



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Indiana State Organization



Alpha Sigma News

October 2020

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JODY ARNDT

Greetings, Alpha Sigma!

Autumn is one of my favorite seasons. I love crisp mornings; red, yellow, and orange leaves; homes decorated with pumpkins, corn stalks, scarecrows, and mums; apple crisp and pumpkin pies. What about you? I hope you are taking time to enjoy the beauty of fall.

Fall also marks the beginning of DKG business meetings. Fourteen members participated in the virtual meeting held on Saturday, September 26th. The information provided by committee chairs will help determine the chapter's commitment and direction.

Future discussion topics will include chapter finances, rules, community service, and

convention responsibilities. Your talents and opinions are valued. Please try to attend the next meeting on Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. CT. Sheila Akers, our corresponding secretary, will once again be sending reminders closer to that date.

Whether or not to meet in person is still an issue. The safety and health of all must be considered. We now have 34 active members; 14 attended last month's Zoom meeting. Fourteen was our average attendance during the last biennium when we had 30 active members. Would more individuals attend meetings if they were held indoors? Where?

Continued on page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Note from our President
Induction of New Members

The Rose Store
5-Star Award

Gearing Up for the State
Convention

Alpha Sigma Member Profile:
Donna Kida

State Convention Steering
Committee Update

Induction of New Members



Five women were inducted into the Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma on Thursday, September 17, 2020, in the St. Peter Lutheran Fellowship Hall.

Accepting the invitation to join the Society were Hannah Allender, Madalyn Allender, Christy Hileman, Candice Schilz, and Lauren Tunis.

Hannah Allender teaches third grade at DeMotte Elementary. Madalyn Allender teaches third grade at Wheatfield Elementary. They are the daughters of Alpha Sigma member Angie Allender.

Christy Hileman is the Speech and Language Pathologist in the North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation.

Retired from teaching, Candice Schilz holds an Ed.D. in Curriculum & Instruction/Art Education; Fine Arts- painting from Indiana University. She had been an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Central Oklahoma before retiring and returning to her family home at Bass Lake.

Lauren Tunis, daughter of Alpha Sigma member Sherry Lippelt, is a second-grade virtual teacher this year at Wheatfield Elementary.

The Rose Store

For those who would like to purchase Delta Kappa Gamma paraphernalia, the Rose Store is now online with a flipbook of items that are usually only at in-person state-level meetings. You can find the link to the Rose Store on the state website or on the Alpha Sigma website under Links. alphasigmaindkg.org

5-Star Award



The *Alpha Sigma Newsletter* has been awarded a 5-Star rating. This is the second year that the *Alpha Sigma Newsletter* has received this award.

Gearing Up for the State Convention

As the State Convention in 2021 draws near, Sharon Richie, chairman of the Convention Steering Committee will be looking for help from Council 2, of which Alpha Sigma is a member.

Sharon has expressed the need for

- 20 hostesses for lunch and dinner on Saturday, April 24, 2021,
- 8 volunteers to introduce presenters,
- silent auction ideas and items
- silent auction volunteers on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

•hospitality ideas for Friday night, April 23, and

•Friday and Saturday registration table workers to assist Sharon Henderson

A Note from Our President

Continued from page 1

Personally, I think we need to approach Zoom meetings with enthusiasm. Thanks to our former president and corresponding secretary, Alpha Sigma was able to conduct chapter business electronically since March. Thank you both for keeping members informed with our up-to-date webpage and emails. Now with Zoom we have an opportunity to conduct business and see the faces of others. Please be optimistic.

In November we will hear from those currently teaching and learn of the many changes they are making in their classrooms and instruction during Covid. Times are changing...

Keep safe. Keep well.

Jody

**On or before
November 3,
VOTE!**

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

Donna Kida has been a Delta Kappa Gamma member since 1997. I became better acquainted with her as my younger son's kindergarten teacher. She was also my younger son's and my

daughters' First Communion CCD teacher. Donna has always struck me as a humble person who has made a difference in so many children's lives with her lovely patience and calm approach to discipline. I remember one time that I visited her classroom to take care of some technology issue and she, her students, and I worked on a phonics lesson to music complete with dance movements. I did not impress the children. Donna and I have also worked together on a church committee. I admire and respect her dedication, inquiring mind, and outreach to children. I asked Donna 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?



Donna: Making a difference through generosity and education is what I learned from my parents. I saw them helping family and friends with giving of time and resources. While neither of them finished high school, they valued education. All three of their daughters earned college degrees. My sisters, too, each in their own way, showed me how to

make a difference using time and resources.

