



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

## Indiana State Organization



Sharon Henderson,  
State President Jo Jones,  
and Sharon Richie

# Alpha Sigma News

May 2019

### A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SHARON RICHIE

#### Greetings!

Appreciation, sense of pride, enjoyment, sadness and intimidation were some of the emotions I experienced last weekend attending the Indiana State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (that's a mouthful) state convention.

I truly appreciate Larry, my husband, driving to Lawrenceburg! We encountered several severe road traffic woes on the drive down; but, the beauty of southern Indiana (the casino for Larry) alleviated some nerves once we arrived. I also appreciate Sheila and Lauren Akers for making our poster for the convention.

Becky Sadowski, International First Vice President and guest speaker, brought the realization that we are members of an INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL WOMEN TEACHER organization. When you think about it, doesn't that statement change your perspective being a member of this great Society? We need to acknowledge this membership with the goal of making our local chapter healthier and stronger. Our issues are different from the ones faced by our founders, but we continue to be a circle of friends to support and encourage women teachers.

I was so proud to see our chapter

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## WKVI Travel



Guest speaker Bridget Markin of WKVI radio shared some of the upcoming excursions that WKVI Travel has arranged.

Popular annual day tours include the “Stocking Stuffer” to Amish Acres in Nappanee, Indiana, in which those on the tour visit a rag rug weaver, a pretzel maker, and a casket/coffin maker. They also indulge in a Threshers Dinner @ the Restaurant Barn. Another popular tour is the Chi-Town excursion to the ChristKrinkl Market, Macy’s Walnut Room and Christmas tree, and many other Chicago sites.

Besides these shopping tours, WKVI Travel offers theater trips, overnight trips to the Wisconsin Dells, St. Louis, and Frankenmuth, Michigan, and other day trips.

WKVI Travel teams with Elite Travel of Plymouth, Indiana, for cruises to the Caribbean and Alaska.

The complete listing of available trips and excursions can be found at <https://wkvi.com/wkvi-max-elite-travel-trip-information>. The listing provides information about what will be seen or experienced, the dates, and the cost per person.

Bridget said that persons with disabilities need only express a desire for assistance when booking a trip. There are wheelchairs and people available to assist those in need. She cautioned Alpha Sigma

members to book well in advance as these WKVI trips fill up quickly.



Door prizes from WKVI Travel were won by Sylvia Dumas (a basket with large candy bar “flowers”), Sharon Richie (a \$50 gift certificate to Sliver Leaf Florist in Knox, Indiana), and Ruth Schwenk and Sheila Akers (two tickets each to the Indiana Caverns near Corydon, Indiana).

## Schools for Africa

Nila Beauchamp collected the Schools for Africa bags that had been distributed at the meeting in February.



\$135 was collected from the members in attendance at the April meeting. The next collection for Schools for Africa will be in August.

## New Members

The five teachers nominated to be new members will be put to a vote at the June meeting. There is still time to nominate an outstanding teacher that you know. Look for the New Member Prospect Card on the Alpha Sigma website or watch your email for a periodic attachment of the card. Send

nominations to Sherry Lippelt, chairman of the Membership Committee.

## Grant-in-Aid 2019

Venita Cunningham reported that there are four grant-in-aid applicants. The members of the Scholarship Committee will present their proposed recipient for formal acceptance by the chapter at the June meeting.

## 2019 Bake Sale Fundraiser

Because of the successful bake sale of December 2018, Alpha Sigma is already making plans for a 2019 bake sale. The confirmed date is Saturday, December 14, with expanded sale time from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

## Financial Audit

Nila Beauchamp reported that she and Venita Cunningham had completed the audit of the chapter’s 2016-2018 financial records. The records were found to be accurate.

It was recommended that two signatures be on the bank account. President Sharon Richie has been added to the account.

### 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

## State Convention

Sharon Richie and Sharon Henderson attended the State Convention in Lawrenceburg from April 26 through April 28. Our chapter received the Golden Key award and the two women Sharon had nominated for Women of Distinction were given that award.

Council 2 will be in charge of the 2021 State Convention to be held at Swan Lake in Plymouth, Indiana. Sharon Richie, the chairman for the convention, will bring the chapter up-to-date at the June meeting and plans for the 2021 State Convention will begin.

### Women of Distinction 2019

Sharon Henderson and Sheila Akers received certificates recognizing them as recipients of the 2019 Woman of Distinction Award.



