



# Alpha Zeta Gazette

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Indiana State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International,  
Alpha Zeta Chapter of Grant, Huntington, Wabash and Whitley Counties in Indiana

Mission Statement: To promote professional and personal growth  
of women educators and excellence in education.

September, 2020

Issue Number 1

August 31, 2020

Hello to all of my dear AZ sisters,



This letter to you has been the most difficult for me to write. We are in such “unprecedented” times. Our lives have taken on a different way of conducting our daily business and family interactions. Starting the middle of March, my job in education looked very different than it did at the beginning of March. Acceptance and adaptation have to win over the fears and stubbornness against the changes needed for the “new

normal”. For me, there was no time to question, but for survival, I had to just jump in and do it. As far as family life, that is where I am struggling in finding a balance. I have missed several traditional family gatherings and events. This has pushed me to find a different way to connect. Not how I want to connect, but it is the next best thing. Which brings me to the theme for this Biennium. Ann, myself, and the executive committee have chosen the theme of “Staying Connected”.

In a previous email, I shared that we would be using the Zoom platform for our meeting. This was decided at that time, because the Zoom platform was free and unlimited to educators. Since that email, many things have changed. Zoom is now paid for by individual school corporations and is no longer available to our group without paying monthly for its use. I have been investigating various platforms that are available to us with the security we need for our members. Google Meet offers a platform for non-profit groups that will cost \$4.00 per month. All of the other platforms were \$10 or more a month. ⇒ **Your executive committee has made the decision to purchase the services of Google**

**Meet at \$4.00 a month for our meeting platform.** You do not need to have a google account to join. You do not need to download any programs. No one outside our group will have access to join, because you must have an invitation to access our meetings. Please know that lots of time has been devoted to this choice as the safety and security of our members is our top priority during these times of change.

Now, what will our meetings and our year look like? We will be able to interact with each other online. We will be able to have presentations and speakers at our meetings. We will be able to share information for everyone to see. We will be able to conduct business as we always have with voting and information sharing. No members will be vulnerable to hacking or other invasive tactics while on this site - you will be safe and secure!

Some responsibilities will look different. For instance:

1. The Hostess Committee's responsibilities:
  - Provide the Opening Thought
  - Provide the Prayer
  - Provide the Closing Thought
  - Put in the Newsletter the theme for the meeting and encourage the Members to have decorations and/or dress according to the theme
2. Committee Chairs
  - At our first meeting we will set aside time for each committee to meet and divide up the responsibilities for their committee assignments.
  - Please submit a report to Roxanne for the Newsletter. This is how we can keep the meeting shorter and more concise
  - Music committee - please submit to the Newsletter information about the song and/or composer chosen for the meeting. We will try to participate in the song during the meeting, but this may need to be adjusted.
3. Booklets
  - The replacement pages will be delivered per county and delivered to you personally. A member will call you and try to do a contactless delivery.
4. Phone call contacts
  - Expect phone calls from other members as we attempt to check on each other and stay connected through conversations between meetings.
5. Collection Boxes for Scholarship, Grants in Aid and the Chapter project
  - Scholarship Fund has \$1056.00
  - Grants in Aid has \$1939.00 - Chapter Project
  - The Chapter project this year will be our local food banks per county - The money per meeting will go to the County hosting the meeting.

The selected food banks will be shared at the September meeting.

**⇒⇒ The Executive committee voted to have all members send in one (1) check for all funds per meeting.**

**Each Member must designate how to divide up their donations between:  
Chapter Project - Scholarship - Grant in Aids**

**NOW LET'S CELEBRATE:** [?]

On July 25th I received the following email from Carol Herzog: “ *Just wanted to share my excitement. I have been appointed chairman of the International Constitution Committee.*” Congratulations from all of your AZ sisters. We are proud to have one of our own serving at the International level. [?]

We have a new member that was inducted on July 9th. Please welcome: *Samantha Sutorious*. She will be formally introduced at our September meeting.

At our meeting, we will have a change in the program. Two of our very own members, Judy Kehmeyer and Vicki Hinen, have prepared an amazing program to help us all learn how to stay connected and still be of service to Teachers in the field. Please attend this meeting, because I miss all of you. Please attend with an open mind and a willingness to take on a new challenge that I know all of you can and will rise to the challenge! We tried to bring people to us in the past year and that didn't happen. So, now we are taking our work to them. We are hoping to put together with everyone's contribution a digital library of books being read by our members for teachers to utilize in their remote learning opportunities. WE CAN DO THIS!!

