



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Indiana State Organization

Alpha Sigma News

August 2020



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JODY ARNDT

Greetings, Alpha Sigma! Welcome back to the school year and to our Alpha Sigma meetings.

Members of our Educational Excellence Committee met over the summer to plan programs for this new biennium. Thank you Vice President Lauren Akers, Nila Beauchamp, Beth Cohagan, Marilyn Lukac, and Katrina Redlin for listing topics of interest to our members. I appreciate your time and brainstorming talents!

The health and safety of our members will be the deciding factor whether to gather face-to-face or meet via Zoom this biennium. The executive board has agreed to separate the induction of new members and the first business meeting of the year. I ask

that you record **BOTH** of the September dates on your personal calendars.

The induction ceremony will be held in the St. Peter Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday, September 17 with a limited number of attendees. Invitations for the face-to-face gathering will be extended to the five ladies who have accepted, their sponsors, limited officers, the Membership chair, and the two Society members who have daughters being inducted. All other members are encouraged to view the ceremony via Zoom to show their support. Zoom invitations will be sent a few days prior to the ceremony.

Continued on page 3.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Note from our President

Grant-in-Aid Recipient:
Anna Blocker

Thank You from Anna Blocker

Notes from June 18 Meeting

Notes from Chapter Executive Board Meeting

Notes from DKG 2021 Indiana State Steering Committee Meeting

New Member Orientation

New Member Induction

Alpha Sigma Member Profile:
Kathy Ward

August in History

Grant-in-Aid Recipient

Anna Blocker



Anna Blocker was designated the 2020 Alpha Sigma Grant-in-Aid Recipient. Below is the essay from her application. Alpha Sigma is pleased to support her goals in education.

At an early age, I dreamed of being a teacher when I grew up. I remember coming home from school every day and playing school. I would have pretend students to whom I gave lessons and assignments. Coming home to my "students" was the most exciting part of the day. Throughout elementary school, I watched my teachers' techniques and lessons with inspiration and enthusiasm. In 6th grade when teachers began discussing future career paths with the students, there was not a doubt in my mind about being an elementary school teacher. Throughout middle and high school, my dream of being a teacher turned into my goal. Class participation was not a weakness for me. Group projects and class discussions were my favorites. Listening to others' opinions allowed me to look at concepts from a different perspective. When presenting group

projects to the class, explaining the process of our project came easily to me. All those years of teaching to my imaginary students gave me the courage to bring those skills into reality. I took a volunteer position the Culver Boys and Girls Club. My responsibilities gave me more experience working with children. I decided I wanted to work with elementary children as opposed to high school and college students. I enjoyed observing the way children interact with each other and also with older adults. I saw myself as a positive role model in their lives.

During my Junior and Senior years, I was a teaching assistant for my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Cultice. In addition to doing any tasks she needed done, I had the opportunity to observe her interacting with her students. I began to understand all of the components required to be a teacher. I found it fascinating when Mrs. Cultice was able to multitask with many things around the classroom. For example, she was able to help the students with testing. As she read through each of the questions as a class with them, she walked around the room checking on the students' individual progress as well.

Purdue has a strong STEM presence in their courses. STEM curriculum is a rising trend in schools across the country. Purdue classes will help me gain the knowledge and experience needed for STEM curriculum in my future as a teacher. A degree in elementary education from Purdue would allow me great potential as a successful and effective educator. After obtaining my degree, I want to inspire the next generation to achieve their goals as I have done myself.

Thank You from Anna Blocker

Anna Blocker wrote the following thank -you note to our chapter:

Dear Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma,

Thank you for your generosity and support in selecting me as a recipient of the [Alpha Sigma Grant-in-Aid]. You are a hardworking group and I am honored to be a recipient of the award. I am so excited to begin my studies in Elementary Education at Purdue University. I am deeply appreciative of your support of my academic pursuit.

*Sincerely,
Anna Blocker*

NOTES FROM THE JUNE 18 MEETING

Committees to Meet:

Committees for the 2020-2022 biennium were formed. The list of committees and members was sent to each member.

President Sharon Richie directed all committees to meet before the September meeting and to be ready to report at that meeting.

UNICEF Thank You:

Kathy Ward received a thank you note from UNICEF for the chapter donation of \$165.

