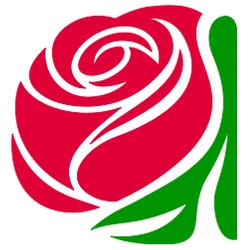


Beta Bits



Volume 83, Issue 6– May 2022

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International • Beta Chapter • Indiana State Organization

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

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Dates to remember:

Monday, May 9, 2022
5:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
8540 E. 16th Street,
Indianapolis
Installation of Officers &
Silent Auction

JuneTBD

Beta Executive Board and
Committee Chairs
Thank you brunch and
program planning

June 8, 2022

CCOT – Chapter president
and treasurers' training
Township Line MCL
Indianapolis

July 12-16, 2022

DKG International
Convention
New Orleans, LA
Early Bird Registration
discount ends **June 12th**

The President's Perspective

Dear Beta Sisters,

I hope you've been able to benefit from this year's activities, goals, and fellowship in Delta Kappa Gamma. Beta Chapter is fortunate to have caring members who step up to make good things happen! I wish to thank you for sharing your talents with our meetings, programs, and helping our members feel connected. Your generosity towards our partner school and community service has been significant.

The Indiana State Conference was the best I've attended in eleven years. State President Stephanie Walsh and about a fourth of the attendees were active teachers. Half of the workshops were relevant to professional development points needed to keep teacher licensing, but they were also interesting to many. I attended Hexagonal Thinking and Working with English Language Learners, which I'll be able to use with my Sunday School class and as materials to pass along to my church's refugee welcoming team.

Columnist and author Phillip Gulley gave a humorous program about growing up in Danville, his childhood teachers, and the school nurse who meant so much to him, past and present. It was good fellowship to be in a room of a hundred laughing teachers!

Posters displayed chapter projects, members' travel grant trips, scholarships, and monthly educational Hot Topics available on Zoom to members and chapters. Most of us are aware of these benefits, and some have used them as life-long learning.

Now our challenge is to let other teachers know and invite them to membership in DKG. If we want to keep going, we need to keep growing! It was encouraging to see several young teachers at the State Conference. If you have suggestions about how to make membership in our chapter better, we'd greatly appreciate it!

Continued on next page

President's Perspective Continued

Our next Co-Presidents, Mindy Armstrong and Carolyn Kendall will be just what we need for new ideas for our chapter. Our Executive Board and committee chairs will meet in early June to plan for next year. Please send any ideas for meeting locations or programs to our next 1st Vice President, Doris Downing, for a list to look over at the June meeting.

I've received a lot of encouragement and help these past two years. I treasure your input, patience, and support and thank you all.

Ruth

Conference Combines Learning & Fun

The weather was perfect as DKG members from around the state gathered for the Indiana State Organization Conference at the Hendricks County 4-H fairgrounds. Attendees met for the business meeting and also breakout sessions. The White Rose Ceremony of Remembrance honored those members who passed away during this past year. On the lighter side, Pastor Phillip Gulley, a local Quaker pastor, author, and humorist told tales as a pastor in a small Hoosier town.



During a break in the conference program, Ruth Simmons, Nancy Hoff, Barb Burdge, and Betsy Burdge smile for the camera.



Ruth Simmons participated in the White Rose Remembrance Ceremony which honored Betas Sheila Baker, Roleen Pickard, & Ruth Ann Hogsett along with others in Delta Kappa Gamma.

Taming the Cell Phone

Beta's March meeting at Castleton MCL provided the opportunity (finally!) for the group to get together in person and enjoy a delicious meal and time to catch up on personal news. During the meeting the purposed by-law revisions were reviewed and approved.

While the members agreed that cell phones have in many ways made keeping in touch easier, there is still an element of mystery about the many tasks the phone can do. Similar to adopting a new puppy, members wanted to learn how to "tame" the phone, whether Android or I-phone, so we could get it do what we wanted – when we wanted! Thanks to Barb King and her band of brave volunteers for patiently showing us how to make the most use of our phones!

Doris Downing and Betsy Burdge discuss shortcuts on the Android phone.



Millie McClary, Nancy Hoff, and Jane Stephenson explore taking pictures with their I-phones.



