



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

Indiana State Organization



# Alpha Sigma News

October 2021

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JODY ARNDT

Greetings, Alpha Sigma.

I hope you are taking time to enjoy the beauty of this season with all of your senses. I am enjoying the crisp morning air, the sound of sandhill cranes, the beautiful fall porch decorations, and the smell and taste of warm apple crisp. My favorite autumn quote is from *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." What do you like about fall?

Fall marks the beginning of our new year. Alpha Sigma's first meeting was held on Thursday, September 16. In the past, we have had an average of 14 ladies attend our business meetings, but that evening only eight members

were able to be present to welcome our two new inductees. Several members told me that Monday-Friday meetings are difficult for them to attend. Family and school commitments/obligations fill their weekday evenings.

I want you to know that the executive board recently decided that the remainder of our meetings this biennium will be held on Saturday mornings at 9:00 CDT.

I know that Alpha Sigma is comprised of caring women who want to support the DKG Society and its purposes. Everyone's talents and opinions are valued. Future discussion topics will

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**Breast Cancer  
Awareness Month**

Schedule your mammogram today!

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include chapter finances, international projects, and community services. Please try to attend our next meeting on Saturday, November 6, at 9:00 AM CDT when we hear Cheryl Bockstahler share her experiences in Guatemala. Mark your calendars now!

Keep safe. Keep well.

*Jody*

## Two New Members



Mary Ann Dudka-Milo and Colleen McCarthy became members of Alpha Sigma on September 16. Mary Ann was inducted into the Society and Colleen McCarthy renewed her membership.

Mary Ann teaches high school physical education, health, and College and Career PE at North Judson-San Pierre Jr./Sr. High School. This is her 38th year and she is the PE Department Head as well as the Pool Director and Junior Class Sponsor. She has taught hundreds of children to swim! She is also a member of St. Vincent DePaul Society and Post #92 American Legion Auxiliary. Mary Ann's hobbies are rug making, reading, gardening, exercising,

swimming, hiking, bike riding, traveling, and collecting Pink Zebra. Her favorite hobby is spending time with her beloved nieces and nephews. She had been happily married to her husband Edward Milo for 28 years.

Colleen is a high school guidance counselor, a position that she has held for 25 years, and the Director of Student Services, for 24 years. She grew up outside Valparaiso and attended Valparaiso University where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. In addition to being the National Honor Society sponsor and High School Test Coordinator, she also serves as the high school High Ability Coordinator. She is currently the president of Tri Kappa (Knox Zeta Eta). She enjoys doing arts and crafts, especially scrapbooking and cross-stitch.

Alpha Sigma welcomes these two talented ladies to our chapter and to Delta Kappa Gamma.

## Schools for Africa

Alpha Sigma Chapter donated \$750 to Schools for Africa, an international project of Delta Kappa Gamma. In a year of almost no meetings due to Covid, Alpha Sigma sisters sent generous checks to treasurer Kathy Ward for this project. Thank you, Alpha Sigma!

## Our next meeting:

Saturday  
November 6, 2021  
9:00 AM Central

## NJ-SP HS Library

Program: Guatemala  
with Cheryl Bockstahler

## 5-Star Award

The Alpha Sigma News has been designated a 5-Star Newsletter by the Indiana State Organization Communication and Publicity Committee.



## A Challenge from Our State President

Quoted from the *Hoosier Newsette*

"I know for quite some time membership decline has been an issue at all levels of The Society, and COVID has only magnified that. To begin the process of sustaining, and dare I say growing, our state organization I am issuing a challenge to each chapter around Indiana to have a 5% overall membership increase this next year. 5% is a very manageable number. For a chapter of 20 that would be one new member above your current membership, and a chapter of 40 would need to grow by 2 this year! We will revisit this at the end of the program year, and there will be a small recognition for all those chapters that meet the challenge, and something special for the chapter with the largest percentage of growth!"

Some Alpha Sigma members have already been thinking about how to increase membership. Let's all think about this and make a plan that will include the special women leaders we know in our community schools!

## Alpha Sigma Member Named State Webmaster

Sheila Akers was named State Webmaster for the Indiana State Organization at the State Convention in June. She has revamped much of the website to make it easier to use. Take a look at it. If you have suggestions or if you cannot find information you think should be on the website, let Sheila know by contacting her at sjakers@gmail.com.

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>

### Be a Presenter!

Presenters are needed for the State Conference in Danville on April 22, 2022. This is your opportunity to share your talents, expertise or passion with your DKG sisters. Your presentation can be related to classroom activities, a trip, your hobby or anything else you would like to share. The deadline to submit a presentation idea is October 31, 2021. The application is on the State website.

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

Ruth Schwenk has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 1978.

