

IL IN IA MB MI MN NE ND ON SD WI

LIGHT NEW HORIZONS

OPPORTUNITY COURAGE GROWTH

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Volume 1, Issue 2

Lessons from our Founders

October is when we celebrate the wonderful organization known as Alpha Delta Kappa, but it is also a time to reflect on our legacy and the strong heritage that is encompassed in everything that we do in the name of AΔK.

Our founders understood that they had a vision that was larger and stronger than anything that they could accomplish alone. They saw an **Opportunity** for women educators to come together and create an organization that would be dedicated to the true principles of teaching; Excellence in Education, World Understanding and Altruism. United in by their ambitious project, they summoned their **Courage** and began the work required to make their dream a reality.

To fully understand the obstacles that they faced, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the magnitude of their courage. Their goal to bring women teachers together in the name of sisterhood began in the 1940's. Women at that time lived in an environment that conformed to gender constraints. Few women of that era enjoyed the freedoms that we take for granted today.

Take a look at some of the challenges facing women educators in the 1940's:

- Salaries for women were significantly lower than those of their male counterparts.
- Very strict codes were enforced regarding dress and personal conduct.

- Few women were allowed to teach once they married.
- If a woman became pregnant, she was required to leave the classroom immediately or in rare cases during the first trimester.

Agnes Shipman Robertson's vision was clear, strong and achievable but the work required a team. She invited Marie Neal, Marion Southall and Hattie Poppino to join her on her adventure. Together they would help her found Alpha Delta Kappa. So, these four women donned their hats and gloves and bravely took to the road ways unescorted and sold their vision to other women teachers.

The task was daunting but our fearless founders did not waiver from their mission. To them, there **were 'infinite possibilities'** for connecting with their sister educators. They persevered and learned what approaches worked and what approaches needed to be refined. They experienced **Growth** and acceptance in a time when few would have even dared to dream of undertaking such an endeavor. They developed a strategic plan that would guide them towards their goal. Fear of failure was not an option. Their resolve could not be shaken.

Agnes, Marie, Marion and Hattie were true educators. They led by example. They were part of a universally growing movement among women educators who sought to unite and in doing so, add their voice to educational issues on a world stage.

Our founders were not passive women. They were fearless. Their courage and commitment to an ideal built the very foundation on which we stand today. Their commitment to lighting an innovative horizon is so inspiring.

We are indebted to their vision and have a responsibility to continue to carry their mantle into the future.

Find the Agnes who lives inside of you. Unleash your **Courage!** Start where you are most comfortable. Help another sister channel the spirit of our founders. Perhaps you've noticed a sister in one of your meetings who could use a mentor? Is it a new sister who is walking on the shaky ground of uncertainty? Is it a sister who has great leadership potential and may not realize it? Is it a sister who has a special gift and needs help to find her way into the light that shines on her new horizon? Please take the time to look around you. Reach out to her. Share her name with me so that we can support her together in the name of sisterhood.

We have a duty to be actively involved. Our founders showed us that **Opportunity** is right in front of each of us. **Courage** will provide the strength to reach out and take action. **Growth** will be a light that will continue to shine throughout Alpha Delta Kappa. We will honor our intrepid founders by emulating their dedication to Alpha Delta Kappa.

With sisterly pride,
Roberta

STRATEGIC PLANS LIGHT NEW HORIZONS IN THE 21st CENTURY: 'INFINITE POSSIBILITIES'

Our loyalty to Alpha Delta Kappa has many thinking about our future. Concern over our survival dominated motions and discussions from delegates at our annual meetings for many years, eager to find the quick fix that would save us from obscurity.

Away from the annual meetings our International Executive Board and the International Chapter were focusing on Strategic Plans that would guide us through our entry into the 21st century. Their mandate was to objectively assess our relevance in the competitive, electronic world of today's educators. How could we compete against the instant gratification of search engines? The answer lies in our strength; sisterhood. The very essence of the power created when we unite behind a common cause. Just look at what Strategic Plans have helped us transform over the past 16 years!

2001-2006

During that time period the Excellence in Education Award was implemented (2003) and the first International Vice President of Membership, an International Chapter officer, was elected (2006).

2007-2012

Several important changes were made during this 5-year interval. The most significant event happened in 2009, when Alpha Delta Kappa stepped onto the world stage. We launched our first International World Understanding Project (S.A.V.E.), which built a school in Ta Rinh, Viet Nam. As a result of this venture, the International Executive Board approved guidelines developed by the International World Understanding Committee (2011). Alpha Delta Kappa's sisters embraced international projects with enthusiasm. In 2012 we chose Project H.O.P.E. for our World Understanding Project. Alpha Delta Kappa joined forces with Bridge Builders International and constructed a school in Juanjui, San Martin, Peru.

