



## An Exciting New Year

**H**appy New Year! While everyone else begins the new year in January, we teachers are on our own calendar. This is the most exciting time of the year for us, because it is about starting fresh and turning over a new leaf!

Whether we are classroom teachers, administrators, or retired educators, we bring our diverse talents and experiences to the table together for the benefit of all!

And so, for DKG, we also begin our year anew.

Now is the time to mark those calendars, set goals, and brainstorm about how we can make this the best year ever for Upsilon and

for DKG! Turn to the back page and mark down those important meeting dates.

No matter which phase of our lives we're in, we all have plans and goals that we'd like to accomplish. With that in mind, allow me to present for your consideration a book that offers the "art of stress-free productivity." The book is called *Getting Things Done* by David Allen.

In a nutshell, the system that Allen outlines is about corralling all of your projects (be they personal or professional) into one place. He posits that the reason we are all so stressed is because our minds keep reminding us of all the things we need

to get done, in random order, and often when we can do nothing about them – like in the middle of the night.

Putting them all in one place turns off the nagging voice in our heads and allows us to move on to "the next step" to accomplish each goal. The strategies are so simple and so easily overlooked, but definitely worth considering.

**Getting Things Done**  
the art of stress-free productivity  
from the New York Times bestselling author  
**David Allen**



## Membership Meeting, September 14, 10:30 am

**T**he next regular membership meeting will be at The Lafon Performing Arts Center on 275 Judge E. Dufresne Parkway in Luling, followed by a delicious lunch at the Catahoula Restaurant.

The arts center boasts that it is a "premier, world-

class facility that magnifies arts education and elevates the social culture of our community through visual and performing arts experiences."

They have a wide variety of shows from ballet to Shakespeare to The Wizard of Oz, as well as

children's theatre and community art classes.

The center opened last year and is named for twenty year veteran, St. Charles Parish public school teacher, Dr. Rodney R. Lafon.

Thank you to hostesses Connie Erdely and Rita Carlson for setting up our first meeting of the year!

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### Convention Dates

*South District Meeting*  
October 19, 2019

*Louisiana State Convention*  
March 20-22, 2020

*DKG International Convention*  
July 7-11, 2020

# 2019 Bea Davis Leadership Development Seminar

By President Monica Wertz

Woodworth, LA

June 7-9, 2019

Well, let me begin by saying the summer time is very busy as I begin intensive recruiting, interviewing and hiring of teachers and other employees. Early days begin at 6:30 AM and end at 4:45 PM . . . but, only 4 days a week. I feel particularly blessed to have had that first Friday off, whereby I could travel to Woodworth, LA to attend the Bea Davis Leadership Seminar. What an experience. I reviewed the list of prior participants and found that Upsilon Chapter had a total of 9 members who attended dating back to 1991 which was when the first seminar was held.

Ms. Beatrice Davis was a true pioneer who believed in education and

continuous learning. Her generosity has allowed the seminar to continue at no charge to the participants. The learning started on Friday evening and ended on Sunday around noon. I was one of 12 participants this year. It was everything I was told and more.

There was a lot of learning going on . . . a lot of quality activities by which you learn not only about others, but gain a deeper understanding of yourself. The theme continued with "Planting Perfect Programs with Leadership Seeds". We were taught lots of strategies and shared ideas concerning membership and involvement. We worked on cultivating new ideas, enhancing our tech skills and even a little "CPR" or first aid for Leaders. We became actresses, singers and gardeners. We even learned how to play BUNKO. Every activity had

meaning and purpose. We walked in as strangers and exited as friends.

Our presenters (Martha Turner, Kathye Blackburn, Sandra Pruitt, Mary Churchwell and Loris Myers) did an outstanding job. If they were rated on the COMPASS rubric they would have scored Highly Effective. I walked away with more than I arrived with. I hope that this experience will bring more to our chapter and that you will be willing to consider attending the next seminar. It is held every other year, so you have a year to decide. It is well worth it . . . not to mention you will be delighted with great food and fellowship from morning to night. The facility is peaceful and serene. Everyone participated . . . we each played a part in daily prayer and reflection. Thanks for allowing me to be a Bea Davis participant.

## A Life Well Lived - Anna Blanchard Gleason



According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." Mrs. Anna certainly exemplified this in

her long life and 77 years of dedicated service to Upsilon Chapter.

She was initiated into DKG on March 15, 1941 as a charter member from Plaquemines Parish. Incredibly, she served as Upsilon Chapter treasurer for 43 consecutive years when she stepped in to "help out" when the elected sister couldn't complete her term. And she just kept on "helping out" after that.

Our dear sister was called home to

the Lord on June 15, 2019 and thirteen members of Upsilon Chapter attended her funeral at St. Catherine of Siena Church and conducted the DKG Ceremony of Remembrance.

