



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

## Indiana State Organization



# Alpha Sigma News

March 2020

### A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SHARON RICHIE

This is my last note as president and it is one of thankfulness!

First, I want to thank the great "cooks" in our chapter who always bring their A-Game. Our carry-in meeting was fun, educational and full of fellowship around the table - three ingredients to a successful meeting.

Second, a heartfelt thank you to Jody, Lauren, Beth, Sheila, Kathy and Sharon for accepting offices in the next biennium. It takes courage to step up and be the leader your sponsor recognized when nominating you as a key women educator. Good luck and I will continue to help whenever needed. have a successful 2021 state convention.

Last, I thank Alpha Sigma in accepting me as your president these last four years. I hope I have represented our membership to the best of my ability at local, state, and international meetings. I am so proud we are a Golden Key chapter! I pray for continued support as we plan, organize and participate at the 2021 state convention.

Let's celebrate April 16 when new officers are initiated and we recommit, in two of our beautiful ceremonies, to Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators. Please mark your calendars and join the celebration!

Sharon

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## English Language Learners



At the February 15th meeting at her house, Lauren Akers presented an introduction to what it means to be an English Language Learner in the United States. The presentation began with the percentages of different classifications of immigrants in the United States. Lauren stated that 45% of undocumented immigrants in the US came legally, but overstayed on their visas. Over 66% of those immigrants have been in the US for more than 10 years.

Lauren then touched on how the process for coming to this country has changed since the beginning of the century. She told us that in the early 1900s, when immigrants were coming through Ellis Island, the government was admitting 5,000 unskilled workers each day and it only took 3-5 hours to make it through the immigration line. The only requirements for immigration were that the applicant had to answer 20 questions, have 18-25 dollars, and pass a physical examination. Then the applicant could enter the US legally as a resident and apply for citizenship after 5 years.

Now there are only 4 ways to enter. Employers can sponsor new immigrants, but the immigrant must have abilities that cannot be found in the US or hold advanced

degree. There is a diversity lottery for underrepresented countries. Another option is family-based immigration, but only for immediate family members of an immigrant. The last option is refugee or asylum seeking. Lauren told us that many of those seeking refuge or asylum are allowed into the US for three years since the court system is backed up for about that long. Then the immigrants go to court to plead their case, but if they cannot prove they are part of a persecuted group, they are sent back to their home countries. It does not matter if their lives or the lives of their family members are in danger.

Lauren then explained how school corporations determine if a student is going to receive ELL services or not. She explained how the Home Language Survey works in the state of Indiana and what the testing requirements are for her students.

At the end of the presentation, she did some activities to help demonstrate what it is like to be an ELL student in a general education classroom. She presented the sound from a video in Polish to help illustrate what it is like for a newcomer ELL student in a class where (s)he does not speak the language. Lauren also showed three iterations of reading passages that revealed what reading looks like for Level 1, Level 3, and Level 5 ELL students. Finally, she shared a video of a student teacher doing a lesson about the Crusades and explained what the teacher could have done better to include the ELL students in the classroom.

Lauren has been an ELL teacher at Kankakee Valley School Corporation since 2014 and

member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 2017.

## 2019 Bake Sale Fundraiser

Alpha Sigma chapter members surpassed last year's donated baked goods and receipts with the 2019 Bake Sale held at Mark Bailey's Discount Center on Saturday, December 14.



The chapter received \$1,217.10 in donations at the Bake Sale and an additional \$500 from Sandy Groet who had heard of our grant-in-aid fundraiser from Sharon Henderson.

## Grant-in-Aid

Sharon Richie reported that Susie Norwich had personally met counselors at all but one of the schools in Starke and Fulton Counties. She did contact the one counselor via email and sent the pertinent information. The application process is open until March 18 at which time the Scholarship Committee will make a selection to propose to the chapter for a grant-in-aid recipient.

## Nominations

Jody Arndt reported that nominations were complete except for the office of President. Sheila Akers nominated Jody at that point and Nila Beauchamp seconded the nomination. The complete slate of officers received a unanimous vote; the new officers will be inducted during the April meeting.

President: Jody Arndt Vice  
 President: Lauren Akers  
 Recording Secretary: Beth  
 Cohagen  
 Corresponding Secretary: Sheila  
 Akers

These officers or their surrogate  
 will attend the CCOT Leadership  
 Training in June.

## State Conference

Sharon Richie, Sharon Henderson,  
 Jody Arndt, and Sheila Akers will  
 be attending the 2020 Indiana State  
 Convention at Ball State on  
 Saturday, April 25. They will  
 present an invitation to the 2021  
 Indiana State Convention at Swan  
 Lake in Plymouth.

