in Butte on June 14 and 15.

The opening session was presented by the officers and related personnel of Montana State Organization. Each presented their plan for the second half of the biennium with an emphasis on informing new chapter presidents of their duties and responsibilities.

Jan Nerem, a member of the DKGNext Committee, presented a summary of the work of that committee made up of ten members who were selected from over one hundred forty applicants. The charge to the committee was to look at how the work of the Society can be simplified.

Carolyn Pittman, International President, spoke at the dinner and again on Friday morning. A brainstorming session designed to examine the strengths and weaknesses of chapters and the state organization was facilitated by Mrs. Pittman. Communication, the use of technology and membership ideas were a part of the discussion. Changes to the Society By-Laws and Standing Rules to be voted on during the International Convention were presented and discussed. A full list of ideas generated by the discussion is found on the Alpha Mu State Web Site.

submitted by Jan Nerem (Omega) Leadership Chairman



**CONNECTING,
MOVING FORWARD
AND
FOCUSING ON
MEMBERSHIP”**
by
*Montana State
Organization President
Audrey Collins*

Happy Autumn! Here’s wishing everyone a beautiful fall season with time to soak up changing colors and reflect upon the positive possibilities of changes. As I considered thoughts for this message, I reflected upon my theme of *Connecting, Moving Forward and Focusing on Membership*. I would like to think that we’ve made some progress and that we will continue to do so in these areas.

Connections abound in DKG! We shared some great connections at our State Leadership Seminar this past summer. Those members that made the trip to Butte had the chance to connect with one another as well as with International President Carolyn Pittman. Ms. Pittman shared many insights and news from Headquarters. Those that attended the International Convention went well informed about the proposed Constitutional Amendments. One other avenue to stay in contact with other members and news of the Society is through Facebook. If you haven’t already started following international or our state organization feed, I would encourage you to make that connection!

Our organization is moving forward on many fronts. At the State Fall Executive Board meeting we met some new chapter presidents and renewed acquaintances with some we haven’t seen in a while. Thanks to all who attended! It was good to get updates and take care of the business of our organization. Those involved had the opportunity to help shape the changes that will carry us forward in our mission and purposes.

At the International level, changes were also approved that will continue our forward motion. Please take some time to visit the International website and review the amendments that were passed and get the information first-hand. There are a couple of changes I would like to mention. You may notice that our name has changed. We are no longer Alpha Mu State, but rather Montana State Organization. There was also an amendment to allow for college students to become members. These measures are ways of bringing our organization forward and building membership.

I have seen some positive signs in our focus on membership. Chapters are actively recruiting and gaining members. I am excited to see reports of these successes. I am more than happy to come to recruitment events, if possible. Please let me know and I’ll do my best. Lastly, if I have not yet made a visit to your chapter this biennium, please get in touch with me. My goal is to visit all chapters and there are some I haven’t made it to yet.

Until next time, keep on *Connecting, Moving Forward and Focusing on Membership!*

DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

October 31, 2018 - Chapter dues are due
 November 1, 2018 - Chapter Presidents will receive the applications for scholarships.
 November 15, 2018 - Chapter treasurers need to file 990 N **before** this date
 December 01, 2018 - Nominations due to Mary Meissner for the 2019-2021 state officers
 December 10, 2018 - Champion of Education applications due to Lloyd-Ann McMahan
 December 10, 2018 - Golden Legacy mini-grants are due to Charmaine Mansheim
 January 15, 2019 - Applications due for the Catherine Nutterville Achievement Award to Billee Collins
 July 10-12, 2019 -Northwest Regional Conference, Des Moines, Iowa

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**LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
A GOLDEN GIFT, AND SO MUCH MORE!**

State President Audrey Collins
 Press Release from International Headquarters: “Audrey Collins was one of 30 DKG members chosen to attend the 2018 DKG International Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar (LMS). The training program provided custom-designed learning experiences to develop leadership, communication and management skills. Participants represented the international membership of the society and reflected a diversity of discipline, professional levels and life experiences.”

This statement truly just touched on the tip of the iceberg. There were 30 women chosen for this opportunity. That translates to friends for life from all over the US and two foreign countries. The content of the seminar was delivered by top-notch professors from the University of Texas, McCombs School of Business and Executive Education Program. The skills we gained will benefit each of us in our DKG involvement as well as professional positions, post-retirement endeavors and civic/volunteer roles. Many of my classmates put this experience to immediate use as presenters at international convention and serving on international committees. It was indeed a cross-section of age levels and experience levels.

A bonus in this experience was the chance to visit International Headquarters, meet and interact with headquarters staff and see first hand where DKG all began. We visited the grave sites of Annie Webb Blanton and Lalla McClatchy Odom, which was quite inspiring.

