



CENTOS

The Ontario Newsletter for Teachers Who Make a Difference
Education in a Global Community for an Optimal Future
Collaborate ♦ Communicate ♦ Commit



Published Since 1967

Beta State (Ontario) News

2017

DKG . . . promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

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Ottawa
for the
Spring Convention
April 20-21, 2018**

ALL MEMBERS
are NEEDED



President's Message

Debbie Rodaway, Ontario Beta State President 2017-2019

How exciting it was to start my biennium as your Ontario state president by welcoming the delegates to the North-east Regional Conference in Windsor. I attended the state president's training, Monday evening, Tuesday and Wednesday before the conference. Here, I was fortunate to sit beside the acting Executive Director of DKG, Dr. Judy Merz and also had an opportunity to talk to our International President, Dr. Carolyn Pittman. I spoke about how the use of the Greek Letters for State names influences the opinion that DKG is a sorority and thus, is a conceptual barrier to attracting new members. International headquarters is now asking that we identify our state by our geographical name only. Changes are coming.

For years the international membership roster has identified the state membership by their geographical state abbreviation. i.e. NY New York: TX Texas. Ontario has been identified as OT. This is not Ontario's abbreviation. For the last ten plus years, I have been asking to have this rectified. Judy Merz assured me it will finally be done.

Meeting other new state presidents, working together, discussing the various ways each state operates, getting new ideas was exhilarating. We learned about QR codes and using dropbox on our computers. Our leaders were dynamic, interesting and interested in our opinions. The time flew by. We were treated royally by International as they paid for ½ our rooms for 2 nights and fed us during the training. I have made some new friends in the DKG family. It truly was a time of fellowship and an enriching experience.

There was also training for the vice presidents and treasurers. Sylvia Dopking and Mary Jane Etcher attended those. Both these dedicated members have indicated that for personal reasons they will not advance positions. Do you see yourself in one of these positions? If so please let the nomination committee know. Isabel Wildfong- Martin (isabel3@rogers.com) is the chair. Sharon Bishop, our state treasurer was busy co-ordinating the market place but had been trained previously. We all got bracelets with the words "Key Women Educators" and "Simplify" on them in our registration bags at the NERC. At our April Convention in Ottawa, April 20 and 21, 2018 we will have a chance to *simplify* our By-laws and Standing Rules. Do you have any suggestions? What can we do better? What can we clarify? (con't. on pg. 20)

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I am the Beta State Centos Editor for two more issues. I will be done after the publication of the Summer, 2018 issue in July.

Hopefully there will be someone who is willing to take on this very important role.

Centos is one of the keys to successful communication because our state is so large and face to face meetings are difficult to arrange.



CENTOS Editor

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Events to Mark on your Calendar

Spring Conference
April 20-21, 2018
Ottawa

DKG Convention
Austin, Texas
July 16- 20, 2018

Let's Keep Beta State Up-to-Date

Please send address or telephone changes, new email addresses, and addresses of new initiates to:

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Please send submissions for the Winter CENTOS to Lyn Harrison.



“SAVE your copy of CENTOS!”

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)



Dear Ontario dkg members:

You are all pretty awesome—you did so many helpful things to make the NERC

one of the best we have had. According to one member, 'It was the most inspirational conference I have ever attended.'

Whether it was greeting people at Valet Parking or in the lobby, or monitoring and making sure that all presenters were supported with what they needed, or making sure that the stage was set the way our Northeast Regional Director wanted it set, or making the conference newsletter informative and professional, or helping Sandi Causey deal with all who registered --you did a wow job. What a great contribution our Windsor members did with handing out travel info, setting up and managing the marketplace. Special thanks go to Sharon Bishop and friends who put those fabulous goody bags together. I also need to especially credit my partner 'in crime' Aggie Moynihan who policed all of our expenses and did all the paper work to satisfy international's demands for documentation of our financial activities.

To some of you have worked a dkg conference for the first time, you found out how much fun you can have by being involved in something outside of your chapter at the regional or international level. I know you met people that you will encounter again as you stay involved.

A big thank you to you all for your hard work—without you we couldn't have succeeded at the level we did.

My personal thanks go to Ontario dkg for honoring me with a corsage for the banquet and making a donation in my name to the Leadership Management Seminar. This seminar that I participated in 1990 helped me realize my style of leadership was as valid as those who were extroverts, I was truly honored to be given that opportunity. I sincerely hope that one of our members will be moved to apply

so Ontario has another graduate of this program. All the best for some R & R now that the heavy lifting is over. Let's celebrate at the Executive Board meeting in Stratford. (And we did celebrate!!)

Laura Drake, Chair of Steering Committee for NERC – Windsor, ON, July 2017

THANK YOU from NEW BRUNSWICK

Dear Laura,

As President of DKG New Brunswick, I wish to send a truly heart felt thank you to you and your team of devoted and hard-working individuals working to accomplish this grand project. We, 12 delegates, from New Brunswick wish to thank you and congratulate you on your excellent job! From the ease of checking in to our large and comfy room to the choice of venues of awesome entertainment, superb key notes and speakers and all the wonderful presenters. Thank you for a great experience.

You've made NERC 2017 a real success.

Thank you for a great experience.

Roberte

Roberte Melanson President -DKG New Brunswick 2017-18



Laura Drake, NERC chair, addresses the delegates at the closing session.

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)

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Elsie Harding-Davis
Invited to Educators

Harrow resident Elsie Harding-Davis was a part of the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor last week.

Harding-Davis, an African Canadian Heritage consultant, author and a proud descendant of slaves, was happy to speak to the members who attended the DKG Regional Conference and continue to pursue her mission of making the knowledge of black history as common and well-known as any other's culture.

DKG Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

"Hopefully (DKG) will get better known because women need to feel that what they contribute is important," said Harding-Davis.

Harding-Davis said her beliefs align with the society's and said it is important to her that woman educators are given enough regard. And that doesn't just mean as a school teacher, it also means any woman out there who has a passion to learn and share her knowledge.