Katy Smith, Nancy Goldfarb, Jill Alsop, Amy Karas, Roni Embry, Sue Kiefer, and Margaret Crawford listen as Jan Good points out features of the I-phone.

Michele Lefkovitz: “Art is self-expression of the soul”



When she was 4, she could look at something and draw it.

(Not everyone can do this.)

Fortunately, Michele Lefkovitz’s mother recognized it. At 6 Michele took Saturday art classes. Her mom even learned to drive so she could take her then eight-year-old daughter to the art museum for lessons.

And so it began.

The oldest of three children, Michele grew up in Cincinnati. Her Catholic grade school did not offer art. But both her all-girls Catholic high school, where she attended until her family moved across town, and her public high school had rich art curricula.

By the time she entered college as a design major, the University of Cincinnati offered her a full scholarship. She learned quickly design was not what she wanted to major in.

Mom came to the rescue again. She reminded Michele, “You’ve always been good with kids. How about art education?”

But before she ever made it to teaching, life happened. Three days after her 18th birthday her freshman year, she met Paul Lefkovitz, a grad student studying for his Ph.D. in clinical psychology. One thing led to another, and they married at the end of her junior year.

Paul found employment in Cincinnati to allow Michele to complete her studies, but the job did not pan out. A Cincinnati friend suggested Paul join him and his brother as they developed Gallahue Mental Health Center at Community Hospital in Indianapolis.

So the Lefkovitz duo moved to Indy. Michele found it traumatic to transfer her senior year to Herron School of Art (IUPUI). She learned she needed an extra semester to get the “Herron Flavor.” She also faced out-of-state tuition after giving up the remainder of her UC full ride. Nonetheless she completed her bachelor’s and master’s with High Honors.

She taught one semester at Lawrence Elementary and four years at Crestview Elementary. Then the Lefkovitz family grew to three with the addition of Alison. Three and one-half years later, Steve came along. She stayed home with their children for 10 years before returning to teaching at Guion Creek and Lincoln middle schools in Pike Township.

An opportunity to teach art in the K-6 Forest Glen International Immersion School in Lawrence attracted her. She taught there for 21 years before retiring.

Michele said, “I loved it. I knew all the kids in the school. It becomes a real community. Seven years is a long time. You really get to know (the students).”

With a twinkle in her eye she adds, “I will make it to heaven due to my four years in middle school.”

Michele’s involvement in education did not stop at the end of the school day. For 21 years the kids called her “Bus Lady.” She loaded 750 students in 15 minutes! She served as an officer of the Lawrence Education Association for 12 years – nine as recording secretary and three as treasurer. She spent seven years on the ISTA district council as recording secretary.

Continued on next page

“Art is self-expression of the soul” Continued

Michele joined Beta in 2010. In 2014 she became a member of the chapter’s finance committee and now chairs it. In 2015 she received a DKG Outstanding Woman Educator award from State. In 2016 she began her stint as chapter recording or co-recording secretary until 2020. In the 2020-22 biennium she took over as corresponding secretary. She treasurers her DKG travel grant.

She holds her 2014 Teacher of the Year Award from Forest Glen School of Spanish Immersion dear to her heart as her peers nominated her. A graduating student in the top 30 chose Michele as her most influential teacher – an “Honored Educator - Top 30,” a designation usually awarded to high school teachers.

In 2011 she won The Symphony in Color Maestro Award having the most student winners at the statewide contest where students listen to classical music and produce art based on it.

She also led Brownies and Girl Scouts for eight years and Cub, Webelo and Boy Scouts for 13. Son Steve earned his Eagle Scout nine days before turning 18. (Mom was a great motivator.)

Daughter Alison earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago and is an associate professor and chair of the Federated History Department at New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers. She gave the Lefkovitzes their only grandchild, Indy, 5 – a cute little guy who melts his Baca’s heart. Son Steve majored in telecommunications and graduated from Ball State. He co-owns and is creative director at Forward Motion Entertainment that creates commercials and corporate videos. He got the artistic gene (and a video camera for completing his Eagle Scout. See above.).

Michele enjoys genealogy, collects wooden dolls from around the world with a special interest in nesting dolls, and in 1989 wrote a book, *A Collector’s Guide to Nesting Dolls*. She likes writing and photography. She and Paul traveled a lot, but his bad back limits them now. They collect lapel pins wherever they go. They enjoy flea markets and shopping for antiques.

