

THE SAHUARO

*Arizona State Organization's News Publication for
Delta Kappa Gamma, a Place for Key Women Educators*



2019 Spotlight award winner, Dolores Underwood Kinser, pictured above while volunteering. Read more about her and Denise Crockett on page 6.

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Two honorees were distinguished for 2019. Read more about the women on page 6.

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

Welcome the new and returning leaders to the organization on page 2.

SUMMER TRAVELERS

For more information on what members and officers did over the summer turn to page 4.

THE WAY WE WERE...

by Merry Lewis, Nu

1944 (75 years ago) - Iota chapter (Yuma) was installed.
1969 (50 years ago) - Hats and gloves were worn at the Birthday Luncheon and the Ceremony of Remembrance. Shaped net veils were considered to be attractive and easy to pack.
1994 (25 years ago) - Margot Salinas de Reséndiz from Mexico was our state's first International Speaker. Since then The International Speaker's fund has provided speakers for Arizona state conventions from Canada, Guatemala and El Salvador. Arizona member Merry Lewis (Nu) spoke in El Salvador and BetteRuth Simmons (Alpha Delta) went to Costa Rica.



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH INTERNATIONAL. OTHERWISE, YOU WILL MISS STATE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ARIZONA INSTALLS OFFICERS

by Dr. Joye Sterrett, Omega

Arizona State Organization installed officers for 2019-2021 at their Spring Convention in Tucson, at the Rose Banquet, June 8, 2019.

The new officers are President Carmen Wendt, Chi; First Vice President Susan Halliday, Alpha Delta; Second Vice President Denise Crockett, Kappa; Recording Secretary, Linda Perl, Chi; and Corresponding Secretary Dr. Sandra Breece, Alpha Chi.

The installation ceremony used the words from “The Seven Cs of Sisterhood” in the Collegial Exchange, Spring 2019, page 17, by Angela Wright-Nash.

As incoming president Carmen Wendt had selected three C words for her theme, Connect, Cultivate and Celebrate, the additional C words from the article were given to the incoming officers.

It was noted that the words can contribute to the way our members work together as well as to the leadership skills of the incoming officers.

The new officers were given a rose and a pendant of a crown to celebrate their selection as officers.

THE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

by Carment Wendt, Chi

Connecting with DKG Arizona

The mission of the Society is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. To that goal, DKG Arizona will emphasize three areas this biennium. Chapters are asked to not only support these areas but to share what they are doing.

The first area of emphasis is DKG AZ Serves, the state project approved at the Convention in June. The goal of the project is to plan group service projects. The camaraderie and friendships that develop from serving together is magical. Plan one or more projects this year to do as a chapter. State will walk the talk by having a service project at Fall Workshop and at State Convention.

The second emphasis will be growing leadership skills together. Every DKG member is a leader. Each of us is a stakeholder in the Society, and we have leadership responsibilities. Two AZ Ignite seminars will be planned in addition to the officer training at the State Convention. One seminar will be located in Anthem, and a second seminar will be in Sahuarita. Plan to attend one or both, and guests are welcomed.

The third area of emphasis will be to honor women educators in our chapters and our communities. Share at your chapter meetings the achievements of your members and invite non-members to a meeting to



Carmen Wendt, pictured above, smiles a crown. The crown was given to all she initiated by Dr. Joye Sterrett.

be recognized. Document the achievements of these women to be shared with The Sahuaro, with DKG Arizona and International social media, and with local newspapers.

It is my hope that this biennium you will not only Serve together, step up to Lead and Honor excellence, but you will share what you are doing with the community.

Connect • Cultivate • Celebrate

KID POWER AT THE PRE-CONFERENCE TECHNOLOGY EVENT

by Janet Vickers, Omega

At the SW Regional Pre-Conference Technology Event in Costa Mesa, one common thread connecting the keynote speaker and workshops seemed to be to empower students by educating teachers. The day combined inspiration and practicality.

Professor Katie Salen Tekinbas of UC Irvine, formerly of Parsons School of Design in NYC, raised concerns about educational technology that is still adult controlled, and often developed from a foundation of fear and anxiety. The keynote speaker encourages a focus, instead, on building better digital citizens. Think social solutions, not tech solutions. As young people negotiate social and cultural rules and solve problems with no administrator to “swoop in,” they take ownership. “Provide on-ramps” to help young people “find their people,” Salen advises. She offered at-school examples that “legitimize” students’ tech interests: (1) Sponsor youth events like esports, online gaming, and a gamer pep rally; (2) Develop shared practices--fan fiction, and civic engagement like Harry Potter World to Aid LGBTQ; (3) Allow clubs in which many agendas meet a shared purpose, like Ravelry, an online knit and crochet community; (4) Connect across settings, with online portfolios so a teacher can see what a child makes, non-academic “badges,” and college entrance credentialing portfolios that go beyond essays.