In her case, she said she was born with the passion to educate and learn about black history and it is her goal to have black history equally regarded in the classroom as any other.

At this conference, she talked about Windsor and the surrounding areas' role in the Underground Railway.

Her presentation, called "The Black Thread in the Canadian Tapestry" highlighted African Canadians and their contributions to Canada's progress after "making free" (escaping) via the Underground Railway. The vocal seminar was followed by a trolley tour through Essex County at point of interest including the North American Black Historical Museum and the Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery.

"This is a freedom area. People from all over came here to be free," said Harding Davis. "When I began knowing this stuff, I thought to myself why don't other people know this?"

"(DKG) is doing wonderful work beyond their own knowing," said Harding Davis, by allowing the spreading of information at conferences like these and in their day-to-day functions.

The international president of the DKG Society, Carolyn Pittman, said that they are proud to keep upholding the mission of the 12 women who originally formed the DKG Society. The dozen women who started the club in 1929 grew exponentially and now in 2017 they have 71,000 members across 17 countries.

DKG Society works hard to remain a powerful aide in professional woman's lives. They are currently taking on their membership application process and working to simplify the society and make it more welcoming to new members. Pittman said they understand in this fast-paced world that they need to keep up with it. Despite some changes, DKG is still steadfast in their original goals: supporting women.

When they first began, Pittman said it was all about getting women in the workplace. Eventually it changed to teaching them how to get up the corporate ladder and now it's all about empowerment and teaching leadership to their members.

"It's important because women give strength to one another that I'm not sure men do," said Pittman.

The DKG Northeast Regional Conference was held at Caesars Casino in Windsor from July 12 to July 14. The conference included pre-conference seminars, like Harding Davis', and also seminars on leadership, technology, a marketplace, interactive sessions and official business of the society.

Submitted by Linda Larcina (Omicron)

NOTE: This article by Elsie Harding-Davis has been printed with the permission of The Harrow News and appears in Centos exactly as published.



Message From Your 2016-2018 ARC, Joan Wolfe

We did it!!! With your wonderful enthusiasm, we warmly welcomed our Northeast Region DKG Sisters, who have been sending moving messages of gratitude and accolades concerning their experiences at the 2017 NERC in Windsor. I have been requested by many to extend their congratulations, and much gratitude for an exceptional and memorable experience. A heartfelt thank you to those who were able to attend and be on site during the event, and also to the many members who spent hours assisting with the preparations. All hands were crucial and immensely appreciated. I trust it was a rewarding and enriching event for those of you able to attend, and that you will share with your chapter Sisters, to pass along some of your memorable experiences. Accolades were expressed by very long time staff of Caesars, who commented that they had NEVER had such a warm, welcoming group in the multitudes they have served over more than 20 years. Thank you for so generously demonstrating those qualities that so impressed them. Now you know it is not an exaggeration when I frequently extol the virtues of attending events beyond the chapter, and especially be exposed to the workshops and key note addresses at regional and international events. I trust you now have new friends from away. Perhaps you will be inspired to attend future ones. Thanks to Laura Drake for her leadership, the members of the steering committee, and all those who took on demanding roles that kept everything moving smoothly and made the event the outstanding success it was. (The list of individual names is long, and you all know who you are!)

Accolades and gratitude to Carol Hughes for her outstanding leadership and tireless energy for the NERC, and in guiding the ship and the team as Northeast Regional Director. Her endeavours resulted in Ontario shining as

hosts. Carol has now put family as a priority, so we wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement. The outstanding leadership and efforts of Aggie Moynihan as treasurer, and “Jill of all trades” confirm the wisdom in International President, Carolyn Pittman’s appointment of Aggie as the successor to Carol as the current Northeast Regional Director. Congratulations, Aggie. We are very proud of you! Be assured of our support and willingness to be there for you as you complete the biennium in this significant position.

An important task for this year will be the selection of a new Canada Project, and it was unanimous at the Forums that only one project and within Canada is the desire of Canadian members. New Brunswick is working on a proposal. Will Ontario have a proposal to put forward? Keep informed of progress on this so that we can all get behind a project that reflects our values and goals. Stay tuned for more information as it is available.

In response to a recommendation to consider requesting status as a region for Canada, from our longtime, highly respected Ontario member, Sr. Toni Sheehan, an ad hoc committee with chair, former ARC Sheila MacKay from Alberta, has been struck. Representatives from across the country are already diligently researching the pros and cons of such a choice. Thanks to Lisa Maloney and Ellen Atkinson for serving on that committee representing Ontario. Please watch for information and requests for your thoughts as this committee continues its work. Information will be sent through your chapter presidents from our state president, Debbie Rodaway.

It is my hope that all Canadian members are aware of the impact of DKG at all levels of the Society, to thus recognize the importance of their membership in this dynamic organization which makes a huge difference worldwide. You are one piece of a huge tapestry in which every piece is significant. Communication is

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)

vital to keep informed of happenings, and Ontario does a fantastic job, especially with our CENTOS. I count on the flow of information through the presidents at all levels, and I will do my best to keep you apprised of important information. I strongly recommend checking the website regularly for information and using it as a resource. Headquarters staff is constantly working to increase the ease of use and resources available. Are you registered? Do we have 100% connection yet? Did you know that the DKG Emergency Fund has so far distributed \$39,000 to victims of the terrible devastation from the tropical storms and earthquakes in the south? The area of the town of Tlana, where our "Toonies for Tlana" was focussed, was hard hit with devastation and deaths. Tlana was spared extreme damage but is suffering.

Congratulations to Ontario State President Debbie Rodaway, for her great beginning to her biennium and her successful Executive Board Meeting in Stratford. Best wishes for a rewarding successful year to all, continuing the outstanding "work" that you do, both at the chapter and state levels. The 2018 International Convention in Austin Texas, headquarters and the birthplace of our society, will be an extremely important one for our organization, so please consider reserving those dates (July 16 to 20) and planning to attend. Please also keep me informed of your joys, needs, and ideas that you wish to share across Canada.



