



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Indiana State Organization



Fun, Food, and Fellowship at the Toto Cafe

Alpha Sigma News

July 2019

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SHARON RICHIE

Greetings!

Fun, food and fellowship--what a great way to kick off the month of June! I was thrilled that several members attended this special meeting of celebration. Celebrate Leena Tetzloft, \$1,000 Grant-in-Aid recipient 2018; Toni Pradtke Harris, first-year teacher recognized through our Support for Early Career Educators; Jo Jones, 2019-2021 Indiana State Delta Kappa Gamma president; and lastly, our Golden Key Chapter! Favorite experiences that morning for me included sharing our first-year teaching memories, receiving our Golden Key certificate personally from Jo (one of only six chapters of the 49 in the state), and recognizing new and

interested women in our great career of education. I'm so proud to be a part of this great Society.

Well, Larry and I are off to another DKG conference. We're looking forward to my first International DKG conference in Asheville, North Carolina, which will be spotlighting Arts and Humanities. I'm so fortunate that Larry sees DKG as something more than a women's club! I'm hoping to pick up ideas for our state convention in 2021.

Like Jo -- be committed and celebrate membership in Delta Kappa Gamma!

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer.

Sharon

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Indiana State Organization President Jo Jones attended the Alpha Sigma Fun, Food, and Fellowship meeting at the Toto Cafe on Saturday, June 1. She presented Alpha Sigma President Sharon Richie with the Golden Key Award certificate. Jo noted that only six of the 49 chapters in the state qualified for the Golden Key Award.

Jo also noted that Council II is responsible for organizing the 2021 State Convention to be held at Swan Lake in Plymouth. Sharon Richie is the chairman of the convention and she and at least one other Alpha Sigma member will meet with Jo monthly to plan the event.

Jo mentioned several items that need to be planned:

- speakers,
- break-out sessions,
- tours,
- center pieces,
- goodie bags.

Alpha Sigma members are encouraged to think about these items and to relay ideas to Sharon Richie.

Early Career Educator

Toni Pradtke Harris, an early career education at North Judson-San Pierre Schools, was a special guest at the Fun, Food, and Fellowship meeting.



Toni taught kindergarten this past year. She recounted her path to becoming an educator. She had a degree in the medical field and then suffered an unexpected divorce. After volunteering at the school her three children attended, Toni decided to earn a degree in education. She was able to attend classes and work full time. When North Judson-San Pierre posted a kindergarten job due to increased enrollment, Toni applied for the job. Even though she had not quite finished her degree, her school allowed her to finish student teaching early to take the job. Toni just completed her first successful year as a kindergarten teacher. Alpha Sigma welcomes her to the profession.

2019 Grant-in-Aid Recipient Confirmed

A vote to confirm the electronic vote for the 2019 grant-in-aid recipient Madeline Hewlett was conducted by President Sharon Richie. The electronic vote was confirmed unanimously.

Sharon read a message from Genelle Hewlett, mother of the recipient. The mom Genelle mentions was Jackie Mildice, who attended school with Sharon.

"I was so happy Maddy received the scholarship you gave her today! She was so excited! My mom would have been so proud to hear you speak and say the things you said. Part of me felt like she was there with us."

Field Trip

Tuesday
July 30, 2019
1:00 p.m. Central

Starke County Historical Society Museum

Tour conducted by resident genealogist

Lunch at Christos for members who want to dine together before the field trip

11:00 a.m. Central

New Member Vote

Membership Chairman Sherry Lippelt distributed paper ballots for members to vote on the five women proposed for membership. The women received the necessary votes to be invited to be members. Corresponding Secretary Sheila Akers will mail letters to the candidates in June.

New Member Orientation

New member orientation will take place on Thursday, July 25, at 5:30 p.m. (Central) at Sharon Richie's home. Alpha Sigma members are encouraged to attend.

2018 Grant-in-Aid Recipient Receives Check

2018 Grant-in-Aid recipient Leena Tetzloff attended the Fun, Food, and Fellowship meeting to receive her \$1,000 check.



Leena enthusiastically shared some of her first-year-of-college experiences. She particularly loved her education classes. She spent two hours per week for ten weeks in a third-grade class as part of her service learning requirement. Although she plans to teach high school math, Leena valued her time in this grade level because she could see where children might begin to have trouble understanding mathematical concepts. Observing the many different ways in which children learn and how they approach problems was enjoyable and insightful; however, our young grant recipient said that being with third graders confirmed that she was meant to teach high school math.