(Continued on page 5)

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations

Mary Meissner (Omega), Chairman

The Nominations Committee for Montana State Organization is actively seeking candidates for the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. These officers will serve in the 2019-2021 biennium. In addition two members will be elected to round out the next nominations committee which will include the immediate past state president.

Nomination forms have been mailed to each Montana chapter. Please copy as many of the simple form as are needed. A member may be nominated, with her consent, for more than one office. The nominator may be a member or a chapter. The deadline for submission is **December 1, 2018**. Send those nominations to Mary Meissner, Box 252, Fort Benton, Montana 59442-0252.

Serving in a state position presents a very rewarding opportunity and experience. Please consider the honor of being an officer and a leader at the state level.

Educational Excellence (EEC)

1st Vice President Rebecca Marinko (Rho)

The calendar and retail outlets say it is back to school time. With the beginning of the new DKG year, it is time to look at chapter goals and plan for yearly programs and projects. As chapters seek to induct and retain new, young members, remember that research recommends meaningful programs and projects to keep millennial members coming back.

Programs that a chapter may choose do not need to be long or involved. A program could be as simple as taking time at a meeting to write notes to members who are not at the meeting to reaffirm connections within the group, or members could share their artistic talent or hobbies. Each member has a talent that can be shared even though it may require some digging to draw it out. Maybe the discovery of a hidden talent and learning that others are interested in the same passions will be the hook that draws a member in and keeps her coming back.

Other program ideas include having local legislators or school administrators as guests to talk about issues in education. Invite a community member to learn more about issues within the community or invite students. Many student groups, Student Council or FFA, for example, have ongoing activities that they are excited to share. Speech and drama groups are always looking for an audience. Look for community members with unique talents that they are willing to share. Learn about spinning wool or belly dancing.

Having meaningful projects are just as vital to chapter health as meaningful programs, DKG has some wonderful international projects such as Schools for Africa that some chapters choose to support, but there are many things that can be done to support education on a local level. Many chapters have on-going partnerships within their communities. These projects may not fit the group dynamic of all chapters, but consider the Supporting Early-career Educators. The first year for a new teacher can be daunting. The support of a veteran teacher can be instrumental in the success of a new teacher, making her less likely to leave the profession after a short time. She may be a potential new DKG member. Contact local school administrators to help match up new and veteran teachers.

If a long-term project is not feasible for the chapter, find smaller things to do that will impact schools in some way and do them throughout the school year. There is always a push for school supplies at the beginning of the year, but why not consider a second semester supply drive? By the end of the semester many supplies are lost, broken, or just used up. New pencils are always welcome. Another idea is to provide treats for teacher on a work day. It can be as easy as a plate of cookies or a fruit or vegetable tray. Call the school secretary to help coordinate your efforts. She will be happy to help if treats are involved. Drop off some DKG brochures at the same time to get the DKG name out there.

It's a brand-new school year. Get the DKG year off to an exciting start with programs and projects that make a difference. More program and project ideas are available on the DKG International website. They need not be fancy or complicated. Chapters are limited only by their imaginations. Everybody knows that DKG minds working together are unstoppable.

Membership

2nd Vice President Doris Tollefson (Alpha Zeta)

Once again we find ourselves at the beginning of a new Delta Kappa Gamma year. We look around and wonder where last year has gone, but it's time to embrace the year 2018-2019. As chapters meet to plan and prepare for this new year, are you taking the time to assess your membership and your members? Have you canvassed your area for possible new members? Have you taken a close look at the present members of your chapter? Have you explored the DKG website? (Continued on page 4)

Membership (Continued from page 3)

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but chapter presidents and chapter membership chairmen need to visit the DKG website often. Why? Because it has a wealth of information, and not only that, but also forms and publications can be found on the site. My wish is that you have been on the Society's website, and that you are familiar with it. And, if you haven't visited the site, maybe this will guilt you into doing it.

Now that you are comfortable with downloading forms, publications and information from the DKG website, download Form 82, Chapter Member Biographical Data Sheet. Print a copy for each member of your chapter and ask them to update or complete the form. Membership Committee chairmen or the chapter president should have a biographical sheet on file for each member and these sheets should be updated on a regular basis. If your chapter hasn't done this in a while, this might be a good time to tackle that task. A chapter program could easily be updating or completing these sheets. Make it a fun time, and you may learn something you never knew about your fellow chapter members.

I once nominated a member of Alpha Zeta for the Catherine Nutterville Achievement Award which requires a lot of information about someone's involvement with the Society on the chapter, state and international levels as well as professional achievements and community involvement. I was able to complete the nomination form by using her data sheet without trying to dig pertinent information from her. So, these forms are important for chapters to maintain.