Salen’s resources include Connected Learning Alliance for sharing tools and gaining access

to maker spaces, and Connected Camps at minecraft.edu--think of “crafting” as combining resources, and “camps” as places to design, code, and problem solve with a community of like-minded experts.

The Pre-conference Event also included breakaway workshop choices. Marine Avagyan’s session, “Gmail Tips and Online Safety,” provided varied and useful safety practices: Create separate accounts for different audiences and purposes, such as work, DKG, and shopping companies. Read and use privacy settings to be as private or public as we desire. Report spam to “train” our email what to recognize in the future, and periodically check the Spam box; actions can be undone within 30 days.

To learn more, the presenter suggests a general search like “how to keep safer online” for safety videos and blogs. Here are Avagyan’s primary resources: gsuite.google.com/learning-center, and www.connectsafely.org/seniors

“Google Slides and Paper Slide Videos,” Katie Warren’s breakaway session, showed how anything that has a camera lens and video capability can be used to convert student products into slide shows. Both processes can be collaborative and cooperative, allowing everyone to participate and engage in learning.

The site <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/google-slides/> offers a link to an assortment of instructional

videos. Teachers with Google Classroom and Google Drive may be familiar with the slide-making process; others might need persistence to achieve mastery.

With Paper Slides, students can take on roles such as director (“quiet on the set,” “action”), camera operator, paper mover. Warren shared practical advice: Leave a frame during filming or the edges of student’s work won’t show during presentation. Horizontal paper works better than vertical. Blank presentations work better than Templates. Students who finish first create the class’s title and closing slides. Search “Paper Slide Videos” for fun Google and youtube examples and super-easy directions. Those made by Dr. Lodge McCammon at lodgemccammon.com/education/1-take/paperslide/ are enjoyable and accessible.

“

Think about social solutions, not tech solutions.



CELEBRATING LATIN AMERICAN FRIENDS AND SUMMER TRAVELS

By Alice Reule, Alpha Delta
Arizona Past State Organization President

Over 20 Latin American educators attended the AZ Latin American event in Costa Mesa, CA. Attendees met on Friday evening at a picnic area near the Folks Pizza Restaurant and enjoyed pizza, salads and beverages.

The ladies were greeted with gift bags, favors, a meal, and a monetary donation to support their travel expenses. Thanks to Sherry Alimi, the Latin American Committee Chair, for her committee and chapter's support, and all those who made special donations to the Latin American fund to make this a memorable event.

Arizona attendees: Carmen Wendt, Chi, Lori Good, Alpha Alpha, Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta, Diane Sheets, Alpha Beta, Linda Perl, Chi, Judy Tucker, Chi, Janet Vickers, Omicron, Dr. Sandy Breece, Alpha Eta, Susan Halliday, Alpha Delta, Fran Seifman, Alpha Delta, Kathy Green, Alpha Delta, Alice Reule, Alpha Delta, and Dana Yaeger, Alpha Iota.

Other notable travels include Merry Lewis, Nu, an attendee and presenter for the Educational Foundation at the regional in Iceland.

Carmen Wendt, Chi, received her new president's training in Iowa as well as Denise Crockett, Kappa, new 2nd Vice-president took part in the Membership training. Also attending, the Iowa Conference was Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta, and Bea Olivas, Alpha Rho.

Marge Threewit presented a Finance workshop in Iowa and Costa Mesa for treasurers.



At the International Conference in Costa Mesa, Arizona members "roast" Past President, Alice Reule. After singing "Alice Reule, Alice Ruele, You were our State President," to the tune of "Clementine," those present told fun and admiring stories about Alice. As one song line said, "You gave us your best!" Photo and caption submitted by Marge Threewit.

GALAPAGOS: SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT

By Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta



Photo by Merry Lewis, Nu

The Galapagos Islands are located about 600 miles west of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean. Giant Galapagos Tortoises, Sea Turtles, Blue Footed Boobies, Flightless Cormorants, Galapagos Penguins, huge Iguanas (some that swim and others that climb trees), and playful Sea Lions were truly amazing.

Kathy Green's favorite was the scenery, from sandy beaches to high cliffs and volcanic peaks. Merry Lewis was impressed by how "pristine" the islands were kept. Marge Threewit enjoyed how the animals seemed unafraid of each other and of people.

Tour groups are only allowed on each island once every two weeks.

