

**BETA ALPHA ALPHABITS**  
**October 2021 Number 2**  
**Beta Alpha Chapter**

***Mission Statement:***

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

***DKG: International and Indiana State Organization- Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide***



Hello, fellow Beta Alphas!

We're off to a wonderful start to our 2021-2022 year! We started with our September meeting with guest DKG Indiana President Stephanie Walsh. We also had some fruitful discussions about membership - how to gain and maintain members and increase social opportunities for our current members. We collected enough Teacher Locker donations to fill the back of my SUV with the seats down, plus a few monetary donations in addition to a few people who had dropped their own donations off prior to the meeting! You should be so proud of yourselves- this will make a big difference to many teachers in our area! We can continue to provide donations and volunteer support throughout the year.

Our October 20 meeting is VERY important! As mentioned in the summary from the last meeting, Comfort is waiving the rental fees for us to use the Oak Room, simply because they support our cause! The Lincoln principal has shown full support in encouraging her staff to attend the meeting with us, and we would like to have enough members there to show we are serious about our mission to help practicing educators. The goal of this meeting is to gather ideas of how to help the Lincoln educators, as well as decide what our members are willing to do for them based on these ideas. PLEASE plan to be there if possible!

We will have a chance to see each other at our next Book Club meeting on October 12 (4pm at Los Tres Caminos on Hwy 41). We will be discussing the book *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski. Even though the main character is not an educator, many of you will relate to this book. It is a true story about a woman being drawn to helping a boy with a very disadvantaged life by "an invisible thread." This situation is similar to that of many teachers who have a few students whom they tend to be drawn to and stay in contact with for many years after they leave the classroom. The book shows how much of a difference one person really can make in a child's life. It is a very quick read and highly recommended! Remember that you are welcome to join us for lunch that day even if you have not read the book.

Finally, we will need to conduct a SWOT analysis of our chapter this year. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, Opportunities. It's a way to help focus on what we are doing well, what we can improve, what is in our way, and what we have that we can utilize more effectively. I feel like this is a great year to do this and to decide how our future will look. This will likely be a meeting separate from our business meetings. Once a date has been chosen, I will send out papers in the mail ahead of time for you to gather some ideas. That way, you can send them to me if you are unable to attend that meeting.

Thanks for all of your hard work this year! Simone

## **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

### **Mentorship**

Dinner & Meeting 5:30 P.M.

Comfort by Cross-Eyed Cricket in the Oak Room  
(230 Main St., Evansville, IN 47708)

Guests: Teachers from Lincoln School

## **NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING**

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4 P.M.

Los Tres Caminos

12100 Hwy 41 N., Evansville, IN 47725



**An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny**  
2011 book written by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski

## **OFFICERS OF BETA ALPHA 2020-2022**

President - Simone Nance

First Vice-President – Carolyn Bucko

Second Vice-President - Darlene Dycus

Recording Secretary – Open. Please volunteer if you can.

Corresponding Secretary - Barb Nichols

### **Related Personnel**

Past President/Council #12 Representative - Gwen Barnett

Treasurer – Marcia Onnybecker

Parliamentarian – Vickie Heilmann

Webmaster – Simone Nance

### **Chapter Committees 2020-2022**

#### **Society Business**

Communications and Marketing –Darlene Dycus

Finance – Ann Vaughan

Membership – Angela Schonberger

Nominations – Simone Nance

Rules – Lorie Maltby

#### **Program of Work**

Program/Education Excellence – Carolyn Bucko

Scholarship –Darlene Dycus

International Projects and World Fellowship – Ethel Elkins

Legislation –Open. Please volunteer if you can.

