

DKG@UN

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NEWSLETTER

Margaret Anzul, Editor

Ten years ago, in May of 2004, as the editor of this newsletter, I was writing the opening lines of the very first issue: “We do not think it is a coincidence that we begin the writing of this newsletter on the very day—May 11, 2004—of the 75th anniversary of the founding of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. During this Diamond Jubilee year we take great pleasure in looking back and honoring the work of our founders, but in their spirit we also look forward. The letterhead of our newsletter both honors our heritage and highlights our looking ahead to the global needs and possibilities that our work at the UN addresses.”

Now, ten years later, it is the 85th anniversary of the Society’s founding, and your NGO reps at the UN have much to look back on as well as much to look forward to. We begin by looking back on our earliest memory of that first issue. Since 1995 Delta Kappa Gamma had been affiliated as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the UN’s Department of Public Information (DPI). At that time we had two NGO representatives. In 2003 the Society was granted consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which made it possible for the NGO rep group to expand to five (and some years later to eight) members.

In early 2004 Anne-Marie Carlson, who had initially suggested that Delta Kappa Gamma apply for affiliation with the UN and was the first primary rep, arranged for the five reps to meet for lunch. I was one of the five, and Margaret Nielsen (Connecticut), who has since passed away, was another. During the meeting we discussed the possibility of the NGO rep group publishing a newsletter that would let members throughout the Society know what we were actually doing at the UN. I recall asking that if we were to publish such a newsletter what might it be called. I was sitting across the table from Margaret Nielsen, and I saw her scribbling something on a piece of paper. She then turned the paper around for the rest of us to read, and she had printed across it “DKG @ UN”. There was our title and the beginning of our newsletter! Now, ten years later, we include in this anniversary issue articles on activities in which we participate here at the UN, and articles on some accomplishments of our Delta Kappa Gamma members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DKG NGO PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE

We would like to extend our congratulations to Grace Murphy (New York) on being recognized with The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Pi State Achievement Award. This is the highest award in recognition of services to the Society offered by the New York State organization. Along with her other achievements in the Society, Grace has been serving as the Primary Representative of our NGO Representatives group from 2010 to the present. She is also a member of the Society’s Educational Excellence Committee and has been serving as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) for several years.

THE 65TH ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DPI/NGO CONFERENCE

“2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda” is the title of this year’s annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) conference, scheduled to be held on August 27-29 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The theme of the Conference is “The Role of Civil Society in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.” As stated on the UN website: “Organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in partnership with the NGO community, our annual Conference is unique. It is the largest gathering of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) jointly organized by the UN Department of Public Information and NGOs and relevant partners, as appropriate.... The Conference brings together over 1500 NGO representatives from around the globe to focus on a theme related to UN and NGO priorities... This three-day Conference includes: roundtables; NGO workshops; exhibits of accomplishments; youth-led activities; and networking opportunities.... For 60 years the Annual Conference was held at the UN Headquarters. In recent time, however, in the attempt to attract a more diverse community, the Conference has gone ‘on the road.’ It has been held in different regions of the world beginning in 2008 with the Paris Conferences focusing on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

The fact that The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is affiliated as an NGO at the United Nations means that our NGO representatives will be entitled to attend this conference, which has as its theme “The Role of Civil Society in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.” In addition, Anne-Marie Carlson, who is currently serving as the Chair of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee, is involved in its planning.

The UN website un.org/millenniumgoals provides the following information that explains the background of the conference theme: “The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—which range from halving extreme poverty rates to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015—form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions.... The United Nations is also working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious post-2015 development agenda.”

Soon after being granted NGO status at the UN the Society started its partnership with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF in support of education in developing countries. It is exciting to think that at the present time we are contributing to the goal of “providing universal primary education” through our official Society project Schools for Africa and also addressing various MDGs through other fund-raising activities conducted at the state and chapter level. One of these is the “Women’s Bank” project through which the DKG chapters in Finland support “women’s sustainable entrepreneurs and livelihood in developing countries” (see the “EEC.news” March/April 2014 issue). Another example was spotlighted in our [DKG @UN](#) newsletter’s issue No. 18, June 2010, when we published an article titled “Reaching from Canada to Tlmacazapa, Mexico,” about a project undertaken by the Canadian state organizations to help support education for a small and poverty-stricken village high in the mountains of central Mexico. In the same issue we wrote about the work done at the International level by the Society’s World Fellowship Committee. We truly are “impacting education worldwide.”