Health challenged the family the past seven years – Michele’s auto accident that required multiple surgeries, her breast cancer diagnosis and treatments, the recent death of her father and COVID. Yet the family found ways to make something good of the COVID era. They now FaceTime weekly with relatives both here and abroad.

Michele taught her students to be creative thinkers and problem solvers. Most importantly, she taught them that art is self-expression of the soul. She asked herself how she could make life better through art. After all it’s not all about crayons, clay, and collages.

She obviously figured out a way.

Her students told her, “You teach us art, but you (also) teach us about life.”

Join us for a Beta Chapter meeting Monday, May 9th

5:00 pm

At Trinity Lutheran Church
8540 E. 16th Street, Indianapolis
Entrance 2, by the parking lot



5:00 – Snacks and Sweets provided by current officers
Silent Auction to support Beta's Grant-In-Aid Fund
for women education majors entering their senior year.

Please bring up to five items for the silent auction.

Re-home some of your books, jewelry, scarves, small home goods,
food items, beverages, etc.

To help with a quick set up, print and bring a bid sheet for each item.

Please bring a check or small bills.

5:45 - **Business meeting & Officer Installation**
Auction check-out

(See page 8 for bid sheet to cut out and copy)

Things to do . . . (Please!)

1. On page 7 is the renewal form for 2022-2023. You are encouraged to send in your dues as soon as possible. This helps the finance committee to plan the budget.
The deadline is JUNE 8.
2. Don't forget to let Jan Good (treasurer), Barb Moser (communications), and Maureen Murphy (yearbook) know if there are any changes to your information for the directory. We use mail, email, phone calls and texting to keep everyone connected.
3. On page 8 is a copy of the prospect card. When considering possible members, don't forget daughters and granddaughters of friends. Although our beginning teachers are incredibly busy, they may be looking for an organization which can help them learn from the experiences of current and former teachers as well as contribute to the community.
4. Also on page 8 is a copy of the bid card for the silent auction. If you do not have a printer available, let Ruth Simmons know, and we will have some copies available at the meeting. If possible, please bring completed bid sheets to the meeting to help save time at the meeting.

Please turn this in with dues ... this is the treasurer's 'Checks and Balances' system.
Dues are due by June 8, 2022
Delta Kappa Gamma – Beta Chapter
Dues and Address Form
2022-2023

Please send your CHECK (payable to Delta Kappa Gamma - Beta) and the completed form by **JUNE 8TH** to Jan Good, 315 E 10th St, Indianapolis IN 46202.

Name _____

Address _____

Preferred Phone # _____ cell or landline

E-mail _____

Current Educational Position _____

Name of School _____

1. DUES:

_____ \$76.00 (Active) (International \$40, State \$22.20, Local chapter \$13.80)
Active Life – Julia Allen \$16.00

_____ \$33.00 (Reserve). Please note that to change your membership to reserve status, you must send a written explanation to the president so that the chapter can vote on it.

2. Please check one or more of these funds if you wish to contribute. These are in addition to your dues:

_____ Our education partner (donation) in the amount of _____

_____ **Grant-In-Aid** (for a college student in education) in the amount of _____

_____ **World Fellowship** in the amount of _____ (DKG International).

_____ **DKG Emergency Fund** in the amount of _____ (DKG International).

_____ **Schools for Africa** in the amount of _____ (DKG international project)

3. _____ \$7.00 to mail the Beta Bits newsletters and yearbook (otherwise, Beta Bits is emailed)

4. _____ Other _____

5. TOTAL AMOUNT of check being sent is \$ _____

dues, donations, & postage

Questions? Contact Jan Good, Treasurer 317-371-1172 by phone or text.

DKG Prospect Card

Name -----
Address -----
E-mail -----
Employer-----
Position-----
Recommendation-----

Sponsor-----

Bid Sheet

Item _____
Initial value of item _____
Name and bid:

1.	_____	\$	_____
2.	_____	\$	_____
3.	_____	\$	_____
4.	_____	\$	_____
5.	_____	\$	_____
6.	_____	\$	_____
7.	_____	\$	_____
8.	_____	\$	_____