

SIoux FALLS, SD

NOVEMBER 2015

Sudan education is highlight of September meeting

Our first Mu Chapter meeting of the year on September 19 at the downtown public library was a very special one. Our own Millie Horter, DKG State President, spoke about Alpha Pi State's plans for hosting the 2017 Regional DKG conference. 20 members attended. We welcomed Moses Joknhial II and Rhonda Morse who brought us up-to-date about the project, Rebuilding South Sudan through Education. How amazing it is to note the success of this project despite incredible odds of meeting educational needs in an unsettled region where providing basic necessities of adequate food and clothing are an everyday challenge. Mu Chapter has been able to provide funds for this worthy cause for the past seven years.

Dr. Rhonda Anderson shared inspirational thoughts about membership and reported highlights of recent DKG regional and international conferences she had recently attended. Cathy Regas presented information about the Sioux Falls Education Foundation, and members were given "food for thought" regarding the future of Mu Chapter.

The traveling state chapter scrapbook award was displayed, and a special thank you expressed to Elizabeth Wood for her dedicated work on the Mu Chapter scrapbook which earned first place at the Alpha Pi State Convention in June. Officers pictured (right) with the award are (from left) Dr. Rhonda Anderson, Millie Horter, Char Cade, Cathy Anderson and Dee Gulson. Officers not pictured are Elizabeth Wood and Marlys Pearson. (photos courtesy of Dr. Rhonda Anderson)



Mu Chapter presented a \$1,500 donation to Rebuilding South Sudan through Education. Accepting the award from Chapter President Char Cade (center) are Moses Joknhial II and Rhonda Morse.



Focus on Membership

Chapter dues are \$ 70 for active members; payable by October 31 to treasurer Marlys Pearson. Red chapter booklets were distributed to members at the September meeting. So far, 30 members have their booklets. The calling committee, something new added this year to hopefully increase communication and meeting attendance, is commended for the many positive comments from members who are pleased to have calls to remind and inform them about our chapter meetings. A letter of transferred membership due to dissolution of Tau Chapter has been received from International on behalf of Betty Mudder of Freeman, SD who is now a member of Mu. Betty has been an active participant at the state convention level by sharing her wonderful musical gifts as accompanist for the Alpha Pi State Chorus. Welcome, Betty!

Mu Chapter is seeking women educators who are actively teaching to potentially become members. The demographics of our chapter indicate that approximately 75 % of our members are retired and no longer have daily contact with teachers still in the classroom who could be recruited as members. In addition, today's teachers face increasing demands on their time and monetary resources which limit their ability to become members of DKG. So, it has become a priority to develop a plan that creates a strategy to identify, welcome and assist women educators in our community to join us in completing the chapter's mission and goals; resulting in an organization capable of being around for years to come.

Our success can be measured in several tangible ways: membership growth, increased volunteerism and active support of women educators.

President's Ponderings ...

Autumn is my favorite time of year! Maybe it is yours, too! It's the season when school is in full swing, and our lives have settled into the rhythm of routine. It's a time to savor the warm colors of falling leaves before the world around us turns into wintry white. It's the time as Thanksgiving approaches when we are reminded of the many blessings we have: our family and friends, our work and our hobbies, and of course the DKG organization that we, as members, share in giving life to its purposes and programs. The presentation of our check to Moses and Rhonda at the September meeting for the Rebuilding of South Sudan through Education project is evidence of that!

Now, for a moment, digress with me to thinking about your plans for celebrating Thanksgiving...

While preparing for a family Thanksgiving celebration a few years ago, I read *The Thanksgiving Ceremony* by Edward Bleier, a former top executive at Warner Bros. and ABC, and advocate for the arts. This book, named to the New York Times bestseller list, focused my thoughts beyond organizing and preparing the family feast. For example, Bleier writes, "Thanksgiving is unique and special. It is the only holiday centered on a meal that also incorporates all Americans of all religions and ethnic backgrounds," as he continues to explain the ceremony is his book...an interesting read!

May we all share the blessings of Thanksgiving and look forward to the delights of the upcoming Holiday Season!



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Thursday, November 19, 2015, at the home of Char Cade: "Enthusiasm, Enlightenment and Encouragement" presented by Melissa Goodwin, businesswoman.

No meeting in December.

Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at Callie Branch Library: "Health Benefits Discovery" with Jill Biltoft of Sanford Profile.

Membership Bonus

Members can receive certification renewal credit for attending DKG meetings. An attendance sheet to sign is provided at chapter meetings this year for earning credit. Contact Dr. Rhonda Anderson for further information.

Scholarships Available

Chapter members are encouraged to apply for classroom scholarship grants. Last year's award winners were Cathy Regas and Dar Steenholdt. The scholarship committee of Dr. Marilyn Carlson-Aronson, chair; and members Dr. Rhonda Anderson, Linda Munson and Deb Perkins-Hicks will be reviewing applications and awarding scholarships by the end of October. For further information and an application, please contact the committee chair. Award recipients will be announced at the November chapter meeting.

Mu Chapter Officers 2014-2016

President: Char Cade

First Vice-President: Dr. Rhonda Anderson

Second Vice-President: Elizabeth Wood

Recording Secretary: Dee Gulson

Corresponding Secretary: Cathy Anderson

Treasurer: Marlys Pearson

Parliamentarian: Millie Horter

Webmaster: Charnelle Wooledge

Wooledge@sio.midco.net

Website:

<http://cw045.k12.sd.us/DKG/muweb/officers.htm>

Submit information for

Mu Chapter Newsletter: Char Cade

wiltcharcade@sio.midco.net

Newsletter Issued:

September, November,
January, March, May

Mission Statement

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