In nominating Sharon Henderson, Sharon Richie wrote "Sharon Henderson is active in her church and community. She sits on the administration board of her church and prints the weekly Sunday bulletin. She also volunteers at the Community Reading Center. Sharon helps distribute and organize the 1,000 Books for Kindergarten program at West Central Elementary School as well as prepares special events throughout the year. As a member of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association, Sharon has served as the chairman of the Bylaws and Rules Committee for six years and recently helped revise the 50-year-old bylaws. In March 2018, Sharon was appointed Area 3 Director. Sharon is known throughout DKG for her needlework. As a member of Sycamore Ridge Embroidery Guild of America, Sharon is involved in teaching children at the Peru YMCA, provides 'Kissing

Pillows' to military members being deployed, makes samplers for families moving into their Habitat for Humanity homes, and teaches embroidery during First Friday Kokomo events."

Of Sheila Akers, Sharon Richie wrote "Sheila Akers is active in her church, including being the organist and choir director. After retirement, she was selected to represent the town of North Judson on the North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation School Board and now has assumed the role of president. She finds time to volunteer two days a week in her daughter's ELL class. Proficient in Spanish, Sheila works with newcomer students to acclimate to an English-speaking classroom. She writes questions for the Fine Arts Academic Super Bowl, a part of Indiana's academic competitions. She is also a board member of Community Services of Starke County, helping with data collection and with the food pantry. Sheila also designed and launched her DKG chapter's website."

Congratulations Sharon and Sheila!

### 2019-2020 Meeting Changes

The Alpha Sigma officers held an executive meeting immediately after the April 6 regular meeting. Several changes were made with the most important being the move of the Induction of New Members to our September meeting. Revised meeting pages for the 2019-2020 meetings will be sent out in mid-May. Please make revisions on your calendar as well as giving attention to meeting reminders sent prior to every meeting.

### Alpha Sigma Member Profile: Susie Matzat, a key

woman educator who exemplifies "motivated to make a difference."



Susie Matzat has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 1987. She has served our chapter as the legislative chairman and on the scholarship committee. Susie has been at North Judson-San Pierre Schools for 35 years. She has been a middle school classroom teacher and a counselor at all levels. I have known Susie for many years and to me she is quite a problem solver who finds creative solutions to problems that arise at school. Susie is passionate about education, has considered opinions about many things, and yet does not talk about herself much (notice the brevity of her answers!) Susie exemplifies a woman who makes a difference. I asked Susie 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?

**Susie:** My dad was an elementary teacher and an excellent example to me. He encouraged involvement and let me know that if you want to see changes occur, this cannot happen from the outside. Active participation is important.

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

Susie: Delta Kappa Gamma provided scholarships to me when I returned to college to earn my counseling degree. I was a young mother on a very tight budget and this allowed me to complete my degree.

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

Susie: I appreciate the variety of adventures offered by Delta Kappa Gamma. The meetings offer everything from politics to travel. I always enjoy the end of the year breakfast gathering at Toto.

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

Susie: I feel that I look for unique ways to meet the needs of all students as well as in my community. I have never been afraid to request a change or an exception if needed.

Sheila: Anything else you'd like to add?

Susie: I have recently begun working at the Starke Adult Learning Center. This allows me to return to tutor and to make a difference in my community.

Sheila: Please tell me more about the Starke Adult Learning Center.

Susie: The Starke Adult Learning Center is located in Knox. We share a space with Work One (by Christo's) and do offer students job skills training as well. Work One even provides incentives for

students who are under the age of 24 and have not graduated from high school.

**Next Meeting**

June 1, 2019  
9:00 a.m.  
at the Toto Café

**Program: Presentation of Check to Grant-in-Aid Recipient**

**Special Guests: NJSP Early Career Educators**

Any adult or dropout can attend the center. We do utilize data so pre- and post-testing is necessary. If they attend and show growth, students earn a voucher so they can take the HSE for free.

I work there two evenings a week. My role is to tutor students in the areas of math, reading, and language. There is a different teacher there for two days a week during the day. The center is open for a total of 16 hours per week.

The process is not the same for all students. Some students come and work at the center when it's open; others prefer to work at home and come in to ask questions. We can print out review sheets for them to do or they can also use some online options. Their skills are targeted based on previous knowledge.