Strategic Action Planning – Barb Nichols

Music – Vickie Heilmann

## Important Information/Corrections

Please make note of the following changes or corrections to information that is in the Yearbook. (Red Book) Some were distributed as corrections at the September meeting, and some were changes to member information and additions:

### **Corrections at September meeting:**

Angela Schonberger email address: [ams0312em@aol.com](mailto:ams0312em@aol.com)

Jeanine Minor address:

11616 Tahoe Dr.  
Evansville, IN 47720

### **Changes/additions:**

Barb Nichols Vickers address:

923 Nottingham Ct.  
Evansville, IN 47715

Mary Lou Winsett address:

Walnut Creek  
525 Bente West Ct.  
Evansville, IN 47715

Add information:

Dr. Summer Aulich-Benford      498188  
6413 Washington Ave.  
Evansville, IN 47715

812-431-3236  
2018  
July 21

Assistant Professor of Medical Assisting  
Ivy Tech

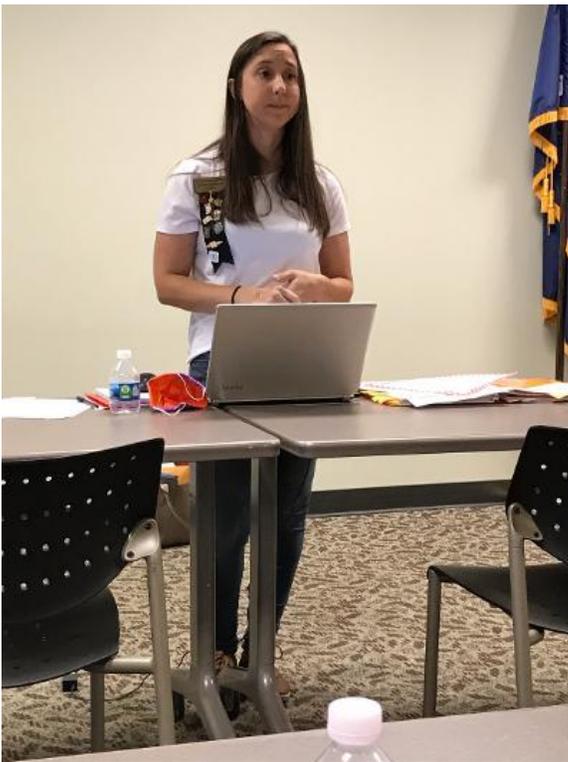
[saulich@ivytech.edu](mailto:saulich@ivytech.edu)

[summeraulich@hotmail.com](mailto:summeraulich@hotmail.com)

## September 16, 2021, Meeting with Special Guest Stephanie Walsh



Front row left to right: Gwen Barnett, Vickie Heilmann, Carol Winslow, Darlene Dycus and Lorie Maltby  
Back row left to right: Barb Nichols Vickers, Erin Reynolds, Stephanie Walsh and Marcia Onnybecker



Simone Nance, Beta Alpha President,  
Conducting the meeting and reporting on  
The State Executive Board Meeting



The collection of donations for EVSC Teacher Locker  
Special Project  
(Some donated cash and had already delivered their  
donations.)

## BETA ALPHA - INDIANA

Thursday, September 16, 2021, Meeting Highlights

Members met at the North Park branch of the EVPL at 5:30pm. DKG Indiana State President Stephanie Walsh attended. Members brought supply donations for the EVSC Teacher Locker.

Theme - This year's State theme from Stephanie Walsh is "Don't Give Up the 'Ship'", including Membership, Mentorship, Leadership, Friendship, Fellowship.

### 2021 International Conferences

- Portland & San Antonio, plus Virtual
- Simone attended virtually. She was asked to read a summary at the State Executive Board Meeting.

Membership / Recruitment - We shared ideas and thoughts. We want to take our time with prospective members, and get them interested, and make sure they want to be there.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report – Marcia shared the most recent treasurer's report. She also handed out a proposed budget, which has not been done in several years. With it, she included a blank copy. She would like feedback and input, especially where the questions marks are on the right side. She plans to have a small meeting with any interested members to finalize this budget so we can discuss it in October.

Correspondence - Barb has been continuing with birthday cards.

- Membership strategy - long term, build relationships first.

Standing Rules - Lorie will make sure it is sent to State and make changes as needed.