Confirmation Votes:

- Alpha Sigma members confirmed the electronic votes of approval for
- Chapter Standing Rules Changes
 - State By-Laws and Standing Rules Changes
 - New Member Candidates
 - 2020 Grant-in-Aid Recipient Anna Blocker
 - Support for Early Career Educator Gift Bags Reimbursement

Funding International, State and Alpha Sigma Projects:

President Sharon Richie asked that chapter members think of ways to fund the international, state and chapter projects which Alpha Sigma supports. A donation is usually taken at regular meetings. However, with the move to virtual meetings because of the Covid-19 threat, other means of collecting donations need to be planned.

**Make your plan to
vote in the
November election
and then
VOTE!**

Notes from Chapter Executive Board Meeting

The Alpha Sigma Executive Board met on Saturday, August 15, at 9:00 AM via Zoom. Agenda items included

- In-person vs Zoom meetings,
- Financial Report due by November. The Chapter Finance Committee should refer to p. 31 of the *Guidelines for Chapter Leaders*.
- Inviting chapter members to view the induction of new members via Zoom.
- Making the meeting on Saturday, September 26, a virtual business meeting.
- 26 gift bags will be prepared to give to new teachers in Alpha Sigma's Support for Early Career Educators. Jody Arndt will distribute them.
- Add the State Convention to the Chapter Program Book.
- Adjust the September meeting dates to reflect the separate Induction and Business Meeting dates.
- No venues are listed for most meetings. The venues will be

determined closer to the meeting dates to comply with pandemic guidelines.

Notes from DKG 2021 Indiana State Convention Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee met on Friday, August 21, 2020, at 10:00 AM Central at the Coolspring Branch of the LaPorte Public Library.

- The Steering Committee accepted the Save-the-Date card and the video Invitation created by Alpha Sigma for the State Convention.
- State President Jo Jones has a goal of 130 members attending the State Convention.
- Meals and meal prices were discussed and were finalized for Sharon Henderson to include on the registration form.
- Centerpieces for three Saturday meals were discussed.
- Goodie bags left from the State Conference will be used. The contents will need to be refreshed.



New Member Orientation

New member orientation took place on Wednesday, July 29, at 4:00 p.m. (Central) via Zoom. Hannah Allender, Madalyn

Allender, Christianne Hileman, Candice Schilz, and Lauren Tunis attended the meeting and have requested membership.

New Member Induction

New members Hannah Allender, Madalyn Allender, Christianne Hileman, Candice Schilz, and Lauren Tunis will be inducted into the Society at 5:00 PM Central on September 17, 2020, in the St. Peter Lutheran Fellowship Hall. Invitations to the face-to-face gathering will be extended to the five ladies who have accepted, their sponsors, limited officers, the Membership chair, and the two Society members who have daughters being inducted. All other members are invited to join the induction via Zoom.

A Note from Our President

Continued from page 1



The chapter's first business meeting will be held on Saturday, September 26 via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. CT. It will be an informative meeting as Sharon Richie shares the progress being made by the Convention Steering Committee. Updates gleaned from the State Executive Board Meeting will be noted as well. Please contact me if you are new to Zoom - I may have a

solution for you! In closing, I would like to remind everyone of the opening thought Marilyn Lukac shared with us in June. "Positive attitudes bring in more strength, initiative, and energy. Positive thoughts lead to positive action." As we increase our positive approach to life, we are better able to achieve purposeful changes in our lives, our classrooms, our chapters, and our communities.

New Member Induction

**Thursday, September 17
Look for a Zoom Invitation**

Alpha Sigma Member Profile: Kathy Ward, a key woman educator who exemplifies "motivated to make a difference."

Kathy Ward has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 1993 and is currently serving as our chapter treasurer. I have known Kathy since she began teaching at North Judson-San Pierre High School in 1979 as an English teacher. Her children and my oldest two were in the same grades and were in many of the same classes. I encouraged Kathy to become a Media Specialist when she was thinking of pursuing her Master's degree. She replaced Sharon Henderson in the NJSP Middle School Media Center when Sharon retired, and she replaced me in the NJSP High School Media Center when I retired. Kathy retired in 2019 after 40 years at North Judson-San Pierre Schools. We worked together on grant proposals and many other school-related activities. We have always been supportive of each other as

friends and colleagues. I asked Kathy to answer some questions for me via email to find out more about her and how she is motivated to make a difference. Here is our email interview.

