

COMMUNICATE



Dear Mu Chapter Sisters:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, once again, as Mu Chapter president. I appreciate the many kind words you have already shared, and I look forward to renewing my connections with all of you. The months of June and July were especially sweet. Having made 117 phone calls, and visiting with almost every one of our members, I came away feeling a strong bond of sisterhood. Through our conversations, I gained a greater understanding of the concerns, needs, and desires of our members. Your responses to my phone survey provided the information I needed to move forward with confidence in planning for the upcoming year. Please bear with me in this long newsletter. Mu has had a very busy summer and there is much to share. Thank you.

Mu CHAPTER NEWS

Website: www.dkgmnmueebly.com

A Time for Transition: Congratulations to our newly elected officers for the 2020-2022 biennium who were installed Tuesday, June 23rd via Google Meet. Nominations Chair, Angie Dahlberg, led the installation ceremony and arranged for all new incoming officers to have a long-stemmed red rose delivered to them in time for the event. Thank you, Angie.

Newly Elected Officers

Kate Pearson - President
Tamra Ragan - 1st Vice President
Susan Flicek - 2nd Vice President
Kathy Van Wert - Recording Secretary
Miriam White - Corresponding Secretary
Deb Rossman - Treasurer
Delphine Jacobsen - Parliamentarian

Thank you: Please join me in thanking our 2018-2020 Nominations Committee - Angie Dahlberg, Stacy Bahr, Robyn Edwards, Kathy Van Wert, Pam Roiger, and Libby Underhill for securing a slate of officers for the 2020-2022 biennium. Your efforts to run the election and installation ceremony are very much appreciated.

Elections Continue: Members on the Nominations Committee are elected. The 2020-2022 candidates are Stacy Bahr, Angie Dahlberg, Nancy Goudge, Pam Roiger, Libby Underhill, and Kathy Van Wert. Please vote using the enclosed ballot and mail it to Kate Pearson in the envelope provided. Vote for up to 6.

In Remembrance: It is with sorrow that we bid farewell to our fellow sisters who passed away this year: Eileen Nistler, March 17; Carol Close, June 1; and Lorna Sullivan, July 22. Please know that I visited with their families and offered the Rose Ceremony of Remembrance. However, due to the COVID situation, funeral and memorial services have been postponed. While we mourn the loss of these dear sisters, we also celebrate, with joy, their lives as teachers and friends. They will be missed.

New Members: Please join me in welcoming four new members to DKG. They will be a tremendous asset to our chapter and organization. Their official installation ceremony will be held in April or when in-person meetings resume. As always, the future of our organization depends on a strong and dedicated membership.

Welcome!

- **Colleen Cardenuto** - Curriculum Director, Bemidji Area Schools
- **Colleen Joyce** - Substitute teacher in Bemidji and former children's librarian at the Bemidji Public Library
- **Dr. Delana Smith** - Assistant Professor of Professional Education, Bemidji State University
- **Sonia Wadena** - Indian Education Coordinator, Bemidji Area Schools

Membership Continued: This spring we saw a significant number of drops in membership. While we will miss our sisters, we thank them for their membership and wish them well in all their new endeavors.

Mary Lea Anderson, Christina Baltes, Kathleen Conger, Linda Frost, Nancy Gallagher, Julie Ann Kerrigan, Dawn Kovacovich, Darlene Mathews, Carol Lynn Nielsen, Tiffany Palmer, Kathy Sloan, Audrey Tollefson

COVID-19: The coronavirus has certainly impacted the way we do business. Please know that as we met this summer to make plans for this year's chapter activities, the health of our members was a main consideration. I continue to be confident that together, in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation, we will rise to meet any challenge ahead.

The results of my June/July phone survey confirmed that the vast majority of our members prefer to postpone in-person meetings until a vaccine for COVID has been found or the spread of the virus has gone down. Your responses also confirmed that more members are familiar with Zoom than Google Meet. In light of these results, we will hold meetings via Zoom from September to January. On January 4th we will re-evaluate the COVID situation.

Technology: Technology Chair, Geri Nynas, researched Zoom capabilities, and recommended that we purchase Zoom Pro. It has many useful features including extended time for meetings rather than the 40 minutes offered through Zoom Basic. We purchased a one-year subscription for \$160.96 which will be paid for out of our Myrtie-Hunt Programming Funds. This fee is far less costly than the monthly facility fees we currently pay at venues around town.

Please feel free to contact Geri or any member of the Tech Committee for technology support or for answers to questions you may have regarding Zoom meetings. This new use of technology is a concern for many, so let's work together to ensure a smooth transition into this new normal.