GIA Scholarship - We need to determine if we are meeting our purpose with the Grant-in-Aid Scholarship. If solely to help a future educator, then yes. If hoping to

gain a member, then no. Erin suggested that we support a graduate student instead, which may be more likely to attend a few meetings and join.

## NEW BUSINESS

Officers - Think about which offices you would be willing to hold for next biennium. CCOT in June, virtual besides President & Treasurer. Need to have 5 out of 6 CCOT sessions attended for final point for Golden Key!

SWOT Analysis - (Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, Opportunities - A way to help focus on what we are doing well, what we can improve, and what is in our way) Our chapter needs to complete one for State.

check for you if you aren't sure how.

- DKG Indiana website - visit! And follow on Facebook!
- Received an Honorable Mention (4 stars) for the newsletter!
- Membership Challenge - 5% increase (growth), which is 1 member for us. If we lose members, need to make those up also.
- Need State Treasurer. Anyone interested??
- Standing Rules need to be approved and sent to state.
- FAR - Fall Arts Retreat - Saturday, November 13, 9am-3pm in Noblesville ●

International Projects: Schools for Africa, Support for Early Educators, Emergency Fund, Scholarships & Grants, World Fellowship

○ Challenge: cover these with presentations during meetings ● Janet O'Neal Seminar for Personal Growth - Nov 2022

- Golden Key Form - small changes. Locations for Conventions added. Need 5 of 6 to attend CCOT (removed Parliamentarian).
- Women of Distinction nominations submitted by March 1, 2022 (for recognition from 2021)

# **SUPPORT EARLY EDUCATORS**

## **MESSAGE FROM CAROLYN BUCKO ABOUT LINCOLN SCHOOL SEE PROJECT**



Members who want to contribute goodies to the Early Educators can take them directly to the school front door. I was able to walk in and deliver to whoever was at the desk. (I don't think we should take anything homemade as we have done in the past.) Last year there were 13 teachers who were early educators.

They specifically asked for sweet tea, Mt. Dew Code Red, anything chocolate or salted caramel and M & M's. Kids' snacks are Gold Fish, fruit snacks and mini candies.

If members provide snacks, they should let me (Carolyn) know and send a picture to Darlene Dycus and Simone Nance.

Let me (Carolyn) know if you have any questions. Thanks! Carolyn

### ***LINCOLN LETTER from President Simone Nance***

Simone Nance, our President, composed a letter which went to all Lincoln educators to ask for their input about how we can best support them. It was delivered to each one by Simone at the teacher start of the school year.

Here are some of the key points: Beta Alpha is expanding our chapter and our ability to support our community's educators.

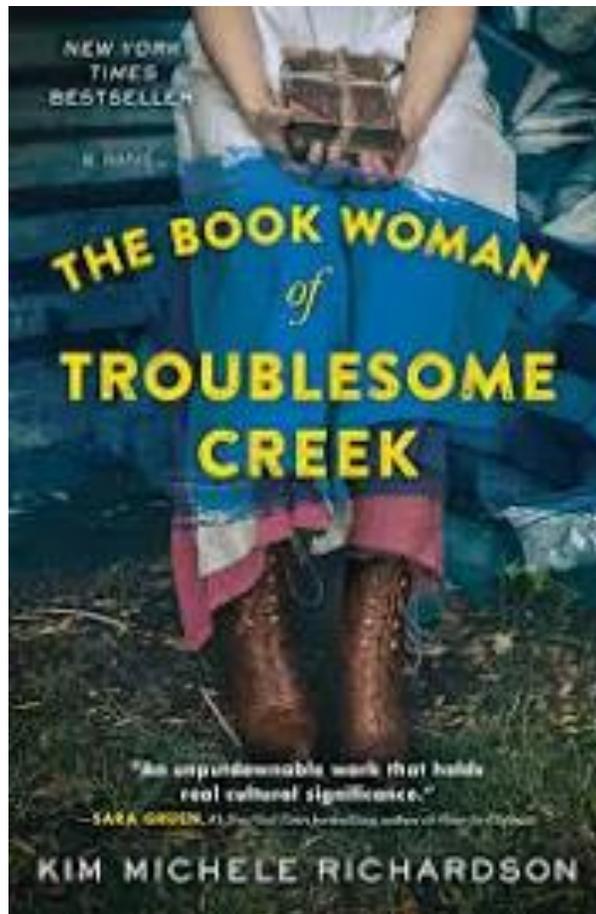
Our focus is typically the early educators in their first few years, but we are open to finding ways to help all educators more. We enjoy sending in treats, but we know there's much more you need (but cookies help, right??)

