



Upsilon Update

President's Message Education in Louisiana: What is Old is New, What is New is Old

By President Monica Wertz

Does the title of this message sound accurate to you? How long have you been teaching? How long has it been since you retired? Do these questions really matter when it comes to conversations about education in Louisiana?

Years ago we read about the one-room school house. Today, we hear about the home-schooler. What type of curriculum was used. Did everyone receive the same type of instruction? Did one teacher have all the answers or did we conquer and divide the work. Well, I suppose it depends who ran the

school house or who does the home-schooling.

We talk a lot about public education and public schools. We speak about great teachers who made a difference in our lives. Normal schools allowed females to become credentialed to teach. Colleges and Universities evolved encouraging all with 4 year degree programs along with student teaching as the final step towards becoming a certified teacher.

Next, came the charter school movement. Do they abide by the same rules as the public schools? Do they get funded in the same way?

Today, we are having conversations much the same, however, we describe the programs differently. We can attend any college or university . . . in person, on-line or by satellite. We can get a degree in any field, decide that is not what we really want to do, and then when all else fails, say we will TEACH!

We enter the Alternative pathway to certification. We can choose where we want to work, how many days, how much we are paid and whether or not we have a contract, plan or retirement program. Stability and years of experience vary and it's not uncommon for a

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Membership Meeting, February 8, 10:00 am

The next regular membership meeting will be at the home of Dr. Dana Perilloux at 17956 River Road, Montz, Louisiana.

The theme of this meeting is Love is in the Air, and promises to be a wonderful time, as always. Many thanks to

Dr. Dana for graciously continuing to host the February meeting in her lovely home! Be sure to RSVP at 504-417-1686 or dana.perilloux@selu.edu and let her know you're coming.

See you there!



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Convention Dates

Louisiana State Convention
March 20-22, 2020

DKG International Convention
July 7-11, 2020

President's Message (cont')

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teacher to change jobs every 5 years. Circumstances, maybe, or is it just a lack of consistency and/or results that allow us to move so frequently?

Some individuals are natural in the teaching area, some follow their family footsteps and yet others are told to consider anything else but becoming a teacher.

This is where we are **WRONG**. In order to build a strong teacher corps, workforce, we must allow individuals to pursue their own paths. We must also be honest in what we observe, evaluate consistently, put aside friendships

and work hard to support and develop that teacher in residence because they show promise for the future of our children.

Years ago we were told there was a teacher shortage. Was that a fact or just an observation? We were also told there was a shortage of administrators. Was that a fact or did many individuals get advanced degrees with no intention of becoming administrators? Are we experiencing a shortage today? What's the answer . . . do we have a solution?

Finally, there's **RETIREMENT**. What is the right age? What is the right number of years? Can we survive on a teacher's retirement

salary? Why are teachers looking for a second job?

I ask . . . did you have this conversation "way back when" and are you continuing to discuss the issues mentioned above.

NOTE: Eight years ago, the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) appointed John White as the State Superintendent. He announced on January 8, 2020, that he will be vacating the position March 11, 2020. What direction are we headed in? What strides have we made? I pray that his successor shows the same passion that our DKG founders had for education in the great state of Louisiana.

Authors Loretta Brehm & Mary LeBlanc!

The artistic and educational efforts of Mary LeBlanc and Loretta Brehm are now in print!

As members of the Krewe of King Arthur, they collaborated with Chris Leonard in designing and developing *The Krewe of King Arthur Coloring and Activity Book For All Ages*.

Philip Fricano, Krewe Captain and fellow



educator, commissioned the book which is the first of a series. The Krewe is New Orleans' largest parading krewe on the first weekend of Carnival with over 1,700 members.

It prides itself on promoting inclusion, anti-bullying, and kindness throughout the year. Illustrations and activities present these concepts in a fun-filled manner. The format of the book allows children of all ages to even work along with adults as they engage in the

exercises which also incorporate the development of higher order thinking skills.

These books will be thrown from the floats during the parade and are also available by contacting the publisher.

(info@kreweofkingarthur.com).

Nominations of Chapter Officers

The Upsilon Chapter Nominations Committee will recommend to the membership that the current officers continue in their respective offices for the 2020-2022 biennium.

