Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Epsilon State

Alpha Omega's Delta Data

February 2022 Volume 20, No.5

Hope to See All Members at Phil's Friends on Feb. 19

Dear Alpha Omega Sisters,

Well, once again we have weathered the craziness that is COVID as well as our first major snowstorm of the season. Let's hope there will soon be a let-up in both arenas! I know you who are still working have had major challenges in both previously mentioned situations. We, retirees, have nothing but admiration for you as you navigate the still deep waters ahead. Please be aware that many of us no longer in the trenches are completely aware of the attack on our legislature on our education system in Indiana and have been in touch with our legislators condemning their proposals.

Our next chapter meeting is this coming Saturday, February 19 at 9 a.m. We meet at Phil's Friends Indiana Hope Center at 1249 Arrowhead Court in Crown Point. Again we will participate in the community service projects and then follow with our meeting. A reminder that each of us must fill out the volunteer form located on Phil's Friends website and send it to them electronically. If you do not do that, print it out, fill it out and bring with you to the meeting on February 19.

If our potential member is able to attend, I'd like to meet with her at Gloria Jean's Coffee Shop after we adjourn. We can then share with her what it means to be a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International and our local chapter. If you have other prospective members, please email me.

Once again I'd like to make it clear that neither I nor Tiffany will be able to serve in the presidential role for the next new biennium. Please seriously consider stepping into that role either on your own or as a co-president. We will need to present our incoming officers to the State before we end our DKG year.

Membership in DKG is an honor and privilege but with it comes the responsibility t take an active part in steering our chapter in the right direction. We must work to meet the standards established by the founders and current leaders of our organization both international and state.

I will, again, remind members that we are not primarily a social organization although that is one aspect of our membership.

In addition to forming a new slate of officers, we will - in June- plan our programs for next year. Therefore, we need all members to think about these and give your ideas and suggestions to me at my email: barbaragillan1@gmail.com.

Council One Meeting in March

Council One will have a meeting of the 5 local chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma on Saturday, March 12, 2022. We will meet at Avalon Banquet Banquet Center, 3550 E. Lincoln Highway (US30). The brunch cost is $21.00 per person including tax and tip.

The buffet will include eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, has browns, toast with jam, fresh fruit, assorted Danish, juice, coffee, and hot or iced tea.

Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Our chapter assignment is to create and print the program booklet. Anyone willing to undertake this job, please contact Barb or Tiffany right away. The program will, once again, be presented by Leslie Goddard as Eleanor Roosevelt. If you are planning to attend, please send your check for $21 to Becky Zolp at 13151 Taft St., Crown Point, IN 46307 or bring to Feb. 19 meeting.

As Tiffany Completes School Year and Looks Forward

by Tiffany Hill, president

The Friday before Presidents' Day weekend will be my last day subbing for our fellow member, Suzanne. She will be returning from maternity leave. It will be a bittersweet day since I will miss the students and my colleagues, but I am looking forward to the much needed rest. Teaching middle school is no easy task, especially doing so pregnant. Although I've taught at Taft for several years, my specialty is in ELA, and I have been teaching social studies and science for the past few months!

I have learned so much this school year about myself and these subjects. I haven't taken a science class since high school because I purposely avoided them in college. Science and math were not my strongest subjects in school, and they're something I still struggle with learning. If you had told me a year ago I would be teaching science, I would have laughed!

I have gained so much confidence in myself and in teaching since the start of the year. As for social studies, that has always been a subject I have thoroughly enjoyed. I have had so much fun learning the material. I often found myself looking up extra information about what I was teaching simply out of curiosity and the love of learning.

I leave with mixed emotions knowing that this may be my last year in the classroom full time. I have a year left until I finish my masters degree in social work. I plan on opening a private practice working with children, adolescents, and adults. Suzanne is also returning with mixed emotions, excited to return to the classroom but sad to leave her little guy. She can at least rest assured he will be in good hands. I will be watching her son twice a week until right before my due date in May, and her in-laws will be watching him as well. I am looking forward to getting all of the baby snuggles in with him before I have my own. My husband also thinks it will be good practice for him to have a baby around since he has no experience with newborns! He jokes that this will be his practice baby. My pregnancy has been tough on me physically since I cannot be on many of the medications that I had been on previously. The baby is doing weed and will not hold still! She is so squirmy that the ultrasound tech said she doubts baby will want to be swaddled or cuddled, but I think that's a far jump to make for a baby who isn't even here yet! Being in my third trimester at the end of February, I look forward to my expected due date on my 30th birthday, May 28th. We are naming her Nora Lorraine after my grandmother Norma Lorraine who will always be my biggest teacher and role model. I consider the baby a birthday gift from my grandma in heaven.

Delta Data is produced for the purpose of sharing information within chapter membership.

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

Send information for the December issue by March 1, 2022 to Carol Borowski (co-editor with Carol Bangsberg) 201 Sherwood Drive, Crown Point, IN 46307 or carolborowski@sbcglobal.net, or phone 219-663-7414 Free clipart is from publicdomainvictors.org.

Who was First Negro teacher in Indiana?