## Next Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2020  
 4:00 P.M.

St. Peter Fellowship Hall  
 North Judson

Program: Induction of Officers  
 and Recommitment Ceremony

## New Prospects

Two new prospects were reported  
 to the chapter. Candice Schilz and  
 Theresa Parish had been offered  
 membership previously but were  
 unable to accept at that time. They  
 have expressed their desire to be  
 considered again. Sherry Lippelt,  
 chairman of the Membership  
 Committee, was not in attendance,  
 so there was no report of other  
 prospects. Contact Sherry with a  
 New Member Prospect card before  
 the April 16 meeting. New  
 prospects can also be entered on  
 the secure Member page of the  
 Alpha Sigma website  
 <alphasigmaindkg.org>.

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



Sylvia Dumas has been a Delta  
 Kappa Gamma member since 2002.  
 She has served our chapter in  
 various capacities including  
 president. I first met Sylvia when  
 my daughter Lauren was a fifth  
 grader at North Judson-San Pierre  
 Elementary in 1999-2000. Sylvia  
 was new to the elementary school  
 and my daughter was amazed that  
 art class didn't involve tracing  
 circles and coloring exactly what  
 the pattern prescribed. Students  
 were challenged to use their brains  
 as well as they talents, as great or  
 limited as they might have been,  
 to create personal works of art. Since  
 that time, I've gotten to know  
 Sylvia well through working with  
 her at school and yet she surprised  
 me in this interview with her  
 personal story. She is rather quiet  
 and unassuming, but deeply cares  
 about her students, their  
 interaction with art, and the school  
 in which she teaches. I asked Sylvia  
 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?

Sylvia: My parents and  
 grandparents were great examples  
 of acting to improve the  
 environment and the lives of  
 others, and are an enduring  
 inspiration. In the 1930s, my  
 grandfather and four other  
 neighboring landowners organized  
 the 650-acre Honey Hollow  
 Watershed to implement soil and  
 water conservation techniques in  
 order to protect the viability of  
 their farmland. It was recognized  
 as a National Historic Landmark in  
 1969.

My father dedicated his life to  
 protecting natural resources at the  
 local, regional, and national levels  
 in both volunteer and professional  
 roles. He was instrumental in  
 establishing the Land Preservation  
 Program in our township. In the  
 1960s, my parents decided to take  
 their young family (I was nine at  
 the time) to Algeria, to help set up  
 schools and clinics, and to educate  
 about land management following  
 their war for independence from  
 France. My parents worked with  
 others to teach and to train  
 Algerians to run these facilities, as  
 there was very little infrastructure  
 after the war.

My mother taught in various  
 capacities throughout her life: in  
 elementary schools, in our church,  
 and in the educational programs of  
 Honey Hollow Watershed. She  
 started a 4-H Club in our  
 community because she wanted  
 her children to be able to be a part  
 of that experience. I am so  
 fortunate to have learned from  
 them.

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

Sylvia: Both the opportunities and demands of leadership have contributed to the growth I have experienced as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. I was unfamiliar with Delta Kappa Gamma's state conferences and conventions until I was required to attend as our chapter's president. It was so interesting to meet key women educators from around the state, hear speakers from other states and countries, and see democracy in action.

### Upcoming Events

**Indiana State Conference @ Ball State University – April 25, 2020**

**CCOT Workshop North in Lebanon – June 13, 2020**

**CCOT Workshop South in Seymour – June 18, 2020**

**International Convention in Philadelphia – July 7-11, 2020**

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

Sylvia: I have experienced many interesting and memorable times with DKG! I will always remember my amazement at seeing Donna Kida's Barbie collection and hear her talk about them at a chapter meeting. The field trip to The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum and the train ride we all enjoyed was really interesting and a lot of fun. Once, Susie Matzat arranged for a yoga instructor to present a program at one of our chapter meetings. That was significant for me; I really liked it, and I have continued to practice yoga, off and on, since that time.

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

Sylvia: My goal has always been to provide instruction and encouragement to my students, so that their skills increase and improve, and their art projects become vehicles of self-expression and creations of which they are proud. I continually exhibit their artwork in the halls, gym, and our Cafeteria "Art Gallery." The school community enjoys seeing the artwork and every child is delighted to see what they made on display. I have been a part of various committees at NJ-SP over the years. I was on the School Improvement Committee for years, and I continue as Grade Level Leader for the Specials teachers. I served our chapter as president from 2014-18 and as vice president from 2018-present. I was also chairman of our Council 2 for one biennium.

Sheila: Anything else you'd like to add?

Sylvia: Like many of you, I am part of a teaching family. My West Virginia grandparents met in Normal School. My grandma taught in a one-room schoolhouse when she was a teen, and she saved her earnings so that she could go on to further education. My grandpa WALKED two days each way, each semester, to attend Glenville Normal School; the family was too poor and public transportation too inadequate for him to travel any other way. Eventually he became a teacher and principal as well as a farmer. All of my aunts on both sides of my family were teachers, and many of my cousins are teachers as well. I didn't want to be a teacher. But eventually I listened to my calling and am very glad that I did!

