

Alpha Sigma Report

The Newsletter of the Alpha Sigma Chapter, Alpha Sigma State Washington,
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Vol. 2, #3 Winter 2012

Contact the Alpha Sigma Chapter via e-mail: dkgkitsap@yahoo.com

Pat's Piece

In the fall 2011 newsletter, I spoke of our chapter's commitment to community service in the form of gifts and fund raising for the needy. Our book bags for homeless children, school supplies drive, and on-going collection of toiletries for the homeless are examples of our services. So too are the contributions we make to international projects, including Schools for Africa and on-going support to the "Beloved Daughters" Safe House in Kenya.

But giving money and "things" is easy commitment. We also need to give our time and presence. So I want to encourage members to consider two ways in which they can give greater service.

First, as *Breakfast at Sally's* author Richard LeMieux has encouraged us, we need to get personal with someone who is homeless. The Alpha Sigma board is asking you to volunteer this spring at least once at a food bank or community meal program. Go in pairs or individually. Trang McGillivray will gladly share ideas on how to volunteer.

Secondly, to keep the services of our chapter alive and meaningful, we need members to step forward as officers for the upcoming biennium. Susan Fritts and Judy Miller, our nominations committee, will be contacting you to ask you to be an officer. Please say "yes." Our current officers will do all they can to help you succeed. The honor of service is truly rewarding and the time well spent. Thanks.

PRF

Check it out!

International web site: www.dkg.org

Washington State site:

www.deltakappagamma.org/WA

Upcoming Events:

April 16, 2012
General Meeting
Vinland Elementary
5-7 p.m.

program: Legislative Update

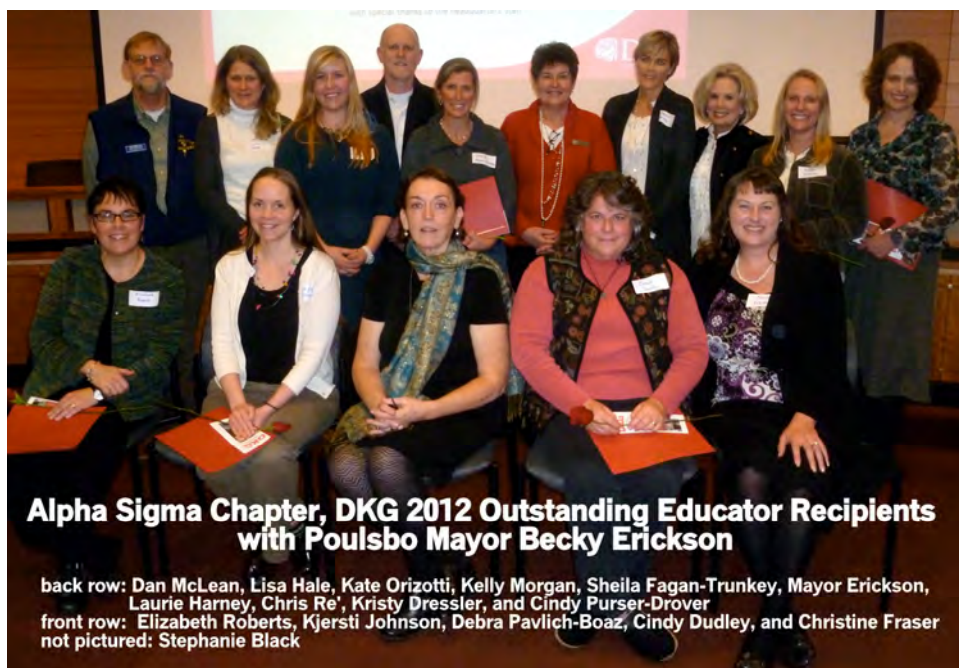
Washington State DKG Convention
April 20-22, 2012
Richland Red Lion

Area X Joint Meeting
May 5, 2012
Port Orchard, WA.

Book Study: *Last Child in the Woods*
By Richard Louv
May 14th meeting
Fairview Junior High
Central Valley Road, Silverdale

Scholarships

Applications for scholarships and grants-in-aid from the Alpha Sigma Chapter, Kitsap, DKG are now available from school district personnel offices or upon request to dkgkitsap@yahoo.org
Applications are due April 1st.



Second Annual “Outstanding Educators” Recognition Reception

Fifteen area teachers were awarded “Outstanding Educator” honors on February 13, 2012, in a ceremony at the Poulsbo City Hall Council Chambers. This was the second year such recognition has been made by Alpha Sigma Chapter, Kitsap County, DKG, to publicly acknowledge these men and women for their achievements, dedication and outstanding service.

Many teachers provide exceptional education to our children year after year, but are seldom recognized publicly for being the “heroes” that they are. Alpha Sigma Chapter tries to correct that omission with this annual honoring. Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson congratulated the teachers, thanking them for their commitment to our community’s children. She noted the importance of good teachers and good schools to a healthy community as she handed out the awards.

