

BETA ALPHA ALPHABITS



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Alpha Epsilon State, Indiana

Beta Alpha Chapter

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

February 2021 Number 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Everyone!

Happy 2021! It's been a few months since our last meeting, and I hope everyone is still doing well. I know that a few members have been affected by COVID personally, and they are all on the mend from what I have heard. Many have also been affected with close family and friends, and while some have had everyone recover fully, others have not had as good an outcome. I have been thinking of you all often.

With vaccinations beginning for those who want it, there seems to be a small light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, this doesn't mean that everything will all of a sudden be back to "normal" and we can act like nothing happened, but it does give me hope and something to look forward to! Several members have already been able to start vaccinations, which means that *maybe* we will be able to start having in-person meetings in the fall! I'm not sure yet, but I'm excited just to think about it!

A group of us met online in mid-January for a book discussion for Unveiled Truth by Gail Goolsby. It was a wonderful hour of discussions and stories! If anyone would like to join us for the March 18th discussion about Becoming by Michelle Obama, you are welcome! I sent an email a few weeks ago about options for obtaining a copy of the book. (See the information below in the newsletter.) I will send out an interest survey in late February. If you aren't familiar with the book, there is a Netflix documentary of her book tour, also titled "Becoming."

Our next meeting will be February 16th at 6:30pm. The theme is "Mindfulness," and the presentation will feature Carol Gott discussing stress management and relaxation techniques. The business meeting will follow. The Zoom link will be sent the evening before.

The May meeting will have a "Perseverance" theme. As a part of the presentation and discussion, I had planned to ask for stories from members about their own experiences with perseverance- primarily in the context of teaching, education, and being a woman. I KNOW that so many of you have insightful stories to share about how things have changed in the past several decades for women and in the education field. I'd like to get some input at the February meeting about the best way to collect these stories- maybe by email, handwritten letter, voice recordings, video recordings, etc.

If anyone has pictures to share from their earlier years (especially related to their stories,) that would be quite the perk! I plan to put the stories together into a short video or slideshow to show at the meeting. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please be ready to share when we meet again!

"See" you all very soon! Simone

OFFICERS OF BETA ALPHA 2020-2022

President - Simone Nance

First Vice-President – Carolyn Bucko

Second Vice-President - Darlene Dycus

Recording Secretary - Kerseclia Patterson

Corresponding Secretary - Barb Nichols

Related Personnel

Past President/Council #12 Representative - Gwen Barnett

Treasurer – Marcia Onnybecker

Parliamentarian – Vickie Heilmann

Webmaster – Simone Nance

Chapter Committees 2020-2022

Society Business

Communications and Marketing –Darlene Dycus

Finance – Ann Vaughan

Membership – Angela Schonberger

Nominations – Simone Nance

Rules – Lorie Maltby

Program of Work

Program/Education Excellence – Carolyn Bucko

Scholarship –Darlene Dycus

International Projects and World Fellowship – Ethel Elkins

Legislation –Summer Aulich-Benford

Strategic Action Planning – Barb Nichols

Music – Vickie Heilmann

NEXT MEETING

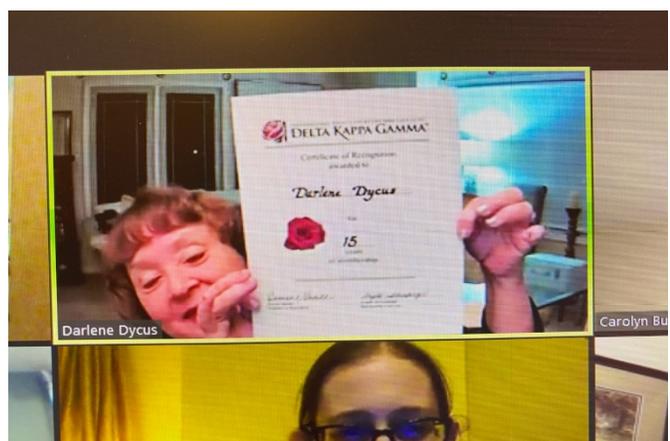
February 16, 2021 6:30 p.m. - "Celebrate Wellness"

**Presentation about Relaxation and Stress Management,
featuring Carol Gott**

NOVEMBER 17, 2020 ZOOM MEETING



Photos courtesy of Lorie Maltby



MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES PRESENTED AT THE MEETING

Carolyn Bucko – 45 Years

Darlene Dycus – 15 Years



Kathy Reitz



Simone Nance, President – Top

Angie Schonberger, Membership Chair --Bottom

POUND AUCTION RESULTS—A SUCCESS!

