



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

## Indiana State Organization



# Alpha Sigma News

May 2020

### A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT, JODY ARNDT

Greetings Alpha Sigma,

I am very thankful to be a part of this group of key women educators. It is my hope that I can count on each of you to help me as I serve as your chapter president this biennium.

Sharon Richie served this chapter the past four years with love, dedication, and enthusiasm. Through her leadership and participation at local, state, and international meetings, Alpha Sigma was recognized as a Golden Key chapter. Sharon was an amazing president and is definitely a tough act to follow. I so appreciate her offer to assist me in my new role.

Covid-19 is now part of our daily living. As we face the numerous

restrictions and the changes required, we do so individually and in a united effort to care for one another. I do not know when we will be able to gather together; but I do know that every effort has been, and will be, taken to keep you informed. Members are encouraged to peruse their chapter email messages, newsletter articles, and website announcements for updates.

Sheila has agreed to continue her role as Communication Chair. What a blessing, especially now! In addition to her many group email messages, Sheila spends hours writing all the articles in our newsletters and updating our

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## Electronic Votes

**Grant-in-Aid Candidate**

Vote "yes" or "no" for this candidate.

**Anna Blocker**

Senior, Culver Community High School

Yes

No

Electronic voting has become the method of taking care of important chapter business in this time of no public gatherings. Our chapter has engaged in five votes since our February meeting. These electronic votes will be confirmed at our next meeting.

### Chapter Standing Rules Vote:

The Chapter voted electronically to change the standing rules. The Remembrance Committee was eliminated from the chapter rules by a unanimous vote of 15. The Corresponding Secretary will perform the duties formerly assigned to the committee.

### State Standing Rules Vote:

The nineteen proposed standing rules changes outlined in the March 2020 edition of the *Hoosier Newsette* were posted on the Alpha Sigma website. Chapter members were to vote "yes" or "no" on each proposed change. Eleven members unanimously voted "yes" for all the proposed changes.

### New Member Candidates:

Seven women were proposed for membership in the Alpha Sigma Chapter. The following women received at least twenty "yes" votes.

Hannah Allender  
Madalyn Allender  
Christy Hileman  
Theresa Parish  
Ashley Salyer

Candice Schilz  
Lauren Tunis

Orientation will be scheduled for late July or early August. Induction will occur in September.

### Grant-in-Aid Recipient:

The Scholarship Committee selected Anna Blocker, a senior at Culver Community High School, as the candidate to present to our chapter for approval. She was approved with a vote of 19 "yes" votes a 1 blank vote was submitted.

### Gift Bag Invoice:

Sheila Akers presented an itemized invoice for \$290.10 for 30 gift bags given to new teachers in the fall of 2019. Although this expense is a budgeted item, the executive committee directed that approval for payment be put to a vote by the members. The expense was approved with 14 "yes" votes. The gift bags are the Alpha Sigma Chapter's contribution to the Support for Early Career Educators Project.

## Executive Meeting

The Executive Committee held a Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 14. Attending were President Sharon Richie, Recording Secretary Jody Arndt, Corresponding Secretary Sheila Akers, Parliamentarian Sharon Henderson. Newly elected Vice President Lauren Akers and Recording Secretary Beth Cohagan were also invited to the meeting as well.

### President's Report:

Sharon Richie sent copies of Form 110, the form that lists our 2020-2022 chapter officers, to state president Jo Jones, state executive secretary Carol Herzog and to Society Headquarters on April 23. She will also send a copy to Jo Ann Manes, the state's immediate past

president.

Committee Chairmen and Officer Training (CCOT), originally scheduled for June 13 & 18, has been postponed. Jo Ann Manes will be contacting officers and some of their committee chairs to announce training which is planned to be held electronically.

The DKG Society International Administrative Board has requested that the email addresses of international board members not be included in program books. These addresses can be accessed on the DKG website.

Sharon will complete the Golden Key application. The chapter was unable to send a representative to the Executive Board Meeting held in September, but may still be eligible for Honorable Mention status.