It's a new Delta Kappa Gamma year. Mine for new members, but also work to keep present members engaged and active in the projects and activities of the chapter and update the biographical sheet. Have a wonderful year.

Lifelong Learning Grant

Lori McCurdy (Upsilon) Chairman

Just a reminder that the Lifelong Learning grant is available to DKG members who are interested in some kind of hobby, travel or personal growth. Grants range for \$50-\$200. Currently the educational excellence committee is reviewing its first application. If you've been a member for five years, and have an interest in pursuing a challenge, apply today. Applications are on our state website.

2019 Convention Committee

Rebecca Marinko (Rho) Chairman

After many phone calls, emails and a couple road trips, the 2019 State Convention Committee is pleased to announce that the 2019 DKG Convention will be held April 26-28, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Great Falls. The theme, *Honor the Past, Embrace the Future*, will allow the Society to celebrate where it began as it faces a new, exciting future.

With the date and location determined, the committee will begin focusing on program ideas and guest speakers. One idea being explored is having an induction (the new name for initiation adopted at the 2018 International Convention in Austin) ceremony for new members, so be looking for new members to join the ranks.

The committee is also looking for musicians to share the music at convention. Lorrin Depner has graciously provided the music at many conventions but would like to take a break and enjoy the talents of the membership. Musicians out there, consider sharing your talents. The responsibility for music can be shared, so consider

stepping up and taking a turn at providing music to enrich the convention.

As always, the committee appreciates all suggestions for speakers, program ideas, or activities. Several great thoughts were shared at the September Executive Board but there is always room for more suggestions. Committee members are the presidents of Rho, Alpha Gamma, Iota, Delta and Omega chapters, Kathy Remington and Committee Chairman Rebecca Marinko. Contact any one of those members with ideas.

So everyone, save the date and plan to attend the 2019 DKG State Convention. Come see what the committee has cooked up.

Catherine Nutterville Achievement Award

Billee Collins (Upsilon) Chairman

It has been an all-too-short a summer and fall is presenting us with all the signs of winter. The new year for Delta Kappa Gamma chapters is upon us.

Now that the October issue of *Alphasings* has arrived, I hope I have been able to talk with each chapter president and you have received the information and application for the Catherine Nutterville Achievement Award.

You have a chapter and because you do, there are members who have organized and labored to keep your chapter viable. You now have the opportunity to give thanks to someone in your chapter who has given much throughout the years to keep your chapter going.

It is important that the CNA Award be brought before your membership in the next few meetings. Although the time for the application to be in has been extended to January 15, 2019, time is short. I am hoping you have someone in mind you wish to give this honor.

Wishing each chapter a successful year ahead.

Treasurer

Maureen Watt (Omicron) State Treasurer

Welcome to a new year. Some procedures have been changed by the international convention. These were sent by the International to all chapter treasurers. These include the new collegiate membership, scholarship fees and initiation fees. The *DKG News* is only available on line and you must sign in to the DKG website to receive it. There is a DKG app for your phones also available. If you have not provided your chapter treasurer with your email, please do so as this is how many of the items are being distributed including our Montana State Organization documents.

The deadline for payment of the chapter dues for this year is **October 31st**. If you need to pay your chapter treasurer in a different manner please contact her so arrangements can be made. Your new membership cards are permanent. The cards will only be issued once. If members wish to add a picture to their card, they can do so by signing in to the DKG website and adding it to their profile, then print a new card.

The dues for the fiscal year beginning in July 2019 will be collected in the spring of this year and are due in June 2019. The purpose of this change is to collect the dues for the fiscal year as opposed to the school year. This will definitely help our Montana State Organization to budget more efficiently.

Resources for the chapter treasurer can be found on the website at www.dkg.org. Please use the most current forms. The color-coded initiate, reinstatement are no longer used. Also, a reminder that the 990N must be filed with the IRS by November 15th. Please email or send me a copy of that form for my records. My email is maureen.watt@bresnan.net.

(Grace Lucas continued from page 6)

Grace was initiated into Kappa Chapter in 1968 and was a charter member of Alpha Zeta Chapter when they were formed in 1980. She served as Alpha Zeta’s chapter president and as Alpha Mu State Recording Secretary during the 1999-2001 biennium. Grace attended many state executive board meetings and participated in the work of many committees.

She was a member and an officer for Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club, Montana State Garden Club, Alpha Zeta Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Malta Book Club and the Phillips County Council on Aging. She was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Malta. Grace passed away on April 6, 2018.