DKG MEMBER WINS A CTAUN “BEST PRACTICES” AWARD

Every year many DKG members from nearby states attend the CTAUN Conference in New York at the United Nations, and over the years several of them have won a “Best Practices” Award. A

member from New Jersey was one of the award recipients at the conference this past January 31. She is Katherine Makela, Principal of the Lillian M. Dunfee School in Barnegat Township, New Jersey, and a member of Omicron Chapter. Her project—"Dunfee Dragon's R.O.A.R."—was inspired by the CTAUN Conference in Austin in 2012, which had the theme "Promoting Tolerance: Solutions for Change." We extend our congratulations to Katherine, who has written the account that follows of her school's project.

[Dunfee Dragon's R.O.A.R.](#)

At the Lillian M. Dunfee Elementary School in Barnegat Township, New Jersey, our goal is to help students learn to make good behavior choices. Clear expectations and consistent responses help children form positive habits. Our Positive Behavior Support in Schools Team (PBSIS) has worked very hard to establish appropriate expectations in all school settings and developed an overarching theme, R.O.A.R., which stands for Be **R**espectful, **O**ptimistic, **A**wesome Achievers, and **R**esponsible. A Kick-off Assembly is held in September and expectations are taught through formal lessons and practiced on a daily basis. Attractive posters are displayed as visual reminders in our hallways, cafeteria, multi-purpose room and classrooms. Street signs, *Respectful Road*, *Optimistic Lane*, *Awesome Achiever Blvd.* and *Responsibility Way*, adorn the hallways.

Our staff members reinforce good behavior by acknowledging appropriate choices by our students, both verbally and in writing. A positive behavior ticket system has been initiated and a *R.O.A.R. Post Office* is displayed in our hallways where students place any R.O.A.R. tickets they receive throughout the week. Students observed following one of our R.O.A.R. attributes may be presented with a R.O.A.R. ticket. At the end of each week, a drawing is held and three students from each grade level have their names announced on the PA and are awarded prizes. A monthly drawing is also held at the end of the month. This year, we have added a Golden R.O.A.R. mailbox for staff members!

Our R.O.A.R. Committee meets throughout the year to review and revise the program to keep the momentum going. To this end, we have added a "Positive Behavior Referral" form. Staff members fill out these forms for any student they feel should be recognized for consistently following any or all of the R.O.A.R. attributes. The student meets with the Principal and a positive phone call home is made to parents. A picture of the student is also displayed on a hall bulletin board.

At the end of the school year, we asked our students to respond to the following writing prompt: "If there is one thing you would never change about the Dunfee School, what would it be and why?" The number one response from our students was the R.O.A.R. program. The following quote, from a fifth grade student, sums up the positive, safe, and peaceful climate that exists at the Dunfee School; "*One thing that I would never change is our ROAR system. I would never change our ROAR system because it gives everyone a chance to show how they can be a good student. Also because it goes with the feeling of this school like when you arrive at the school you feel this rush of positive energy and warmth. Another thing is how we have a dragon mascot. It fits with our ROAR and that's why I would never change our ROAR system.*"

PLANNING FUTURE CTAUN CONFERENCES

Conference at the UN. Next year will be the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the members of CTAUN have already selected a working title for the conference to

be held at the UN Headquarters in New York: “The UN @ 70: Making a Difference.” As is customary, the conference will be held on a Friday toward the end of January or in early February.

Conference in Houston. A conference in Houston is already scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2015 at North American University. Dr. Barbara Baethe, a professor there and experienced conference organizer, has been instrumental in making these plans. A Houston steering committee consisting of educators and other interested leaders in the area is being formed. In addition, Barbara is meeting with members of the past Austin and Dallas committees. The conference topic will be decided on next.

Conference in Atlanta. The seventh CTAUN conference in Atlanta, “Youth in Danger: A Call to Action”, was held on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at the College of Education at Georgia State University. Plans are now underway for another conference for next year. As has happened in the past, the Delta Kappa Gamma state organization in Georgia gave a donation to support the conference.

The CTAUN website (teachun.org). Further information about future conferences will be posted as it becomes available. Reports on past conferences are also available. We encourage our readers to check the website for additional information for educators about the UN. Click on Teaching Resources to find extensive teaching materials at all levels on a variety of topics.

A FAREWELL LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For these last ten years I have served as the editor of this newsletter, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life to think about ways I could share with our Delta Kappa Gamma members news and information that would help them teach about the United Nations and work for peace and global understanding. It has truly been a labor of love. The time has come, however, for me to relinquish this position, and turn over to others in our NGO rep group the challenging work of communicating news about their activities to members throughout the Society. As I say “farewell,” I send my thanks and best wishes to all of our readers,

Margaret Anzul

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International listed below are your official representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council. Most of them also work with CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

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