



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Key Notes from Xi Chapter of Upsilon State

September 2009

Cerro Gordo and Adjoining Counties

Xi Chapter of Upsilon State ~ Delta Kappa Gamma

What: Fall 2009 Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 15th - Please arrive as soon after 6:00 as possible to complete paperwork. Dinner will be served at 6:30.

Where: Wells Fargo Bank (3rd Floor) in Mason City

Why: Initiation ~ Dues ~ 1st Meeting ~ Organizing Meeting Locations & Programs
Don't Forget to bring a recent picture of yourself! Update Files

Cost: Dues – Active Membership \$71; Reserve Membership \$39
Meal \$10 (includes tax and gratuity)

Menu: provided by Hy-Vee East, with Gail Schurtz as Catering Director
Garden Salad

Mixed Penne and Bowtie Pasta Bar

Lemon Garlic Butter or Marinara Sauce

Shredded Chicken

Breadstick

Cookie

Beverage Provided is Coffee or Water

Lorie's Lines

Warm Welcome to all Delta Kappa Gamma Members in Xi Chapter! It's that magical time of year again, when we return to our hearts' passion in the classroom! I hope everyone is thankful for the cooler fall weather when greeting our students back to learn more. Excitement is in the air as students return to the books, their long-time friends, and anticipate the adventure into the unknown!

There is excitement and anticipation in our chapter as well, as we greet each other in friendship and learning. We are beginning our new biennium! Our International President is Iowa's own Dr. Carolyn Rants and the international theme is: From Vision to Action: Advancing the Society. Our Upsilon State President is Donna Niday, Ph.D. from Iowa State University in Ames, IA. The state theme is: The Magic of Teaching and Learning.

Karen Dole and I attended the DKG State Convention in Pella this summer, and there are a few changes you need to know. First, it is now OK to use "DKG" in our memos. Also, instead of 20 state areas, there are now 13 geographic area groups, and we are now in Area 8. This includes the counties of Cerro Gordo, Worth, Winnebago, Hancock, & Kossuth. Since we were on a college campus, we participated in a pajama party in the dorm lounge – with popcorn and a movie!

The workshops were wonderful – Karen informed us about the WIKI site, I saw animal pelts from Iowa, got great ideas for take-home book bags, and added to my knowledge about tea cups, teapots, and tea! Of course, the food was fabulous, the entertainment was enlightening, and the new friendships formed made the convention something to remember. I encourage more of you to attend next year. It is well worth it!

Some dates to keep in mind for this year: {Let's all get more involved with a great educational society!}

September 15th: Xi Chapter Fall Meeting ~ with Initiation; Wells Fargo Bank (3rd Floor) in Mason City

September 19th: Upsilon State Fall Executive Board Meeting at the Des Moines Area Community College Urban Campus ~ Registration Deadline is Sept. 11

October 20th: Xi Chapter Meeting

October 31st: State President's Meeting ~ with Area 8 in Algona

June 11-13, 2010: Upsilon State Convention ~ Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo

Minutes of the April 21, 2009 Meeting of Xi Chapter

Xi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at Hoover Elementary School in Mason City. Books for Babies bags were assembled before a light dinner was served.

The meeting was called to order by President Lorie Huffman at 6:40 p.m. Twenty two members responded to roll call. The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$3,649.84.

Committee Reports:

Membership Chair Colleen Christiansen introduced two visitors, Carolyn Reeder and Linda Jensen.

Communications Chair Karen Dole asked members to let her know if they are not receiving the newsletter online.

Literacy Chair Sue Oetken reported that approximately 240 bags for babies were completed prior to the meeting.

Unfinished Business: Karen Dole and Carol Iverson attended the President's Brunch in Waterloo. Colleen Christiansen was complimented on the butterfly favors.

State Convention: Carol Iverson and Lorie Huffman will be attending.

New Business: Nominations for the Achievement Award 2009 were read. The two nominees were Peggy Rupe and Lorraine Sewick. Both women are very deserving. Judy Witte moved that we recommend Peggy Rupe and Karen Dole seconded. There was a pro vote.

Karen Dole reported that former member Karen Byrne returned her pin.

Cathy Petersen thanked the committee for the dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Warren, Secretary

From the Membership Committee

At our September meeting, we will initiate Carolyn Reeder to Xi Chapter. Carolyn has been teaching for 36 years. Her first five years were at Ridgeway (Howard Winneshiek) and the last thirty-one at North Central, now Central Springs. Born and raised in Northwood, Iowa, Carolyn and her husband Dan have two grown Iowa Cyclone fans (Annika and Garrett) !!!

Carolyn loves to read, garden, and paint. Welcome to Xi Chapter!

