



Gamma Chapter News
Alpha Delta State
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Columbus, Ohio
Website: <http://gammaohio.com/>

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 6

WILLA MULLINS, PRESIDENT
LINDA DOLFI, EDITOR

MARCH 12, 2011

**Message from
Gamma President**

Gamma Members,

It seems the little Groundhog was correct when he predicted Spring was just around the corner! Now, as I walk my dog Keebler, I look for signs of spring.

There is still time to sign up to attend the state convention in Dublin, Ohio, April 1st-3rd. They will accept registrations until March 15th. If you have not been to a state convention maybe this would be a grand time for you to attend. Several members from our Gamma chapter are planning to attend some activities. We will have a few registration forms available at the March meeting.

At our March meeting we will vote to accept new members into our chapter. Next month we will have initiation. The location for our April meeting will be at the Worthington Northwest Library. It is a very

nice facility. Mary Ellen

Angeletti has been working to provide us with an opportunity to order a tasty lunch from Jason's Deli. More information will follow in the newsletter about the April meeting.

My friend, Maxine Eagle, turned 95 in February. She has been my mentor and friend for many decades. She taught for fifty years and still hears from long ago students.

Recently as I pulled mail from the mailbox in the cold wind and watched garbage can lids blow down the street, I opened mail from two friends in Florida. One watched dolphins from the beach at her condo in Jacksonville and the other spent a day looking for shells on Sanibel Island.

In closing this March letter, I enclose a short poem from my friend Maxine.

A HOPE

The log fire with its woodsy smell
Played havoc with my nose.

Eased me to a state of depth:
A kind of half repose.
Made me dream the dreams of youth,
Brought pictures to my mind.
Made me feel a warmth again
Left so long behind.
Kindled in me hopes of things
I may never do,
But my heart will bear the torch
And ever strive anew.

Looking forward to seeing many
of you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,
Willa Mullins

Mission:

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



**Reminder: State Conference April 1st - April 3rd here in Dublin, Ohio
Contact Willa for registration info.**

Gamma Sisters who have attended the State Conference say:

Willa Mullins - "Last year the inspirational speaker used the first line of our DKG song as her theme, "Women teachers, to the calling" . She told us her story from her heart how she was called into teaching. I think of her inspiring words whenever we sing our DKG song.

Linda Ruehmund - "It is a great connection to help us see we are a small part of a larger group of dedicated educators. It's an inspiring experience. "

Judy Valentine - " I always enjoy singing in the State Chorus. It's fun to see longtime friends from across the state."

Message from Gamma Sister, Jan Howson-

Thanks to my Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters for the get-well cards, notes, and phone calls after my knee surgery. It certainly raised my spirits. Recovery is going well.



**Ask Mary Clark-Smith about her students and
the magical world of leprechauns!
Mary knows a thing or two about the luck
of the Irish!
Top of the Mornin' to all
the Gamma Sisters!**



"Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes, the wind will presently disappear, the taxes last us all the year." -- **Ogden Nash**



Past and Upcoming Birthdays



March

- 1 Ginger (
- 6 Jeanne Line
- 19 Beverly Michele Koenig
- 29 Karen Carpenter

April

- 1 Esther Panning
- 7 Joan Parsons
- 12 Beverly McPherson
- 17 Judy Valentine
- 18 Katherine Wheeler

Mark your Calendars:

10:00 am, Saturday April 9, 2011
Worthington Northwest Library
(NWL Meeting Room)
2280 Hard Rd.
Worthington OH

Program: "Initiation"

Hostesses: Linda Ruehrmund, Mary Cardinal, Alida Pletcher

Thought: Nancy Zimmerman

Lunch: *Please mail check(\$7.00 or \$8.30 with beverage) payable to Delta Kappa Gamma and lunch choice (on attached flier) to: Cathe Ostrowski 478 Olenwood Ave. Worthington, OH 43085

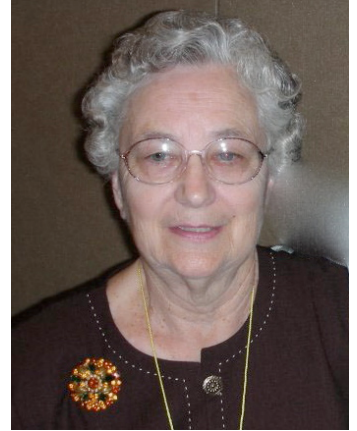
Deadline is April 1st.

Many thanks to Mary Ellen for arranging the lunch!

A Well-Deserved Tribute to Mariruth Seubert

Upon receiving information from Ellen Clark, many of our Gamma Sisters watched Channel 4 (NBC) news story regarding Asenath Dukat, a Barrington Elementary School third grader who was murdered back in 1980. Channel 4 News is investigating the cold case, interviewing Mariruth Seubert, who was Asenath's teacher at the time.