Joan Wolfe, ARC, is led by two RCMP officers during the Parade of Flags which opened the NERC.



Indigenous Peoples Seminar: Presenter, Charlene Bearhead

A summary:

Submitted by: Linda Larcina

There is an Indian Act in Canada that is still in existence. Yet there is no white man Act and no Chinese Act! So we still hear the word Indian. Often the Elders will say "I am an Indian and will always be an Indian. Indigenous is more accepted and means people of the land. This term includes First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

There are about 630 bands or First Nation communities. But this is not accurate as some bands can have 3 to 5 communities. The idea that if it is on paper it must be true is a myth. Metis is a culture, a French word. Many First Nations people have mixed blood. Some families have lost track of their heritage and often this is on purpose to protect their children from discrimination. There is a lack of trust towards the Government. What the people in these communities want is authentic and genuine relationships. We need to get to know them by building relationships, forming bonds, and establishing trust.

Much damage was done by religious orders. It has been said; We close eyes and pray with the bible in our hands and they had our land in their hands! One question that has been asked again and again is, Why don't they value education? Good parents protect their children. If their only experience of school is a place of abuse and where they were devalued, what good parent would send their child there?

In 1995, huge recommendations were made and volumes of these documents are sitting on shelves collecting dust. The thinking is that it is too much money but what is the cost of not doing it? Kids are dying every day. They have so little faith that anything will be done that they just give up. All kids are our kids! People say get over it. It is not that simple!



Charlene Bearhead addresses the NERC delegates on Wednesday evening. She elaborated on the ideas presented in her pre-conference seminar.

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)

Susie Kicknosway Jones, A Walpole Island survivor of Canada's residential school system

Susie is a mother of 6, who is now 80 years old. She was taken from her front lawn without her parents knowing, by a stranger who picked up 4 other little ones and drove them to the school in Sault Ste. Marie. She refers to herself as Indian and is in the process of getting her birth certificate! We weren't considered humans, just Indians. I AM AN INDIAN! We refer to you as white people. I lost my language. There is 160 year old history of residential schools in Canada.

I lived in the residential school until I was 16 years old and had completed high school. I had no home, I didn't know anyone.

There were 550 children taken from my community with many of them going to Brantford.

The Creator put you on this earth to do something. Be astute about what is beyond that door and take the opportunity. He prepared me for what I do today.

My husband was in the military both the Korean and Vietnam War to save lives. I was put in the position of trustee in the school board on Walpole Island to make change. I was a minority and I was appointed not elected and did this for 4 years.

This was part of policy framework, schools empowered to have different things they never had before. They talked like it was 400 years ago and there was a big lull when I shared that I was a survivor. 1997 was the last year a student was in a residential school in Canada. I was asked why the Indians didn't trust the school system. The government has no right to take them. So I developed a booklet with pictures to share because there is always someone who doesn't know about residential schools. I speak in schools and churches. There are 94 calls to action.

In the US they don't want to talk about it. My family is in Oklahoma, Kansas and Walpole Island. We own the land right under the Ambassador Bridge. We never owned it, the Creator gave it to us to share and to take care of it.

The residential schools were set up by churches with the goal to Christianize us since they thought we were savages. In 1873 the government of Canada made an agreement with the churches. The Government would provide the money, \$200

per year for each child. Actually the accurate date that this started was 1833.

In 1941 I was taken by a non-native driver who could not speak our language. One of my brothers was taken on a train to the residential school. One travelled by canoe to the school. Most of the schools were run by the Anglican Church. In 2008 there was an apology and at that time the oldest student was 80 years old and the youngest was 17 years old.

We were unable to go home so we didn't know family. There were only 2 doors one at the back of the school and one at the front. There was no way out. Focus was to kill the Indian in the child. If they get you young enough they can change your mind. You're a savage anyway so won't do any good. So we were trained to be a farmer or a domestic worker. Yet now some are graduating as doctors and lawyers. So we are changing. We had an education of our own, we weren't ignorant.

The girls were separated from the boys. We were stripped of our clothes, shaved, and kerosene was put on our heads and left for one week. Our new uniforms smelled of kerosene. The staff told us to shut up. All commands were in English. Now today my job is to talk about the residential schools. I never talk to my brother who is 75 years old. I never knew my older brother who died in the school after a 3 day trip hunting. When he came back they ignored his stomach pains as a form of punishment and he died.

My mother had three children taken away from her so she never mothered.

We had church twice a day and it was always longer on Sunday. There are at least 1000 pending cases of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse that took place at the schools. This is why we go back to our own spiritual ways.

Some were good teachers who were encouraging and challenging us. We were called degrading names. You learned to live with the name calling and the mental stress. For me I often have trouble speaking up and making decisions. It was fight or flight. A lot of us had to fight for our lives daily although we didn't realize it at the time.

I had to do as I was told, when and how to do it. Most of the staff were mean. We had to scrub floors, prepare food. If staff saw a spot missed on the floor we had to do the whole floor over again. This was a form of punishment. I did not know how to make choices or how to answer yes or no.

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)

I have been married for 62 years and my husband just passed away. We worked hard for our children. I was married at 18. As a family we help each other and we have learned when to stay away. Every 2 to 3 years we took a houseboat trip together for 4 or 5 days to Kentucky. We also do family camping. We are never angry for a long time. We miss each other!

My husband was in a residential school for 2 years. Five generations of his family went to residential schools. We gave what we didn't have as children to our children.

A break up in a family and in a community needs time not just money. Five generations to break it up and so five generations to get it back.

I learned to sew and make clothes. I also learned to play the piano. I was in the choir. So these are the good things at the school. I made friends too.

"Remembering the past means remembering all the children."

I learned to play the game. I tried to obey and study hard. I finished school. I did it! This was my coping mechanism. A lot are still angry. The Creator put us here for a purpose.

We all lacked parental guidance and relationship. Our mind, body and spirit were hurt.

As an adult I went to the Baptist church and read the bible. I realized it was fake religion in the schools. There needs to be action with words.