The State Convention Steering Committee meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

### Treasurer's Report:

Kathy Ward reported that seventeen members have paid their 2020-2021 dues. She also reported that a resignation letter was received via email on May 11 from Kathy Brown.

### New Business:

Alpha Sigma business meetings will be held using a video conferencing application until further notice.

Installation of the officers for the next biennium will take place on a yet-to-be determined date in June via Zoom. (June 18 was suggested after the meeting.)

The seven women nominated for membership will receive an invitation from Corresponding

Secretary Sheila Akers. Orientation will be held in late July via Zoom. The 2020-2022 Membership Committee will be in charge of making arrangements for the orientation meeting.

Sign-up for chapter committees will end on June 1. Chapter members who have failed to designate their preferences will be assigned to committees.

Sharon Richie will present Madeline Hewlett, recipient of the 2019 Grant-in-Aid, with a check for \$1,000. Madeline, a graduate of Knox Community High School, is currently attending Valparaiso University.

The Scholarship Committee's selection for the 2020 Grant-in-Aid, Anna Blocker, a senior at Culver Community High School was affirmed by electronic vote. An award certificate will be sent to her by Sheila Akers who was given permission to sign the names of the officers required on the certificate.

Sheila Akers, chairman of the Support for Early Educators Project, presented an itemized invoice for the gift bags distributed to new teachers in the fall of 2019. The cost of the gift bags is covered in the chapter budget; however, an electronic vote will affirm member approval of the \$290.10 expense. Treasurer Kathy Ward will check to see how much money has been collected for this project.

## Future Meetings

What will the future hold for our chapter meetings? In the near future, meetings will be held utilizing video conferencing. Zoom has been designated for the next two meetings, but Skype and Google Meet are also possibilities.

## How Members Have Managed Their Covid-19 Downtime

Members were asked how they have been managing their stay-at-home social distancing brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Here are their responses:

Lauren Akers: I finished my Master's Degree. I do the Chicago Shakespeare Theater book club when they have it. I've been riding my bike. I started binge watching Agatha Christie's *Poirot* on BritBox, even though I've seen most of them. I'm reading *The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way* by Bill Bryson. I've been playing detective, trying to track down students who aren't doing their work. I've been lesson planning and teaching. I've been cleaning my house. I've been working on Academia Cup and putting together resources for our question writer. I've been catching up with old friends that I haven't talked to for a long time.

Angie Allender: Well, my five kids moved back home with me and my husband to work remotely at their jobs and schooling. We decided to



open a plant stand to go along with our hemp products at our family run business, Five Buds Farm. We had a very successful season and it kept us all busy for weeks. It's

never a dull moment at our place. I'm ready for some time off.

Jana Hazelton: I have cleaned and purged my entire house lol. We have been enjoying the nice days playing outside. Our favorite game right now has been *Apples to Apples* the Disney version. I have been staying up late to read which is my favorite thing to do!!! We have enjoyed the slowdown of life and being with each other!

Margaret Radtke: I binge watched *Outlander* on Netflix. I have put together about 7- 1,000 piece puzzles.

Anne Eckert: I sorted through a box of pictures and put together four photo albums. Being alone, I also learned to play *Scrabble* against myself. Guess what . . . I always win!

Sherry Lippelt: I have used my time to learn more about Google capabilities and educational programs to (hopefully) keep my students engaged. I have also spent time outside walking, weeding, and planting flowers. Now it's time to clean a few closets! :)

Beth Cohagan: Teaching E-learning. Cooking a lot! Cleaning and purging each room in the house.

I've done some gardening, planting flowers with more to plant. I've tried some new recipes and ate too much. I should have cleaned house and purged excess "stuff", but didn't!

Kay Horn: I have read at least 15 "grocery store books from Kroger's book shelf" authored by Debbie Macomber, Robyn Carr, John Grisham, etc., while our library has been closed.

I have made face masks and donated fabric to my neighbor who has made over 500. I just made for family mostly. I have made a T-shirt quilt for my senior grandson.