To close, I am quoting the words of our new International President Becky Sadowski: “Recent circumstances in our world have affected us in many ways. Significant changes have limited our opportunities to be together physically and work face-to-face. Many DKG events have been canceled or postponed. However, we have discovered that a caring and courageous spirit is at the heart of all we do and who we are. Because we are determined, strong, creative, and resilient women, the work of our organization is being accomplished, and we truly are leading women educators impacting education worldwide! Together we are a powerful team. Let's not forget to enjoy all parts of this journey we share.”

Yours in the Service of DKG,  
Sue M. Corbin  
[smcorbin54@gmail.com](mailto:smcorbin54@gmail.com)  
260-503-1061



---

Welcome, Samantha, to our Alpha Zeta Chapter of DKG!

---

### **Alpha Zeta Minutes**

The Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International met at 8:30 A.M. on March 7, 2020, at the Wilson-Vaughan Hostess House in Marion, Indiana. Twenty two members and three guests attended. Prior to the start of the meeting, members were invited to take a tour of the house. President Sue Corbin called the meeting to order, and introduced guests: Samantha Sutorius, Caylie Ganser and fiance', and Mike Kinney.

The Opening Thought was given by Donna Myer, who shared many interesting facts about the Hostess House, a beautiful historic architectural landmark which is on the National Register of Historic Places and Indiana's Historic Sites and Structures. It was designed by Samuel Plato, a notable African American architect, and built in 1912 by a prominent Marion businessman, J. Wood Wilson, for his bride, Peggy. At that time, it was the site for many social activities. After it was abandoned in the 1940's, a group of Marion women started a community wide effort to

revitalize the building and named it the Hostess House. Since 1950, many weddings, receptions, parties, meetings, art shows and other social events have been held here.

The program, "Alpha Zeta - Japan Connection" was presented by Karen Kinney. She introduced her husband, Mike, who took several photographs during the presentation. The Japan Connection originated on May 19, 2018, when Karen received an email from Mari Kamioka, who had seen Karen's article "Children's Literature - It's Not Just For Kids Anymore" in the Collegiate Exchange magazine. Mari is a retired junior high English teacher who is licensed to do picture book therapy with adults and also tutors students in English and uses Karen's emails in teaching English. Atsuko Ando is a retired elementary school principal, who runs the first non-profit library for children in Japan. This new library will be our DKG International Project. . The Japan group has one DKG chapter, with 66 members, who meet once a month. They also sing the DKG song at the end of each meeting. Karen shared a book, "Llama Llama Loves to Read", which is great for teaching English as a second language. Members at each table were encouraged to talk to each other about what we love. She also shared the books "Mule School" and "Happy Pig Day."

Donna Ott made the Grant-in-Aid presentation. The recipients are: McKenzie Hart from Whitley County and Tabitha Smith from Huntington County. Tabitha is the granddaughter of Ruth Moreland. Neither of the recipients were able to attend because of college commitments. Donna read McKenzie's essay and Ruth read Tabitha's essay.

The Esther Mae Ashley Scholarship was awarded to Caylie Ganser who is a junior at Manchester College. Donna Ott read her essay.

Sue Corbin congratulated the State DKG Scholarship recipient, Jessica Sheckler. This will be applied to helping her obtain a Master's degree. She is also a candidate for an International Scholarship.

Nancy Kolb offered prayer and then everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast served by the staff of the Hostess House. A short break followed. Celebration and Scholarship boxes and the Backpack were available for donations.

Sue Corbin called the business meeting to order at 10:40 A.M. The minutes of the November meeting were not available for this meeting. The treasurer's report was accepted as printed and filed for review. Susan Keefer led us in singing two DKG songs, "We're Leading On", to the tune, Londonderry Air, and "Building Bridges" by Miriam Huelsmann. Apple Stories/Poems/Creative writing will be put into a handout for the May meeting. Email them to Sue by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Sue thanked Jadean Barnes for sending cards to members and others.

Under New Business, the Proposed Budget was presented by the Finance Committee, and accepted by a voice vote of the members. Jadean Barnes presented the slate of officers for the next two years: President - Sue Corbin will be president for the first year, and Ann Ambler will be president for the second year. The other officers will be:

First Vice President - Vicki Hinen; Second Vice-President - Natheda Mills;  
Recording Secretary - Donna Myer; Corresponding Secretary - Roxanne Thomas,

Sue thanked the Hostess Committee” Karen Miller, Donna Myer, Margaret Wilson and Mary Pahmeier.