Susie Kicknosway Jones tells her story of attending and surviving a residential school at a pre-conference session. Susie was very inspirational

More information: by Charlene Bearhead

There were 130 recognized schools by the government. There were another 122 which the Federal Government did not recognize.

Arts and Social justice go together. Charity and social justice is different. The people need to be

acknowledged and to be respected. All are valid and all may not agree. Sometimes we mean well but can be condescending.

"Nothing about us without us" It is about with us opposed to for us. Never use for, because they don't need charity. Compensation is nothing compared to what happened. The truth is Susie and the other children were abducted, kidnapped by an RCMP officer or by a priest or individual agent. Let's be honest about what it was. Truth is truth is truth. There were two main goals. Duncan Campbell Scott told the parliamentary committee, "our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic" (Truth and Reconciliation Commission, 2015)

For John A. Macdonald the goal was about land acquisition for the railway, and of course, cheap labour.

Many of us know we did not learn about this part of our Canadian history in high school. We didn't learn about the Chinese Head Tax or the Japanese Internment camps either. Did you know some children had the electric chair, some had medical and dental experimentations. We don't have to be indigenous to be heart broken.

Documents show the last student left the residential school in 1998. Between 1834 and 1996 it is estimated that 150,000 children were forced to leave their families and live in residential schools. It is believed the more accurate number is closer to 250,000. In 1996, there were 80,000 survivors.

Thousands did not apply for compensation feeling it was blood money that the government was trying to buy them off. Others took the compensation. The three churches, Catholic, Anglican and United issued an apology. However, only the Anglican and United churches paid. In the 1986 United Church apology it says, "We tried to make you be like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were. As a result, you, and we, are poorer." It is important to know that today there are more indigenous children in foster care than those who attended residential schools.

Schools on the reserves are funded significantly lower (about half the amount) than provincial boards. If going to provincial schools, transportation is a real issue. The buses have no funding and the infra structure is so low and the roads are so bad the buses are beaten to nothing. How do we close

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)

the gap between achievement of non-indigenous and indigenous students? Often an indigenous student who graduates from grade 12 can be worse off. The problems don't go away. They don't know where to go next so there becomes a disconnect. In Alberta there is a complete re-write of curriculum for every grade from K to gr. 12. There is an infusion of First Nations and Inuit and Metis. There is curriculum work going on in each province at a different rate. Each school Board has an Indigenous committee giving input and developing an action plan and how to spend money. Charlene Bearhead has worked in education for 30 years. She was formerly the Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba. Now she is the Education Coordinator for the National Inquiry of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. "We have a responsibility as educators, as social workers, as child welfare workers, as corrections workers, as judges, as lawyers, as media people. How are people going to talk about us and this part of our history?"

Today racial profiling continues. In stores they must show their status card and it is handed back as if something is on it that they might catch. What will we do? What will you do?

We can all learn more about our history and share this knowledge with others. To learn more go to the web. There are 50 thousand records and documents.

Google the following:

Duncan Campbell Scott

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Charlene Bearhead

Susie Kicknosway Jones

Project of Heart



Ontario Night

Submitted by: Jan Gollan

Having a one-day shorter conference was not the only thing that was initiated this year. Ontario Night was split into two events, the reception segment and the entertainment segment.

Beta State Ontario hosted the reception prior to the Opening Session complete with two of Canada's own RCMP uniformed officers to welcome everyone. Many proudly had their 'selfies' taken with the impressive Canadian Redcoats, a great souvenir of their Canadian visit. Several American attendees, unfamiliar with timbits, were intrigued by the 'cute little doughnut' treats which the hotel staff had attractively displayed on pedestals and which were enjoyed by all. There were many complimentary comments on the early reception being a great beginning to the conference.

At the close of the Opening Session the acclaimed and award winning "Karen Schuessler Singers" took the stage and we were in for a real treat. The Singers commemorated Canada's 150th by creating a special concert, entitled "Love in a Canoe". It took us on a glorious musical and scenic journey across our beloved Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The songs covered various genres and had us toe-tapping and hand-clapping while enjoying the breathtaking scenery accompanying the music on two large screens. Canada's 150th was certainly celebrated and we celebrated being so fortunate as to live in this beautiful land of ours. I believe we owe Elizabeth Van Dongen a deep debt of gratitude for all the effort she put into arranging this Ontario Night entertainment.



The Karen Schuessler Singers provided an uplifting and joyful beginning to the NERC.

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)



A Walk in my Dreams: Friday, July 14th, 2017

Submitted by: Donna Baran (Eta)

On the last day of the NERC 2017, I was very fortunate to attend Mike Stevens' presentation about his work with indigenous children and youth in remote Northern communities. Mike is the founder of ArtsCan Circle (a not for profit charity) that he established in January 2002.

His story began in 2000 when Mike was scheduled for an armed forces tour in Bosnia. A concert stop in Goose Bay, Labrador changed Mike's life and the lives of many indigenous children/youth, forever. A resident of Sheshatshui, Labrador took Mike out to see this community to meet some of the young people who lived there. He found many burned out homes, crosses by the roadside, and many of the young people high from sniffing gasoline out of green plastic bags. After 45-50 minutes of playing music to the youth, he began to see a change in the attitudes of some of the young people and he promised that he would return and bring them harmonicas. Ted Ostrowski, the Labrador resident who took Mike to Sheshatshui, took videos of the encounter and after Mike left, he called CBC with details of the visit. CBC followed up by contacting Mike and many other residents of Labrador. As soon as Mike got home from his tour, he sent 40 harmonicas back to the community. That was the beginning of Mike's work with indigenous youth in Northern Canada

ArtsCan Circle now sends teams of musicians and artists to engage children and youth in remote Northern communities in workshops in the arts. Through music and other creative arts, they teach new skills, promote self-esteem, and creative self-expression.

Mike's presentation created mixed emotions for me. If his purpose was to make us aware of the physical

and emotional poverty of indigenous people in Northern Canada, he succeeded. If his purpose was to encourage others to reach out and help in whatever ways we can, he succeeded. Perhaps it is time for the Canadian Project to BE Canadian and this may be the way to assist Indigenous youth "walk in their dreams."