Sharon Richie: During "sheltering in place" my daily activities are watch Daily Mass and Rosary on EWTN, walk, enjoy word games, watch news and clean. I also assisted my grandson with a little "light" reading for his APEX English class; *Odyssey, Beowulf, Grendel, The Monk's Tale, The Inferno, Shakespeare's Tempest, Robinson Crusoe* and *A Modest Proposal*.

Susan Christian: I've been doing some packing for the move to my new house and some knitting. I binge watched the first season of *Yellowstone* on the Paramount Network and have been working jigsaw puzzles on Jigsaw World on Facebook.

Sharon Henderson: I was just getting back into activity following the August 2019 right knee replacement surgery when all of this started in mid-March. However, since I am a Type B diabetic and so close to the surgery, I was pretty committed to staying at home.

I spent most of the time stitching (completed the 2 hardanger angels for my granddaughters' Christmas); finished 2 PIP's which are projects in process, also

completed 2 new projects). I did do some cleaning in what I call "the black hole" which is the spare bedroom that houses many of my "wanna be" stitchery projects that I HAD to have and now I'm wondering why, and tried some new recipes.

I'm looking forward to being with people again even if we will still be social distancing.

Sylvia Dumas: I was pretty busy! I made a baby blanket for fellow teacher Toni Harris's new baby.



I picked up sticks, branches, and logs from dead trees in our yard and burned them.



I read *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century*. Modern times are better! I also watched all three seasons of *Kath & Kim* on Netflix.

I cleared out the Art Room in preparation for my retirement and worked on clearing out my house in preparation for moving!

Sheila Akers: I "supervised" the remodeling of my family room as my sister-in-law painted the walls and my husband laid new floors. The furniture will arrive within the next month or so. It has taken over twenty years to bring my 1980s home into the 21st century. Now we're down to three bedroom floors to re-carpet and a few closets to clean out. I should get this all done in time to purchase a one-story retirement home before my 80th birthday!



I've read a great many books, but that's no surprise to those who know me. I text or talk daily with my son Evan and my daughter Lauren. I admit to smiling or laughing out loud at my son's eLearning challenges as a parent of a kindergartener and a third grader, neither of whom like eLearning activities. He is so very grateful that school is done for his children as of last week. The normal antics of his four children test his fortitude, but I just chuckle because I'm the grandmother!

My daughter Lauren has told me many tales of learning triumphs for some of her English learners and some frustrating moments with delivering and returning learning packets for her EL students that don't have access to internet. I loved teaching, but am thankful

that I didn't and don't have to deal with this challenge.

I, like many of you, have cooked more in the past three months than I have since I was first married. Baking has always been a pleasure for me and I have had the time to whip up a dessert whenever I please.



All in all, sheltering at home hasn't been much different for me than my regular retired life. There are no meetings, of course, and my daughter and I can't lunch at Fingerhut Bakery, but aside from no Cubs baseball games, life is pretty good!

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



Sharon Richie has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 1995.

She has served our chapter in various capacities including president. I have known Sharon since childhood. Her sister Mary was in my class. Sharon was in my brother's class. We were in 4-H at the same time, although we didn't belong to the same club. Her uncle was married to my aunt, so although Sharon and I aren't officially related, we do share cousins in common. I remember when she came to North Judson-San Pierre High School to begin the special needs program in the high school. Her influence on that program and on the students she taught has been profound. I admire Sharon for her dedication and energy.

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

**Sharon:** I attribute my "make a difference" drive to my mom, Grandpa and Grandma Bau, my aunts and uncles and my Roman Catholic upbringing. Sitting in sociology class at Indiana University, I learned I was a statistic. The odds were against me of being successful. I came from a single-parent family. My dad was killed in a train car accident when I was four years old. We lived at the poverty level because my mom could only make so much money because of receiving social security. Education should not have been a priority. But I didn't realize any of this! Throughout childhood and my teen years my "Bau Family" provided support and encouragement. They were generous with their time and I felt I was a part of a "normal" family unit. I also recognized the sacrifices made for me. So, through their selfless acts and positive role models it was ingrained in me that it is better to serve than to be served.

