



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

## Indiana State Organization



Cheryl Bockstahler

# Alpha Sigma News

May 2021

### A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JODY ARNDT

#### Greetings, Alpha Sigma!

The sun is shining brightly this morning. It's going to be a beautiful May day. I love hearing the birds sing, seeing the immense blue skies, and smelling the soft scents of flowers. I hope you, too, are taking time to enjoy the beauty around us.

Earlier this spring, Alpha Sigma held its first hybrid business meeting. Eighteen members were able to gather in person in the NJSP Elementary School Library and because of distance, two additional members joined us virtually. It was a productive meeting and the program on teaching in Africa was exceptional.

Treasurer Kathy Ward reported that she will be collecting dues in May and June. The 2020-2021 Chapter Budget was approved. By a unanimous vote, three potential members will receive invitations to an orientation meeting to be held in July. The Grant-in-Aid committee under the leadership of Susie Norwich will be discussing applications in mid-May. Indiana State Convention Steering Committee Chair Sharon Richie will be collecting gift cards through May for the chapter's silent auction bouquet. Following the business meeting guest Cheryl Bockstahler provided a very informative program about her experiences teaching in Africa.

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## Adventures in Africa



Cheryl Bockstahler, dressed in authentic garb of Ghana, shared some of her experiences while teaching in Africa.

When Cheryl was in her 40s, she spent ten summers working with street children. She taught first grade in poorly ventilated schools that consisted of three solid walls and one open wall with no lights. There were often as many as 90 first graders. The children learned by call and repeat while sitting on a dirt floor.

The children had to pay to go to school. One ten-year-old boy received a scholarship and was sponsored by the principal. The boy wanted to go to school so badly that although he couldn't fill out a scholarship application, he refused to leave at the end of the application period. His tenacity and perseverance impressed the principal who then filled out the scholarship application for the boy.

There was no prescribed school day. Some schools met during the rainy season from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. However, the length of the school year and the school day

depended upon where the school was located.

Cheryl showed many of her mementos of Africa which included a fish trap, mortar and pestle, brooms made of palm leaf ribs, and pieces of wood used for tooth brushes. The fabrics made by villagers were tie-dyed or hand-stamped.



## Dues Are Due!

Treasurer Kathy Ward reminded members that dues need to be paid on or before June 20, 2021. Active member dues are \$73 and Reserve member dues are \$38.

A check made to DKG may be mailed to Kathy at 2156 E 250 S, Knox, IN 46534.

Dues may be paid in person at our Fun, Food and Fellowship meeting on June 19 at the Country Kettle.

## New Member Prospects

Three new member prospects have been submitted to Membership Chair Carol Tripenfeldas. Alpha Sigma members voted unanimously to invite Heather Quinn, Colleen McCarthy, and Mary Ann Dudka-Milo to become members of Delta Kappa Gamma.

## A Note from Our President, continued..

Cheryl brought photographs and artifacts to augment and enhance her presentation.

I very much enjoyed being able to gather in person for our business meeting last month. I am now ready for a road trip- are you? Who else is looking forward to our "Swan-tastic" 2021 Indiana State Organization Convention? Even though scaled down to one day, this year's convention in Indianapolis will still have a Ceremony of Remembrance, a business meeting, entertainment, a luncheon, recognition of chapter presidents, installation of state officers, and an honors program. Your attendance on June 12th will be the perfect opportunity for you to learn more about the Society. Please join us.

Keep safe. Keep well.

*Jody*

## Our June Gathering

Alpha Sigma will gather at the Country Kettle in Knox, Indiana, on Saturday, June 19, at 9:00 AM CT for Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

There will be no business meeting, but 2020 Grant-in-Aid recipient Anna Blocker will be awarded her check for \$1,000.

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*"There is nothing better than a friend, unless it's a friend with chocolate."*

Linda Grayson

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## State Convention

The State Convention will take place on June 12, 2021, at the Primo Banquet Hall & Conference Center, 2615 National Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana. Rooms have been reserved at the near-by Comfort Inn.

### Dates to Remember in 2021

June 12  
State Convention  
Primo Banquet & Convention Center  
Indianapolis off I-65 Exit 107

July 7-10  
International Conference  
Portland, Maine

July 21-24  
International Conference  
San Antonio, Texas

Sharon Henderson is still receiving registrations. Please note, however, that your completed registration forms and payments for lunch choices must be postmarked by May 25th.