Voting will take place at the February meeting. If there will be any nominations from the floor, please

contact the committee in order that a ballot can be prepared.

Here are our current officers:

Monica Wertz, President

Grace Beane, First Vice-President

Mickey Lux, Second Vice-President

Joan Gaudet, Corresponding Secretary

Dana Perilloux, Recording Secretary

Judy Rongey, Treasurer

Loretta Brehm, Parliamentary Advisor

Book Review

My Parent's Keeper by Jody Gastfriend

By Loretta Brehm



Will you be prepared? Responsible people prepare for many events. Oftentimes, very unexpected situations occur. Having some insight as to what to do can alleviate

anxiety and stress in such instances.

Jody Gastfriend has written *My Parent's Keeper-The Guilt, Grief, Guesswork, and Unexpected Gifts of Caregiving* as a very comprehensive, broad ranging, and practical guide to providing choices for those who have cared about us, and for us.

Even if you are not the sole caregiver or a relative or friend, it guides the reader as to how to best interact with that person and provide assistance. And, it also provides insight as to how

we may individually prepare when roles are reversed and we become in need of care.

Life expectancy has almost doubled in the last 100 years, and half of the babies born today will live into the triple digits. Persons 85 and older remain active and engaged. However close to 50% of those will suffer from some form of dementia or chronic illness. This increase of longevity has created the need for care with compassion, dignity, and dedication.

Senator Ted Kennedy's son, Patrick, has provided a wonderful, informative, positive and lengthy preface to this book based on his experiences in caring for family members, especially his father who developed cancer of the brain. The entire book is written in an inspiring and heartfelt manner.

The book is an authoritative, accessible source of information providing help to the reader to lead a healthy life, examine care options for specific conditions or diseases, and addresses questions and concerns about caregiving challenges. It is designed to be used as a practical guide in

conjunction with health care providers, elder care attorneys, and other relevant experts.

In a sequential easy-to-read format, chapters cover: The Journey Begins; The Perfect Caregiver; The Parent Who Rejects Help; Good, Bad, and Non-existing Siblings; What Does Care Cost and Who Pays?; The Care Maze; Making Work, Work; The Art of Connection- Caring for a Loved One with Dementia; Caring for the Parent Who Couldn't Care for You; How to Care for Ourselves Too; Letting Go; and Moving Forward Looking Back.

Included in the book are these Tips and Checklists: A Proactive Guide to Caregiving; When Your Parent Refuses Help; Home Dangers Every Caregiver Should Know; Paying for Long-Term Care; Seek Workplace Support; Caring for Someone with Dementia; Doctor's Appointment Checklist ; and What to Ask When Choosing a Nursing Home, Assisted Living Community, Non-medical Home and Care Agency.

This book is included in the Healthy Living series published by Yale University Press.

Grant-in-Aid Award Winner!



Mandy Boudwin, winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Math and Science in 2017 spoke at our November chapter meeting about her outstanding and storied teaching career. We were

honored to have her as our guest and she has been chosen to be our Grant-in-Aid recipient.

She is currently a teacher at Lusher High School; has taught Math and Science, certified in both; has also worked as a curriculum facilitator; has worked at the Louisiana Department of Education as a Mathematics Program Coordinator; served one year as an Assistant Principal for the Science and Math

Academy; serves a School Building Level Committee Chair and Section 504 Committee Chair; Implemented an ACT preparatory program; served as secretary for the Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics; served as newsletter editor for Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics. She holds two degrees: B.S. in secondary education, and M.Ed. in administration and supervision.

The Epsilon State Convention is Almost Here!

This year the state convention will be March 20-22, 2020, in the historic Hotel Bentley in downtown Alexandria, Louisiana. The deadline to register for the convention is

February 15 and the deadline to register with the Bentley Hotel is March 1, 2020.

All reservations must be made through

the hotel at 318-442-2226. Be sure to tell the reservation agent that you are with Delta Kappa Gamma (LADKG2020) to receive the convention rate.