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

**Sharon:** I feel being a member of DKG has made me more cognizant of being an "active" member in the organizations of which I am involved. Being president really challenged me out of my comfort zone. I made it a priority to represent our chapter at international, state, council and local meetings and I don't like to drive in heavy traffic! My biggest challenge will definitely come in 2021 being chairperson for the state convention. But who knows with Covid-19 what will the future bring?

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

**Sharon:** I have several great memories but I won't write about all of them! Here are a few. My first was my induction in 1995. It was held at Pinder's Restaurant in Culver. It was at night in candlelight. I was so impressed with the ceremony and solemnness. So many members were present to welcome us new inductees. I am so thankful to Nila Beauchamp for presenting me for membership. Then the recommitment ceremony, with the readings, lighting of the candles, singing the DKG song, holding hands; I really felt honored to be considered as a "key woman educator."

The second memory is the first state convention Donna Kida and I attended. It wasn't about the convention but about the hotel and our floor mates. The hotel had changed management and there were several challenges apparent. A national AAU basketball tournament was scheduled that weekend and the teams were

staying at the same hotel! Donna and I registered at the same time several teams arrived. So, we were on the same floor as the teams. Needless to say, walking through the hall with 6'5 and taller boys, I really felt my shortness. Donna and I ordered carry out pizza. Of course, we couldn't eat the whole pizza and we opened our door and we had no problem getting takers!

### Next Meeting

**Thursday, June 18, 2020**

**Teleconference meeting  
via Zoom**

**Time to be Determined**

**Program: Induction of Officers**

The last memory is when Larry and I attended the international conference in Ashville, North Carolina. The location, of course, is beautiful and there is so much to see! But it was at this conference when I met women from all over the United States and all with careers in education that I really was proud to be a member of DKG. I saw the commitment and accountability for membership.

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

Sharon: I have to say being recognized as a Golden Key chapter is pretty amazing. Only six in the state of Indiana! I was surprised that was our first recognition. I know our chapter has had several exceptional past presidents. If school is opened next year, I plan to continue being a part of the FOLKS program at North Judson-San Pierre Elementary. I so enjoy working with the students

and staff. It's like my "school fix" and I can continue being happy I retired! In the community, I will continue my 4-H involvement, church activities and assisting with Community Services of Starke County. I do miss my senior center clients. And lastly, the State Convention will truly be an important contribution by Alpha Sigma members.

### Pay Dues by June 10!

**Kathy Ward  
2156 E 250 S  
Knox, IN 46534**

### Leadership Development Lead Through Your Strengths

Dr. Nancy Marchand-Martella, Dean of the Purdue University School of Education, will be the featured speaker at the Leadership Conference to be held on November 7, 2020, at Logansport High School. After lunch, Jim Nielson of Blauer Tactical Systems, Inc., will teach self-defense.

This conference is open to members and non-members. The fee for members is \$25 and \$35 for non-members. Meals include a continental breakfast and a lunch of soup, sandwich and drink. Overnight accommodations are available.

Registration opens June 1, 2020, and closes October 1. A registration form for this event will be emailed to you in July. You can also access the form on the State website: [www.dkgindiana.org](http://www.dkgindiana.org).

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### Grant-in-Aid Check Awarded

President Sharon Richie awarded Madeline Hewlett, the 2019 Alpha Sigma Grant-in-Aid Recipient with a check for \$1,000 on May 21. Madeline has completed her first year of college at Valparaiso University.



### A Note from Our President-Elect

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chapter website. I want Sheila to know that her time and talents are greatly appreciated.

President Jo Jones mentioned "flexibility and adaptability" in *The Hoosier Newsette*. Groups everywhere are embracing these traits. It is my belief that by working together, whether in person or through the use of technology, the members of Alpha Sigma will still be able to stimulate the personal and professional growth of its members. We will still be able to make a difference in the lives of early career educators. We've got this!

**Be strong. Be safe.**

*Jody*