

## Maine State Organization Meeting Goals #1 and 2

**Goal #1: Twenty percent of our statewide membership will be women actively working to educate others. During the session on Saturday at Fall Workshop, it was determined that Maine State Organization is meeting the 20% goal. An updated Goal #1 has been proposed. It now reads: Increase the percentage of active members (defined as full-time educators) in our statewide membership from approximately 30% to 45% by May 2025.**

### **Nu**

**Stress Relief Kits:** In order to reach out for community awareness, we delivered 24 stress relief kits to the Cushing Community School. We also left pamphlets describing DKG. I'd love to say it was an overwhelming success but we have not heard a word yet. Photo: Susan Davenport and her granddaughter delivered the kits.

### **Delta**

**Delta Chapter News:** Beginning in the Fall of 2020, a newsletter, *Delta Chapter News*, has been published prior to each meeting to inform members of chapter, state, and international information. The contents include the minutes of the previous meeting, updates on members, information on activities at the state, international, and local levels, member accomplishments, and a list of upcoming meetings.

**Christmas Card Secret Santa & Valentine cards and candy:** At Christmas we typically do an auction to raise money for our Early Career Educator Grant. This past year since we were not meeting due to the Pandemic, we did a Christmas Card Secret Santa. Each member wishing to play received a name of a person playing, as well as one not playing, to mail anonymous cards. The third card was the reveal. On Valentine's Day, a small box of candy was delivered to each classroom teacher. Retired members also sent them Valentine's Day cards thanking them for all their hard work.

### **Mu**

**Adding new members to the chapter:** We have at least 2 people interested in becoming new members. They will be joining us at our November 2021 meeting and helping us at our Teddy Bear Fair on Oct. 30, 2021, as well as joining us for our December banquet.

### **Eta:**

**Donation to Dr. Levesque School** – To support fellow educators we sent \$1000 to the Frenchville school that burned last summer. We traditionally give \$1000 a year to Early Educators, but this year we consider all the teachers at that school to be Early Educators as they will need to replace all lost materials.

**Sending minutes:** To involve and support our current members we make sure that those who cannot attend meetings get a copy of the minutes. For those members who are ill and cannot attend we voted to send them a little gift to tell them we are still thinking of them. For our one member who is still in the classroom we are giving her a gift card to a local bookstore.

### **Alpha**

**Professional Development:** Alpha Chapter has several monthly meetings that provide professional development opportunities for members and non-members. These include author presenters, presentations on opportunities for community involvement, and service through Food Banks, Public Libraries, Historical Societies, etc. We offer professional opportunities such as an Alpha Scholarship for members and a Grant-In-Aid Scholarship for non-member college students. We provide programs on classroom storytelling/writing processes. Additionally, we offer personal growth opportunities such as health information on Bone Density, Music Therapy around Traumatic Brain Injury, and Stroke Victims.

**Supporting Educators:** We are also supporting active educators by members going into educator classrooms to help and support them in their classroom activities. We have members that collect the educator's materials to cut, tear out pages in math books, and organize for classroom use.

**Ways to Keep in Members Connected:** We support current members through monthly newsletters, our Alpha Calling Tree, and through programs and fellowship at meetings.

### **Gamma**

**Professional Activities:** Gamma provides ongoing professional development activities, in particular with our spring workshop offerings. Plans are already underway to provide a hands-on Science workshop in April. Additionally, several Gamma members frequently present workshops at State sponsored Fall and Spring sessions.

**Keeping Members Updated:** Our chapter has made a conscious effort to communicate regularly to our membership and keep them up-to-date in all sorts of ways including Gamma Rays, on-line posts, and personal contacts. Gift cards were sent to support our active teachers during COVID and communications are sent by regular mail to members not in attendance. An effort has also been made to determine communication preferences in order to maintain contact.