Among her other classes, Leena took Spanish, computers in education, and cultural studies. Her passion and enthusiasm for education has influenced some of her dorm and classmates to change their majors to education. Alpha Sigma is proud to sponsor Leena with a grant-in-aid.

New Member Orientation

**Thursday
July 25, 2019
5:30 p.m. Central**

**Sharon Richie's Home
4500 S 350 W
North Judson, IN 46366**

Upcoming Events

**State Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, September 14, 2019
La Quinta Inn and Suites
Indianapolis, Indiana
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Fall Arts Retreat
Friday and Saturday
November 15 (4:00 p.m.) -
November 16 (3:00 p.m.)
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5353 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Golden Key Pin

Each member of Alpha Sigma is invited to purchase a Golden Key pin in commemoration of the chapter's Golden Key status. The cost of the pin is \$5.00. Payment may be made for the pin at the September meeting to Treasurer Kathy Ward.

Alpha Sigma Member Profile: Cheryl Orkis, a key woman educator who exemplifies "motivated to make a difference."

Cheryl Orkis has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 1982 and has served our chapter in many capacities. Cheryl retired in May 2013 after 45 years of teaching kindergarten. I have known Cheryl for a long time, first as a musician in the NJSP band and then as a colleague at NJSP. Cheryl could handle the most emotionally fraught situations from making school palatable for my first-born who wanted to stay at the farm with grandpa instead of going to school to rescuing me the first time I substituted at NJSP when one kindergarten girl told another kindergarten girl that she no longer loved her. Oh, my goodness! The tears and wailing that went on. I crossed the hall to beg Cheryl for

help. She left me with her well-behaved class and within minutes had the situation under control. Cheryl had (and still has) strong ideas and opinions about what kindergarten should be and to me exemplified the very best in teaching. I asked Cheryl 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?

Cheryl: Small town living is a good thing! Growing up in North Judson I was surrounded by family and friends who believed in a strong work ethic. As a youngster, helping out at the firemen's fish fry, weeding the cemetery, serving at church banquets, etc. was just a given! Whether delivering newspapers during my late elementary - junior high years; making hamburgers and sodas during my high school and college years; it was instilled in me to work hard, do your best and serve others well. Community, church and school were to be respected and preserved.

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

Save the Date!

April 2020

**State Conference
at
Ball State University**

Cheryl: One of the first Alpha Sigma members I became acquainted with was Florence Cunningham from Fulton County. She was a gem! She arrived at school by horse and carriage. When she talked about her adventures in the one-room school house and the joy teaching students gave her, you couldn't help but think what a great experience teaching can be. Later, when our Council was working on state convention plans with the theme "The Times They Are A-Changing" one of our luncheon favors was a scroll with Florence's story about the one-room school house teaching experience. Teaching...work hard, do your best and serve others well.

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

Cheryl: My initiation in November 1982 was very memorable. The ceremony and setting were so inspiring. I felt blessed to become part of the Society. Shortly after I attended my first International Convention with Nila (Beauchamp) in Indianapolis. It was my "initiation" into how Delta Kappa Gamma women love their Constitution. What a long,

laborious session. But how proud you felt about the need for rules and regulations. Years later, Anne (Eckert), Nila and I attended the Northeast Regional Conference at the Greenbrier in West Virginia. Sharon (Henderson) was being honored. What an awesome time. We met a waiter whose family for generations worked on the staff at Greenbrier. When the waiter found out we were teachers, he was thrilled to tell us that his daughter was going to be able to attend college to become a teacher. The next day he brought her to our table to meet us. We were honored. Work hard, do your best and serve others well.

Next Meeting

**Saturday
September 7, 2019
9:00 a.m. Central**

**Country Kettle
Knox, Indiana**

**Program:
Induction of
new members**

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

Cheryl: As a member of Alpha Sigma, I have held every chapter office, including President a few times! I served as Council Chairman. For a number of years Sharon (Henderson), Kathy (Brown) and later Jody (Arndt) and I attended many meetings in South Bend working on two different state conventions. Barb (Troxel), Donna (Kida) and I traveled to Minnesota to attend the

International Conventions where we worked as session recorders. I held the position of State Nominations Committee Chairman and State Special Projects Chairman. I really got to see all parts of Indiana and enjoyed the time serving. As a member of the Starke County Community Foundation Board and also the Northern Indiana Community Foundation Board (Starke, Fulton and Miami Counties) I continue to try to serve our communities, our churches and our schools. I hope I always remember to work hard, do my best and serve others well!

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Enjoy your summer!