Ellen emailed a beautiful tribute to Mariruth, which is an accolade to all educators who embrace education in such a compassionate manner. What we often do not hear articulated about teachers is that teaching is one of the most complicated jobs today. It demands broad knowledge of subject matter, curriculum and standards; enthusiasm, a caring attitude and a love of learning; knowledge of discipline and classroom management techniques; and a desire to make a difference in the lives of young people. Teachers' lives become entwined with their students and students' families when celebrating successes, as well as participating in sorrows. Ellen's beautiful description of her friend and fellow Gamma sister, Mariruth, exemplifies that which is often not articulated. Please read the following excerpt in celebration and awe of Mariruth.



"I remember this terrible time very vividly, as I was Asenath's sister Bethany's 6th grade teacher that year. I knew the Dukat family well, and this tragedy was unlike any that either Mariruth or I have ever known. For Mariruth, who had taught Seenie for an entire school year (the murder occurred in June), it was like losing one of her family, I think. Mariruth was a very nurturing, committed teacher who was deeply invested in each of her little third graders.

I think that Mariruth is very brave to be able to talk about this, even after 30 years. At the time, in the midst of her grief and disbelief, she handled everything with her usual grace and dignity, and demonstrated every quality of a master teacher that you can imagine, reassuring her other students that they were safe within her classroom, providing support for the Dukat family, and inspiring the rest of our faculty to remain strong for the sake of the hundreds of Barrington children who were frightened and confused. Mariruth has always been a hero in my mind for enduring that difficult time with such compassion, strength, and professionalism as an educator.

I know that, even after three decades, it had to be challenging for Mariruth to discuss that horrible time in June, 1980, and I'm sure that she consented to this interview in the hope that perhaps there is a chance that this unsolved crime might still somehow have a resolution, and that it might somehow give the Dukat family and our community of Upper Arlington a sense of closure or peace."

Gamma Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2011, 10:00 A.M.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

"Create Red, White & Blue Cards for Honor Flight"

Welcome: President Willa Mullins thanked the hostesses Judy Valentine, Esther Panning and Mary Ann Wiedenheft for hostessing today's meeting. She also thanked Joanne Katonak for providing today's program and the ladies of the church for the lovely brunch.

Thought for today: Judy Valentine shared a story, "A Deck of Cards," about a soldier stationed in Afghanistan who used cards to interpret the Bible in a very creative way. Soldiers are not permitted to have Bibles in Afghanistan.

The State Convention is April 1st through April 3rd in Dublin this year. There will be many opportunities to take part in interesting break-out sessions and to interact with the many women who will be in attendance. The registration form can be downloaded from the state website to register for the convention.

Willa passed around cards for members who have attended the State Convention in the past to record some favorite experiences.

Thane Evans, Liz Biglin's nephew who entertained the chapter members in December with his piano music, sent a thank you note for the opportunity to perform for us.

Mary Ellen Angeletti informed us that the April meeting will be changed from the Old Worthington Library to the Northwest Library. We will have the information/forms for the boxed lunches available for the April meeting at next month's meeting which will be a "Song Fest" at Christ United Methodist Church on March 12th. The current newsletter gives this information in addition to the program and information about the luncheon.

We discussed **new membership** and passed around brochures about Delta Kappa Gamma. Willa also passed out sheets for prospective new members to fill out.

Janet Halter also discussed the Rwanda project that we have sponsored in the past. We will continue to support this project this year; the school will be having their kick-off soon.

Minutes: After the minutes were published in the newsletter, "pay at the door" for the meal available at the March meeting was made an additional option. Liz Biglin made a motion that we accept the minutes as amended, and Mary Ellen Angeletti seconded the motion. All members present approved.

Treasurer Report: Cathe Ostrowski gave the treasurer's report which was then filed for audit.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M. with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Joanne Katonak instructed the members on how to make Patriotic cards which will be given to the Honor Flight. Thanks go to Joanne for providing the materials and clear "how to" instructions. We all enjoyed the experience.

Respectively submitted,
Karen Carpenter

Professional Affairs Report for February, 2011

Issues at the Statehouse:

Our long-awaited Ohio pension legislation (House Bill 69) was introduced on Feb. 1st, 2011 by Rep. Lynn Wachtmann. The bill is serving as a place holder and represents the STRS Ohio plan minus the employer contribution increase approved in Sept. 2009 and not the plan subsequently approved by the Board on Jan. 27, 2011. Wachtmann chairs the committee to which H.B. 69 has been assigned which is the House Health and Aging Committee. He has sent the legislation to the Health and Aging Subcommittee on Retirement and Pensions chaired by Rep. Kirk Schuring. In addition to Schuring, the members are: Reps. Richard Hollington (R-Chagrin Falls), Bruce Goodwin (R-Defiance), Todd McKenney (R-Akron), Lynn Wachtmann (R-Napoleon), Bob Hagan (D-Youngstown), and Dan Ramos (D-Lorain). STRS Ohio, represented by Executive Director Michael Nehf, and Terri Bierdeman, Director of Governmental Relations, presented the STRS Board's January 27th plan on February 16th to the Subcommittee. It is Schuring's plan to have the pension legislation to the full House floor for a vote in early April.

