



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
 The Omega Chapter of Pi State
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 3 – March/April 2016

1955-2016

61 Years

www.dkgpistateomega.org

Congratulations to Our Omega Officers 2016-18



Mary Cherniss
*Elected
 Co-President*



Kerry Smartt
*Elected
 Co-President*



Sally Maxson
*Elected First
 Vice President*



**Adelle Miller-
 Wadsworth**
*Elected Second
 Vice President*



Bev Lanoue
*Elected
 Secretary*



Judy Kiehle
*Appointed
 Treasurer*

Omega Chapter Dinner/Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2016
Torrey Park Grill
 89 Avenue E, Geneva, NY 14456

Schedule for the Evening:
5:00-8:00pm

- 5:00-5:30 Social Time
- 5:30-6:00 **Program: Eleanor Stearns**
*“Women of Vision,
 Portrayal of Clara Barton”*
See page 2 for more information
- 6:00 President’s Welcome
 Pledge of Allegiance: Sharyn Powell
 Song of Welcome: Sharyn Powell
Introduction of Guests
- 6:00-7:00 **Dinner**
 Blessing: Betty Tillman
- 7:00-7:50 **Business Meeting**
Initiation of New Members
- 8:00 Delta Kappa Gamma Song

*Special thanks to our April Hostess Committee:
 Co-Chairs: Christine Bennett and Amy Monachino
 Committee Members:
 Kathy Eckler, Mary King, Jenn Knobel, June Renner, Gail
 Rumsey, Katja Stevens (placecards), Karen Varricchio,
 Registrar Lois Ludwig*

Business Meeting Agenda: 7:00pm

- Call to Order – Mary-Martha W. Harvey*
- My DKG Elevator Speech – Mary King*
- Secretary’s Report – Katja Stevens*
- Correspondence – Katja Stevens*
- Roll Call – Mary King*
- Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2016*
- Treasurer’s Report – Judy Kiehle for
 Linda Upchurch*
- Standing Committee Reports*
- Celebrating April Birthdays –
 Helene Goodberlet*
- Scholarship – Peg Snyder*
 Announcement of Scholarship Recipients
- Communications – Gail Burr*
- World Fellowship – Adelle Miller-Wadsworth*
- Unfinished Business*
- New Business*
- Pink Pig: Given by Laura Hill*
- Membership – Mary King*
- Initiation of New Members*
- Adjournment*



*Eleanor Stearns
as Clara Barton*

*Clarissa "Clara"
Harlowe Barton*

*Born: December 25, 1821,
North Oxford,
Massachusetts
Died: April 12, 1912
Glen Echo, Maryland
Aged 90
Resting Place: North
Cemetery, Oxford, Mass.*

"Women of Vision, Portrayal of Clara Barton"

Eleanor Stearns has researched and written portrayals of **Clara Barton, Emily Dickinson, Amelia Earhart and Elizabeth Cady Stanton**. She performs her *"Women of Vision"* for schools and organizations hoping to bring history alive for her audiences. In addition to her research, she has visited places which have been important in the lives of these women.

Eleanor Stearns' portrayal of Clara Barton will give glimpses of her life, her involvement during the Civil War and her role in the founding and activities of the American Red Cross. Ms. Stearns developed this presentation after extensive research and visitations to Clara Barton's birthplace and grave site in North Oxford, Massachusetts. She also visited Dansville where the first chapter of the American Red Cross was founded and studied original letters and documents at their Red Cross Headquarters. In May 2004 she was honored to portray Clara Barton at Miss Barton's final home and Red Cross Headquarters in Glen Echo, Maryland on the 100th anniversary of her resignation as President of the American Red Cross.

Ms. Stearns is a graduate of Drew University and was employed as a School Psychology Technician with the Geneva City Schools until her retirement. She is an active member and past president of the Geneva Theatre Guild and has performed in many plays. Among her favorite roles are Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst*, Fonsia Dorsey in *The Gin Game*, and Linda Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. In 2005, she received an Outstanding Performance Award at the Theatre Association of New York State Festival for her portrayal of Anastasia in the one-act play *Foibles*. She was honored by Lake-to-Lake Women, Inc. in March 2013 for her *"Women of Vision"* portrayals.