Sheila: To what or to whom do you attribute your drive to make a difference?



Kathy: My mother is the one person [to whom] I can attribute my drive in my life. As a single mom, she raised me and my four siblings. She was a nurse who worked nights. She always believed education was the one thing that was key to our success. My grandmother was a home economics teacher in Muncie, Indiana. When I would stay with her in the summers, it was interesting when former students interacted with her when they would see her. They would say hello and talk about their lives. They would express their appreciation to her for what she had taught them. I was proud that they valued her guidance. My aunt was a math teacher in Marion, Indiana. She would share stories and interesting things about her students. Her students would see her out and about the community and talk with her. I could tell both women genuinely loved what they did. I also had an English teacher in high school who cultivated my love of English. I think from them and

my own life experiences, I felt I could make a difference in a young person's life, so I became a teacher too.

Sheila: How has your membership in Delta Kappa Gamma influenced the direction of your activities?



(Graphic by Chapter member Sylvia Dumas)

Kathy: When I'm in a Delta Kappa meeting, I believe those women are some of the best female educators I know. I admire and respect the things they have done in their lives and careers. We share a common goal and Delta Kappa Gamma helps to achieve that.

Sheila: What are your most memorable "adventures" with Delta Kappa Gamma?

Kathy: One adventure was when our chapter was involved with the State Delta Kappa Gamma convention in South Bend, Indiana in 1990. Computers were just starting to come along and we used them in the theme for the decorations. The chapter worked together to make it happen. We were on the cutting edge!

Another memorable adventure was with Sheila Akers and Jody Arndt. We had applied for a Lucille Cornet Award for Professional Development. We attended the AIME conference. Since the three of us were in the three libraries at North Judson, it was beneficial to us to attend this conference. The grant allowed us to do that. The grant was offered through Delta

Kappa Gamma and could be utilized for many things. I'd like to see other chapter members take advantage of the educational opportunities Delta Kappa Gamma has to offer.

Next Meeting

**Saturday, September 26
Business Meeting**

**Opening Thought: Jody Arndt
Media Review: Beth Cohagan
Closing Thought: Jo Ann Gappa**

Look for a Zoom Invitation



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Sheila: What do you feel are your most important contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma, your community and to education?

Kathy: My most important contribution to Delta Kappa Gamma is being active in the organization doing whatever was needed. I have been on several committees through the years in Delta Kappa Gamma and now have served as treasurer for the past three years.

I've been a member the North Judson community for over forty years. I'm active in my church and involved with Kid's Closet which also works with children. Since retiring a year ago, I'm taking time to do some things I want to do and now have time to do, like reading and spending time with my grandchildren. I came to North Judson 40 years ago and have had the privilege of working in all four buildings in our corporation with all grades of students. I've learned as much from my experience as I hope students have learned from me.

**Keep up with all the DKG
news, information, and
events...**

Visit the State website...

<https://www.dkgindiana.org>

and

the International website...

<https://www.dkg.org>

August in History

August is most notable to Delta Kappa Gamma members because it is the month in which many school open across the country. However, many notable events have occurred in August. Take a trip through history and memory lane with a short calendar of August events.

August 1, 1838 – Slavery was abolished in Jamaica.

August 1, 1944 – Anne Frank wrote the last entry in her diary.

August 2, 1776 – most members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the *Declaration of Independence*.

August 5, 1861 – President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first federal income tax of 3% for those making more than \$800.

August 6, 1945 – The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

August 9, 1945 – The second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

August 14, 1935 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act.

August 14, 1945 – V-J Day. Japan surrenders to the Allies.

August 15, 1969 – Woodstock began.

August 16, 1896 – The Great Klondike Gold Rush began.

August 18, 1920 – THE 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified granting women the right to vote.

August 24, 79 A.D. – Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii, Stabiae, and Herculaneum.

August 28, 1963 – The March on Washington occurred as over 250,000 people attended a Civil Rights Rally in Washington, D.C., at which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his now famous *I Have a Dream* speech.

August 31, 1786 – Shay's Rebellion began in Massachusetts.

August 31, 1997 – Princess Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris.