**Omicron News**

Omicron Chapter, Alpha Beta State

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Established June 14, 1960



***Vol. 59, No. 1 Fall 2018***

**Message from the President**

Dear Omicron Sisters,

Having spent a relatively short time as chapter president and having seen and experienced first-hand what goes on behind the scenes to make our chapter so successful, I have a much greater appreciation for chapter officers and committee chairs. Our chapter has amazing and dedicated leaders who hold meetings, complete reports, communicate with committee members via email, make important decisions and lend support. I feel blessed as president to know that I will not be going it alone over the next two years! All I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you.

My trip to the DKG International Convention in Austin was an eye-opening experience in terms of how truly large and international the DKG Organization is. Nearly 2,000 sisters joined me at general meetings, breakfast and luncheon events, break-out sessions and, of course, voting on constitutional amendments. I also had opportunities for evenings out on the town including a sightseeing boat ride and an “authentic” Texas BBQ dinner with nearly 30 other Marylanders. We had fun! I hope that you had a chance to see my pictures. At our first chapter meeting in October, I will explain the voting and the effects that it may have on our chapter.

Looking ahead, we have a lot of exciting events planned for this year–great programs, opportunities to attend our State Convention in Hunt Valley in the spring, a fun field trip that I hope to plan with your input, and a new school partnership with Taneytown Elementary School. Your involvement in these activities is so important for our thriving chapter. I hope to see you at as many events as possible. Additionally, DKG offers our members many benefits on the local, state, and international levels: scholarships, personal and professional growth, leadership opportunities, travel discounts, mini-grants, professional publications, and fellowship. I will be sharing deadlines and encouraging you to take advantage of these benefits throughout the year.

In this newsletter, you will see information about two important and upcoming fundraisers. Your help with these activities is vital to support our grants-in-aid awards of $600 each to two student teacher interns in the McDaniel College BEST program. Please help us make our goal to raise the needed $1,200.00 this year. Here’s a hint to save stamps: Pat Minnich will collect gift card money at the October meeting. And if you bring $25, check or cash, you won’t have to mail it to Dixie Elmes who will be available to distribute Boscov’s 25% discount coupons. Thank you for participating in these fundraising activities. Have a great 2018–2019 school year, everyone! See you on October 4th!

Iris

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## ****Calendar of Events 2018 - 2019****

**Thursday, October 4, 2018—6:00 p.m.**

Place: Century High School Contact: Penny Foster Inspiration: Kathie Tromble

Program: Frank Reaver / Initiation Contact: Penny Foster

Community Service Focus: Winter Coats & Men’s Clothing for Shepherd’s Staff

Raffle: Communications Committee—Bonnie McElroy, Pat Riesner, Iris Wingert

**November** **Dinner Meeting**: **TBA,** **2018—6:00 p.m.**

Place: CCCTC Contact: Bonnie McElroy Inspiration: Kathleen Brunnett

Program**: Dinner Meeting** Contact: Bonnie McElroy

Community Service Focus: School Supplies for Taneytown Elementary School

Raffle: Finance Committee—Stella Letras, Pat Minnich, Linda Witter, Kim Arnold

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019—6:00 p.m.**

Place: University of Maryland Extension Office (Ag. Center) Contact: Jo Anne Stevens

Program: Healthy Eating on the Go by Terry Serio Contact: Jo Anne Stevens

Community Service Focus: Westminster Women’s Shelter/ Kathie Tromble, liaison\_

Raffle: Leadeship—Cindi King, Marjorie Lohnes, Leslie Cheslie, Denise Kresslein

Inspiration: Naudine Pheobus

**Thursday, March 21, 2019—6:00 p.m.**

Place: South Carroll High School Contact: Iris Wingert Inspiration: Maria Shanabarger

Program: Speaker James Horn Contact: Ann Horn

Community Service Focus: South Carroll High School Food Pantry

Raffle: Women in the Arts—Maria Shanabarger, Lynda Lockard, and Fall Initiates

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019—6:00 p.m.**

Place: Mt. Airy Middle School Contact: Donna Carr Inspiration: Laurette O’Keefe

Program: Self Defense for Women Contact: Jackie Cage

Community Service Focus: Mt. Airy NET Food Bank / Donna Carr, liaison

Raffle: Ed./Pro. Affairs—Judy Plaskowitz, Eleanor Alexamder, Ann Horn, Kathy Wojcik

**May 2019** **Dinner Meeting—Date TBA—6:00 p.m.**

Place: CCCTC Contact: Bonnie McElroy Inspiration: Jo Anne Stevens

Program: Dinner Meeting/Initiation Contact: Bonnie McElroy

Community Service Focus: School Supplies for Shepherd’s Staff, Cindi King, liaison\_\_

Raffle: Personal Growth—Jeanne Bowman, Kathleen Brunnett, Nanci Werner, Leslie Simpson

**Executive Board Meetings:**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019—5:00 p.m.** **Thursday, June 20, 2019—12 noon**

Place: Westminster High School Place: The Iris Wingert Sun Room

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***2018-2019 School Partnership***

Last year was the first time Omicron partnered with a local Carroll County school, Linton Springs. It was an opportunity to familiarize the staff with our chapter and support the staff with little incentives, school supplies, and volunteering as needed in the school. Since that partnership was well received, Iris created a motto, “Don’t Mess with Success.” This leads us forward to another partnership, this time in the Northwest region of Carroll County, Taneytown Elementary.