**Goal #2: To ensure that the educational community and general public recognize DKG as a professional organization of educating others.**

### **Kappa**

**Essential Closet Donations:** In November, March, and May, the chapter collected items for an Essentials Closet. The supplies went to the Waterville area one month, to the Farmington area the next month, and the Skowhegan area benefitted the last month.

## **Omicron**

**Marketing Omicron:** Photos and meeting news are published in the local papers. We have prepared and practiced elevator speeches and will be putting bookmarks in school mailboxes of all teachers in 5 school districts in December. Raffle tickets for \$100 are being sold in local school districts. We will possibly repeat a cookie swap if the Kris Kringle fair is held this year. Two of our programs focused on women-owned local businesses.

## **Eta**

**Philanthropy:** We have members who volunteer at Mid Coast Literacy, donate time to the Christmas Toy Fund, and give time at local a Soup Kitchen. We also have a member who, with the help of her children, created a traveling bookcase to highlight books from Maine. It is on its way to Texas and when they are done with it, there are instructions to send it on to another school...possibly in another state.

## **Alpha**

**Connections:** We have connected and collaborated with other groups by communicating with a DKG California Chapter and a Maine Chapter. These were for two prospective members who moved to our Alpha Chapter area.

**Reaching out:** We support Fall Workshop, STRETCH Workshop, and Spring Convention by our members' attendance and monetary support, as well as donating to World Fellowship auctions, manning the Hospitality Room. We contribute, as well, to contribute through our hostess chapter responsibilities.

We feel the face of our organization is all of our Alpha Chapter Members when they share with others our Alpha Elevator Speech. We also reach out to other communities through Clair Soule by distributing cards, letters through the year, and our Valentine's gift boxes.

**Marketing:** We market ourselves through contributing articles to the Mainspring, local newspapers, our web pages including Weebly, Facebook, MSO Alpha, and International. We also distribute information to our local school systems on Alpha Chapter, Stretch workshop, and contribute supplies to our local schools.

## **Epsilon**

**Waldo Reads Together:** Epsilon worked with the Waldo Reads Together group to sponsor a book group. Waldo County citizens signed up to read a book (*The Nickel Boys*) and then were placed in Zoom book discussion groups throughout the 2020 - 2021 winter. Epsilon helped sponsor and promote the group, as well as had many of our members read and participated in the book discussions. Claudia Luchetti, our treasurer, was on the committee who helped put this all together. We have agreed to participate again this coming winter if it happens.

**Celtic Festival Children's Booth:** Epsilon chapter volunteered to run the children's booth at the Celtic Festival. We were in charge of a small tent with 4 tables, each with small activities for

children to do - coloring, play dough, small board games, etc. We have agreed to continue this once COVID allows the festival to come back to Belfast.

## **Mu**

**Read To Me project:** We supply 2 preschool teachers with enough books (a new book for every month) for each of their students. They do activities with the books then the students are able to bring the books home.

**Christmas Project:** All our members purchase food gift cards and we support 2 to 3 families at Christmas time. We used to buy gifts for the families, however since Covid we changed to buying food gift cards. We were told that it was a big hit last year.

## **Gamma**

Gamma's professional development offerings are open to all interested educators and are advertised in schools and locally. Several members share DKG updates (local, state and International) on their personal social media pages, creating greater levels of awareness of DKG activities.

## **Delta**

**Festival of Trees:** For the past two years prior to COVID, Delta provide an education themed tree to the Festival of Trees in Presque Isle to raise money for the Saint Apollonia Dental Clinic that caters to children in our local communities. We are planning to create and donate a tree this year, as well.

**STEAM Workshop:** Prior to COVID, Delta chapter co-hosted a very successful STEAM into Spring workshop held at the Francis Malcolm Science Center in Easton. The Center boasts the only planetarium north of Bangor. The trail system has been improved for outdoor education and an observatory was built as part of an Eagle Scout Project this summer. We hope to host another workshop this spring after the Planetarium opens as COVID cases decline.