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

Donna: I was very proud when I was invited to join Delta Kappa Gamma. I saw in the group women I wish to emulate professionally. The fact that these women had the confidence in me to ask me to join the society, gave me more confidence in myself.

**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?

Donna: Going to the International Convention in Minneapolis with Cheryl Orkis and Barb Troxel Beer has to be my favorite memory. The pageantry of the Opening Ceremonies was spectacular, and meeting women educators from outside of the United States was so engaging.

When you ask about "adventures," though, one particular state convention comes to mind. When Sharon Richie and I checked into the hotel, also checking in were high school basketball players from across the state. (Of course, they towered over Sharon and me.) When we ordered a pizza and couldn't finish it, Sharon called down the hall to see if anyone wanted pizza. The young men on our floor had no problem with finishing the pizza!

Sheila: What do you feel are your most important contributions to

Delta Kappa Gamma, your community and to education?

Donna: I have served as vice-president for two of our chapter presidents. My job was to arrange for our programs that I hope were entertaining and informative. I did present one program myself, sharing my love of dolls. I am a CASA (court appointed special advocate) and help children in the midst of family crises. I teach religious education, serve on our parish council, and am president of our St. Vincent de Paul Society. I remain a strong advocate for appropriate early childhood education.

**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>

Sheila: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Donna: I can't express enough how much I admire the women of Delta Kappa Gamma. I am proud to be counted among them.

State Convention Steering Committee Update

Sharon Richie, Sharon Henderson, and Jody Arndt attended the Steering Committee meeting held in Michigan City on October 16th. Representatives from each of the

three chapters in Council 2 shared reports on their assignments.

Steering Committee Chair Sharon Richie reported that the swan centerpieces will be constructed by Alpha Sigma members closer to the convention date. Table decor will be changed with each meal event and will include a swan, jars of candy, and birthday cake.



Sharon Richie and Jody composed an article for *The Hoosier Newsette* inviting members across the state to come to Swan Lake Resort to celebrate, renew friendships, and socialize after being apart for so long. The article was approved by all attendees and will be sent to Editor Marti Daily.

The Convention Registrar, Sharon Henderson, has the registration document ready to publish in *The Hoosier Newsette*. Due to expense, the beautiful watermark created by member Sylvia Dumas will not be published in the magazine. However, the registration form, complete with its swan watermark, will be posted on the State's Facebook page and website.

Marcia Alexander from the LaPorte chapter apprised the group of her meeting with OTES personnel regarding outdoor signage. Gamma Kappa will cover this cost. Marcia added that she will order

roses from Kroger closer to the convention date.

Jan Sypnieski from the Michigan City chapter volunteered to order cakes from Kroger for the event. Gamma (Jan) is also filling the goodie bags to be dispersed at the registration tables. Jan will happily accept pens, notepads, magnets, emery boards, seed packets, and the like for the 130 bags she has in her possession.

State President Jo Jones reported that Stephanie Walsh is still seeking ideas for break-out sessions. The luncheon keynote speaker offered to lead two of the eight scheduled sessions. During the meeting, Jo thought about asking the DKG members who have been awarded mini or travel study grants; perhaps they will share their experiences as a group in one session. She also mentioned talking with Purdue Extension agents about possible workshops. Sharon Richie said that she would contact the Starke County agent. Jan then offered to contact a member of the Master Gardeners about a possible speaker.

Coming Events:
State Convention
Swan Lake Resort
Plymouth, IN
April 23-25, 2021

Chair Sharon Riche shared information regarding a possible field trip to Ancilla College. In the proposal, Ancilla will provide transportation if there are no athletic events scheduled that day as well as a tour of Lindenwood Retreat Center, Moon Tree Studio,

the convent house and chapel, greenhouse, and Ancilla College. There is no confirmation of this proposal yet.

Alpha Sigma is also responsible for selecting a gift to present to the International Visitor. Sharon Richie suggested giving our guest an etched glass bowl placed inside a hand-crafted bowl made by Coop de Chick. The "DKG" bowl could be filled with smaller gifts to be selected/determined later. The committee approved the idea.

Our next meeting:
Saturday
November 14, 2020
9:00 AM CT

via Zoom

Opening thought: Kathy Ward
Media Review: Sharon Henderson
Closing Thought: Roberta Salyer

Program: Discussion of
Changes in Our Classrooms
Due to Covid

"An investment in
education pays the best
interest."

Benjamin Franklin

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