



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Indiana State Organization



Alpha Sigma News

December 2021

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JODY ARNDT

Happy Holidays, Alpha Sigma!

The holiday season is often called “the most wonderful time of the year.” Many of us enjoy decorating trees, hanging outdoor lights, setting up nativities, listening to Christmas music, watching holiday movies, and baking. Gathering with friends and relatives adds even more joy to our lives. It is my hope that this year we are able to celebrate the holiday season with loved ones living outside our homes.

Traditionally, this is also the season of giving. The exceptional

women of Alpha Sigma again demonstrated their generosity when they baked a variety of goodies, made monetary donations, and/or volunteered their time at the bake sale held at Bailey’s Discount Center the first Saturday in December. Kathy reported that \$1220.41 was collected and deposited. This amount includes a \$100 donation from Mark Bailey. Thank you everyone!

’Tis the season of volunteering, too! As 2022 approaches, our nominating committee will be seeking volunteers to fill the slate

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Mission

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

Our Next Meeting:

Saturday
February 19, 2022
9:00 AM Central
NJ-SP HS Library

Roll Call: What craft or hobby do you like to do?

Opening Thought: Beth Cohagen

Media Review: Marilyn Lukac

Refreshments: Jo Ann Gappa and
Kathy Ward

Closing Thought: Donna Rowe

Support for Early Career Educators
Collection

Dates to Remember

Alpha Sigma Chapter Meeting
February 19, 2022
NJ-SP HS Library

Alpha Sigma Chapter Meeting
April 14, 2022
TBA

State Conference
April 23, 2022
Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds
Danville, Indiana

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

State Convention
April 28-30, 2023
Evansville



Cheryl Bockstahler shared her experiences in Guatemala as a traveler, teacher and assistant to her daughter who is a nurse there. About the size of Tennessee, Guatemala has twenty-four people groups with twenty-five languages or dialects. There are twenty-two Maya subdialects and two other indigenous dialects. The 10% who are of pure Spanish extraction have a lot of power and wealth. The rest of the population mostly lives in poverty.

Cheryl explained that although Guatemala is small, most of the population live in small, isolated villages. Each village has its own language. This makes education and mobility difficult. The average Guatemalan has 4.2 years of schooling.

Resulting from a civil war that lasted from 1960 until 1996, there are pockets of extreme poverty. One such neighborhood can be found around the city dump of Guatemala City. The people who live in this area open garbage bags to find food and things to recycle for resale. They have no electricity and no running water. People in

other neighborhoods in Guatemala City don't know that this area exists.



Guatemala does have three UNESCO World Heritage sites one of which is Antigua. Formerly the capital of Guatemala, the ruins of Antigua lie against the background of a volcano. After the volcano erupted and earthquakes finished the destruction of the city, a new capital was established in Guatemala City. There are numerous Mayan ruins of which the people of Guatemala honor. One of the most famous is at Tikal.



The rainforests of the lowlands are inhabitable, so most Guatemalans live in the mountains. There are thirty-seven volcanoes in Guatemala, some of which are active.

The Mayan markets reflect the love of music and various communities gathered there distinguished by their clothing. Each village has distinct colors and designs that are woven by weavers with small looms to make clothing. The designs have meanings that reflect the heritage of the village.

Each year Cheryl's first-grade students at DeMotte Elementary FaceTime with first graders in Guatemala. ELL (English Language Learners) whose primary language is Spanish translate for their classmates and for the students in Guatemala. Her students end their experience by eating foods from Guatemala. Her ELL students love sharing their culture with classmates.

Chapter Rules to Be Amended

Sharon Henderson reported she will be presenting amended rules to the chapter that reflect the change from Council 2 to the Northwest Coordinating Council.

2021 Bake Sale



The Alpha Sigma Bake Sale which took place on Saturday, December 4, at Bailey's Discount Center garnered over \$1,200 dollars. The proceeds will be used to support

chapter projects and the chapter general fund.