Eleanor Stearns

A Call for June Retirements

As is our tradition, the June Meeting for Omega is filled with Celebrations. If you or one of your colleagues is retiring this year, please send a note to President Mary-Martha Harvey, mharvey@frontiernet.net and Finance Chair Judy Kiehle, jkiehle@rochester.rr.com.

Committee Co-Chair Inventory

Due June 1

As we conclude this Biennium and start a new one, **all Committee Co-Chairs are asked to send an Inventory of their materials to President Mary-Martha Harvey by June 1.**

Since some Co-Chairs will be transitioning, please organize your files in the red binders and totes if needed and include an Inventory with your materials as well as sending a copy to *M.M.*

This will allow continual and accurate record-keeping of important Chapter materials. This will also ensure (*I hope!*) that important Chapter materials are not lost or misplaced.

Thank you so much for all your work!

M.M.

Committee Co-Chair Final

Biennium Reports

Due June 30

Committee Biennium Reports 2014-16 are due to President Mary-Martha Harvey on June 30. The Biennium Reports 2014-16 will include goals, activities and accomplishments.

The *To-date January 2016 Committee Reports* are posted on the Chapter website, www.dkgpistateomega.org. Each Committee Co-Chair will receive a WORD document so that accomplishments 2015-16 may be added and returned to M.M. by June 30.

Thank you so much for all your work!

M.M.

The Omega March Dinner Meeting 3.15.16

Gateway Grille, Canandaigua

“Internet Safety: What You Need to Know”

Photos Courtesy Lois Ludwig

World Fellowship~ A New Chapter Project!



World Fellowship Chair Adelle Miller-Wadsworth presented a new Chapter Project about “1000 Cranes of Hope” and information about our May Chapter Meeting and work session.

Nominations



Chair Lynda John presented the slate of Omega Officers for 2016-18 Biennium, recommended by the Nominations Committee.
A special Chapter thank you to Lynda & her Committee!

Presenters on “Internet Safety”



Presenters Tammy Boyce, Marcus Whitman Technical Specialist (left) and Brenda Lehman, WFLBOCES/Marcus Whitman Director of Technology (right)

Membership



Chair Mary King presented the nominees for the Second Call New Members and plans for their Orientation Dinner at her home on March 22 and the Initiation for all our Initiates at the Chapter Meeting on April 19.

An Omega Tradition



Omega Pink Pig winner Susan Cunningham (right) with Deb Poplasky (left) The Pink Pig gift was donated by Jennifer Bay.

Scholarship



Chair Peg Snyder presented Committee’s plans for the five new Omega scholarships of \$750 to deserving female high school graduates majoring in education and due date of April 1.

Correspondence



Substitute Secretary Katja Stevens shares Omega correspondence with members.

Continued on page 4

The Omega March Dinner Meeting 3.15.16

Gateway Grille, Canandaigua

“Internet Safety: What You Need to Know”

Photos Courtesy Lois Ludwig
Concluded from page 3

Our Members



Music Representative Sharyn Powell with Jamie Wagner

Omega Traditions



Kay VanDeusen shares blessing before the dinner.



Cheer Chair Helene Goodberlet celebrates member birthdays.

Business Meeting



President Mary-Martha Harvey leads Chapter Business Meeting.

***Biennium Theme:
“Promoting Purposes”***

Communications



Communications Chair Gail Burr presents report and introduces Jennifer Knoebel, the new Chapter Facebook Manager.



Communications Committee member & Facebook Manager Jennifer Knoebel introduces Chapter Facebook procedures.