Curious as to who was the first Negro teacher in Indiana, I went to Google. Later, I read several newspaper stories. This is who I would like to share with you since like this lady, I graduated my Bachelor degree from same school, grew up in Gary where she taught and became its historian.

Dharathula Hood Millender was born in Terre Haute, IN February 4, 1920 the 6th child of 8 children in the family. Her mother was the co-founder of several organization that provided social services to Black women. Her father became the first African American professional staff member at Purdue University.

After graduating from Wiley High School, Dharathula studied English, music appreciation and library science at Indiana State Teachers' College in Terre Haute (in 1965 it became Indiana State University.)

After getting her bachelor's degree in 1941, and became a teacher and librarian in Trenton, South Carolina. It was only one of two libraries that as an African American she could work at.

She went on to work at La Plata, Maryland, the Library of Congress, in Pennsylvania at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, and then at a junior high in Baltimore, Maryland.

In 1960, Millender moved to Gary to become the librarian at Pulaski Junior High School and remained there until her retirement in 1978.

She was on the Gary Public Library in 1960's and 1970's and in 1980's became the first Black woman to win an at-large position on the Gary City Council. She served in the position until 1992. From 1992 to 2004, she served as at-large representative for the Gary Community School Corporation.

In addition to founding the Gary Historical and Cultural Society, she was dedicated to working for the historical and educational betterment of Gary. This included saving building of historical significance.

She wrote 5 books to help teach African American history. Moreover, she has been recognized and lauded by numerous politicians for her efforts in the Gary community and to public service.

Don't Forget to Plan Ahead:

March 12 is Council One Meeting at Avalon Banquet Center, 355 e. Lincoln Highway. Send your $21 reservation now to Becky Zolp, 13151 Taft St., Crown Point, IN 46307.

April 23 is Indiana State Organization DKG Society International State Conference is April 23, 2022. "Don't Give Up the Ship — Spring into Action." Will be at Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN 46122. Register online at www.dkgindiana.org

May 12 at Innsbrook for dinner at 5 p.m. for our meeting. Perhaps St. James Pilgrimage by member Carol Rivero.

June 2022 CCOT sessions for officers and communications chairs. Place and time to be announced.

July 12-16, 2022 International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana

June 2022 Planning programs for next year. Contribute your ideas to Barb Gillan at barbaragillan1gmail,com

Any time Alpha Omega Chapter members should send in your happenings, insights and experiences in education or a trip you've taken, an idea you would like to share so that they may be shared in this newsletter.

Delta Data is produced for the purpose of sharing information within chapter membership.

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

Send information for the March issue by March 1, 2022 to Carol Borowski (co-editor with Carol Bangsberg) 201 Sherwood Drive, Crown Point, IN 46307 or carolborowski@sbcglobal.net, or phone 219-663-7414

**"You can find magic wherever you look.
Sit back and relax, all you need is a book."**
Dr. Seuss

Carol Bangsberg suggests a book for 8 to 12 year olds to read: Little Leaders in Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison (2017) and Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History (2019) The idea for these books came from a project during Black History Month. There are 30-40 one page stories and illustrations of scientists, politicians, doctors, painters, sculptors and dancers.

Poetry by Phillis Wheatley 1753-1784. She is the first African American woman poet ever to be published.
Read about the following ladies:
Sojourner Truth 1797-18883. She did not get her freedom in New York in 1827. Her 5 year old son was sold illegally to an Alabama plantation. She ran away with a daughter in 1826. Then in 1828 she was the first black woman to file a court case in America to recover her son. She and won!

Harriet Tubman 1822-1913 Over 11 years she helped 70 people to escape to freedom via the Underground Railroad.

Rebecca Lee Crumpler 1831-1895 In 1864 she became the first African American woman physician in the United States. In 1883 she had published the first of two books on the care of infants and women's health.

Charlotte Ray 1850-1911 In 1872 she became the first African American woman to graduate from law school in the US and the third woman of any race to complete law school.

Bessie Coleman 1892-1926 She was not granted entry to any US aviation school, so she went to France and in 1921 was the first African American woman in the world to receive her pilot's license.

Oprah Winfrey 1954 -
In 1986 she became the first woman of color in history to own and produce her own television show. Oprah became only the second African American woman to be a billionaire!

Carol suggests the following to read to increase your knowledge of racism:
Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man by Emmanuel Acho 2020 He is a former NFL player, now a sports analyst and creator of ongoing online video series of the same name as the book. He grew up in Dallas, Texas, the son of Nigerian immigrant parents. His book is a must-read for anyone wanting to understand and get rid of racism. It covers a lot of topics and short chapters answer many questions people have. It is very readable and packs a lot of easy-to-understand information in only 200 pages.

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin D'Angelo "A vital, necessary, ad beautiful book, a bracing call to white folk everywhere to see their whiteness for what it is and to seize the opportunity to make things better now." by Michael Eric Dyson

Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm by Robin D'Angelo This is easy to read with lots of explanations for caucasians' behavior and ideas and ways to help make life better for everyone. It is a valuable resource for any bookshelf.