Attention! Critical Changes: Due to the critical change in our meeting format, we will be mailing new booklets to all members prior to our September meeting. Please note that all meeting information in the new booklet has been organized into two sections:

“Plan A” Zoom Meetings - in blue

“Plan B” In-Person Meetings - in red

We did this to be ready for any scenario. We are prepared to hold Zoom meetings from now until October of 2021 if needed, but we are also ready to jump back into “business as usual” if the COVID situation improves. To avoid confusion, it’s important that everyone familiarizes themselves with these changes.

Because we will definitely hold “Plan A” Zoom meetings from September through December, the previously assigned Program and Hostess Committees for those months will not be needed. Callers: Please note that your duties will look slightly different from Plan A to Plan B.

Everyone will be kept informed throughout the year regarding our meeting format especially when, and if, we transition from Plan A to Plan B.

Maintaining Our Philanthropy: A number of you expressed concern for maintaining the support we give to the following local programs, scholarships, and special projects:

- 1.) Bemidji and Bagley Food Shelves
- 2.) United Way Backpack Buddies
- 3.) Local Libraries
- 4.) Schools for Africa
- 5.) New-Teacher Gift Cards
- 6.) Brune-Parker Legacy Scholarship for Special Projects
- 7.) Myrtie-Hunt Programming Fund

We typically fund numbers 1-5 through voluntary contributions collected at monthly meetings. Numbers 6 & 7 are funded through ticket sales for the Red Bag of Fun.



Since we did not meet last spring, and we won’t meet in person this fall, our opportunity to collect contributions has been lost. In an effort to maintain our philanthropic support of these programs, the Executive Board is asking for voluntary donations to be distributed among these programs.

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution to one or all of these initiatives, please complete the enclosed donation form and mail it, along with your check made out to Mu Chapter, in the enclosed envelope by September 30th. The donations you give will make up for what we lost in the months of April, May, and this coming September, and October. Thank you.

MN STATE DKG NEWS

Website: www.dkgmn.weebly.com

New Officer’s Training

August - Date/Location TBD

Executive Committee Meeting

February 6, 2021 - Location TBD

Executive Board Meeting and State Convention

April 16-17, 2021

DKG INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Website: www.dkg.org

COLLABORATE

DATES TO REMEMBER and MEETINGS HELD

Tuesday, June 23

Installation of Officers: Nominations Chair, Angie Dahlberg, hosted a 7:00 p.m. Google Meeting for this year’s installation of officers. This event is typically held in-person at the May meeting with all members present, however, given the COVID shutdown in May, alternate plans for installation were made.

Tuesday, July 7

Transition Meeting: Treasurer Deb Rossman, 1st Vice President Tamra Ragan, and President Kate Pearson met at First National Bank in Bemidji to change signatures on the checking account and update materials in the safety deposit box.

Wednesday, July 8

New Member Information Meeting: Membership Chair, Pam Murray, led a 10:00 a.m. information meeting at the home of Kate Pearson for four potential new members and their sponsors. Everyone viewed the program, “Pride in the Big Picture”.

Thursday, July 16

New Member Information Meeting: Membership Chair, Pam Murray, led a second information meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom for two potential new members. Guests viewed the program “Pride in the Big Picture”.

Tuesday, July 21

Summer Program Planning: President Kate Pearson led a summer program planning meeting with 15 members to plan this year’s “Program of Work”. Ten met in-person at Kate’s home while five were online via Zoom. It was a fun way to meet during a very productive day!

June - August

Yearbook Revision Meeting: Yearbook Chair, Kim Kusler, worked throughout the summer with Kate Pearson to update the yearbook.

Wednesday, July 29

Finance Committee Meeting: Finance Chair, Heidi Krause, led a Zoom meeting with her committee to establish a proposed budget for the coming year. We will vote on this proposed budget at our meeting in September.

Friday, July 31

Technology Committee Meeting: Technology Chair, Geri Nynas, led a Zoom meeting to discuss Zoom Pro capabilities and establish new tech protocols and procedures.

Friday, July 31

Audit Committee Meeting: Audit Chair, Pat Welte, and her committee, completed the annual audit.

August Date, TBD

Chapter Rules Committee: Co-Chairs Kathy Palm and Susan Flicek will call a Zoom meeting with their committee to align our chapter rules with the state and international standing rules and constitution.

September 5, 9:30 a.m.

Pre-Event Meeting: President Kate Pearson will host a pre-event Zoom meeting with Technology Chair, Geri Nynas, and our September presenter, Dr. Ellen Kennedy to work through technical issues prior to our regular September chapter meeting.