Mike Stevens, keynote speaker at the closing banquet, also conducted a break-out session on Friday afternoon.



Ten Minute Take-Aways

Submitted by: Isabel Wildfong (Eta)

The session was named "The Skittles of De-Cluttering"

S- Start small-5 Minute appointment- then increase each day.

K- Keep only what is necessary.

I- Identify your weaknesses

T- List your top five tasks

T- Tidy up and put in order of priority-Discard unused items

L- Make lists for donations

E- E-mail yourself files with list of locations where things now are.

S- Smile and reinforce yourself when you accomplish each small task.

Presented at NERC Windsor Ontario by Dr. Kammie Richter, Marilyn Myers, Bev Johns "Acting on Clutter", Franklin, Illinois: Truth Book Publishers.

Available on Amazon



One of the ten minute take-aways. This one gave participants tips on decluttering.

From the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)

The Banquet



Submitted by: Lyn Harrison

The final event of the NERC was the “Impacting the World with Music” banquet. The evening opened with the recognition of the outgoing 2015-2017 Northeast State Organization Presidents and the incoming 2017-2019 presidents. The Northeast Regional choir then entertained the attendees with a series of lovely and relevant songs.

For the banquet all the Beta State Ontario members acted as hostesses, so there was one Ontario member at each table. This allowed for meeting and conversing with delegates from all over the Northeast and Alberta, representing the Northwest. I can say that at my table there were several lively and interesting conversations occurring. We enjoyed a wonderful meal served by efficient and friendly staff.

Following the banquet we were entertained by musician and activist, Mike Stevens. He spoke about his commitment to do something to help the Inuit and First Nations kids in the far north through music. Mike has established a foundation, Artscan Circle. His foundation collects and distributes musical instruments and other art supplies to these remote communities. To date, over 11 000 harmonicas and thousands of other instruments have been donated. It also provides arts workshops led by professional musicians, visual artists, filmmakers, and actors. Mike also entertained us with his incredible harmonica playing. It was an unforgettable experience to hear this talented and committed musician.

The evening ended with closing remarks by Carol Hughes, Northeast Regional Director and the retiring of the Flags. It was a truly memorable evening.



Table favours for each guest at the NERC banquet. The favours were put together by Eta Chapter members.



Kathryn Derby, outgoing Beta State President, greets Debbie Rodaway, incoming Beta State President at the banquet.

Mike Stevens, harmonica virtuoso and activist, entertains at the banquet on Friday evening. Beta State members donated several musical instruments to Artscan.



Banquet Décor the final evening of the NERC.



The Retirement of the Flags concluded the NERC. Kathryn Derby retires the Ontario flag.

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Gamma's News



Submitted by: Mary Jane Etcher

Our final meeting of the year took place at Doreen Knight's home in June.

It was an open executive meeting. Our members look forward to this occasion each year. Doreen and her husband Wally always make everyone feel welcome. The evening began with a social time. Kathy Campbell, Carol Coulter and Doreen prepared an attractive table filled with tasty treats for everyone to enjoy. President Ellen Atkinson conducted the business portion of the meeting. Ellen gave a summary of her president's report that made our members aware of the important things that Gamma accomplished during the past year. Many reasons to celebrate!

During the meeting, it became evident that many Gamma members were looking forward to attending the Northeast Regional Conference. Those who were unable to attend were extremely supportive in other ways. Individual and chapter donations had been made to help with the funding for Ontario Night.

For a number of our members, the Northeast Regional Conference was going to be the highlight of the DKG year. Those attending contributed in numerous ways. Mary Margaret Farrow and Bette Ferguson did a great job of making certain that the audio-visual aspect of the conference ran smoothly. Maisie and Stephanie Allen worked long hours to ensure the properties room was organized, convenient and accessible. Marg Hyde and Bette Ferguson helped to set up the luncheon and banquet tables with all the various items required. Hostesses had been selected and contacted earlier for both the luncheon and banquet. Ellen's 10 minute Take-Away sessions about the Windsor waterfront were a very popular choice of the attendees. A personal thank you to all the hard working Gamma members who helped to sell the extra items left over from the conference. Thanks to Marg Hyde, Margaret Otton and Bette Ferguson \$866 was raised at our "garage sale" table to help with conference expenses. Teamwork was always

evident as chapter members worked together to ensure numerous tasks were completed and everything ran smoothly. As a member of the conference steering committee, I was very appreciative of all the support received from Gamma.

Since the Northeast Conference, Gamma members have been busy enjoying the rest of the summer. Bette Ferguson and Marg Hyde spent two amazing weeks exploring Newfoundland. Ellen Atkinson visited her granddaughter in Vancouver and followed with a trip to Spain. Mary Margaret relaxed at her cottage in Northern Ontario, although rumour has it that she spent part of the time working on the new Beta State Ontario Directory. Maisie and Stephanie sold their mountain bikes and purchased brand new step through comfort bikes made by Evo, a company in Quebec. The no cross bar feature makes them easy to get on and off. They have enjoyed some very nice bike rides together since acquiring them.

The Allens are also in the process of selling their reliable, small trailer that they have had for 39 years. They purchased it brand new in 1978. It has taken their family on many wonderful adventures as well as to Delta Kappa Gamma conferences and conventions all over the USA.

Our September meeting will be a potluck social and business meeting. Mary Margaret has welcomed us into her home for this meeting for many years. We always appreciate her willingness to host this event and enjoy her warm hospitality.

The meeting takes place after the Centos submission deadline so details cannot be reported. In the past however, it has always been a most enjoyable evening and the perfect way to begin a new year in the life of our chapter. Gamma members are great cooks and we always enjoy sampling each other's specialties before the business portion of the meeting takes place. In fact, when the president calls the meeting to order, comments such as "must we?" are often heard throughout the room. We simply enjoy being together again after the long summer break.