Mrs. Anna was known for saying "teaching is a profession in which you are privileged to touch the lives of so many people." Those who knew her would attest that she certainly touched the lives of many in and outside the classroom!

## Newsletter Award

Our chapter newsletter, the *Upsilon Update* won the Newsletter Award at the 2019 DKG State Convention in Vidalia, Louisiana in March 2019.

The best newsletters highlight all the important happenings, past and future, and feature a number of different voices.

With that in mind, if you have a special event or accomplishment that you would like to share with the chapter, please consider writing up a little "story" about it so we can celebrate each other's joys together.

Also, if you have any ideas of news items, legislative happenings, or other items of interest please be sure to pass them along.

One of the goals of encouraging chapter newsletters is to increase member involvement and commitment. To that end, the newsletter must meet a minimum standard of features and must highlight awards, achievements, projects, deadlines, legislative updates, international news etc., and must be published at least three times per year.

My goal as the editor is to publish the

newsletter more often and am asking your help in sending along your ideas and happenings.



## Who Was Bea Davis?



**B**eatrice Davis (1909-1988) was a remarkable and beloved woman, educator, and DKG member.

She earned her B.A. from Newcomb College in 1929 and her M.A. from Tulane in 1930.

Her career in education spanned 49 years, serving as principal, visiting teacher, parish supervisor, basketball coach, club advisor, and newspaper advisor. She even found time to chair the Crippled Children Society, serve as a Red Cross director, and lead a Girl Scout troop!

Bea was a charter member of the

Upsilon Chapter, joining in 1940 and remaining a member until her death in 1988. She served our chapter as President and held many other offices. She served as Epsilon State President (1953-1955, 1955-1957), the last person to serve for two bienniums. She also chaired the international convention held in New Orleans in 1956.

Bea also chaired several international committees, and served as Southeast District Director (1961-1963).

She established the Bea Davis Scholarship in 1983. Upon her death in 1988, she left \$55,000 to Epsilon State, and the Beatrice Davis Leadership Seminar was born in 1991.

The seminar is held in odd-numbered

years and exists for the purpose of training leaders in Epsilon State of Delta Kappa Gamma International.

The Beatrice Davis Leadership Seminar is a fitting tribute to Bea and her life and work, both in the classroom and in DKG. Her work continues to live on, and in a very real way, she continues to teach and mentor by making this ongoing opportunity available.

We are grateful for her leadership, example, and legacy!



## President's Project - Walk With Me

**T**he chapter voted to continue the Walk With Me project for another year due to its overwhelming success and benefit to the community.



It was wonderful to see the level of enthusiasm and participation by every member of the chapter in collecting and

distributing the socks to the needy and homeless of the area. As mentioned in the last newsletter, socks are often overlooked, and Monica realized how precious and appreciated socks are to homeless people.

The homeless are often forgotten, so to show our compassion and unity she chose the name Walk With Me – which will continue through the new year.

The chapter submitted the project for the Fleur-de-Lis Award at the Epsilon State Convention in Vidalia, in March 2019, but unfortunately didn't win. We

will redouble our efforts and reenter at the next convention.

Naturally, we don't pursue our special projects for recognition or prizes, but for the blessings we can confer when we all work together towards a noble goal.

The real benefit of the Fleur-de-Lis Award is not the award but the inspiration and motivation that we can share with each other and other chapters to continue to look for ways to bless those around us.

Let us continue to Walk Together!

## What's In A Number?

**T**he DKG newsletter, *Get Connected*, May/June 2019, stresses the importance of communication, and specifically how to communicate to members and potential members in ways that are familiar and comfortable to them.

*Get Connected* also reports that in the last five years DKG has lost 500 chapters and 13,200 members. One way to try to alleviate this decline is regular communication and access of information to the membership.

But as we all know, different people communicate in various ways. It seems that there are generational differences in communication style. DKG recommends the following approaches:

- Traditionalists – personal phone calls, letters (mailings), print items (chapter brochures, professional newsletters).
- Baby Boomers – brochures, professional newsletters (print & electronic), Facebook.

- GenXers - brochures, electronic professional newsletters, Facebook, chapter and state websites that can be googled.
- Millennials – Social Media (chapters with Facebook, twitter, and LinkedIn reach younger educators), chapter and state websites that can be googled.

Food for thought as we work to grow our beloved chapter and DKG for future generations.

## 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!

**W**e 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.

October 19, 10am, The Four Columns Restaurant, Harvey – South District Meeting

November 9, 10am, St. James Community Church, Paulina – Chapter Meeting

December 14, 9:30am, Tournament Players Club, Avondale – Chapter Christmas Boutique & Auction

January 25, 2020, Pineville Convention Center, Pineville – State Committee Meetings

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

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