WE RAISED \$460--THE MOST EVER!







POUND AUCTION FUNDRAISER USE

WE DONATED 13 GIFT CARDS FOR \$30 EACH TO EARLY EDUCATORS AT LINCOLN SCHOOL TO SUPPORT THE SEE PROGRAM. THANKS TO CAROLYN BUCKO FOR THE CARD PURCHASE AND DELIVERY!



THIS IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE LINCOLN NEWSLETTER WITH THANKS TO DKG INCLUDED:

The Christmas season may have looked a little different, nevertheless, with the help of our friends and partners, Lincoln Lions made the best of it and had a blast! Many thanks to:

Evansville Urban Enterprise who provided 20 gift cards to deserving students.

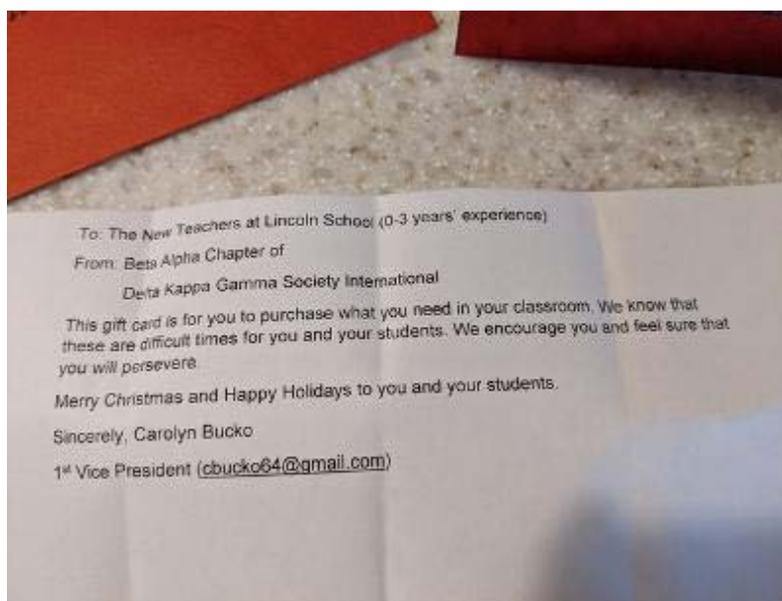
Mr. Jeff York, our former café manager referred us for a \$200 scholarship, which was used for art and afterschool programs supplies, games, crafts and books.

Delta Kappa Gamma 13 gift cards for new teachers 0—3 years.

Robin Mallery of Urban Seeds and Constance Kelly, a Lincoln Clark Douglas Alumni made donations towards student sweatshirts. Our goal is to provide every Lion with a special Lincoln sweatshirt to keep warm this winter.

Daron Harmon of the Prosecutor’s Office gave such an overabundance of toys and gifts for one family, we had so much left over, we were able to distribute 1 toy to each student in K-2nd grades! Awesome!

BELOW ARE PICTURES OF CAROLYN BUCKO’S GIFT CARD DELIVERY



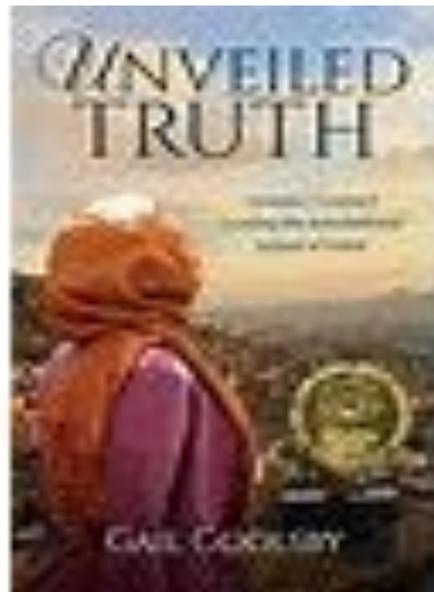


TURKEY DONATIONS TO HOSA

THERE WERE 6 TURKEYS AND ONE CASH
DONATION FOR HOSA!