The Closing Thought was given by Martha Marley, from “ Some Challenges”, by Jane Cregan from”Sharing and Caring Thoughts”, Alpha Epsilon State. Our Founders had to meet many challenges in their day. Their legacy should inspire us, as a privilege and a duty to meet the challenges of today.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song.  
The next meeting will be on May 2, 2020, at 8:30 A.M. at the St. Peter Community Church in Huntington, IN.

Margaret Wilson, Recording Secretary

## **Announcements**

**November 7, 2020**    ***Janet O’Neal Seminar for Personal Growth***  
(Stay tuned for more updates according to state website.)

***Committee Reports– PLEASE review these.***

**Society Business**

**Finance:** In July I reviewed the Treasurer's books and bank statements. Everything was up to date and in order. Janet Vesa, Finance Chair

**Membership:** no report

**Nominations:** No report.

**Memorial Committee:** No report

**Communications & Publicity:** No report

**International Projects:** Karen Kinney sent a copy of this thank-you note from the director of the children's library where we sent money collected at our March meeting.

Thanks you for your understanding and support of Kochi Children's Library.  
We will use the donation carefully for children in Kochi.  
The activity of the coronavirus around the world has been restricted and the days are stuffy.  
Please take good care and make and active contribution.

I pray from Japan far away.  
Maki Tashima, Director of Kochi Children's Library.

**Personal Growth:** No report

**Professional Affairs (grant-in-aid):** no report

**Scholarship:** No report

**International Projects:** No report

**Legislative:** Judy Kehmeyer

**Top Priority Bills**

**These are of most important bills to the teachers in Indiana.**

**SB 2 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY**

This bill provides a two-year hold harmless for school district accountability consequences and teacher evaluations from Indiana's Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (I-LEARN) scores.

### **SB 319 PRACTITIONER OR ACCOMPLISHED PRACTITIONER LICENSE**

This bill removes a requirement mandating 15-hour professional growth points for teacher re-licensure.

### **HB 1002 TEACHER EVALUATIONS**

Permanently decouples student test scores from teacher evaluations.

### **Bill of Interest for Retired Teachers**

#### **SB 10 PENSION MATTERS**

The bill provides that a member of the Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF), the Indiana State Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF), or the legislators' defined contribution plan, who meet certain age and service requirements, may withdraw all or part of the amount in the member's annuity savings account without consequence to the member's pension benefit under the fund and without separating from a covered position.

It also removes the requirement that a member of PERF, TRF or the legislators' defined contribution plan wait 30 days after separating from a covered position to withdraw an amount from the member's annuity savings account.

Under the bill, the PERF board of trustees may offer members an alternative option for the payment of the member's retirement benefits that does not include a minimum benefit option.

**Contact your legislature:** Use [this map](#) to type in your address to see who represents your area at all levels of government. Tell them your state legislators that you support these Bills!

**Don't forget to vote!** Early voting begins on October 6, 2020 and ends on November 2, 2020. The general election is Nov. 3, 2020. Do you need to know where you vote and who you are voting for? Visit [Indiana Voters](#) to find your polling place and answer other voting questions you might have.

**Need to vote absentee?** Submit an [absentee request form](#) by October 22, 2020 for the November 3, 2020 election. Mail the form to your local Clerk's Office (see the 2nd page of the absentee request form for the address), or [email](#) it as an attachment.

**Chapter Business**

**Cheer:** Jadean has sent out birthday cards, a 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary card to Barba and George Eickhoff, and a thinking of you card to June Everitt who is in failing health.

**Chapter notebook:** no report

**Standing Rules:** No report

**Music:** no report

-----  
**Ann Ambler shared this quote from Henry Ford that may guide us in the months ahead for our chapter and society at large: “Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is progress; Working together is success.” And her own words: Staying connected is vital to our well-being and sanity!”**

**2020-2022 ALPHA ZETA OFFICERS**

President ... Sue Corbin (2020/21)  
Ann Ambler (2021/22)

First Vice President ... Vicki Hinen

Second Vice President ... Natheda Mills

Recording Secretary ... Donna Myer

Corresponding Secretary ..... Roxanne Thomas

Treasurer ..... Darlene Bockelman

Parliamentarian... Karen Bandelier

Immediate Past President... Roxanne Thomas

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**November 14, 2020 – Wabash**  
**January 16, 2021 – Grant**

Editor, Roxanne Thomas  
5657 S Woodstrail Dr, Columbia City, IN 46725

[willrox5657@gmail.com](mailto:willrox5657@gmail.com)  
(C): (260) 402-9140