The cruise ship provided lectures about the habitat, snorkeling equipment, glass bottom boats, and delicious meals. Each day an island was visited in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Guides helped in and out of the dinghies traveling to and from the islands. Most landings were in about a foot and a half of water, then wading to shore. Water shoes were needed. Then dry landings got off on slippery rocks. Maybe wet landings were best.

It was an adventurous trip of a lifetime.

WHITE ROSES

- Marcelle Bersin, May 8, 2019, Upsilon
- Dr Martha A Clark, February 22, 2019, Beta
- Dr. Helen Roberts, Past State President 1981-1983, December 7, 2018, Gamma
- Mary Elizabeth Shenefield, May 11, 2019, Eta
- Judy Vinson. Past State President 2011-2013, September 4, 2019, Alpha

THE PAST PRESIDENTS



Arizona Past State President Helen Roberts passed away Dec. 7, 2018. She was president 1981-1983.

Her theme for the biennium was “Strength in Unity.” Much of her biennium involved planning for the August 1983 Southwest Regional Conference in Phoenix at the Arizona Biltmore Conference Center.

She and her husband Bobby Allen Roberts had been living in Stratford, OK since moving from Arizona in 1989.



Judy Vinson, 2011-2013 Arizona State Organization President, passed away at her home in Tucson on September 4, 2019.

Her theme “Aspire, Act, Achieve” challenged members to be the best ever, work as a team to build on the strong foundation of the past, and meet the goals set to impact education worldwide.

She included math challenges in her newsletters and meetings. She served the state in many capacities and was state treasurer for three bienniums.

A loyal member since 1983, she received the State Achievement Award in 2000.

RED ROSES

An article and three photographs by Merry Lewis, Nu, in conjunction with the International Non-Dues Revenue Committee, were published in the Spring “Collegial Exchange.”

Carmen Wendt, Chi, was awarded the Medal of Merit by the Journalism Education Association for her service to scholastic journalism at the local, state and national levels. She has been the JEA State Director and Mentor, plus is a past president, summer workshop director, and active board member of the state organization.

Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle, Upsilon, was recognized by the Arizona Daily Star for her many years of service and devotion to the field of education. McCorkle helped start her chapter in Tucson.

Bonnie Hill-Dowdy, Alpha Epsilon, was interviewed by VoyagePhoenix. Bonnie explores her love of nature and travels through the use of watercolors on various mediums.



Bonnie Hill-Dowdy's artwork.

Peggy Scott, Alpha Epsilon, wrote and published the enchanting children's book “Lucky Lizard Little”.

Marge Perkins wrote and published her book examining simpler times in Nebraska titled “Charlie's Girl”.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARD COMMITTEE SELECTS TWO HONOREES FOR 2019

by Diane Sheets, Alpha Beta, State Achievement Award Chairman

The Achievement Award Committee honored two members at the 2019 State Convention who have made outstanding contributions to their chapter, the state and the Society.

Our first honoree is Denise Crockett from Kappa Chapter. She has worked tirelessly to improve her chapter, increase membership and represent DKG in the community. She is always ready, willing and able, without hesitation, to serve in any capacity asked by her chapter or at the state level.

She has had many leadership roles, as chapter president three times and currently serving as State Recording Secretary. At the 2019 State Convention she was installed as second vice-president for the next biennium.

Her creativity and talent have been demonstrated in many areas, especially at the Creative Arts Retreat, which she has chaired twice. At the state level, she has presented numerous workshops, which many members have enjoyed.

The second recipient of the State Achievement Award for 2019 is Saroj Jagernaugh from Alpha Iota Chapter. She has been a member for 22 years and is a role model and excellent example of a member who is dedicated to the Society and its purposes. She seldom says no to any request asked of her at both the chapter and state level.

In her leadership roles, she has served her chapter as first and second vice-president, president, chaired three state committees, served as a member on several state committees and presented numerous workshops.

During her years as an educator, she received several awards from “Teacher of the Year” to the “Phoenix Suns Educator of the Year.”

Congratulations go to these outstanding and dedicated women.

To all DKG Sisters:

You are invited to attend a very special Alpha Xi meeting on December 5th with two DKG Sisters who serve in the Arizona Legislature.

Senator Lela Alston and Representative Gerae Peten will be sharing their concerns and projections on the next AZ Legislative session starting in January, 2020. They will be meeting with us at 10 am to 12 noon.

We meet at the Sun Village Clubhouse in Surprise, 17300 N. Sun Village Parkway, directly west of Litchfield on Bell Ave. The meeting location is the Ocotillo Room, on the 2nd floor and we go to the first floor for a restaurant lunch following the meeting.

Email Carrie Snyder, President of Alpha Xi, at cbss4@hotmail.com to reserve space.