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Marg Otten (L), Betty Ferguson, and Mary Margaret Farrow, all from Gamma Chapter working at the garage sale following the banquet.

Kappa News

Kappa met in September with a full program of meetings for 2017-2018. We opened with a presentation on **Schools in a Multicultural Society** based on research completed in Toronto for the Ontario Ministry of Education. We have planned an October meeting on **Salem in 1692** (just in time for Hallowe'en), and future meetings on topics such as **Human Trafficking**, and **The Best and Worst Places to be a Woman in Canada: The Gender Gap in Canada's 25 Biggest Cities**, based on research completed by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Kappa/Ottawa looks forward to hosting you at **Beta/Ontario's 2018 April Conference**. We will be meeting at the Holiday Inn near the train station (formerly the Chimo Inn which many of you will remember).

This year we hope to present our successful **Ikebana and Monarch Butterfly Workshop** in another local school and we are also investigating supporting teachers in a local high school by providing resources for their math students.

Respectfully submitted,
Kappa Chapter

Nu News

Submitted by: Jan Gollan



Nu members have recently been saddened by the death of our beloved Sue Mayka. Sue was an active member at the chapter level who was always ready with a cheery smile and a willingness to lend a hand. For the past year, Sue had been battling cancer heroically and with an extremely positive attitude, but for the last few days of her life she was suffering terribly, so we can at least be comforted by the fact that she is no longer in pain. Sue succumbed to the cancer on July 31st, the day before her 73rd birthday. She will be missed by many.

On a happier note seven Nu members travelled to Windsor for the NERC conference and were a big help to me on the registration desk which I appreciated immensely. Judy Adams and Beth Davidson put together a great display of African jewelry for the Marketplace and raised over \$650 for the Beta State Mully Project. Thank you ladies. In August we were delighted to once again host our Chi sisters from New York State at the Gananoque Thousand Islands Summer Playhouse. Following a delicious lunch at the Stonewater Pub & Café we enjoyed the comedy of "Leading Ladies". And a comedy it was, we all had a good laugh. Sylvia had put together a delightful basket celebrating Canada's 150 and the NERC for a raffle in support of our education fund and I'm happy to say that the lucky winner was one of our guests.

Our thanks go to Norma and Dennis Reed for hosting our traditional planning meeting at their beautiful waterfront home in June. Even though it poured rain, our spirits weren't dampened and we are all looking forward to a great 2017-2018 year.



Beth Davidson (L) and Judy Adams (Nu) selling African goods in the Market Place in support of the Mully home in Kenya - our Beta state project.

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Margaret Joynt (L) and Norma Reed enjoy lunch at the O'Connor House in Deseronto.



Jan Gollan (L) and Helen Booth, Vice president of Nu Chapter at lunch.



Nu Chapter and Chi sisters at the theatre.

Omicron News

Submitted by: Emily Serra

Omicron Chapter held its 2017-18 Planning Meeting on June 14, 2017, at the residence of Emily Serra. The day started with picking up Sister Toni for a light lunch so that she could spend a quiet and serene afternoon in Emily's garden. In view of the upcoming NERC Regional Conference in Windsor on July 12-14, 2017, we started the meeting by preparing our contribution to the registrants' gift bags. Blessed with warm weather, while feet tapped to the mesmerizing tunes of ABBA, 26 stealth hands assembled pocket-size tissues and two bandages, sealed with the NERC sticker! Within a couple of hours, with the guiding light of our secular angel, Sister Toni, and, under the direction of Linda Larcina, extraordinaire and veteran planner, Omicron filled three boxes with 500 packages! While the hands of the assemblers orchestrated this formidable feat, Emily was running a marathon in and out of her house, foraging baskets and boxes, tapes, scissors, and other needs! The final lap involved Emily and her husband (who survived the dreadful downtown traffic), to drop off the three boxes to the hotel where Judy Bowden (Alpha) was staying. Judy, who was attending a Toronto meeting, volunteered to **relay** the boxes to its destination in Windsor—*fait accompli*!

Finally, we got to the crux of our meeting. First, we enjoyed a delightful dinner—a catered lasagna, all kinds of treats brought by members, Josephine's home-made organic wine, and, of course, Emily's Tiramisu dessert. After replenishing our energies, President Majda Resnick superlatively facilitated our brainstorming to plan Omicron's events. Our first meeting is on Monday, September 25, University of Toronto, for our World Fellowship Seminar, which will include the initiation of Ms. Vena Stewart Semprie. On Thursday, October 26, we will be entertained by talented music students at Regent Park School of Music. Noreen Crifo is hosting us for our business and social meeting on Tuesday, November 21. We start 2018 with Omicron's Annual Auction, which will take place on Saturday, January 20, at Central United Church. As our *pièce de resistance*, we begin with a sumptuous \$20 lunch followed by emptying our wallets for three charities. The

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highlight event, *A. T. Sheehan's Annual Lecture and Tea*, will be held on Saturday, April 7. Details for venue and speaker will follow. Coming full circle, Omicron's 2018-19 Planning Meeting will be hosted by Lisa Maloney on May 20. Omicron Chapter welcomes **all** Beta State members and guests to join us!

Omicron's Annual Auction

Saturday, January 20th 2018

All are welcome!
 Central United Church, Weston Rd. (side street and church address is 1 King St.)
 Located across from Ward Funeral Home (2035 Weston Rd.)
 11 am to 3 pm

All money raised goes to the following three charities:

Regent Park School of Music, Toronto
 Hosanna Children, Romania
 Caravan of Hope, Central America



Omicron members, Linda Larcina (L), Josephine Van Dusen, Majda Resnik, Sr. Toni, Josephine De Bonis, Margaret Boctor, and Margaret Brownsberger at their planning meeting.