2013-2016

Contributions for the school in Peru grew, eventually reaching \$72,000.00. Donations to Project S.A.V.E. continued to be collected bringing the total to \$91,000.00. This donation funded construction of the Alpha Delta Kappa School in Ta Rinh, a sister school in Ta Ri, and an addition to the school in Hein An, Vietnam.

Between 2013-2015 four new scholarships were created. Alpha Delta Kappa entered the world of social media and created a Facebook page. Our AΔK-ITE scholars became members of a newly created category; Honorary Membership.

As educators we continued to look for other projects. We embraced Project B.O.O.K.S. (2014-2015) and together we raised \$80,000.00 to purchase a bookmobile and educational materials for the Cheyenne River Lakota/Sioux Indian Reserve in South Dakota. With the same enthusiasm we established the first Alpha Delta Kappa Collegiate Club at Ball State University. Project T.E.A.C.H. became the 2016 International World Understanding Project and we raised funding for additions for schools in Haiti. This project expanded to become T.E.A.C.H. Too, the 2018-2019 International World Understanding Project.

The implementation of the Fourth International Strategic Plan (**2018-2020**) is underway.

If we take a moment to reflect on the information above, we see how we are adapting. We undertake World Understanding and Altruistic projects that have a place on the world stage and impact learning. Scholarships and Grants have been created to assist educators with funds to support their classrooms and learning. Through our Excellence in Education Award we honour our working members for their dedication to their craft. We are active on social media platforms! Through our Collegiate Club and ITE scholars we have tapped into young teachers at the onset of their careers. We have shared our love of Alpha Delta Kappa and done what we do best. We mentored and continue to mentor young educators.

What is next?

I recommend that you take a moment to look at the Strategic Plan. It is there for all of us to read, to ponder and to participate in the momentum as we strengthen our position in the 21st century. It is important that we set aside time to read this important document.

The **Opportunity** is right in front of us. We must find our **Courage** and in doing so, we will continue to **Grow** through **Infinite Possibilities**.

How to Access Alpha Delta Kappa's Strategic Plan:

Log into the International website and make the following selections:

1. Library
2. Documents and Forms
3. Guiding and General
4. Guiding Documents
5. 2018-2020 Strategic Plan

"The horizon leans forward, offering you a space to place new steps of change."

Maya Angelou

HOW DOES YOUR CHAPTER MEASURE UP?



CNAs have been submitted and North Central is at **100%** of all chapters reporting! Hurrah! North Central Region **YOU** did it! Thank you to each chapter officer who took the time to submit the CNA. For those chapters that the CNA was submitted on time, you earned one Pearl of Achievement for your chapter. Now, as we start the second half of the biennium, I encourage each chapter to have a serious look at your membership goals. We need to be looking at the **WHOLE** picture of membership. Please share an idea which you have developed in your chapter. Just send you membership idea to Imagerdes@gmail.com.

Alpha Delta Kappa Sister,
Mary Ann Gerdes

1) Increase membership. Every chapter needs to make a concerted effort in gaining one new member, either by initiation or by reinstating a member this coming year. I was overwhelmed with all of the incredible altruistic projects that chapters are taking on in your communities. Our communities need the support that you are providing to students, educators, and citizens of your community. We need to keep all of our chapters functioning due to the diversity of age of our members in our chapters. In my letter, which was written to each chapter in reply to their CNA, an idea was presented to give a water bottle, label, crystal light, and a cookie either going to actively engaged educators, retired educators still actively involved in education or use the idea in recruiting resigned members whose names appear on the resigned membership list which was sent out from Headquarters last spring. Every chapter should strive for new growth which means that for the number of sisters who resign or join the Omega Chapter, we, in turn, should work to replace that member plus one more. Yes, it can be done, but it will take the entire membership helping with membership. Form committees for each area and see what can happen!

2) Encourage active involvement in activities in Alpha Delta Kappa. Choose what you can do in an activity. Working together not only makes the project go faster but also develops a sense of accomplishment and that you had a part in making a difference. Start by helping in one way, whether an altruistic project, attending a district, state, regional or International Convention/Conference or being an active member on a committee. Be active by not only working on altruistic projects but have a social or fun activity for your chapter. How about a tailgate party?

3) Foster sisterhood with chapter members. Make an effort to sit by someone that you don't know as well at meetings, recognize sisters who have celebrated their birthdays or half birthdays, acknowledge accomplishments, share about a pride or concern with your family with members, and reach out to those who are unable to attend a meeting with a kind note of caring. Keep members updated with minutes being sent out and informed on scholarship opportunities. Make sure that all members are aware of courtesies in your chapter. COMMUNICATION is essential!