## 2021 State Convention

The DKG 2021 State Convention Steering Committee met at Christo's in LaPorte on Friday, January 31. In attendance were Jo Jones/Mu, State President; Carol Herzog/Alpha Zeta; Sharon Henderson/Alpha Sigma; Sharon Richie/Alpha Sigma; Sheila Akers/Alpha Sigma; Jan Sypnieski/Gamma; and Deb Hunter/Gamma Kappa. Sharon Richie is the Chairman of the 2021 Convention, Jan Sypnieski is the Chairman of Council II, Carol Herzog is the DKG Contact with Swan Lake, and Deb Hunter is the Secretary of Council II.

The Planning Committee discussed elements of a successful convention using the Indiana Conference/ Convention Planning Guidelines booklet as a reference. Jan Sypnieski volunteered the Gamma Chapter to make the goodie bags. An opening night reception must be planned by the Hospitality Committee. At the last convention, a game night with prizes was organized. The Committee also discussed centerpieces and hostesses for presenters.

On March 20, the Steering Committee will meet at Swan Lake for a walk-through. The Planning Committee will hear what parts of the convention each Council II chapter will organize.

At the February 15 meeting, Sharon Richie asked the chapter what responsibilities Alpha Sigma would consider for the convention. After perusing the planning guidelines booklet, members agreed to handle publicity, logistics, printing, and decorations. Lauren Akers agreed to chair the Decorations Committee. Sharon Henderson volunteered to act as the Convention Registrar.

## Executive Meeting

Sharon Richie, Jody Arndt, and Sheila Akers met on Friday, February 21, at Sheila's house to discuss preliminary plans for the 2021 Indiana Convention to be held at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Indiana.

Council II President Jan Sypnieski and Secretary Deb Hunter have indicated that they have small chapters and are not receiving the support from their chapters that would be needed for a successful convention. Sharon, Jody, and Sheila discussed ideas for all the Convention committees since it may fall on Alpha Sigma to shoulder the majority of the committee tasks.

Prior to the State Conference, Council II needs to develop an invitation, save-the-date postcards, and tabletop souvenirs. Although Carol Herzog, liaison to Swan Lake Resort, has forwarded commercial videos and slide show that can be used for publicity, there are no individual photos that can be used in an invitation slide show or movie trailer. Sharon Richie will ask Carol to request individual photos. Sharon, Jody, and Sheila selected a movie trailer template that could be used.

Sheila designed a save-the-date postcard. She will ask Sylvia Dumas to design a subtle swan background for the card. In addition to the date and site, the card will contain the phrase, "Please join us for a 'Swan' sational time."

Lauren Akers submitted ideas for tabletop decorations. She will have samples made to take to the March 20 Steering Committee meeting. Paper water lilies to hold battery-operated tea lights or candy and crocheted or paper swans were suggestions.

## Proposed Standing Rules Change

Cheryl Orkis, chairman of the Remembrance Committee, stated that she feels that the Remembrance Committee is no longer necessary due to increased electronic communication. If a card were to be more appropriate than an email message, the Corresponding Secretary could tend to it.

Sharon Henderson offered the proposed amendment for a vote. The portions to be changed have been highlighted for clarity. An electronic vote will take place March 9 – 20 to accept this change. A confirmation vote will be taken in April 16, 2020.

### Watch Your E-Mail

**You will be invited to vote on the proposed amended Standing Rules via your email on Monday, March 9.**

#### ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section A. Standing committee shall include:

Society Business:  
Communications, Finance,  
Membership, Nominations and  
Rules

Society Mission and Purposes:  
Educational Excellence,  
International Projects,  
Remembrances and  
Scholarship

Section B. Committee responsibilities

1. Society Business
  - a. Communications
    - i. prepare four (4) issues of the chapter newsletter per year;

ii. submit copy to the chapter president for approval; etc.

2. Society Mission and Purposes
 

- a. Educational Excellence
  - i. shall plan programs to fulfill the Mission and Purposes of The Society

ii. compile the chapter yearbook; and

iii. send copies of the yearbook to the Indiana State Organization President, the Indiana State Organization Educational Excellence Committee Chairman, and the chapter liaison appointed by the state president.

b. International Projects
 

- i. shall promote the work of the International World Fellowships Committee; and
- ii. inform the members of any state and international projects.

c. Remembrances
 

- i. send a card to any hospitalized member;
- ii. send a card to any member upon the death of an immediate family member; and
- iii. send a white rose or present a white rose as the chapter conducts the memorial service upon the death of a member.

d. Scholarship

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