On October 20th, we are having a chapter meeting. We are inviting Lincoln educators to join us at 5:30 p.m. at Comfort by the Cross-Eyed Cricket (230 Main St.) in the Oak Room upstairs. There will be a group ready to have open, candid conversations about what current educators need in this ever-changing school environment.

## **Previous Month's Book Club Selection**

***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson**

**Meeting was on September 2 at 4 p.m. at Cafe Arazu in Newburgh.**



**The bestselling historical fiction from Kim Michele Richardson**

**This is a novel following Cussy Mary, a packhorse librarian, and her quest to bring books to the Appalachian community she loves.**

# **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

THE INDIANA STATE CONVENTION WILL BE IN EVANSVILLE!

APRIL 28-30, 2023

Location: Tropicana Evansville Executive Conference Center

421 NW Riverside Dr, Evansville, IN 47708



## **HOTEL**

**Sheraton New Orleans**

**500 Canal St, New Orleans, LA 70130, USA**



## **Legislation: Indiana**

Indiana lawmakers passed measures that will reshape education. Here's what you should know.

By Emma Kate Fittes Apr 27, 2021, 1:38pm EDT Chalkbeat

Indiana legislators reshaped education in significant ways this year by helping schools cope with setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, eliminating the threat of state takeover for struggling schools, nearly doubling funding, and broadening school vouchers for middle-class families.

The additional \$1.9 billion lawmakers directed toward education over the next two years will enable school districts to raise teacher pay — a win for educators that comes a year and a half after thousands rallied at the statehouse to demand better pay.

“It’s hard to believe looking at this budget that many parents and education leaders feared massive cuts less than a year ago due to the pandemic and economic downturn,” Stand Indiana Executive Director Justin Ohlemiller said in a statement. The legislative session made meaningful progress toward “elevating the teaching profession,” he said.

Lawmakers will return later this year to discuss redistricting after receiving new Census data, but the regular 2021 legislative session ended last week. Here’s what you should know about the education-related bills that passed:

### **COVID-19 relief**

With Gov. Eric Holcomb’s approval, the state will allocate \$150 million to help fund summer school expenses, which may be larger than usual because of the need to teach students who fell behind during COVID-19 school closures. The bill (HB 1008) requires schools to show how they will accelerate student learning.

The state required schools to administer standardized ILEARN tests this school year, which it skipped last spring. But the legislature’s one-year measure (HB 1514) exempts districts from state A-F grades and any subsequent penalties for poor performance. This ensures test results will not reduce any teacher’s pay this year.

Lawmakers also decided the state, the main source of pre-K-12 funding, would fully compensate schools and districts for their students learning virtually this school year. Senate Bill 2 temporarily overrides the normal state formula that pays schools 85% of its per-pupil funding for online students.

### **Voucher expansion**

Lawmakers approved a significant and controversial expansion of the state’s already broad private school voucher program, setting one of the highest family income ceilings in the nation.

Under the measure (HB 1001), certain families making up to 300% of the eligibility level for federally subsidized meals — a measure of poverty — will have access to vouchers to pay for private school. This means families of four with an

income of about \$145,000 — nearly double the Indiana median income for families — will be eligible. And the legislature increased the value of all vouchers to cover 90% of a student's tuition and fees.

Lawmakers also directed \$3 million for 2022 and \$10 million for 2023 to create education savings accounts. The accounts will pay for schooling and therapy for students in special education, a benefit that further supports school choice for middle-class families.