ROSE BANQUET SPEAKER FOCUSES ON GROWING MEMBERSHIP

by Darby Downs, Alpha Rho

Bonnie Moore, pictured above, gave an inspiring talk at the luncheon during the Arizona State Convention.

Her focus was on how membership is declining in organizations, including DKG. Bonnie spoke on the topic of Caring + Sharing = Membership.

She encouraged DKG sisters to ignite, inspire and engage all members. Bonnie spoke of how we are a sisterhood filled with wisdom, history, experience, tradition and financial support. As members of Delta Kappa Gamma, Moore spoke about the importance of making each member feel valued and appreciated.

In order to increase membership, she asked members to be creative in how they communicate and share DKG, in turn this will empower our members to grow, learn and lead. The question now is, how will Arizona take on the challenge to gain DKG members in our state?



MEDIA AWARD WINNER

*by Kathy Green,
Alpha Delta*

Tucson resident David Fitzsimmons is the recipient of the 2019 Media Award from the AZ DKG organization.

David was nominated by Patricia Rendon of Lambda Chapter and selected by the Communications and Publicity Committee. David is currently a political cartoonist for the Arizona Daily Star.

Known for his wit and direct approach, he has addressed educational issues across the years. His work challenges all views and presents the reader to look at various sides of an issue.

David's cartoon are hard-hitting, sometimes irreverent. He visits schools making presentations to students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

In his written response upon receiving the Media Award, he wrote "...I will continue to honor and revere educators until that day when I am called to the Celestial Assistant Principal's Office for Final Judgment."



COMS CORNER

by Julie Cober, Beta, Communications and Marketing Committee Chair

DKG Arizona is moving into the digital and social media world.

The Communications and Marketing Committee is excited to share that the organization now has Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. Both of these will be linked to our existing Facebook account and State website. The committee will also be adding a new "blog" to the state website.

This is a great opportunity for our chapters to advertise a special program they will be having, to invite other chapters to special events, or to use as marketing tools for potential new members. This is a great way to stay connected in real time, instead of waiting for months to talk to each other.

We also will be running targeted marketing campaigns through social media. Essentially, all of the efforts of the Communications and Marketing committee will be aimed at expanding our reach to more women educators. Face it - Arizona is in a teacher crisis right now; thousands of great teachers are leaving the field because they feel undervalued and unsupported. Teachers need encouragement and support. DKG can be that support - members just need to show them that DKG is here and ready to help. The committee has really great ideas about how to highlight DKG and can't wait to start seeing the outcomes.

As a professor of Communication, Julie Cober has become quite accustomed to offering communication advice. As such, in every upcoming COM Corner, Cober hopes to offer a bit of communication advice to help all members.

Changes to DKG are in our midst, and she understand that change is hard; however, open and honest communication is the key. Communicating effectively requires one to take a step back, assess the intended recipient of the communication, and think through how the individual prefers to be communicated with. Once one knows this, one can tailor their message in a way that increases the likelihood of being heard. This also prevents one from assuming the way they communicate with one group is appropriate for all groups.

Communicating with care is about saying things that the people in our life need to hear and doing so with love. It is important to remember that as sisters, moving into the future is done together. The healthiest way for all of to stay together in this move toward innovation is to communicate with each other with the love of sisterhood.

ARIZONA SAHUARO, FALL 2019

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MAKING A SPLASH WITH THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Debbie Bennighof, the new chair of the Arts Committee and First Vice President of Alpha Xi is hopeful for the biennium.

Bennighof is a retired elementary teacher. She for 30 years in Grants Pass, Oregon and now she and her husband live in Avondale.

She is looking for make and take craft ideas for the 2021 Arts Retreat. If you have ideas or are willing to teach, please contact her.

An idea that Bennighof has in the thinking process right now is to send out some art ideas that chapters could do and then display them at State Convention.

Another idea is for chapters to send her an email telling me if her do an art activity during the year and include pictures, if desired. She could then share that in the Sahuaro.

Bennighof and team are still welcoming new members to this committee, so if you are interested please email her at debbieb704@gmail.com.

If members have any thoughts of what they would like to see this committee do, email her also. Bennighof would love to have input.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



Articles for the winter edition are due on December 15th. See the style guide for expectations prior to submitting. Please submit articles with a captioned photo to sahuaroeditor@gmail.com.

The Sahuaro needs a new **masthead** (the title of this magazine with optional graphics at the very top of the cover page). There are lots of talented artists in the group, and DKG wants to showcase your work. Please email digital submissions to sahuaroeditor@gmail.com. Email there also for a mailing address to send physical submissions. Entry dimensions must be a maximum of 8.5 inches wide and 1.5 inches to 3 inches tall.

Social media and the blog posts always need to be updated online. Submit your content to dkgazstate@gmail.com with attachments.