Two women, who have taught for less than three years, were recognized as “Outstanding New Educators,” each demonstrating a level of competency that far exceeds their brief experiences as teachers. They were Stephanie Black (special education, Woodlands Elementary), and Kate Orizotti (4th grade, St. Cecilia’s Catholic School).

Thirteen teachers were honored as “Outstanding Educators” for consistent exemplary instructional skills, achieving high degrees of

student success, and leadership in school improvement. They were selected based on their reputations amongst parents, administrators and colleagues. Recipients were: Kristy Dressler (4th grade, Suquamish), Cindy Dudley (occupational therapist, Wolfle), Sheila Fagan-Trunkey (grade 3, Pearson), Christine Fraser (math, Poulsbo Middle School/NKEA president), Lisa Hale (math, Woodward Middle School), Laurie Harney (grade 3, Poulsbo), and Kjersti Johnson (kindergarten, Poulsbo). Also honored were Dan McLean (math, Bainbridge High), Kelly Morgan (speech therapist, Poulsbo Elementary), Debra Pavlich-Boaz (learning specialist, Briedablik), Cindy Purser-Drover (Native American liaison, Suquamish), Chris Re’ (4th grade, Gordon), and Elizabeth Roberts (librarian, Woodlands).

These teachers hold themselves to a high degree of accountability, are innovative, results-oriented and student-centered. They are an invaluable resource to the other staff they work with and beloved by students. Nominators testified to the sacrifices made by these individuals, the impact of their work outside their classrooms, and their spirit of service and fun.

Mayor Erickson noted that “students will remember the gifts of these teachers long after they leave their classrooms. They have influence on the lives of their students even into adulthood.”

Member Profile: Susan Fritts

Alpha Sigma members know Susan as a committed and active member at the chapter, area and state level. She has motivated many of us to become active on committees, service projects, and conventions. She is a persuasive and involved individual. And we all know of her love for travel, but did you know she once had to be taken in a paddy wagon to Scotland Yard! Well, not that she was in trouble. In typical Susan fashion, on the day after Diane and Prince Charles were wed, she caught a thief in London. In those days, apparently both the accused and the witness were escorted to the Yard in the paddy wagon. Must have made for an interesting ride!

I'm sure Susan and her fellow traveler husband Dean have many such stories of their adventures. Last year, they spent time travelling France through history as well as staying a week in an exchange house in La Sarrette and another week in Paris. Susan has traveled to Norway several times and loves bringing her culture to her six grandchildren. She has sewn bunads, traditional Norwegian dresses, for her granddaughters to wear in the Ballard parade. Her son Kurt works for the National Democratic Legislative Committee. Daughter Sonja, a lawyer by training, is currently a stay-at-home mom of four and, like her mother, is involved in organic foods, staying healthy, and living green.

Susan has served DKG in a variety of roles, including vice president, president, area X liaison, and state World Fellowship chair. She is currently on the state Educational Excellence committee with a focus on Professional Affairs. She also serves as our chapter liaison for Schools for Africa. We are grateful to Susan for her hours of service and honored to have her as a member of our Alpha Sigma chapter. Thanks, Susan.



Area X Hosts Successful Teacher Seminar

Area X was fortunate to receive a Lucille Cornetet Seminar grant from the Education Foundation of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International which provided major support for a teacher seminar held on January 12, 2012. The focus of the seminar was on "Effective Instruction for Homeless and High Poverty Students."

The 3.5 hour seminar included a one hour panel of local service providers discussing the educational impact of homelessness and high poverty, the needs of these children and families, and how educators can assist families to access services. Following the panel, Dr. Julia Aguirre, Associate Professor of Graduate Education, U. of Washington, Tacoma, provided a 2.5 hour presentation entitled "Engage, Enrich, and Empower Young Mathematical Minds." The talk and interaction amongst participants focused on three aspects of effective math instruction for children in high poverty: (1) high quality math content, (2) building strong school/family and student/teacher relationships, and (3) using math to challenge socio-political inequities. A lesson planning/evaluation rubric was presented which included assessing if a lesson used math as a tool to analyze authentic socio-political problems from

within the student's familial and/or community and cultural context.

Eighty-one people attended the seminar which was offered for clock hours, coming from as far away as Port Angeles and Tacoma. Participants gave the seminar high marks. (100% strongly agreeing or agreeing on facilitator preparation, pacing, handling of questions, materials and visual aides, and time allowed for reflection. 98% strongly agreed or agreed that they gained new knowledge, content was applicable to real-life job situations, they had opportunity to learn from peers. and course objectives were met).

In addition to the Lucille Cornetet grant, funding for the seminar came from the Poulsbo North Kitsap Rotary, the North Kitsap School District Title I program and donations from chapters in area X: Alpha Sigma, Nu and Alpha Upsilon. Food for the seminar was provided by the Alpha Sigma Chapter. The program was further supported by Olympic Educational Service District 114 and the Olympic Uniserve Office of WEA. This was the second seminar offered in the Closing the Achievement Gap series begun last year by Alpha Sigma chapter. Last year's topic was on "Parent Involvement in Multi-cultural Schools," and was also offered for clock hours.