### Ending state takeovers

Lawmakers repealed the consequences for failing schools, ending the state's yearslong experiment in aggressively taking over schools with chronically low test results.

Under the measure (HB1514), district schools with failing grades no longer face the threat of state seizure or the steps that precede it, such as a requirement that districts attempt to improve schools by replacing personnel or working with outside experts. Charter schools with low grades will be able to seek renewals without special permission from the state. And failing private schools will be able to receive vouchers for new students.

The state is not currently running any schools. As popularity of the punitive measure waned, the State Board of Education ended the state's takeover of remaining schools in January 2020.

This marks the second year in a row that lawmakers have reversed a piece of the state's frequently criticized accountability system. During the 2020 session, lawmakers overwhelmingly supported eliminating test scores as a significant part of teacher evaluations.

### Teacher licensure

The legislature approved a new route for teachers to earn their license in Indiana, intended to reduce the state's teacher shortage. Under the new law (SB 205), people who are 26 or older and hold a bachelor's degree may receive a license by completing an alternative training program — including an online program — and passing a state licensing exam.

Educators with alternative licenses, however, may not teach special education.

### Union membership

In a blow to teachers unions, educators will have to opt in to union membership each year before dues can be deducted from their paycheck, under a new law. The measure (SB 251) requires that teachers sign a withholding form every year. Schools then have to confirm their decision via email before a deduction can be made.

Lawmakers who supported the bill pointed to the *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court ruling that collecting fees from non-union employees violated their rights, *WFYI* reported. Critics of Senate Bill 251 said that nothing in the court ruling called for requiring annual approval. The controversial measure will add additional annual steps in order for educators to join and maintain their membership in the Indiana State Teachers Association.

### Controversial research

Lawmakers passed a bill (HB 1266) requiring the Indiana Department of Education to solicit ideas to make school transportation and facilities more efficient. While it's unclear what sort of recommendations the report may yield, education lobbyists and district officials pushed back against the idea over concerns about the state forcing consolidation or other cost-cutting measures.

The report is due next March.

*Sign up for the newsletter* [Chalkbeat Indiana](#)

*Chalkbeat is a nonprofit newsroom dedicated to providing the information families and educators need.*



## **Legislation: Kentucky**

Special session underway, education-related bill discussed in Kentucky legislative committee

By Jacob Perkins -September 7, 2021

Graphic reading: Senate Standing Committee on Education Special Session, September 7, 2021 With COVID-19 cases surging throughout the Commonwealth, Gov. Andy Beshear called the Kentucky General Assembly into a special session beginning Sept. 7 to work toward providing additional flexibilities and relief for Kentuckians through pandemic-related policies.

On the education front, Tuesday's meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Education focused on Senate Bill (SB) 1, legislation that would declare the Kentucky Board of Education's (KBE) recent emergency regulation mandating face masks in school facilities null, void and unenforceable.

"The General Assembly now bears the responsibility for the decisions they make," Commissioner of Education Jason E. Glass said in a Sept. 4 statement regarding the special session. Glass said he hoped Kentucky's legislators would follow the public health science supporting the use of masks in school facilities, as the KBE had done in issuing its emergency regulation.

"While the department has been working with legislative leaders and the governor's office to suggest solutions that will help our districts get through the surge as safely as possible, as well as keeping as many students as is practicable benefiting from in-person instruction, we have significant concerns about the current bill being considered," Glass said Tuesday.

"The current bill does not go far enough in providing the flexibility in different school models that (our districts) need to support continued school operations given the disruptions you are currently experiencing due to COVID-19 outbreaks and quarantining," he said. "Further, the politically motivated effort to remove masking requirements in public schools flies in the face of virus mitigation efforts at the very time they are needed most."

As of Sept. 7, 32 of Kentucky's 171 public school districts have suspended in-person instruction and transitioned into non-traditional instruction (NTI) because of the statewide spread of COVID-19, Sen. Reggie Thomas pointed out during the committee meeting.

"To say now that we are not going to require masks in our public schools where our children are going to school, I think is completely irresponsible of us," Thomas added.