4) Connect with Limited Members and sisters who are experiencing health problems. Don't forget your Limited Members by visiting them and sending cards on special occasions. Let them know that your chapter cares for them. Support sisters who are challenged with health problems and offer to take in a meal or assist in taking them to the doctor, if they need the help.

5) Encourage active educators who are members in their profession. If you don't have any active teachers, then adopt a school or a grade level. Volunteer to work with the membership committee to come up with ideas of what your chapter can do to support active teachers. A lot of the time, they cannot make it to all meetings so keep them informed about scholarships, grants, and organize a Sisters Helping Sisters Program in your chapter. (More to come on this topic.)

6) Promote leadership potential with members. In January, each chapter will be deciding on their nominating committee so start now encouraging members to consider a position. Each of us was a leader in the classroom, so I know that all of you are leaders. Choose the area of your expertise and offer to assist.

7) Establish communication with all members. Share State/Provincial newsletters and Regional Membership Notes, which have membership ideas with chapter membership chairs, as well as, chapter minutes, chapter courtesies, and notices about upcoming meetings and events. Take the time to read, and, if you need to respond - DO! Have a sister to share chapter activities with the local newspaper or other local publications.

Now, take a look at your goals for membership, evaluate what you have accomplished, and take that next step in adding one new goal which you feel will strengthen your chapter for growth! Thank you to each chapter leader who took the time to submit your chapter's CNA. Your dedication and time are so very much appreciated, and the information will be used in determining what workshops and help is needed for our North Central Region.



Founded on November 1, 2010, Mittens for Detroit, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the sole purpose to collect, purchase, and distribute new, unused mittens and gloves to children, teens, and adults in need in Detroit, Michigan, and other underserved communities including Hamtramck and Highland Park. They work with a network of nearly 100 partner charities, agencies, schools and programs that distribute the pairs that you donate.

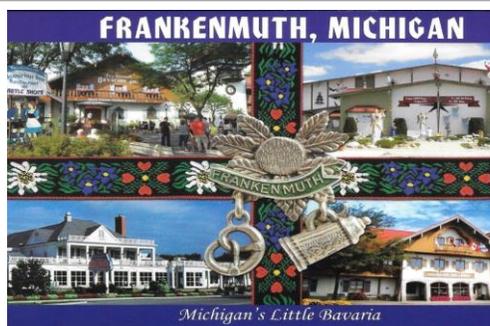
How can you help?

It is as simple and easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Buy new mittens and gloves to donate. These pairs can be big, little, fancy, plain, handmade or store bought.
2. Start a collection box now, within your Chapter, while mitten and gloves are easy to find.
3. Bring your mittens and gloves to the Alpha Delta Kappa Regional Convention in Frankenmuth July 2020, drop them in the Mittens for Detroit Collection Boxes and then SMILE! Your generous donation just made someone's winter a little warmer! If you do not plan on attending the Regional Convention or would rather make a tax-deductible monetary donation, they would gladly appreciate your support. The money donated to MittensForDetroit.org is used to purchase gloves from Michigan-based glove companies for our partner charities, agencies and schools.

Alpha Delta Kappa Connection:
Ann Kay, Michigan Co-President Elect
31709 Carion Drive
Warren, MI 48092-13760

Please start collecting your mittens during the winter months. Send them to the North Central Regional Conference in Frankenmuth, MI.



JULY 19 – 22, 2020

ALTRUISM: A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Our Altruistic Project at the International Convention recently held in Minneapolis offered us an opportunity for hands-on help to Kids Against Hunger, based in Duluth, MN. A "mobile team" had set up stations for an assembly line to package rice meals.

I enjoyed a remarkable opportunity to not only witness the filling of food packages for our project, but to actually participate in it. A speaker on Wednesday had noted, "We are the light for ourselves and for others. We are attracted to another person's bright light." I think that is what happened to me that Friday morning as our Educational Symposium sessions opened up. I was really supposed to be in a different workshop, but I had to make a phone call, and when I finished, the door to my workshop was closed, and I didn't want to walk in late. As I meandered the halls a bit, I noticed the open door where the food packaging was taking place for Kids Against Hunger.

The open door from which the "bright light" shone was truly a revolving door! I went into the room, was invited to don a hairnet and plastic gloves, and stood in line with several others until a spot on the assembly line opened up. I was then assigned to put a packet of spices into a bag which someone else filled with a scoop of rice. Everything was weighed and calculated before the bags were sealed. Over the day's time, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 6,000 food packages were filled!