Pension legislation has also been introduced in the Ohio Senate by Sen. Keith Faber (R-Celina). The bill provides no specifics other than "To formally state the General Assembly's intent to make changes to the laws governing the state retirement systems as necessary to modernize, update, and improve the actuarial soundness of the systems." In the Senate, pension legislation will be assigned to the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Republican Bill Seitz of Cincinnati chairs the committee. The remaining members of the committee are: Sens. Tim Grendell, vice chair (R-Chesterland); Shirley Smith, ranking minority member (D-Cleveland); Cliff Hite (R-Findlay); Kris Jordan (R-Powell); Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville); Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus); Mark Wagoner (R-Toledo); Chris Widener (R-Springfield); and Jason Wilson (D-Columbiana).

Senate appointments to the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) have not yet been named. House members are Reps. Lynn Wachtmann, Kirk Schuring, and Dan Ramos. The Feb. 9th ORSC meeting was cancelled.

Hearings are currently being held on Senate Bill 5 which proposes to end collective bargaining for state and higher education employees. It also curtails bargaining rights for K-12 educators and eliminates salary schedules and replaces them with discretionary merit pay. Teachers, policemen, firefighters, and other public employees jammed the Statehouse on Feb. 16th and 17th to hear testimony on SB 5 and express their opposition to it.

Issues on Capitol Hill:

After John Boehner was elected Speaker of the House, the House approved a new rules package which requires that legislation with mandatory spending increases must be offset with mandatory spending cuts, not tax increases - a departure from the pay-as-you-go rules of the previous Congress that allowed spending increases to be offset by either spending cuts or tax increases. The package exempted the impact of extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts as well as the budgetary effects of repealing the health care law.

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Lorain) has been named chair of a key banking subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the nation's banks, insurance companies, credit unions and thrifts. Freshman Reps. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) and Jim Renacci (R-Wadsworth) were named to seats on the House Financial Services Committee. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Genoa Township) has been named chair of the House Ways and Means Committee's subcommittee on select revenue measures - taxes. He has also been selected to serve on another key ways and means subcommittee, the panel overseeing Social Security. The Ways and Means Committee is considered one of the most powerful in the House.

Issues from the STRS Board Meeting of Thursday, February 17th, 2011 (There was no Friday session scheduled):

Gamma Professional Affairs Report for February, 2011 (cont.)

The Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, Deborah Delisle, has finally appointed her representative to the STRS Board. He is John Childs who has a background in finance. His addition to the STRS Board now completes the required eleven members.

As the Ohio Legislature considers changes to the STRS Ohio pension plan, the STRS staff has set the wheels in motion for educating members about the specifics regarding individual pension payments. The first priority is to develop a self-service calculator on the STRS Ohio Web Site home page to allow members to calculate benefits during the phase-in period and after August 1, 2023. Benefit counselors are currently using an Excel spreadsheet calculator to estimate benefits for members who want to evaluate retiring Aug. 1, 2015 and later. Staff has also begun outlining the requirements for service retirement estimates that compare retiring by July 1, 2012 and having a one-year delay before COLAs begin, and an Aug. 1, 2012 or later retirement that has a five-year delay before a COLA begins. Finally staff is working on the requirements for replacing benefit projections on the Annual Statements and developing the online service retirement application to aid in an anticipated 2012 retirement rush.

In January, STRS distributed tax-reporting forms in compliance with federal, state, and local requirements. These were mailed to benefit recipients for 2010. If you have not received your form, contact STRS.

One of the most prevalent diseases among enrollees in the STRS Ohio Health Care Program is diabetes. To help these enrollees better manage their condition, Medical Mutual is starting an educational outreach campaign. Diabetic enrollees in a Medical Mutual health plan will receive a mailing that contains information, nutrition tips, product coupons, and recipes that encourage healthy eating and lifestyle habits. The first mailing will be sent in mid-February.

A report from the Investment Department of STRS showed January's return was up +17.4%. As of January 31st, the fund market was \$64,700,710,246 billion. All classes showed positive returns.

A report from the Member Benefits Department for Health Care indicated that discussion for a health care plan for 2012 has begun. Two goals and one proposal for consideration by the Board were presented. Goal 1: Create a bridge to future strategic decisions through a single 2012 program change. Goal 2: Minimize enrollee disruption while preserving the Health Care Stabilization Fund balance. Proposal for Consideration: Change the premium methodology to achieve both goals. No Board action was requested this month. I think that it is safe to say that we will see an increase in premiums for 2012 which should be no surprise to anyone.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Angeletti