Dr. Sr. Toni Sheehan relaxing at the home of Emily Serra following the planning meeting



Eta News

Submitted by: Grace Heaman

Traveling across Canada and the United States, holding those dear to us, celebrations, and quiet times. Eta Chapter has it all. My life has been painful and interesting. I had a six foot fall backwards at a MS fundraiser months ago. I cracked my skull and needed eight staples to close it. I never thought of using a stapler that way. My right shoulder is still painful. In December, I photographed the Sugar Moon, which will not be seen here again until 2041. Did you see it? Aggie went to the Beta State convention in Windsor. She is celebrating with family for a wedding shower, birthdays, and anniversaries. Mary Vernon shares great news! Her brother's flesh eating disease was stopped after several months. She participated in an "all out" Canada party for eighty people, in particular her five year old grandson. Ruth and Jim Stephenson set off for B.C. on May 28th. They visited friends and relatives. On July 1st they were in Niagara Falls. Mary Lannin-Neevel's heart is healing after she suffered a heart attack. Doctor's visits and her cardiac care have not kept her from enjoying her beloved Blue Jays on T. V. or sitting by the third base. Mary Margaret McDonald has had a painful bout of shingles. She has sold her Florida residence. She enjoys walking her dog, Sparky and feeding the cardinals at her feeder. These things make anyone feel better. Theatre is playing a large part in Elizabeth Van Dongen's life. She is seeing ten plays in Stratford. She saved "Guys and Dolls" and "Pirates of Penzance" for when she attended the Fall Executive Board Meeting. Her oldest grandson, Blake, accompanied her to see "Twelfth Night". When you see her, ask Elizabeth how her order of special Canada 150 tulips turned out. Carolyn Cameron's theatre involvement extended from Port Stanley's Spring Gala to supporting her son Ken's play "Harvest" on the Drayton Stage. For you golfers, Carolyn golfs in two leagues at Thames Valley Golf Club. Wear your sunscreen! Carolyn and Allister hosted Lions international students again this July. They have hosted students for almost forty years. They also billeted a London Fringe Festival performer. Donna Baran continues

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to juggle many aspects of her life. As a supportive mom, she helped her son and daughter-in-law move. As an attentive grandma, she babysat her granddaughter and grandson. As past president of the LHSC Auxiliary, she assisted with arrangements for the AGM. Donna and Lyn Harrison are fringe supporters in every way. This year's London Fringe Festival ran from May 30th to June 10th and was an excellent showcase of local, national and international talent. Next June, find a Fringe show and go see what it is all about. After the fringe was over, Donna and Lyn went camping for a week. Nicole Henderson now lives in Saskatoon and has joined a DKG chapter there. She will return to Saskatoon and an occasional teaching position in the fall. Isabel Wildfong-Martin spent two weeks in March on a Holland America Caribbean cruise. She rested up for DKG activities. She accompanied Joan Wolfe to the Beta State Convention in Windsor. She spent many hours making favours for the 700 delegates to the NERC. Helen Lamos-Parker has been recuperating and appreciating every minute of every day. She attended the Spring Convention in Windsor and has been working hard with other Eta members to create favours for the NERC delegates. She enjoyed a Delhi concert at Backstage Capital with a Buddy Holly Tribute artist. Ann Campbell, an Eta Chapter charter member, rolled eagerly into spring. She hosted the Chapter planning meeting at her new home at In Spirit retirement community. She hosted our September Champagne Potluck Brunch.

Aggie Moynihan, Donna Baran, Joan Wolfe, Isabel Wildfong-Martin, Elizabeth Van Dongen, Ruth Stephenson, Helen Lamos, and Lyn Harrison represented Eta Chapter at the Northeast Regional Conference in Windsor. We all worked very hard and had a marvelous time. It was an incredible learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to meet DKG members from all across the Northeast and beyond.



Eta Chapter planning meeting in June. Aggie Moynihan (L), Carolyn Cameron, Mary Lannin-Neeval and Elizabeth Van Dongen present ideas



Eta members Aggie Moynihan (L), Lyn Harrison, and Donna Baran at Ontario Night.



Elizabeth Van Dongen, Eta, introduces the Karen Schuessler Singers on Ontario Night.



Isabel Wildfong acts as greeter in the lobby of Ceasars. Note the red hat and trillium. The greeters really stood out.



Helen Lamos-Parker (L) and Ruth Stephenson, both from Eta Chapter, greeting delegates at the NERC. Eta members made the trillium corsages worn by greeters.

LETTER TO OMICRON

Omicron members visited Toronto's Regent School for Music two years ago. This school is one of the beneficiaries of the proceeds from our annual Auction in January. Omicron will be visiting the school again in October, when we are looking forward to a Student Recital.

Omicron received a letter from Regent School of Music thanking us for our donation. Included in the letter are some details about the school and its diverse range of programming. We would like to share with our Beta State colleagues the wonders of this gem of a music school.



July 18, 2017

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Mrs. Patricia Leeson
Delta Kappa Gamma International, Omicron Chapter
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Dear Patricia

Your wonderful donation to Regent Park School of Music has helped give over 1,000 kids a music education this year, which is quietly and magically paving the way for a bright, rewarding future. We are so grateful to you for believing in them and giving them the chance to reach for the stars.

On all fronts, the kids have had such a sensational year that it is difficult to capture everything they have been up to, but we'll give it a shot.

We began with 200 kids participating in our summer music camps in Regent Park and Jane and Finch. In September, we launched lots of new group and ensemble classes, so that the kids can explore even more and play together. On the classical side, 93 students sailed through their Royal Conservatory of Music exams. On the production side, we have several senior students now writing and producing their own songs, thanks to our *Song to Studio* program. We also have some budding young sound engineers in our iPad and turntable classes who are churning out beats and tracks weekly. Thanks to you, we pretty much have the whole music scene covered.

In Jane and Finch, the number of kids soared, and they are engaged in everything from classical piano to rock to hip hop thanks to the incredible Carswell Family. The junior and senior choirs truly came into their own and ended the year performing at our annual fundraiser CRESCENDO with Jilly Black, who grew up right in their neighbourhood. That was so special. Our partnership with York University is taking off with many disciplines and departments involved. Schulich School of Business is conducting extensive research to evaluate our programs and inform an action plan to further help our kids thrive.