A Note from Our President

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of officers for the 2022-2024 biennium. Two officers are needed – President and Vice President. Beth Cohagan and Sheila Akers have agreed to continue as Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, respectively. Sharon Henderson will serve as Parliamentarian once again and the Treasurer will be appointed by the newly elected Chapter President. Remember, as key women educators and respected leaders, all Alpha Sigma members possess the leadership abilities needed to serve and the support officers receive is huge.

Yes, it is indeed "the most wonderful time of the year." May your holiday season be filled with the precious gifts that only God gives – His everlasting love, the support of special friends, the joy of family times, the blessing of happy memories.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Stay warm. Stay safe.

Jody

DKG Shirts for Sale

State President Stephanie Walsh is making available the purchase of DKG shirts and sweatshirts. Pricing and how to order will be included in a forwarded message that you will receive from Stephanie. Shirts and sweatshirts will be available for pick-up at the State Conference in Danville in April. Watch your email for the opportunity to purchase a DKG shirt!

DKG Volunteers Ring the Bell



Representing DKG, Sharon Richie, Susie Norwich, and Jody Arndt rang the Salvation Army Bell at Bailey's Discount Store on Wednesday, December 15. They encountered many friendly, gracious, generous people who donated to this worthy organization.

Liaison Visit in February

Our State Liaison, Dina D'Andrea, will attend our February 19 meeting. Dina is the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Make plans to attend the February meeting to greet Dina and to give her a warm welcome to our part of Indiana.

**Alpha Sigma Member
Profile: Beth Cohagan, a
key woman educator who
exemplifies "motivated to
make a difference."**

Elizabeth Ann Cohagan, better known as Beth, has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 2003. She currently is the Recording Secretary. I've only known Beth a short time but admire how active she is in her school. This is her 28th year teaching. She has spent 27 years at Argos Jr.-Sr. High School, teaching English and Speech. She has taught junior high and high school classes. This year, she is teaching English 12, English 10, AP Language and Composition, and ACP Dual Credit Speech from Indiana University. She also did one year of substitute teaching in three schools --- Western Boone High School in Lebanon, Indiana; Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation in Akron, Indiana; and Rochester Community Schools in Rochester, Indiana. At school, she is a member of the Argos Classroom Teachers Association as well as Senior Class Sponsor, Bowling Club Coach, Argos Music Boosters Treasurer, and Argos Dollars for Scholars Vice President. She serves on the Fulton County 4-H Council, is the 4-H Rabbit Barn Co-Superintendent, and a Livestock Auction Committee Member. She attends Riverview Community Church. I asked Beth 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?

Beth: I would say my parents originally, and now my personal children, and the students that I

teach. My parents have always been the drivers of my success. My mom always wanted me to go to college. It didn't have to be Ball



State, but it was somewhere that was closer to home and not so far away. My dad always encouraged me to go to college as well. They both taught me many skills that I have, in turn, taught to my children --- hunting, gardening, canning, etc. They taught me to not settle for anything less than my best. My personal children have encouraged me to do what makes me happy. Last year, I was given the opportunity to teach an advanced placement course for our seniors when the previous teacher left mid-year. When the Argos students asked me to teach the class, I went to the principal and asked if I could teach AP Lit and AP Lang. He said that he was waiting for me to come to see him. I said I was not doing it for any personal gain, but for the kids. I asked my own son Evan about it as he has taken both classes. He said, "Mom, you can do this." So, I did.

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

Beth: One of the coolest things I have been able to do is to meet with other DKG members while I am at the state ISTA lobbying days. It was like there was a DKG caucus group! I know that if I am involved in another education group, I can usually find another DKG member. So, I do look for that. I do also share this information with the other female teachers in my building. I would like to get a couple more members from the "FAST" time zone!

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

Beth: In the last year, it has been the Zoom meetings! I have enjoyed being a member along with my mom. I have enjoyed serving as the recording secretary this year. I applied for and received one of the DKG scholarships. I don't remember which one it was, but I used it as part of my master's program. I do enjoy seeing and talking with many of the other ladies that I have met over the years -- Sharon Henderson, Jody Arndt, Nila Beauchamp, Cheryl Orkis, and many others.