**Louisiana DKG Convention – The Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, Louisiana
March 20-22, 2020**

Name <small>Please Type or Print Neatly</small>		Chapter/District	
Mailing address		City / Zip	
Phone number		Email address	

Please sign if you **DO NOT** give us permission to publish your picture in *Delta*, website, etc. _____

Registration Types:	Special Requests (Check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Current State Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Current District Director <input type="checkbox"/> Current State Committee Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> Current Chapter President <input type="checkbox"/> Past State President <input type="checkbox"/> Past State Achievement Award Winner	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetic <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Allergies: (Please specify _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility: (Please specify _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> 25-year member to be recognized this year <input type="checkbox"/> 50-year member to be recognized this year <input type="checkbox"/> 55+ year member <input type="checkbox"/> First-time attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Guest/Non-Member	

All Meals MUST be purchased in advance – Deadline is March 6, 2020

Event	Day	Cost	Total
Registration Fee (Required for attendance for members and non-members) Postmarked BY February 15, 2020 Postmarked February 16, 2020 or AFTER	→ → → → → →	\$25.00 \$40.00	
**Friday Night Dinner (For Current State Officers, Past State Presidents, State Committee Chairmen, State Committee Members, District Directors, Chapter Presidents)	Friday, March 20 (5:30 PM)	\$24.00	
Saturday Breakfast – pastries, coffee, and juice available	Saturday, March 21	No cost	
**Birthday Luncheon (Everyone)	Saturday, March 21 (12:30 PM)	\$24.00	
**Presidents' and Founders' Banquet (Everyone)	Saturday, March 21 (6:00 PM)	\$27.00	
**Sunday Brunch/General Session (Everyone)	Sunday, March 22	\$12.00	
Carriage: Carriages will not be sold this year due to the high cost. If you would still like to purchase one for your chapter president or for yourself, you can contact House of Flowers directly at 318.641.9461.			
Convention Excursions (Optional Events) Trolley Tour of Downtown Alexandria - pay that day - \$20.00 Guided Tour of The Bentley - Free Art Museum of Alexandria – on your own – pay at door - \$5.00 (\$4.00 for senior adults)	Check all you think you will attend <input type="checkbox"/> Fri., March 20 (1:30 PM) <input type="checkbox"/> Sat., March 21 (3 PM) <input type="checkbox"/> Fri., March 20 (10 AM to 5 PM) <input type="checkbox"/> Sat., March 21 (10 AM to 4 PM)		
TOTAL			

Want to sing in the STATE CONVENTION CHOIR? Contact Pat Crochet – pat45crochet@gmail.com

<p align="center">Registration Options:</p> <p>Online – Pay with Credit Card: (\$3.00 Service Charge) https://louisiana.com/state/2020-dkg-state-convention</p> <p>By Mail: Louisiana State Convention 2020 (checks payable to) Mail check and completed registration form to: Louisiana State Convention 2020 c/o Dennis Poe 4373 Hwy 121, Leesville, LA 71446</p> <p align="center">No refunds or cancellations after Saturday, February 15, 2020</p>	<p>The Hotel Bentley: Deadline is March 1, 2020 Standard King - \$98.00 plus tax Standard Double - \$98.00 plus tax Specialty or Corporate Suite - \$130.00 plus tax Bridal Suite - \$250.00 plus tax</p> <p align="center">All reservations must be made through the hotel 318.442.2226</p> <p>Please tell the reservation agent that you are with <i>Delta Kappa Gamma (LADKG)</i> to receive the convention rate.</p> <p>Free parking is available around the hotel as well as the parking garage by the Holiday Inn. Valet Parking is a one-time fee of \$15.00.</p>
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** All meal prices subsidized through a grant from The Greater Alexandria Economic Development Authority (GAEDA)**

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Purposes

UPSILON UPDATE

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education.
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interest of education and women educators.
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators.
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.
7. To inform members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.



Save These Dates!

We all get so busy that it's easy to let important dates slip through the cracks if we don't write them down in our calendar right away.

So to make sure that we don't miss any wonderful opportunities to get together with our sisters at any upcoming events, be sure to mark these dates.

February 8, 2020, Home of Dana Perilloux, 17956 River Road, Montz, LA – Membership Meeting

March 20-22, 2020, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria – State Convention

July 7-11, 2020, Philadelphia, PA – DKG International Convention