Because she taught at Oregon-Davis Schools, I would never have known her had it not been for Delta Kappa Gamma. Ruth has always impressed me with her willingness to help with projects and the presentation of her bake sale items is amazing. Ruth is quiet and self-effacing, but her volunteerism resounds in our community.



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

**Ruth:** I always believed that actions speak louder than words. That was modeled by my parents who lived life generously and in service to others. I watched them take a neighbor shopping or to doctor appointments, baking a cake to welcome a new neighbor, playing Easter bunny to a family with several children, sharing garden produce, or helping a neighbor harvest a crop. These are just a few of the things they did. I have tried to imitate this spirit in my life.

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

**Ruth:** I am not a joiner. When the invitation came to join Delta Kappa Gamma, my first reaction was to say, "No thank you." Then Mrs. Peregrine-Fosler urged me to accept. Through my membership, I've had the opportunity to meet and interact with educators I would not have had the chance to know. The programs are always varied

and interesting. Through the years, we have worked together on a variety of projects that have been beneficial to our small communities. I particularly like the gift bags for new teachers. They need encouragement and appreciation. Thank you, Mrs. Peregrine-Fosler, for the good advice.

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?

**Ruth:** Well back when I first joined Delta Kappa Gamma, we would have an evening meeting at Pinders Restaurant in Culver. I always rode along and really didn't pay attention to how we got there. One time I had to drive and when I got to Culver I had no idea how to get to the restaurant. Sharon Smith wasn't any help so we rode around and up and down the street of Culver. Eventually we found Pinders and even made it in time to enjoy their delicious family-style meal. Then there was the after-school work session to make centerpieces for a convention. Famished workers topped off the session with pizza and fellowship. I have to mention the elegant 50th birthday celebration of the Alpha Sigma Chapter. We enjoyed a delicious brunch and birthday cake. Hmm. It seems all my "adventures" involved food!

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

Ruth: I spent several years keeping the books as treasurer of our chapter. I try to support projects that our chapter initiates in any way I can. After retirement, I delivered Meals on Wheels for ten years until my knee gave out. I still volunteer as a receptionist at Community Services of Starke County and am a member of the St. Vincent dePaul Society. Then there were thirty-eight years of teaching elementary children. I believe reading to be important so I never missed a day of reading to the children. I hope it helped to instill a life-long love of reading in them.

### B.o.B Continues

Bunches of Books (B.o.B.), an Alpha Sigma project, needs your donations of new and gently used books. All books collected in the last biennium have been donated to Kids' Closet and have been distributed to needy children. Let's continue to promote literacy by bringing book donations to meetings.

Take a look at your home libraries for books to donate or look at Scholastic, Amazon or Barnes & Noble. In case you just need a shopping list, here are some best-selling children's books for ideas!

### Picture/Easy Books

Dean, James and Kimberly. *Pete the Cat's Groovy Imagination*

Drago, Z. Flavia. *Gustavo, the Shy Ghost*

Gorman, Amanda. *Change Sings*

John, Jory. *The Good, the Bad, and the Spooky*

Reynolds, Aaron. *Creepy Pair of Underwear*

Ruben, Adam. *Dragons Love Tacos*

Willems, Mo. *An Elephant and Piggie!*, vol. 4

Wallace, Adam. *How to Catch a Monster.*

### Middle Grades

Cushman, Karen. *War and Millie McGonigle*

Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*

Harrison, Lisi. *Girl Stuff*

Holm, Jennifer L. *Lion of Mars*

Leviathan, David. *The Mysterious Disappearance of Aidan S. (as told by his brother)*

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Camp Time in California*

Shaskan, Stephen. *Pizza and Taco: Best Party Ever!*

Simon, Raphael. *The Anti-Book*

Venable, Colleen. *Katie the Catsitter*

### Young Adult Fiction

Bracken, Alexandra. *Lore*

Clare, Casandra. *Chain of Iron*

Forna, Namina. *The Guilded Ones*

Kagawa, Julie. *The Iron Raven*

Lo, Malinda. *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*

Riggs, Ransom. *The Desolation of Devil's Acre* (Miss Peregrine...series)

## Dates to Remember in 2021

October 31  
State Conference Presentation  
Idea Deadline

November 6  
Alpha Sigma Chapter Meeting  
North Judson, IN

November 13  
Fall Arts Retreat (FAR)  
Noblesville, IN

December 4  
Chapter Bake Sale at  
Bailey's Discount

## Woman of Distinction

DKG members by definition are movers and shakers who devote untold hours to projects and organizations outside of DKG. These special women are eligible to receive the special honor of "Woman of Distinction" at the State Conference in April 2022.

To nominate an Alpha Sigma member who has excelled in areas other than DKG or who has received a special award in 2021, locate the nomination form on the Indiana Organization website under Resources>Forms.

It's up to us, Alpha Sigma members, to nominate our deserving fellow chapter members.

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