THANKS TO GWEN BARNETT FOR THE
INGENIOUS DROP-OFF SYSTEM AND FOR
COORDINATING THE DONATIONS!

MESSAGES ABOUT THE BOOK CLUB FROM OUR
PRESIDENT
SIMONE NANCE
First Book



Unveiled Truth by Gail Goolsby

Our first Book Club meeting went very well in January! Thank you to all who attended!

Second Book Club Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021



We decided that the second book that we will read together will be *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. We will meet on Thursday, March 18th, to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to participate- but no need to decide or let me know right now. I will send out a message closer to that date asking who would like the Zoom link.

If you'd like to participate and need to get a copy of the book, you have a few options:

1. Amazon - \$11.89 for the hardcover is the least expensive option, but they do have paperback, audio, and Kindle versions also available.
2. Public Library - The EVPL also has several copies available, as well as Audio CD and Large Type versions available. The Newburgh library (downtown) has 1 copy available, but the others in Newburgh do not have any currently.
3. Target - \$11.89 Available in-store or for pick up at both locations.

Same as before, the March 18th meeting will only be to meet and discuss the topics in the book - it will NOT be a regular business meeting.



MESSAGE FROM CAROLYN BUCKO ABOUT LINCOLN SCHOOL
SEE PROJECT:

I am so grateful to the handful of members who stepped up to the plate on this pound auction project and contributed so much to this effort.

If members want to contribute goodies to the thirteen teachers, they can take them directly to the school front door. I was able to walk in and deliver to whoever was at the desk. I don't think we should take anything homemade as we have done in the past.

They specifically asked for sweet tea, Mt. Dew Code Red, anything chocolate or salted caramel and M & M's. Kids' snacks are Gold Fish, fruit snacks and mini candies.

If members provide snacks, they should let me (Carolyn) know and send a picture to Darlene Dycus and Simone Nance.

Let me (Carolyn) know if you have any questions.

Thanks! Carolyn

Legislation

How School Legislation Impacts Teaching and Learning

What Is School Legislation?

By Derrick Meador

Updated February 11, 2019

School legislation includes any federal, state, or local regulation that a school, its administration, teachers, staff, and constituents are required to follow. This legislation is intended to guide administrators and teachers in the daily operations of the school district. School districts sometimes feel inundated by new mandates. Sometimes a well-intended piece of legislation may have unintended negative ramifications. When this occurs, administrators and teachers should lobby the governing body to make changes or improvements to the legislation.

Federal School Legislation

Federal laws include the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and many more. Each of these laws must be adhered to by virtually every school in the United States. Federal laws exist as a common means to address a substantial issue. Many of these issues involve the infringement of student rights and were enacted to protect those rights.

State School Legislation

State laws on education vary from state to state. An education-related law in Wyoming may not be an enacted law in South Carolina. State legislation related to education often mirrors the controlling parties' core philosophies on education. This creates a myriad of varying policies across states. State laws regulate issues such as teacher retirement, teacher evaluations, charter schools, state testing requirements, required learning standards, and much more.

School Boards

At the core of every school district is the local school board. Local school boards have the power to create policies and regulations specifically for their district. These policies are constantly revised, and new policies may be added yearly. School boards and school administrators must keep track of the revisions and additions so that they are always in compliance.

New School Legislation Must Be Balanced

In education, timing does matter. In recent years schools, administrators, and educators have been bombarded with well-intended legislation. Policymakers must be attentively aware of the volume of education measures allowed to move forward each year. Schools have been overwhelmed with the sheer number of legislative mandates. With so many changes, it has been almost impossible to do any one thing well. Legislation at any level must be rolled out in a balanced approach. Trying to implement a plethora of legislative mandates makes it almost impossible to give any measure a chance to be successful.

Children Must Remain the Focus

School legislation at any level should only be passed if there is comprehensive research to prove that it will work. A policymaker's first commitment in regards to education legislation is to the children in our education system. Students should benefit from any legislative measure either directly or indirectly. Legislation that will not positively impact students should not be allowed to move forward. Children are America's greatest resource. As such, the party lines should be wiped away when it comes to education. Education issues should be exclusively bipartisan. When education becomes a pawn in a political game, it is our children who suffer.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

EACH NEWSLETTER WILL HIGHLIGHT A MEMBER SO THAT WE CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO BE HIGHLIGHTED, PLEASE CONTACT DARLENE DYCUS AT ddycus2059@aol.com or text her at 812-430-4666.