The one-day Convention will include the following:

- Ceremony of Remembrance
- Introduction of the Chapter Presidents
- Honors Program
- Induction of New Officers
- Business Meeting

More information can be found in the March edition of the *Hoosier Newsette* and on the State website.

**Alpha Sigma Member Profile: Margaret Radtke, a key woman educator who**

## exemplifies "motivated to make a difference."

Margaret Radtke has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 2007. I first knew of Margaret through 4-H, but I came into contact with her when she taught kindergarten at North Judson - San Pierre Elementary. I was impressed with the ambience of her classroom. Margaret is a busy person, involved in school, community, and family.



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

Margaret: After high school graduation, I worked in a factory for twelve years before it closed. It was then, I decided it was time to make a difference and to pursue my education to become a teacher. A teacher is what I had always wanted to be growing up, but just felt it was out of reach for me. I am a first-generation college student. My husband and I had five children at the time and I felt it was important for them to see my drive to attend college and pursue my dreams. Besides my family, underprivileged children give me the drive to make a difference. I try to make them feel safe, wanted, loved, and special while teaching them their academics and quite

often, the life skills they need to succeed.

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

Margaret: Working full time and then some, I certainly enjoy the "adult" conversation and fellowship our meetings provide. Programs that were presented in our meetings encouraged me to become a member of Delta Kappa Gamma.

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

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

Margaret: I have always enjoyed all of our programs. Oftentimes I don't even realize what all our community provides until I learn about it at our meetings. Our programs are one of my favorite components of the meetings.

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

Margaret: I feel that my contribution to my community and education is the fact that I went to school here at North Judson and now teach here. I like the fact that I am connected and am making a difference in my community through education.

Sheila: Anything else you'd like to add?

Margaret: Reading, sewing, yardwork, and family, especially my grandchildren are my life!

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>

## Thank You, Teachers!

By Jody Arndt

Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated May 3-7. This year, the pandemic shifted an entire profession to provide a different model and mode of schooling. Due to a host of variables, this pivot was challenging; nevertheless, teachers persevered. Thank you, current educators, for your dedication and all that you do!

## Our next meeting:

Saturday, June 19, 2021  
9:00 AM Central

Country Kettle  
in Knox

Fun, Food and Fellowship

Program: Presentation of Grant-in-Aid Check to Anna Blocker

From Jo Jones ...

## *The Hoosier Newsette*

A decision was made at the last meeting of the state officers and committee chairmen that *The Hoosier Newsette* will be sent to two members of each chapter: the president and another designated member. It will be the responsibility of those two to distribute the *Newsette* to the rest of the chapter. Our state editor Marti Daily should be contacting the chapters to see who besides the chapter president will be receiving the issue. This process has been adopted by many state organizations with good results. Hopefully, the Indiana chapters will have an equally satisfying experience. If you have comments and/or suggestions you can send them to me or Marti Daily. An added benefit will be that your chapter members will be updating any email addresses or street addresses that are out of date. Not updating has always been a problem.

## Friends

In preparation for summer as we appear to be finally shedding the constraints of the pandemic, let's reflect upon the friendships we cherish; friendships that we've been able to sustain through text messages, emails, Facebook, telephone calls, and, yes, even old-fashioned letter writing.

Here are some friendship quotations with which you may identify. They are somewhat humorous, but contain a grain of truth. Enjoy!

"Best friend: the one that you can be mad at only for a short period of time because you

have important stuff to tell them." — Unknown

"You don't have to be crazy to be my friend. I'll train you." — Unknown

"Tis the privilege of friendship to talk nonsense, and to have her nonsense respected." — Charles Lamb

"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked." — Bernard Meltzer

"A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down." — Arnold H. Glasgow

"A best friend is someone who makes you laugh even when you think you'll never smile again." — Unknown

"Best friends. Because if anyone else heard our conversations we'd end up in the mental hospital." — Unknown

"God made us best friends because he knew our moms couldn't handle us as sisters." — Unknown

"We'll be the old ladies causing trouble in the nursing home." — Unknown

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