Save the Dates:

- 2016 DKG International Convention, July 5-9, 2016**
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee
- Pi State Leadership Development for New & Returning Presidents, August 1-2, 2016**
Hilton Garden Inn, Syracuse
- Pi State Fall Executive Board Meeting/Seminar, October 14-15, 2016**
Woodcliff Hotel & Spa, Fairport
- Pi State 2017 Convention/Executive Board/Seminar, April 28-30, 2017**
Otesaga Resort, Cooperstown, NY

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International VISION STATEMENT:
Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

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



PI State

Omega Chapter Meeting

Omega Chapter

March 15, 2016

Gateway Grille, Canandaigua, NY

Promoting Purposes ~ Biennium Theme

Social Time: 5:00

President's Report: 5:30

President Mary-Martha welcomed members at 5:33 pm and introduced guest presenters, Brenda Lehman and Annette Wolfe. Information was provided about Pi State Benefit Awards and an envelope with Benefit Tickets was shared for members to purchase. Tickets and money will be sent to Pi State Awards Chair for Spring Executive Board Meeting/Seminar in April in addition to the one ticket per member from *Omega* budget. Laura Hill is taking orders for magnetic name tags through the April meeting. Special thanks to Helene Goodberlet and Marilyn Nicholson for Co-Chairing this month's Hostess Committee and for all Committee members – Jan Astles, Mary Dorgan, Reneé Durso, Sue Gray, Bev Lanoue, Cindy Meyers, Holly Rich and Linda Smith for their work and Marilyn for Registration.

Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome Song: Sharyn Powell led the group.

Business Meeting: 5:35

Call to Order: President Mary-Martha Harvey called the Business Meeting to order at 5:35pm.

My DKG Elevator Speech: None this month.

Correspondence: Substitute Secretary Katja Stevens read new correspondence. The first was a letter of resignation from Christine Taylor.

Kay Van Deusen made a motion with regrets to accept Christine's resignation. This motion was seconded by Laura Hill. The motion was carried unanimously with regrets.

Minutes: *A motion was made by Sally Maxson and seconded by Bev Lanoue to approve the November 17, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.*

Roll Call: Mary King reported 31 members present and 2 guests.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Upchurch will report on Chapter's finances in April.

Standing Committee Reports

Celebrating Birthdays: Helene Goodberlet recognized the December to March birthdays. Members were given an *Omega* gift by Committee members..

Membership: Mary King presented the *Second Call New Member Recommendations* – Additional candidates for membership were presented to the membership. Resumé details were presented. Ballots were distributed for voting.

Action on Second Call New Member Recommendations – the ballot vote was unanimous.

Letters will be sent to the new members and they will be invited to a special Orientation Dinner Meeting on March 22, 2016 at Mary King's house.

Scholarship: Peg Snyder reported that there have been two submissions for the Grants-in-Aid Scholarships so far. The deadline is April 1, 2016 and a reminder has been sent to all of the Superintendents regarding the upcoming deadline.

Nominations: Lynda John began her report by thanking the Nominations Committee for all of their hard work. Lynda thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve and shared a letter from Mary Cherniss who was not able to attend tonight's meeting. There was discussion regarding how a Co-Presidency would work. Ballots were passed out to membership.

Presentation of Slate of Officers 2016-18 and Call for Nominations from floor:

Co-President – Mary Cherniss and Kerry Smartt

Continued on page 6

March 15, 2016

Gateway Grille, Canandaigua, NY

Promoting Purposes ~ Biennium Theme

Continued from page 5

1st Vice President – Sally Maxson

2nd Vice President – Adele Miller-Wadsworth

Secretary – Beverly Lanoue

Area Council Member-at-Large – Gail Rumsey

Action on Slate of Officers 2016-18 – Two absentee ballots – 34 votes with unanimous approval of the Slate of Officers.

Communications: Gail Burr reported that the Communications Committee was excited about starting a *Facebook* page for *Omega*. The page is currently up and running with Jennifer Knoebel serving as the *Facebook* Manager. The purpose of the page is to raise awareness and to connect with other Chapters and education organizations. Jen explained that her main mission is to connect with other *Facebook* pages that would be of interest to *Omega* such as high schools that would qualify for our scholarships, educational groups and possible service projects around the world. She shared detailed information in a handout that was distributed.