Congratulations to Phyllis Oetken for her dedicated service to Xi Chapter. Phyllis has been an active member for 40 years. She has been an outstanding member and helped with the Music Committee for many of those years. She has inspired us with musical talent and her eagerness to help with Xi projects.

Congratulations also goes out to Donna Becker who has been an active member for 35 years. Donna has served on many committees and the Executive Board. She was president in 1984-1986. She continues to be active on World Fellowship and has helped raise money for the Grant and Aide Scholarship Project. Congratulations, Donna!

Lake Mills Teachers Retire

JoAnne Helland

JoAnne Helland retired from teaching Spanish at Lake Mills Community School in May of 2009. She had 33 years in education which included work at Forest City, North Scott, Scott Community College and Ventura.

Some highlights of her teaching career included the many trips she supervised for her Spanish students to Mexico, Spain and France. JoAnne was also very pleased when her college-bound students were able to score well enough on entrance exams to get advanced placement. Of course, she enjoyed the times when the students would return from college and share with her how well they were prepared or to express their gratitude for her high school assistance and background. And it was very rewarding to JoAnne when her high school students would choose careers that used their Spanish language skill and cultural background.

Now that she has a little more time in retirement, JoAnne plans to spend more time traveling, with her family and energetic grandkids. She is looking forward to traveling with her husband, Keith, and continuing to volunteer in her community.

Enjoy your retirement, JoAnne.

Kathy Nelson

In May 2009 Kathy Nelson retired from a busy and rewarding career of 33.5 years in education. She taught music in the fine arts programs of Eagle Grove, Northwood-Kensett and 28 years at Lake Mills. In addition to her teaching she was a speech/play director, girls' track coach, accompanist for the Lake Mills Community Chorus, and most recently the director of the Tapestry Singers. In her church, Kathy was the accompanist for the choir and has directed Christmas and Easter programs.

One of the highlights of Kathy's teaching career was having a four-year music All-State member. Kathy instituted the Pops program and last year directed the 26th production. She directed numerous musicals at Lake Mills which included *Oklahoma*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *State Fair*, *Annie*, *Fiddler On the Roof*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Oliver*.

Now that she has retired from teaching, Kathy is a farm wife who has already painted the barn two coats of red! Kathy is looking forward to spending more time with her family and continuing her church and community volunteering. This September she and her husband Steve, have planned a trip to Vermont to watch the leaves change colors.

Enjoy your retirement, Kathy.

Submitted by Mary Carlson

Xi Connections With International

by Karen Dole

Changes Are Coming!

In November 2008, the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Administrative Board authorized a revision to the Constitution and Standing Rules. An Ad Hoc Revision Team has been appointed to assist the Constitution committee to collect data and input on recommendations for change. They're looking at ways to make our processes and procedures up-to-date and how to meet and conduct business in the age of Internet, how to organize materials for easier use, and what changes are needed in our committee structures. Chapters and individuals are invited to give input into the process, and the committee will bring recommendations to the International Convention in 2010.

One change that is already visible is the new LOGO and membership brochures, designed to move our Society forward. And, yes, it's OK to say DKG!

Another topic we heard about at NW Regional was the idea of E-Initiation and virtual membership. A couple of Canadian chapters have initiated members who are now teaching in Romania and Kuwait. Iowa's Mu Chapter (Sioux City) initiated Barbra Levine, a Sioux City native who now teaches in Taiwan, using SKYPE to connect chapter members in Sioux City with President Carolyn Rants in Austin, Texas and Barbra in Hsincho, Taiwan. With permission from International, they adjusted the initiation ceremony for the virtual initiation. Three chapter members are mentoring Barbra, and she is using her blog and web site to tell her chapter members about her experiences while teaching in Taiwan. You can read more about this adventure on the State Web site.

Northwest Regional Conference - Activate Your Vision

Northwest Regional was a chance to make new friends and renew old ones. We heard about challenges facing our Society and exciting changes that are in the works. Excellent workshops gave us opportunities for personal and professional development. We learned about what states and provinces are doing through Stories of Action throughout the conference. Wonderful speakers inspired and challenged us. My favorite, Margie Boule, is a reporter and columnist for the Oregonian. Using real life examples, she talked about overcoming obstacles to achieve dreams. Along the way, there was also time for fun, as I took a dinner cruise on a Sternwheeler and visited Mt. St. Helen's, the Columbia Gorge waterfalls, and Mt. Hood.

2009 Educator's Award Book Announced

This year's Educator's Award winner is Engaging the Disengaged: How Schools Can Help Struggling Students Succeed by Lois Brown Easton, Ph.D. In her book, Dr. Easton describes practices and changes that can help educators make positive connections with students of all ages who are at risk of failing and dropping out.

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Chapter President: Lori Huffman
Newsletter: Carol Iverson and Karen Dole