Saturday, September 12

Regular Chapter Meeting: To be held online via Zoom. Dr. Ellen Kennedy from World Without Genocide will speak on “Climate Change, Genocide, and Violence Against Women”. The Executive Board will meet at 9:00, all other members will join at 9:30.

Saturday, September 30

Contribution Deadline: Please submit all voluntary contributions for the Bemidji and Bagley Food Shelves, Backpack Buddies, New Teacher Gift Cards, Schools for Africa, Brune-Parker Scholarship, and the Myrtie Hunt Programming Fund by this date. Make checks payable to Mu Chapter and indicate how you would like your donation distributed. Send checks to Kate Pearson or Deb Rossman.

Saturday, October 10

Regular Chapter Meeting: To be held online via Zoom. Ed MN Rep Vanessa Pulkrabeck will speak on Teaching Safely During COVID and Superintendent Tim Lutz will speak on the State of Bemidji Area Schools and the Upcoming Referendum. The Executive Board will meet at 9:00, all other members will join at 9:30.

Saturday, December 5

Annual Christmas Tea: This year, we will host a “Virtual Christmas Tea”. Please send a current or old Christmas card photo of yourself or your family to Libby Underhill by Monday, November 23. If you don’t have a Christmas card photo, please submit any other favorite photo of yourself or family. Be sure to include your name. Please help us make this year’s tea **uniquely special!**

COOPERATE

Sharing Information: I often send emails with news about our members, but only after I have the permission of the member. If you hear of anyone in need of support or you have good news to share, please send me a quick email. Also - I’m always looking for information to include in my newsletters.

Historic Records: Co-chairs Susan Eichstadt and Robyn Edwards will be taking pictures at meetings and events

throughout the year. Yes, even photos of our online meetings! Deanna Nichols and the Historic Records Committee will compile these in chapter albums. You can help by sending Susan, Robyn or Deanna any photos, news articles, or other items of interest about our members.

Courtesy Committee: Is a Mu Chapter member in need of support by way of a note, phone call, or visit? Is a member in need of a ride to a meeting, ill, in the hospital, or experiencing a loss? Contact any member of our wonderful Courtesy Committee. They are here to help. See Dianne Sizer, Chair.

Pins, Pins, Pins: Do you have your DKG keypin, the emblem of membership in our Society? Would you like to collect years of service pins? These are available in 5-year increments. Contact Tami Wesely.

What to Do with Those Pins?

Contact Tami Wesely for a red-ribbon pin holder.

Need a New Nametag?

Contact Sharon Hokuf



CELEBRATE

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following members, initiated in 1980, are celebrating their 40th anniversary in DKG this year! They will receive their 40-year pins and be recognized at our online meeting in September. Congratulations!

... **Marilyn Gandrud**
... **Delphine Jacobson**
... **Maureen Ohman**
... **Margaret Thorson**
... **Pat Zea**

CONGRATULATIONS!

... **Deb Rossman** – for successfully driving a 32-foot RV all the way from Bemidji to Austin, Texas and back to bring her mom out of a Texas nursing home into the safety of an assisted living facility in Bemidji where she can see her mom every day. Way to go, Deb!
... **Marie Chandler Borslien** – for sharing the great news that your daughter, Alison Chandler, is moving from Alaska back to Bemidji to teach science at the Bemidji Middle School.

CONGRATULATIONS!

... **Tamra Ragan** – on the adoption of your new puppy and husky mix, Sadie. This 4 ½ month old, blue-eyed rescue dog has captured the hearts of Tammy and her family.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO

... **Mu Chapter** - for providing me with a \$1000 Brune-Parker Scholarship for Special Projects this summer. With this scholarship, I was able to complete a 550 square foot science mural at Horace May Elementary School in Bemidji, which I had been working on for the past nine months. The mural is like an open textbook, with detailed text and graphic features, welcoming students into our 50-acre outdoor classroom. The total project budget was roughly \$7,500, so your contribution made a big difference. I plan to host a Mu Chapter meeting at Horace May when school reopens to the public in the fall of 2021 so you can all see the mural in person. On behalf of our students and the Horace May community, thank you.

... **Mu Chapter** - Thank you once again for the opportunity to lead this amazing group of women. Please continue to share your great ideas, your areas of expertise, and your rich knowledge of the history of DKG. Never forget the wonderful opportunity DKG provides for networking, building friendships, promoting education, and for supporting programs, scholarships and women educators.

Sincerely,
Kate Pearson