World Fellowship New Project: Adelle Miller-Wadsworth reported that at the most recent Executive Board Committee the decision was made to participate in the “*One Thousand Cranes of Hope*” project. At our May meeting we will begin making the cranes. Adele has been in touch with the community outreach person at Golisano Children’s Hospital regarding hanging the cranes in the hospital.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

Music: Sharyn Powell shared that the Music Committee is interested in finding out what is happening at each district regarding the arts. Please let Sharyn know if your district is doing something special in the arts. This project will be called “*Omega Supports the Arts.*”

Pin and Nametag Money: Given by Jennifer Bay and won by Susan Cunningham. \$31.00 was collected from the Pink Pig.

Adjournment: *Kay Van Deusen made a motion which was seconded by Marilyn Nicholson to adjourn the business meeting.*

Dinner: 6:15-7:15

Blessing: Kay Van Deusen.

Program: 7:15

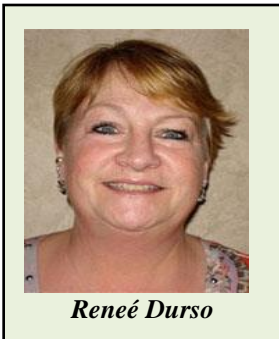
"Internet Safety: What You Need to Know" presented by Brenda Lehman and Tammy Boyce of Marcus Whitman CSD

Delta Kappa Gamma Song: 8:00

Dates to Remember:

- April 19, 2016 – 5:00 pm Chapter Meeting & Initiation of New Members (Torrey Park, Geneva, NY)
- April 29-30, 2016 Pi State Spring Executive Board Meeting (Sheraton University Hotel & Conference Center, Syracuse, NY)
- May 17, 2016 – 5:00 pm Chapter Meeting (Notre Dame Retreat, Canandaigua, NY)
- June 7, 2016 – 5:00 pm Chapter Meeting & Installation of Officers (Trinity Church, Geneva, NY)
- July 5-9, 2016 DKG 2016 International Convention (Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN)

Respectfully submitted,
Katja Stevens, Substitute Secretary



Renee Durso

Congratulations to Renee Durso “Dedicated to Students & Soldiers”

Our congratulations to **Renee Durso** for her **Golden Apple Award from Rochester’s WROC-TV**. Renee was surprised in her second grade classroom by Midlakes Primary Principal Karen Cameron and Reporter Adam Chodak. See the video of her award at <http://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/golden-apple/renee-durso-receives-golden-apple>.

In the February online article Adam Chodak writes:

“You can enter Renee Durso’s second grade classroom at Midlakes Primary School to observe her extraordinary dedication to her students, but you have to stay in the hallway to see her dedication to our soldiers.

There you will see taped to the wall pictures of men and women in fatigues next to a Christmas tree.

Mrs. Durso, by running a *Trees for Troops* program in the school, raised \$9,000 and has sent more than 100 trees overseas, all with the help of her students.

“Our students are so involved and the patriotism and love for our country are just amazing that she displays and the parents are so supportive of it,” said Midlakes Principal Karen Cameron.

Emma Ubbink is no longer in Mrs. Durso’s class but remember her lessons well. That’s why she nominated her. “She’s always very happy and tries to make her students feel good,” Ubbink said.

Ubbink’s nomination was very timely: Mrs. Durso is retiring at the end of this school year.

Asked how she has maintained such dedication to her students over the years, Mrs. Durso said, “It makes a difference, we pay it forward with the kids. Kids are the ones that make a difference in the future. They are our future and we have to make sure the kids remember where they came from and remember those who made it capable for them to have choices and freedoms and right to jiggle when we want to jiggle.”

Mrs. Durso gave this answer with a dozen kids gathered around her giggling and giggling.”