DR. ERIN REYNOLDS

Dr. Erin Reynolds grew up in Davenport, Iowa. As a lifelong fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes, choosing the University of Iowa was a simple choice! She majored in Microbiology and History (yes, kind of odd combination but think the history of diseases).

Following a lightbulb moment in her History of Infectious Diseases class, Erin jumped career paths and applied to the Masters in Public Health program at Boston University...and the Peace Corps. She was placed in Togo, a small country in West Africa as a Community Health and AIDS Prevention volunteer. The experience was life changing.

Following a stint as a Lead Poisoning Educator in Vermont, Erin returned to the University of Iowa to complete a doctorate degree in Epidemiology. With her interest in global health and infectious diseases, Erin traveled to southern India to complete her dissertation on Chikungunya virus.

Following graduation, Erin did a short assignment for Peace Corps through the Response Program and ended up teaching at the University of the Gambia and Gambia College in The Gambia for a semester.

She interviewed for the job at University of Southern Indiana while in The Gambia and moved to Evansville following her return from Africa. Erin has lived in Evansville and worked at USI in the College of Nursing and Health Professions Health Services Program since 2013.

In 2015, she bought an old house (1899) and has been working to restore the neglected gardens on the half acre lot...there's a lot of invasive ivy. She is a third- generation Cubs fan and continues to support her Iowa Hawkeyes from afar. She currently lives with her three cats (Herbie, Lizzy, and Orla) who all hate each other, so the House of Cats on Stringtown is quite the drama show.

Here's her contact information:

Erin M. Reynolds, PhD MPH

Associate Professor

Health Services

University of Southern Indiana

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Evansville, IN 47712

812-465-1172 (office) ereynolds@usi.edu | www.usi.edu



Erin in Gambia



Erin in Gambia



Erin in India



Herbie



Lizzy



Orla



Erin's Stringtown Road Home-Built 1899

MEMBER NEWS

We have two member family events that we are aware of, one of sympathy and one of celebration. Please offer your support for both.

First, the sad news is that Jaclyn Kauffman's mother passed away on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. She had been at Solarbron and had been doing well, but she had an apparent stroke a few days before she passed at Linda E. White Hospice with Jaclyn at her side. Below is a link of her obituary with the full details of her passing and life. She will be greatly missed by Jaclyn, her sisters and family. Below is Jaclyn's address if you would like to send a sympathy card or do anything else to support Jaclyn and her family.

*Jaclyn Kauffman
1126 S. Bennighof Rd.
Evansville, IN 47714*

<https://obits.courierpress.com/obituaries/courierpress/obituary.aspx?n=bettye-murel-kauffman&pid=197443688&fhid=10665>

Bettye Murel Kauffman

1925 - 2021



The happy news is that Angie Schonberger is a grandma again to the new arrival, Beau Matthew, who arrived a little before noon on January 11, 2021. He weighed 8 lbs, 7 ozs and was 22 1/2 inches long! All are doing well. Angie was at Kate, Matt and Eve's home taking care of big sister Eve and waiting for the family to come home when Beau arrived. Here are some cute pics of the arrival of the new bundle of joy and of the parents, Matt and Kate, Angie's daughter.



Proud Dad Matt with Baby Beau



Proud Mama Kate with Baby Beau

Angie's Address for Congratulations and Welcome Baby:

***Angie Schonberger
6441 Lively Lane
Evansville, IN 47720
or ams031em@aol.com***

If anyone knows of any other news, please let me (Darlene Dycus) know. Please email me at ddycus2059@aol.com. Or text to 812-430-4666. Any pics are always welcome and needed.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 16, 2021 6:30 p.m. - "Celebrate Wellness"

**Presentation about Relaxation and Stress Management,
featuring Carol Gott**

April 23, 2021 - DKG Indiana State Convention

Plymouth, IN

May 10, 2021 6:30 p.m. - "Celebrate Perseverance"

**Challenges and Obstacles facing Women in Education,
featuring Dr. Lynn (USI) and Indiana State President, Jo
Jones**