### Test to Stay Model

The proposed legislation calls on the Kentucky Department for Public Health to develop a COVID-19 test-to-stay model that may be administered by school districts to minimize the impact of quarantining non-symptomatic students and staff. The test-to-stay model allows students who are exposed to COVID-19 at school the opportunity to receive a test for the virus to determine if they can remain in the classroom or be required to quarantine.

"If a district chooses not to do the test-to-stay policy, that's perfectly fine," said Sen. Max Wise. "It's simply giving them the option. We've seen many districts already utilizing test-to-stay."

On Sept. 1, Green County Superintendent Will Hodges testified before the Interim Joint Committee on Education about a test-to-stay model that has successfully been implemented in his district through a partnership with Cumberland Family Medical.

"(The program) is worthwhile," Hodges said during the Sept. 1 meeting. "We're finding a way to keep children in classrooms."

The district provided families with the option to have their children tested for six days following the school exposure, with 80-90% electing to participate. Of the 159 students who have had to take part in the program, only 13 have tested positive during the six-day testing period.

Because of the program, the district has been able to continue in-person learning this school year and has not had to use any of the 10 NTI days provided by state statute.

A separate piece of legislation will appropriate funds for the test-to-stay program.

"If a district wants to develop their own policy, their own plan for moving forward, they have the right to do so, especially as it relates to quarantining," Wise said.

**Member Highlight: Miriam (June) Gibson**

President and Longtime Member of Beta Alpha  
Passed Away on December 1, 2019



**State Convention June 2021**

**White Rose Ceremony (Ceremony of Remembrance)  
in Honor of Deceased Members**

**Rose placed in honor of Miriam (June) Gibson  
and Donna Tyner from Beta Alpha**

## June Gibson



### Obituary

Evansville - Miriam June Gibson, 92, of Evansville, Indiana passed away on Sunday, December 1, 2019, at Evansville Protestant Home. June was a retired teacher, having retired from Central High School where she taught Spanish and was head of the Foreign Language Department. She had also taught at several other schools and in 1966 became State Supervisor of Foreign Languages, a position she held for three years before returning to the classroom.

June was a graduate of Evansville College and earned her Master's Degree at Indiana University. She later received grants to attend special summer foreign language programs at Michigan State University; Valencia, Spain; Tucuman, Argentina; Stanford and Purdue Universities.

She was an avid traveler having traveled to over fifty countries including most Spanish-speaking countries. Her travels took her from the top of our continent, Point Barrow, Alaska, to the southernmost tip of continental South America, from the austerity of life behind the Iron Curtain to the beauty of the Great Coral Reef.

Upon her retirement in 1986, she became a WNIN reader for the visually impaired and a volunteer at the Evansville Tourism office. She also served on several Red Cross disaster teams and was a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for children). While teaching at Wheeler School she became a Girl Scout leader and began a troop which was considered the most active troop of the city at the time.

June was a life-long member of Olivet Evangelical Presbyterian Church. At three months of age, she was enrolled in Olivet's nursery and continued through the various classes. She became a member in 1938. At various times she taught Sunday School, had served as superintendent of the Junior-Senior High Sunday School department and was ordained elder in 1971.

She was a member and past president of Evansville Retired Teachers Association and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma honorary society for teachers and past president of Beta Alpha chapter. She was also a life member of Phi Mu Sorority. Following her retirement in 1986, Gov. Robert D. Orr appointed her to a three-year term on the Indiana Teachers Retirement Fund Board where she served the third year as its chairman.

June was preceded in death by her mother, Grace Gibson, and her father, Merle Gibson. There are no immediate survivors. However, she has cousins residing in Michigan and Massachusetts.

A very special thanks to her close friends/caregivers, Bob and Ellen Costner.

## MEMBER NEWS



### Wedding!

**Barb Nichols** and Bill Vickers were married on September 8, 2021, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and honeymooned at Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina.

We are so happy for them!