Darlene Lansberry

69 year member of DKG

Darlene was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma November 19, 1949. She continued to be a member until her death. Darlene Lorena Lansberry passed away at Benefis Senior Memory Care on June 23, 2018 in Great Falls at the age of 103 years old. During the 69 years as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, she held three offices and chaired or was on 23 different committees.

We have many special memories of Darlene. She was open to many ideas. One time we planned on going to the Baird’s Museum in Martinsdale. I called to ask if she was planning on going. She hemmed and hawed. I said, ”I’ll pick you up in ten minutes.” She grabbed her purse and away we went. In 2007 she protested the Iraq war on the steps of the courthouse and in 2009 Darlene was still attending meetings. At this particular meeting we decorated Ukrainian eggs. Darlene was 94 and still going strong.

Also, in her 90’s she was still sewing and made a bag for the Christmas silent auction. At her last silent auction she felt she needed to bring something - a house plant she had. I bought it and still have it as a memory of Darlene. She was the true example of a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She will be missed.

The following information was obtained from the Fergus County Superintendent of Schools and *The New Argus* December 13, 2014 edition. Darlene began teaching in the 1930’s at the CCC Camp and from 1939 to 1977 she taught at these schools: Hyde Creek School at Garneill, Roy, Grade and High School in Roy, Lincoln Elementary School (Lewistown), Highland Park School- yearly salary \$3,345, Lincoln Elementary and Lewis and Clark Elementary.

submitted by LaVonne Borgreen (Zeta)

Jennifer K. Perkins

1950 - 2018

Jennifer K. Perkins “Jenni” passed away peacefully on June 27, 2018 in Butte MT. Jenni was born on December 25, 1950 in Gatesville, TX to Julius “Buddy and Mary “Polly” Ward Blume. Jenni was raised in Anaconda, MT. She graduated from Anaconda High School in 1969 and earned her bachelor’s degree in education from Montana State University in 1973.

She married Fred Boyer in 1971 and moved with him to Sitka, AK. They returned to Anaconda where she gave birth to her son Joe Boyer in 1977.

She began her teaching career in Anaconda in 1973. Here she taught for 33 years continuing her education to earning her master’s in education and retiring in 2007.

She served as president of Omicron Chapter of the DKG from 1998-2000. She served on many of the committees of Omicron Chapter after being initiated in 1980. She had hoped to have a state-wide Kaleidoscope in the Anaconda area. She loved to come to DKG and see all of her friends and teachers after she retired, especially the joint birthday lunches with Beta and Omicron.

Jenni enjoyed playing athletics throughout her life, and was on one of Anaconda’s first all-female basketball teams. She was an avid skier, softball player and enjoyed volley ball. She participated in one of Montana’s first Miss Montana’s beauty pageants.

In 1991 she married her lifelong companion, friend and in the end caretaker, Randall Perkins of Deer Lodge. Together they enjoyed life on a ranch in the Anaconda Deer Lodge Valley. They were inseparable and if you could find one, the other was always close by.

Together their blended family was the biggest part of their life. Jenni loved her little people, whether they were nieces, nephews or her students. However, together their real pride and joys were their grandchildren Meika and Grady Boyer.

Jenni is survived by her husband, Randy Perkins, her son Joe (Katie) Boyer, grandchildren Meika Boyer and Grady Boyer. Brothers Mike (Karen) Blume, Dan (Vivian) Blume and Ken (Amy) Blume. Brothers-in-law John (Tammy) Perkins and Dale Perkins. Many nieces and nephews all of which were so very important to her!

submitted by Maureen Watt (Omicron)

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS
REMEMBER**

Form 6 - DEATH OF A MEMBER

Chapter presidents should complete **Form 6** and send a copy to International-Membership Services Email: mem@dkg.org, State Membership Chairman Doris Tollefson dtoll@nemontel.net, State Treasurer Maureen Watt maureen.watt@bresnan.net and State Editor Joyce English **immediately** following the death of a member so they can be honored in *Alphasings* and at the Ceremony of Remembrance at state convention.

Memorial Chairman Lori McCurdy would also like to receive a copy lmccurdy7@gmail.com

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



The State Presidents were asked to bring centerpieces for the NW Regional Breakfast that could actively represent connections. Audrey used the world traveler set of K'Nex toys to build iconic items to show the world connections of DKG including the Empire State building, an igloo and a maple leaf.



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<http://alphamustate.weebly.com>



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

FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Recording Secretary
LaVonne Borgreen
working at the Fall
Executive Board
meeting in Lewistown.*



*State President
Audrey Collins
and Cherie
Stordahl (Omega)
with the door
prize she won.*

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