Chapter Rules Revision

Beth Schneider and Annamarie Lavieri have done a fantastic job of taking input from the Executive Board, along with current State By-laws and International Rules language, to draft revised rules for our Alpha Sigma Chapter. You will receive a copy of the proposed changes in early March. Please read them. Until our April 16th meeting, there is an open comment period during which suggestions and amendments will be taken. Proposed amendments should be in writing and e-mailed to Annamarie who will see that all members receive a copy of the amendments. Voting on the amendments and the proposed rule changes will take place at the April meeting.

Congratulations to Alpha Sigma Chapter Scholarship and Golden Gift Recipients

by Annamarie Lavieri

The Board of Trustees of the Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship was pleased to announce that two members of the Alpha Sigma Chapter, Trang McGillvray and Laurie James, have been awarded scholarships for 2012-2013. Trang, a fifth grade teacher at Woffle Elementary School, will use her award towards her National Board certification work. Laurie, a special education teacher at Kingston High School sought her scholarship to assist her in obtaining her Master's in Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Seattle Pacific University. Trang, in addition to receiving the Royston Scholarship, was named their recipient of the Margaret L. Harvin Award for her outstanding merit in the field of education and excellence in meeting all criteria for receiving a scholarship. The Royston Foundation, a private non-profit, was established by Alpha Sigma State in 1967. Since that time it has awarded approximately \$800,000 to over 360 deserving women educators, both members and non-members, who are working on post bachelor degrees or areas of special study. Please join the Royston Foundation Board in

congratulating Laurie and Trang on their achievement. If you, or, a colleague are interested in learning more about these scholarship contact roystonscholarship@yahoo.com

Delta Kappa Gamma International recently selected Alpha Sigma Chapter President, Pat Bennett-Forman, for the Golden Gift Leadership/Management Seminar in Austin, Texas. Held every two years in July this seminar provides thirty DKG members from across North America and abroad the chance to learn from world-renowned experts in the field of management at the Red McCombs School of Business, University of Texas. Some of the topics covered during the intense two week leadership training seminar are: decision making, successful communication, understanding personality and management style, and creating leadership skills for women. Competition to attend this seminar is very keen. Congratulations, Pat !

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Change in Meeting Plans

Because of a major WEA meeting/rally being held March 12th and 13th in Federal Way, we were unable to schedule our speaker on legislative issues. Many members have interests in this topic, particularly with proposals before the legislature on changes in the teacher retirement system, evaluation of teachers, and funding.

Therefore, on the advice of the board, **we are moving the previously scheduled March 12th meeting to an April 16th meeting, also at Vinland.** We will begin at our usual time of 5:00 p.m. for the social, 5:30 for dinner sponsored by group #2 (Axling, Fisher, Lavieri, and West), and 6:00 for our business meeting and program.

Consequently, we encourage members to use the open March time (or sometime this Spring) to provide their volunteer service at a community meal for the homeless or to work at a food bank. If you have any questions or concerns about this activity, new member Trang McGillivray, who volunteers at Bremerton Food Line and with other service providers for homeless persons, has expressed a willingness to provide suggestions (but she is deep in her work on National Boards right now – so after spring break please). tmcgillivray@nkschools.org,

FOOD BANKS IN GREAT NEED!

Here are the March list items we are emphasizing that are needed NOW at Bremerton Foodline and other Food banks:
FOOD

*Cereal (boxed or bagged any size and any kind) *Note that a partner business, Grocery Outlet, is a good source for products

*Canned Meat (Tuna, chicken, salmon, SPAM; No Sardines)

... *Canned Fruits (Pears, Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple or other fruit –no Snow-Kist Applesauce)

*Packaged Dinners (generic hamburger helper or tuna helpers in any variety)

*Ramen Noodles or Cup of Soups (any variety)

*Bulk Rice (we repackage)

*Canned soups (any type; pull-tops go to homeless distribution)

*Juice Boxes (the type used for kids at school)

*Canned or Bottled Juice (any flavor)

Non-FOOD

*Toilet Paper

*Bar soap

*Powdered Laundry Detergent

*Baby Wipes

*Small can openers (old-fashioned military openers would be welcome; homeless persons have a hard time with cans and Dollar Tree openers don't hold up well)

*Pet Food

*Diapers (baby & adult)

Please consider saving all your plastic grocery store bags & donating them to the Food Banks

To submit articles for the Alpha Sigma Report, send material to Annamarie Lavieri , roystonscholarship@yahoo.com or Ellen Fisher, ellenfishe@gmail.com, co-editors. The editorial board reserves the right to alter the length of material submitted to fit allowable space. Materials must be received two weeks in advance of publication deadlines: August 15th, November 1st, February 15th, and June 1st

Alpha Sigma Chapter, Washington, of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators serves the north end of Kitsap County, including the Bremerton, Central Kitsap, North Kitsap and Bainbridge Island School Districts. For information on meetings , membership or scholarships, information contact us at dkgkitsap@yahoo.org.