Barb's new address and name for "Best Wishes" are as follows:

**Barbara Nichols Vickers**  
923 Nottingham Ct.  
Evansville, IN 47715



*Please give your support to our members. Addresses for cards are here, too.*

**Carolyn Bucko** has been dealing with pneumonia and is recovering after having 3 days of IV antibiotics. She is feeling better, but she still a little tired, especially after being up and around. Her address is as follows:  
3624 Brickyard Ct., Evansville, IN 47720

**Angie Schonberger** will have a procedure on October 27, 2021, to correct the issues that she has been having with severe bouts of Afib. She has been trying to take it easy and is anxiously awaiting some relief. Her address is as follows:  
6441 Lively Lane  
Evansville, IN 47720

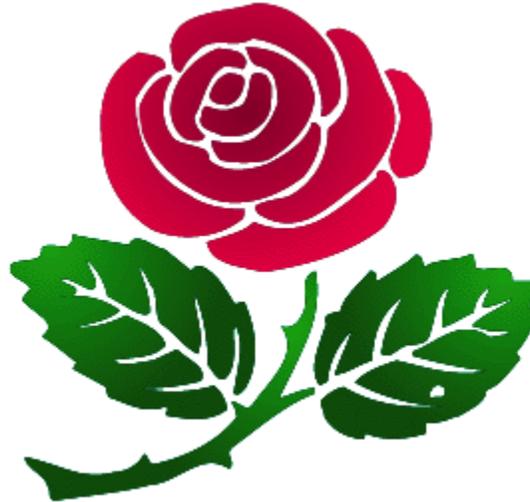
**Mary Lou Winsett** continues to reside at Walnut Creek. She has been a longtime resident and will remain at Walnut Creek. It would be great to send cards. Her address is as follows:  
Walnut Creek  
525 Bentees Wes Ct.  
Evansville, IN 47715



**Dr. Summer Aulich-Benford** has reinstated her membership in Beta Alpha! We're so glad you're back!  
(See information in "Important Information/Changes" on a previous page.)

**Reorientation: Who remembers all of these? It's nice to review what we want to achieve!**

## DKG Seven Purposes



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 interests of education and of 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 the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society



## **Save the date!**

### **Future Meetings and Events**

(Note: Some are still in the planning process and have tentative details.\*)

\*Details and more info will be provided closer to each date.

#### **Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

##### Mentorship

Dinner & Meeting 5:30 p.m.  
Comfort by Cross-Eyed Cricket  
Oak Room  
230 Main St, Evansville, IN 47708  
Guests: Teachers from Lincoln School

#### **Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

##### Leadership

Dinner & Meeting at 5:30 p.m. (Location TBA)\* Tentatively SICTC, 1901 Lynch Rd. 47711  
Guest Speaker: Sheila Huff  
\*Pound Auction

#### **Saturday, December 4, 2021, Social Event**

Christmas Brunch (Friendship and Fellowship)

Come for Brunch! Cookie exchange is optional! \*Details will be in a mailed invitation

Darlene Dycus's House at 11 a.m. (7861 Ridgebrook Dr. 47715)

#### **Thursday, February 17, 2022**

##### Friendship

Via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting & Stories from Members

#### **Saturday, April 30, 2022**

##### Fellowship

Mulberry Jeans at 11 a.m.  
600 State St, Newburgh, IN 47630  
Meeting and Lunch

Editor: Darlene R. Dycus

Second Vice President  
Beta Alpha Chapter of DKG

[ddycus2059@aol.com](mailto:ddycus2059@aol.com)

7861 Ridgebrook Dr., Evansville, IN 47715

812-430-4666

NOTE:

If you would like to volunteer to be in the Member Highlight, please contact Darlene Dycus at [ddycus2059@aol.com](mailto:ddycus2059@aol.com) with an autobiography via an “in text” document or an attachment.

Or you may mail a written copy to the following address:

7861 Ridgebrook Dr., Evansville, IN 47715

Photos accepted and welcome!

If you have member news or any other information for the newsletter, please also contact her at the contact information above or text to 812-430-4666.