~ Adam Chodak

Welcoming our Initiates with *Special Thanks* to Sponsors

At our April 19th Meeting our Chapter will welcome our nine Initiates:

Karen Busby, Phelps Clifton-Springs CSD, sponsored by **Kerry Smartt, Janice Wright** and **Kay VanDeusen**

Kristin Carr, Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES, sponsored by **Adelle Miller-Wadsworth** and **Peg Snyder Ann Forbes**, Geneva CSD, sponsored by **Lynda John**

Jennifer Harris, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, sponsored by **Cindy Lynch** and **Lynda John**

Kristin Ann Jabara, Geneva CSD, sponsored by **Lynda John**

Jackie Johnson, Phelps-Clifton Springs CSD, sponsored by **Renee Durso, Linda Upchurch** and **Peg Snyder**

Mary Lou Lawrence, Eastern Suffolk BOCES, sponsored by **Adelle Miller-Wadsworth**

Tammy S. Olmstead, Geneva CSD, sponsored by **Peg Snyder**

Kristin Wahl, Palmyra-Macedon CSD, sponsored by **Deb Trombino, June Renner** and **Lois Ludwig**

Special thanks to our Sponsors for recognizing these key women educators.

Three 4-Year Terms Available on Pi State Educational Foundation

If you are interested in serving as a Director of the Pi State Educational Foundation, send a brief letter of interest to Ginny Dudko at vdudko@frontiernet.net or 41 Wilson Rd., Sparrowbush, NY 12780.

Please be prepared to speak at the Foundation Annual Meeting on April 30 at 11:15 for 2-3 minutes about your interest in serving before voting takes place.

Omega Directory Changes

Please make the following changes/additions in your *Omega* Directory.

* Jacqueline Johnson’s new email: miriamqahira@gmail.com

Please let M.M. know any other changes that we need to make. Thank you!

**Consider submitting a Pi State Award, Scholarship or Grant(s)-in-Aid
Due date March 1, 2017**

Watch for details in Pi State Fall Issue of *Pi Lights*
Information is online at the newly renovated Pi State Website: www.deltakappakappa.org/NY
Look in the Award, Scholarship & Grant(s)-in-Aid box.

**DKG International
Website:**

www.dkg.org

Pi State Website:

www.deltakappagamma.org/NY

Omega Website:

www.dkgpistateomega.org

**Updates for
Member Data/Biographical Forms**

You will be receiving an e-mail or mail from President Mary-Martha Harvey with an attachment of your *Member Data/Biographical Form* for you to update electronically.

Please complete the form, save and email to *M.M.* as an attachment. *This information is for Chapter use only.* Many of you filled one out in 2010 when Judy Kiehle updated our forms. Our Initiates will receive a new form.
Mary-Martha Harvey

**ATTENTION:
PI STATE EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION
Members**

The Annual Meeting of the *Pi State Educational Foundation* will be held at the Pi State Spring Executive Board Meeting & Seminar at the Syracuse Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center on April 29-30, 2016, 11:15-11:45am. The Agenda will be announced.

Watch for information
in the spring issue of *Pi Lights*.

**Education in the UN World Sustainable Development
Goals (SDG) ~ CTAUN 2016 Conference**



www.teachun.org

Remember that *Omega* members may apply for a Chapter stipend to attend a DKG Conference or Seminar.
Please refer to *Omega* website for application and information.

**Pi State Website Reconstruction:
Have you visited the Pi State Website recently?**
www.deltakappagamma.org/NY

You'll notice several positive changes when you do:

- * Boxes with titles in bold and contents listed so that you can easily locate the information you seek
- * Revised and up-to-date forms and information
- * Sections for all Pi State Committees and their web pages with Committee descriptions, members and goals for 2015-17
- * Section for Pi State Ad Hoc Committees and Pi State International Liaisons
- * Section for Application and Nomination Forms
- * New President-to-President Newsletter
- * Information for and about Chapter Websites, Presidents and Treasurers
- * Area Council Information and revised forms
- * Section for the Pi State Educational Foundation

And more! The *Ad Hoc Website Committee* would appreciate your comments and suggestions. Please send to Chair, State Editor **Mary-Martha Harvey**, mharvey@frontiernet.net.

Due Date for the May Issue of The Omega Chapter of Pi State NEWSLETTER: 28 April 2016 Send Committee Reports & News Items to Editor Mary-Martha Harvey, *Omega* President, mharvey@frontiernet.net