OMICRON LETTER: PAGE 2

We expanded our *Creative Curriculum* for our 80 music faculty working across the city to reach our two-fold goal: to give the kids a quality music education and address some of the social needs that come as part and parcel of their circumstances. Unlike any other music school in the city, we offer kids a mix of private, group and small and large ensemble lessons and once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunities - think Koerner Hall - to boost their confidence, help them do well in school, and go on to college or university.

We are also thrilled with all our partnerships as we are reaching kids that might not normally find themselves at our doors. We continue to give every child in the First Nations School of Toronto weekly music lessons at their new location in the old Eastern Collegiate. We have a songwriting and recording pilot with aboriginal youth at Native Child and Family Services Youth Drop-In Centre, and our choir directors are still leading *Nai*, the 30 strong Syrian Refugee Children's Choir at CultureLink. AND of course The Musical Stage Company, who we are working very closely with to create original children's songs with a view to realizing our dream of a musical by 2019 (we already have eight songs ready to roll).

Joyous tears always end the year, as our 18 year olds set sail for their next adventure. This June, we had twelve graduates, and because of your belief in the power of music and commitment to help them succeed EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM IS OFF TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY to study everything from engineering to computer science to accounting and finance. We captured eight of them below...and know you will be just as proud of them as we are.

From all of us here, thank you for your generosity and for so enthusiastically cheering our kids on to succeed through our secret weapon - music.

Kindest regards



Kendel Ferrara
Major Gifts Officer
Regent Park School of Music Foundation
416.364.8900 x 5 kendel@rpmusic.org

Pat,
Thank you for your wonderful support.
Looking forward to meeting you on Oct 26.
Best,
Kendel



Recollections of the NERC

At the September Executive Board Meeting, Beta State President, Debbie Rodaway, asked those who had attended the NERC to record their thoughts and memories on sticky notes. These thoughts would be collated for publication in Centos. Here are these recollections.

NERC was awesome!!! Seeing our outgoing and incoming Beta State presidents being presented to the delegates at the final evening of the NERC. Proud of you both, Kathryn and Debbie.

A moment of extreme pride for me was following our RCMP officers carrying the Canadian flag to begin the NERC and representing Canada as we celebrate its 150th. (Joan Wolfe).

Meeting and greeting wonderful women from across the northeast region as they arrived, both in the valet parking and the lobby. Those cowboy hats and trilliums really attracted attention.

The songs of the Schuessler Singers set the stage for the themes of so many of our presentations. The joy of their music set the mood of happiness for the entire week! (Elizabeth Van Dongen)

Several attendees commented how much they enjoyed Vivienne Collinson's presentation, ***The Arctic – Its Beauty and Problems***. She made us proud to have her as a member of DKG.

Listening to the story of a residential school survivor and especially hearing her resiliency and hopeful attitude.

The wonderful support I had on the Registration Table.

Everything was on one floor.

Seventy-five people at the Canada Party!

Ten-Minute Takeaway sessions were awesome. Preparing and presenting my ten-minute takeaway public Sculpture from the train "Spirit of Windsor" to the international Bridge. About 55 to 60 people attended my presentation and were amazed by the variety – realistic, organic, and abstract sculptures. Delegates seemed to be interested in local points of interest. Northeast Regional director, Carol Hughes, took about 10 minutes to accept my

topic. (Ellen Atkinson.)

Educator's Book award presentation; I submitted the book ***Digital Sexual Victims – True Cases*** by Charlene Doak Gebauer. Charlene didn't win the Educator's Book Award, but appreciated being nominated. (Ellen Atkinson)

It was exciting to spend time with the state presidents from 2015-2017, and share our memories of the biennium. (Kathryn Derby)

The comradery and cooperation of the Beta State crew was incredible.

All Ontario members were fabulous hostesses. Working and solving problems with Sue Heath, Ceasars' rep. The whole Ceasars' staff was amazing.

And that's a wrap! Hopefully, these memories will inspire other Beta State members to attend the next NERC.



50 Year Pin Recipients -
Helen McGarry,
Massachusetts (L) &
Maisie Allen, Ontario,
Gamma Chapter

Dr. Roseann Runte, Omicron, spoke at the second general session. Her topic was "Impacting World education with DKG."



Dr. Vivienne Collinson, Alpha, spoke at the "Impacting the Arctic World Breakfast."

President's Message (continued)

What can we eliminate? Past president, Kathryn Derby, (dkgkathryn@gmail.com) is heading the bylaws and standing rules revision. She welcomes your input. Remember these are your Ontario state documents. International is simplifying their procedures, requiring few reports and eliminating forms and streamlining others. One such change is the membership application form which was formerly recommendation for membership. They have also developed a recruitment plan and orientation power point called "Pride in the big picture" available under resources at www.dkg.org.

Our founder Dr. Annie Webb Blanton wrote

"Be progressive. Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. Don't cling to the old when its worth has passed. Don't be a person so set in your views that nothing can change you..."

Taken from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society Our Heritage Volume II page 3

What wise words for the fast moving civilization we live in. How we have changed in the last ten years! We communicate meeting notices, meeting minutes, Centos, specific and general information (jokes) electronically. We have websites, both at the state level and international levels. We can have discussions among Windsor, London, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa members from the comfort of our own homes. We can even pay our membership dues by e-transfer!

These are just some of the ways we have stepped out of our comfort zone to grow. Personally, my father-in-law, who decided to become computer literate at 99 years old, is my inspiration for growing through new ideas and experiences.

Dr. Mildred Burns,(96) member DKG Quebec, formally Gamma State reacting to Gamma's name change made the following thoughtful reflection.

"DKG - Delta Kappa Gamma,
DKG - Dare to Kindle Growth."

What great words for the state of flux our Ontario state is in right now. My hope is that Ontario, Beta State members will embrace Dr. Burns paraphrased words and be Daring to Kindle Growth.

PS. I am looking forward to visiting all the chapters this year.

DKG. . . Together Everyone Achieving More
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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