I certainly found light in the organizers of the project; I hope my light shone for others when they received the food that I had helped to package.

For further information, check the website. There you will find the mission statement and volunteer and donation opportunities. "Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit humanitarian organization with a mission to provide fully nutritious food to impoverished children and families around the world...and around the corner. The goal of the organization is for the meals to provide a stable nutritional base from which recipient families can move their families from starvation or food insecurity to self-sufficiency." In another interesting note, according to the website, "The unplanned, but very real beneficiaries of Kids Against Hunger are the volunteers who package the food. The manual food packaging process not only feeds many children and families, it also brings satisfaction and deep engagement to the volunteers who package it. For most volunteers, it is the ultimate hands-on contribution." ...well said! It was a privilege to participate.

Clara Fromme
North Central Region Altruistic Chair

What creative ideas can you chapter come up with that would be a different approach for your Altruistic projects?

LIGHT NEW HORIZONS: OPPORTUNITY, COURAGE GROWTH

is the inspiring new logo for the North Central Region's next biennium. In 1947, our founding leaders, Agnes Shipman Robertson, Marion Southall, Marie Neal and Hattie Poppino also set their sights on new horizons, crafting a plan to support women educators and putting in place a vision that has endured for 72 years. In August of 1947, the state of Missouri granted a charter to our organization, incorporating it as an Honorary Sorority allowing ADK to organize chapters in every state in the U.S. Those horizons eventually expanded to include Canada, Australia, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. Alpha Delta Kappa was built on the strong foundation of promoting educational excellence, altruistic endeavours and world understanding.

Have those horizons remained constant? Some, such as the commitment to support St. Jude Children's Hospital have remained unchanged. However, change has been a constant in Alpha Delta Kappa, keeping our organization strong and vital. Slight changes have included the elimination of the password "kore" and the secret handshake and the recent addition of purple to our official colours of olive green and yellow. More complex changes have included the extensive use of technology; the expansion of altruistic outreach programs such as "Teach Too"; intensive support of ITE students, to name a few. On the horizon, presently, is the challenge of increasing our membership. Despite many changes the basic vision of our Founders has remained, preserving the purposes and ideals of our organization.

Our Founders, Agnes, Marian, Marie and Hattie "lit the horizons" by providing "opportunities" to grow in professional excellence, by showing the "courage" to be innovative, resulting in the "growth" of Alpha Delta Kappa into the dynamic organization it is today. As current members of Alpha Delta Kappa how will we support change, yet remain true to the vision set forth by our Founders so many years ago? Many exciting "opportunities" are available in AΔK and with "courage" new exciting "growth" is always possible! Let's keep our eyes set on reaching those exciting new horizons in Alpha Delta Kappa!

Marilyn Werry
Ontario Fraternal Education Chair

Due Dates Approaching

October 15 – Regional Mini Scholarship Application Deadline

October 15 – 990-N IRS E Postcard (or 990-EZ) deadline (US only)
Note: Read the warning posted on the International website.

October 15 – Deadline for State and provincial Excellence in Education Chairperson to notify Headquarters of Committee Members

November 1 – Deadline for **Innovation Grant** Application (non-members)

November 1 – Deadline for **Classroom Grant** Application

November 1 – Nominations for **Excellence in Education** form to be received by State and Provincial Chair

Please take note: this information is always posted in the Eblasts.

DISTINGUISHED PROGRAM AWARD

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submissions were received coming from every state and province in our region

Sharing and Caring came together in an amazing way. We all cared enough about the work that our Chapter does. We cared so much that we were willing to share it with other chapters in the region.

Thank you for your dedication to your sisters and to Alpha Delta Kappa.

CHECK YOUR **EBLASTS** FROM INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Everyone who has an email address automatically receives these updates. They contain important, up to date information.

These transmissions are the most cost and time effective ways to communicate with the Alpha Delta membership.

Please take the time to read these Eblasts. Help us reduce duplication in all of the publications.

Remember, we are moving towards a focused and efficient use to resources.

Consider Eblast as contribution to recycling:

Reduce, Reduce, Reduce

INFORMATION AND IDEAS GALORE!

Check out the **September 27th and October 11th. 2019 Eblasts** from International.

Can't find it? All International communications are available at www.alphadeltakappa.org

SOMETHING IS MISSING!!!

Please send pictures of your Founders' Day events. Send me pictures of what is happening in you state, province or chapter. rcasabon@rogers.com and jana.lee.white@gmail.com



Margaret Taws, Ontario Sigma Chapter celebrated her 98th birthday this September. She continues to be an active chapter member, contributing good ideas and delighting her sisters with her sense of humor!