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

Beth: To DKG, being a member who is willing to share with other members. To my community, I am a 4-H leader. I work with youth, teaching skills that are important for the rest of their lives. To education, being an educator to teach the future.

Sheila: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Beth: My favorite hobbies are reading, shopping, bowling,

traveling, and spending time with my 7-month old granddaughter Madison and her parents Abby and Jacob. Abby is a 2013 graduate of Argos and 2017 graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Animal Science. She is a hatchery supervisor for Maple Leaf Farms in Warsaw. Evan is a 2020 graduate of Argos and is a sophomore at Purdue. He is working toward a degree in agronomy with a concentration in plant and soil science. He completed a summer internship at Beck's Hybrids in Atlanta, Indiana, last summer. Both of my kids were active in FFA and both received their FFA American Degrees, which is the highest award a member can receive. Abby earned hers in 2015, and Evan received his [award] this past October at the National Convention.

Unusual Christmas Traditions from Around the World

If we celebrate Christmas, we probably have much in common with our neighbors with decorations, Christmas trees, and presents. We also probably have traditions that are particular to our own families. Many countries share at least some of our Christmas traditions, but several countries have unusual or peculiar traditions that are interesting.

Austria: A ghoulish creature called 'Krampus' is the evil accomplice of St Nicholas. He is said to wander the streets in search of badly behaved children. During the month of December, you can expect to see terrifying masked figures out and about scaring kids and adults alike with ghastly pranks.

Ukraine: Ukrainians use decorations that mimic the natural formation of spiders' webs shimmering with dew.

Germany: One German tradition is to hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of the tree, and give a gift to whichever child in the household finds it. Some claim that this tradition originated in Spain which also has this tradition.

Venezuela: In the capital of Caracas, legions of city-dwellers make their way to mass on roller skates every year on Christmas morning. The tradition is now so well established that many of the city's streets are closed to traffic from 8am, so that the skating congregation can get to church safely.

The Netherlands: Every year in the days leading up to December 25th, Dutch children eagerly place their shoes by the fire in hopes that Sinterklaas will fill them with small gifts and treats in the night. Traditionally, carrots are left in the shoes for Sinterklaas' faithful steed, a white horse named Amerigo.

Italy: According to folklore, an old woman named Belfana visits all the children of Italy to fill their stockings with candy and leave them presents if they've been good. Just like Father Christmas, Belfana enters through the chimney and is left treats by the children who live there - typically wine and local delicacies.

Iceland: A giant cat is said to roam the snowy countryside at Christmas time. Traditionally, farmers would use the Yule Cat as an incentive for their workers - those who worked hard would receive a new set of clothes, but those who didn't would be devoured by the gigantic cat-like beast.

Today it is customary for everyone in Iceland to get new clothing for Christmas to avoid an unsavory demise.

South Africa: Festive fried caterpillars may seem like one of the more unusual Christmas traditions, but these caterpillars aren't just the run-of-the-mill variety you find in the garden. The Pine Tree Emperor Moth, or Christmas caterpillar, is covered in very festive hues - giving all who swallow a little extra luck in the coming year.

Norway: According to Norwegian folklore, Christmas Eve is the day when mischievous spirits and witches take to the skies for mischief and general tomfoolery. As witches often use brooms as their preferred mode of transportation, it's tradition for Norwegian families to hide away any sweeping sticks where the witches won't be able to find them.

Sweden: The Yule Goat dates back to at least the 11th century, where there are mentions of a man-sized goat figure, led by Saint Nicholas, who had the power to control the devil.

By the 19th century, the goat became the good guy - a giver of gifts. Instead of Father Christmas, men in the family would dress up as the goat and give gifts to the entire family.

Today, the Yule Goat is an ornament created out of straw and red ribbons.

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