

**Omicron News**

Omicron Chapter, Alpha Beta State

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Established June 14, 1960

***Vol. 57, No. 1 \_ Fall 2016***

**Message from the President**

Dear Omicron Sisters,

Flipping the calendar to August always brings mixed emotions to those of us still in the teaching profession as we savor the last of our free days. I know our retired friends wish us nothing but the best for a successful school year. I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed some summer fun with family and friends.

I want to thank Sandy and the other outgoing, talented officers and committee chairwomen for all their hard work over the last few years. Also a huge thank you for those members who stepped up to become leaders within our chapter. Together we will keep Omicron the strong chapter that it is.

August also means we are closer to our first chapter meeting of the year. The executive board met in June and shared many laughs as we planned fabulous programs for the year. A highlight will be Alpha State President Joan Wiggins’ visit in November. Omicron will continue to uphold DKG’s seven purposes by focusing on personal and profession growth of members, local community service and the spirit of fellowship.

I look forward to learning and growing with you over the next two years. I am proud to lead this group and I’m looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday September 27th at 6 p.m. for our dinner meeting at the CC Career & Technology Center.

With Omicron Pride,
***Kathleen***

** ***Please recommend an outstanding woman educator***

 ***for membership! Access the nomination form at***

 ***http://omicrondkgmd.weebly.com/publications.html***

***Mission Statement:***

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

***Next Meeting***: **Tuesday, September 27, 6:00 p.m. at** Carroll County Career & Technology Center

Program: Year in Preview

Donation Collection: Coats for Shepherds Staff
Raffle: Communications Committee (Bonnie McElroy, Chair)

*Omicron News Page 2 Fall 2016*

## ****Calendar of Events 2016 - 2017****

**Tuesday, September 27, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.**

Place - Carroll County Career and Technology Center
Program - Dinner and Business Meeting: Boscov's fundraiser plans; Distribution of Gift Card Order

 Forms
Community Service Focus:  Winter Coats for Shepherd Staff
Raffle - Communications Committee (Bonnie McElroy, Chair)

**Thursday, November 17, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.**

Place - South Carroll High School
Program - Religion, Culture, and Society in Senegambia by Megan Fleharty. Cookie Sharing/Recipe Exchange
Community Service Focus:  U.S. Troops Cookie Donations, Loretta Hill oversight
Raffle - Remembrance (Naudine Pheobus, Chair)

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.**
Executive Board Meeting
South Carroll High School Media Center

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.**

Place - Winters Mill High School
Program - Nutrition and Disease Prevention with Melanie Berdyck
Community Service Focus: Personal Care Items for Women's Shelter, Kathie Tromble oversight
Raffle - Leadership Committee (Priscilla Ord, Chair)

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.**

Place - Westminster High School
Program - Personal Safety by Bruce Lohr with the Maryland Crime Prevention Bureau, Bonnie McElroy oversight
Community Service Focus: Westminster High School Food Pantry Donations
Raffle -  Women in the Arts (Terry Eckard, chair)

**Thursday, April 6, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.**

Place - Linton Springs Elementary School
Program - Book Talks with Jane Sharpe and Used Book Exchange
Community Service Focus: Leftover books for Carroll Hospital Center; New and gently used children's books for Wesley Freedom Church
Raffle - Education/Professional Affairs Committee

**May 2017, Date To Be Determined - 6:00 p.m.**

Place - Carroll County Career and Technology Center
Program - Dinner and Business Meeting; Induction of New Members
Community Service Focus: [Shepherd's Staff Backpack Program Donations](http://omicrondkgmd.weebly.com/uploads/4/9/5/7/49576775/back_to_school_items_needed.docx)
Raffle - Personal Growth Committee (Jeanne Bowman, Chair)

**Tuesday, June 20, 2017 - Time: 12:30 p.m.**
Executive Board Meeting
Kathleen Brunnett's Home

*Omicron News Page 3 Fall 2016*

**Boscov’s Fundraiser 2016**

Get a jump on the upcoming holidays and support Delta Kappa Gamma at the same time. A major moneymaking project is Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends Day. It is an easy way to raise funds for our organization.