It takes many hands to make these partnerships successful. Some of the events that will need help are: creating birthday cards for the staff in September, food for a breakfast Friday, October 26, supplies for the classrooms, cookies to serve on Wednesday, February 20 (which is part of the February meeting), and trained volunteers to volunteer in the school. Last year JoAnne, Iris and Laura volunteered at the book fair at Linton Springs. Becoming volunteer trained is as easy as going to the Carroll County Public Schools website, taking the online training, and selecting Taneytown as the preferred school.

Candy bars wrapped with the DKG logo will be placed in all staff mailboxes in August.

We hope you will be able to help in some capacity this school year as we partner with Taneytown Elementary. Keep alert for emails about specific needs throughout the year.

Submitted by Laura McClelland

***Boscov’s Fundraiser 2018***

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 16th – Friends Helping Friends Day**. We need your support. Last year we made $525. 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 meeting 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 giving them a ticket.

Submitted by Dixie Elmes

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***Treasurer’s Notes***

1. Attached to the newsletter is the order form for gift cards. As indicated, the forms and money are due to Pat Minnich on or before Oct. 12th. They cannot be received after that date. Please check and double check the order and the amount due. Be sure to make the check for the same amount that you have entered at the bottom of the form. (This makes the entire process a lot easier.) Gift cards will be distributed at the November meeting.
2. Attached to the newsletter is the proposed budget for 2018-2019. Please review and be prepared to discuss any changes at the October meeting.

**November Meeting Dinner Reservation Form**

**Dinner Meeting at CCCTC on TBA (Tentatively Thursday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m.)**

**Send $15.00 to Pat Minnich by Wednesday, November 7**

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

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

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

Make check payable to: Delta Kappa Gamma; Omicron Chapter

Mail to: Pat Minnich, 208 St. Matthew Court, Westminster, MD 21158

***NOTE: Please write separate checks for dues, dinner, and gift card orders.***- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

***2018-2019 Dues: $75 for active members* See Mailing Directions below:**

***$50 for reserve members***

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

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

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

Please mail checks to Stella Letras accordingly:

* Checks must be **received by or** **before September 28** to this address: 2128 Herbert Avenue; Westminster, MD 21157-6947
* **After** September 25, all checks must be mailed to Stella and postmarked no later than October 31 to this address: 4130 East Raccoon Valley Drive; Powell, TN 37849.

No checks will be received after an October 31 postmark date to Stella’s Tennessee address.

***NOTE: Please write separate checks for dues, dinner, and gift card orders.***

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***The Bridge to Brilliance***

**by Nadia Lopez**  
 A book review by Iris Wingert

I was so inspired by one of the keynote speakers at the DKG International Convention this summer that I had to read her book, *The Bridge to Brilliance* by Nadia Lopez. It’s an autobiographical account of a principal’s efforts to turn failing students around in one of the poorest and toughest communities in New York City. Lopez describes in sharp detail how she is pouring her heart, soul and professional expertise into reaching out to her middle schoolers at Mott Hall Bridges Academy, a public school that she envisioned and developed in an effort to reverse the cycle of apathy toward education and bring up test scores among her ‘scholars,’ as she calls them. There is no doubt that she knows and understands her target population - young people who are caught up in a community of gangs, violence, anger, fear, mistrust, and intimidation. Lopez practically lives in her school. She is intent on listening to every one of her scholar’s stories; she mentors them and gives them hope while setting them straight about life’s struggles (especially for young people of color) on their journey toward adulthood and, hopefully, high school and beyond. When speaking to the former U.S. secretary of education, Arne Duncan, Lopez states, “I don’t have the luxury of failing, because if I don’t do well, I’m that school-to-prison pipeline. I’m literally leading my scholars into prison if I don’t get it right. Those are the stats. I have the highest percentage of kids who are part of the bottom third.”

In her book, Nadia Lopez is very outspoken about what it takes to improve the circumstances of her scholars. She spouts practical applications, not theory, about how to make things happen; how to get things done. But are the financiers, the test makers, and those who oversee her authority and accountability actually listening? Are they heeding her needs and responding to her demands? In order to “get it right,” she employs unique and innovative ways to motivate her scholars and create cultural change including field trips to college campuses, having professional mentoring and thematic programs for boys and for girls, working with parents and offering community walk-throughs among her teaching staff. *The Bridge to Brilliance* is replete with specific examples and anecdotes about the daily struggles that Lopez and her scholars face and about how she empowers her students and creates a school environment that is conducive for learning. It is a profound story that is a perfect read for every educator, school administrator, parent and anyone who cares about the educational needs and successes of our country’s most underserved and disadvantaged youth.

If you would like to hear Nadia Lopez speak, you can view her,

TedTalk “Why Open a School? To Close a Prison” at <https://www.ted.com/talks/nadia_lopez_why_open_a_school_to_close_a_prison>

 **Chapter Member Recommendation**

Instructions:

Please complete and submit to the chapter membership chair. For information about qualifications for membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, refer to sections on membership in the Constitution and the International Standing Rules. Mail this form to: Laura McClelland; 3110 Slasmans Rd.; Finksburg, MD 21048

Name of person recommended (prospect):

Name

Address

Preferred Phone Number

Preferred E-mail

Current position title:

Employer:

Highest educational degree granted: Year: Field:

What do you want others to know about you as an Educator? (Such as professional development presentations, campus or departmental leadership roles, published materials, committees served on, honors, and/or awards, etc.)

What else do you want others to know about you? (Such as personal interests, hobbies, community involvement, etc.)

Sponsor:

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter/State Org \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant Date: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

11/13/17 kld