The assistant who works with me does all the paperwork—pre-and post-testing, attendance records, registration, etc. My main role is to tutor the students and listen to their concerns as well as successes.

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**A Note from Our President,  
Sharon Richie – Continued  
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earned Golden Key Status as printed in the program! However, during the ceremony, we were not announced because our certificate was not in Rachel Etherington's file! What a shock, but after some discussion, our chapter did earn the certificate and I should receive it in the mail. Does anyone remember the last time our chapter received the Golden Key Award? Again, the feeling of pride took over when Sharon Henderson and Sheila Akers were recognized as Women of Distinction!

I will share more convention happenings at our June Fun, Food and Fellowship meeting.

Now, the intimidation emotion. I will be the chairmen for our 2021 state convention to be held at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Indiana. If I ever depended on my circle of friends, it will be the next two years to organize and plan this event! Jo Jones, state president, presented the biennium theme "Celebrate the Society." What better way to celebrate than planning the best state convention ever! So, let's prove our leadership and creative skills!

Everyone have a great summer and write down thoughts for goodie bags, table settings, decorations and all those little details for a state convention!

"Celebrate the Society."

Sharon

*Alpha Sigma News*  
**Editor: Sheila Akers**  
313 Dahlke Street  
North Judson, IN 46366  
(574) 896-2574 home  
(574) 806-2612 cell  
sjakers@gmail.com

## Dues Are Due in June!

The time to pay dues has changed from October to June. Please pay your dues at the June 1 meeting or mail a check to Kathy Ward at 1740 S Fernwood Drive, Knox, Indiana 46534. Make sure your dues are submitted before June 30.

The dues for active members are \$73.00 and for reserve/collegiate members \$38.00.

The breakdown of dues and fees are as follows:

<b>Active Members</b>	
International Dues	\$40.00
State Dues	\$20.00
Chapter Dues	\$10.00
Scholarship Fee	\$1.00
Conference/Convention	
Registration Fee	<u>\$2.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73.00</b>

<b>Reserve/Collegiate Members</b>	
International Dues	\$20.00
State Dues	\$8.00
Chapter Dues	\$7.00
Scholarship Fee	\$1.00
Conference/Convention	
Registration Fee	<u>\$2.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>

## Golden Key Award

President Sharon Richie mentioned in her "Note from the President" that our chapter received a Golden Key Award at the State Convention. Our chapter met the following required criteria as cited on the State website:

1. The chapter rules are updated and approved by the Rules Committee;
2. Chapter yearbooks must be mailed to the state president, Educational Excellence Chairman, and state chapter liaison by November 1;

3. Form 2 Necrology report must be submitted to the Membership Chairman by February 1;
4. The chapter must have been represented at the state executive board meetings by the chapter president or her designee;
5. There must be at least two chapter executive board meetings during the year;
6. Reports and informative handouts must have been channeled to chapter members and officers by the president;
7. An International Educational Excellence Project (Schools for Africa and/or Support for Early Career Educators) must have been used in chapter programming. It should be evidenced in the chapter yearbook."

Then the chapter must meet all seven of the "polish points" to be named a Golden Key Chapter. Our chapter met the following "polish points" as cited on the state website:

1. The chapter must have been represented at the State Convention and State Conference with someone other than the chapter president and a state officer/committee chairman;
2. The chapter must have been represented at the International Convention or a Northeast Regional Conference by a chapter representative excluding members who receive a stipend from the state;
3. The chapter must publish at least four newsletters yearly with a copy of each issue being mailed to the editor of *The Hoosier Newsette*, the State President, and the State Communications/Publicity Committee Chairman;
4. A minimum of five chapter meetings must be held each year;
5. The chapter must hold an orientation meeting for chapter

[inductees] prior to the [induction] ceremony;

6. To ensure strong, properly trained officers to continue the work of DKG, the chapter must have representation at five (5) of the six (6) sessions offered at the June Committee Chairmen/Officer Training Center (CCOT) held at the end of the 2018-2020 biennium for which the Golden Key application is being made. The last task of the outgoing president is to see that the incoming officers are attending;
7. The chapter must have a service project which furthers at least one of the Purposes of the Society."

When all the criteria are met, an application may be made for the Golden Key Award. President Sharon Richie made the application and our chapter was given this prestigious award.

Thank you Sharon! And thank you chapter members for doing your part to make this award possible!

Congratulations, Alpha Sigma!

**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>**