Members are encouraged to sell tickets to friends, neighbors, and family. Everyone who purchases a $5 ticket receives a **25% discount** shopping pass for most purchases (some exclusions apply). This discount applies ***only*** on **Tuesday, October 18th, Friends Helping Friends Day**. We need your support. Last year we made $585. We hope to do as well or better this year.

Tickets will be available at our first meeting. If you don’t make it to the dinner and need tickets, contact Dixie Elmes at 410-857-5068.

An idea – If someone has done something special for you recently, you might repay them for their kindness by purchasing them a ticket.

 Submitted by Dixie Elmes

**A School Year of Notable Upcoming Omicron Programs**

**By Iris Wingert**

As Omicron’s new programming chair, I am very excited about this year’s great programs selected by the executive board during our June meeting. In November, our guest speaker will be Megan Fleharty, a Frederick County middle school teacher, who recently returned from her trip to Senegal and The Gambia. Megan received a five-week Fullbright scholarship through Morgan State University. She will be sharing her personal experiences and exposure to the culture, education, and religion of those two regions in Africa. I recently got to preview Megan’s digital pictures and I can tell you that you won’t want to miss seeing them and hearing about her fascinating adventures!

During February, we traditionally have a program about women’s health issues because that month is designated “Heart Health Month.” Our guest speaker will be Melanie Berdyck, dietitian at Carroll Hospital Center. I have personally heard Melanie speak on numerous occasions and I can attest that she is very knowledgeable about nutrition and will provide us with excellent suggestions for maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle.

In March, we will be hearing from Bruce Lohr with the Maryland Crime Prevention Bureau. Given Bruce’s expertise in the area of crime prevention, we will definitely learn a lot about keeping safe from Internet scams and identification theft among other topics of modern interest and concern. Bruce has spoken to several groups in Carroll County including the Maryland Retired School Personnel. His presentation comes highly recommended by Bonnie McElroy.

Finally, in March, we will hear from Jane Sharpe, former librarian at the Hoover Library at McDaniel College. Jane will provide us with book talks about great reads for all ages. Her list of suggestions will be quite extensive and versatile. Priscilla Ord has heard Jane speak about her annual holiday shopping list of great books to buy and give as gifts. I’m sure that we will get some great ideas for books that will keep us, our friends and family members entertained throughout the year.

*Omicron News Page 4 Fall 2016*

**DKG (Omicron) Pride**

While visiting Elinor Causey at Bonnie Blink, she introduced me to everyone who walked by, stating that I was her pupil in middle school and we are both members of Delta Kappa Gamma. If they were not familiar with DKG, she proudly said, “It is a group of key women educators, not men.” She further explained that it used to be a secret organization, like the Masons, but not anymore.

We have much to be proud of as a chapter and we need to spread the word. Sisters, let’s make it a goal to reach out to other outstanding women educators that we know, inform them of what we do, invite them to a meeting, and recommend them as an active member of our chapter. Consider your response to, “*What is the best part about being a member of Delta Kappa Gamma?”* (The final question on the bio sheet that was distributed last year.) That could be a springboard to a conversation with the teachers you want to recommend.

 --Submitted by Laura McClelland

***Save the Date***

The Alpha Beta State Convention will be held April 21, 22, and 23 at the Holiday Inn on Solomon's Island.  More details to follow as time gets closer.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**September Meeting Dinner Reservation Form**

**Dinner Meeting at CCCTC on Tuesday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Send $12.00 to Stella by Tuesday, September 20**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Delta Kappa Gamma; Omicron Chapter

Mail to: Stella Letras; 2128 Herbert Ave.; Westminster, MD 21157

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

***2016-2017 Dues: $75 for active members* Must be paid by Friday, October 28**

 ***$50 for reserve members***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amount: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Checks made payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, Omicron Chapter)

Send to Stella Letras, 2128 Herbert Ave., Westminster, MD 21157-6947

**Gift Card Fundraiser**

Use the attached form to order gift cards for family, friends, someone you want to thank, or yourself!