

# MINNESOTA'S TAU STATE

## WINTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GOTOMEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2013

Design Dreams, Kindle Knowledge, Garner Gladness (This is our quest.)

### MINUTES

**Gathering and orientation to GotoMeeting** took place from 8:45-9:13.

**Call to order:** The winter executive committee meeting was called to order at 9:13 by President Phyllis E. VanBuren.

**WELCOME:** By President Phyllis VanBuren

**ROLL CALL:** (from the names on the screen to verify presence)  
President Phyllis E. VanBuren, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Diane Larson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kathy Patton, Treasurer Dianna Brusven, Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Garven, Parliamentarian Lorraine Traut, Immediate Past-President Cory Peters, Interim Recording Secretary Sally Nyhus were all present.

**INSPIRATION:** The Inspiration was given by Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Garven. *"May today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. . . ."* Carolyn has this by her computer, the author is unknown.

**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SONG:** The president asked the committee to consider the significance of our organization in standing in support of one another in our efforts to advance the profession.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was approved by consensus of the committee members.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The minutes of the October 6 executive board meeting, which are posted on the Tau State webpage, was approved by consensus. Recording Secretary Ellen Delaney resigned her position because of health reasons. We should all keep Ellen in our thoughts and prayers.

**TREASURER'S REPORT—Dianna Brusven:** See report. (Dianna's e-mail address was incorrect on one of the reports. It is [dbrusven21@gmail.com](mailto:dbrusven21@gmail.com))

1. The treasurer's report was included in the packet of committee reports sent to all members of the executive board.
2. Tau State had approximately 800 members in 2010; there are 550 members now. There was also a huge drop in chapters in 2010, however the good news is that there has been slowing down of the number of chapters dissolving. There was a discussion about which chapters have dissolved and the distribution of their monies, since chapters are legally responsible to send their monies to Tau State and Delta Kappa Gamma.
3. Our bank account looks really good right now, but we need to keep in mind that international dues of \$19,974.20 was sent in January after this report was made.
4. There were several reminders and instructions for chapters about forms to fill out if the chapter donates to any fund, if there is a death in the chapter, if there is a new member in the chapter, or a member transfers from another chapter.
5. **Convention:** Should the budget proposal for the 2013 Tau State convention be acted on now or at the convention? Does this budget need approval by the entire membership or board or committee? Phyllis and Dianna will work on this and send it out to everyone by e-mail, and post it on the website by March 10. Someone will contact Rosalie and Laurie Huston to be sure they are available to send out a mass e-mail and to post it by March 10.
6. The treasurer's report was accepted and filed for audit.
7. Dianna received many compliments on a job well done from the executive committee.
8. Kathy Patton said that we do need a very clear picture of what funds we have, and what monies are available to all the budgets in order to formulate the new budget.
9. Phyllis encouraged everyone to look over Dianna's reports and if you, as a member of the executive board, haven't made your recommendations for your committee/office for the new budget, please do so.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS:** (not in the packet)

### **President's Report**

1. **President Phyllis E. VanBuren** expressed her appreciation of the support she has received from members, executive board members and executive committee members during her biennium.
2. The Tau State convention will take place the weekend of April 19 -21, 2013. Corlea Plowman is our international guest. Good list of workshops, entertainment. Registration forms for the Convention will be sent to members in 1 – 2 weeks in the form of a separate mailing and in the *North Star News*.
3. *North Star News* deadline is today, February 2 because of Robbie's vacation plans.
4. Tau State and Beta Beta is continuing to work with Ellen Kennedy, Executive Director of World Without Genocide, for the preconference workshop, *Ending Human Trafficking from the Global to Minnesota*, Human Trafficking workshop. Tau State and Beta Beta chapter will co-sponsor a the workshop on Friday, April 19. Ellen Kennedy, a Beta Beta member, is donating her time and, from World Without Genocide, is making materials available on the topic. There is a reduced rate for members attending the workshop; nonmembers are invited to attend the evening's entertainment following the workshop, and, for the conference registration fee can attend other convention workshops on Saturday. They will not attend the meal functions because they will not have registered and been included in the meal count.
5. Tau State will host a summer retreat this year, at St. Benedict's College's again, from June 25-26—remember to "Save the Date." All materials regarding the retreat will be available at the Tau State convention. Empowering Women is the title and the theme. In addition to Tau State member presenters, there will also be outside presenters.
6. The Northwest Regional Conference will be held in Cheyenne from July 31 - August 4. If you are interested in giving a workshop at the Northwest Regional Conference this summer, the application deadline is February 15. Forms are available on the DKG website, under Delta Kappa Gamma Updates.
7. Presidents' Reports are due. Only four chapters have sent their reports to President Phyllis. Please get them in.
8. Necrology reports need to be sent to Marge Bates, Rosalie Huston and President Phyllis, *whether or not* there has been a death in the chapter.
9. Chapters have monies available from Tau State this year for a recruitment reception, but one only has been held and used the money. President Phyllis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kathy Patton and other Tau State members will come to these receptions (See Unfinished Business).

### **Vice Presidents' Reports**

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Diane Larson** is hard at work in supporting the convention.
2. She has decided not to move forward to the presidency of Tau State for personal reasons.
1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kathy Patton** has been involved with plans for the summer retreat, and reports that costs have been kept down again; hopefully, the retreat can be sustained over time.
2. She has general membership concerns, since we are not getting very many new members. Beta Beta has 9 potential candidates for membership over the next few years. With their reception, they garnered lots of potential members' names, many from people who have been out of teaching for a while. An investment of time and energy in recruitment is well worth it.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Most reports are in the packet sent electronically to executive board members.

**Bylaws—Dr. Jeanette A. Karjala:** See report. Lorraine Traut reported that worked with the committee at the last 2 meetings, and is pleased with what's happening. Vice Presidents Kathy Patton and Diane Larson have received copies to review, which they need to edit and return the edited copies to the bylaws committee in next 10 days or so because it, too, needs to be posted on the website.

**Data Base Manager—Rosalie Huston:** See report.

1. The new Tau State membership directory was emailed to executive board members in Word, Excel, and PDF formats. Delivering the directory in this manner impacts standing rules and bylaws, so that is one of the changes being made. An updated version sent electronically to everyone on an annual basis will keep costs down. It was noted that chapter presidents may share the directory electronically with all members, if they wish. All members have never had a membership directory and may not want it. It's 14 pages, and has traditionally only gone to state executive board.
2. Chapter presidents, membership chairs, and necrology chairs are reminded to send a copy of their chapter necrology reports to the state data base manager. This membership information is recorded in the state database and is used to assist the state membership committee and the chapter conducting the remembrance service at the upcoming state conference.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS, Cont'd.**

### **Legislative—Judy L. Rohde:** See report.

1. Now that the Minnesota State Legislature is in session, and the new national Congress is in session, there should be plenty of political news to share with DKG sisters. Judy uses several sources for her updates on the national and state level.
2. It was noted by President Phyllis that HF171 was introduced to repeal even the basic skills tests for teacher candidates. There is a need to have a professional status attached to teaching credentials, knowing that candidates are proficient in reading, writing and mathematics. In the past, teachers were granted temporary licensure without testing, but it was necessary to show continued progress toward taking the tests with the temporary licensure.
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kathy Patton really appreciates getting the e-mails from Judy and from Carolyn Garven in the previous biennium. The intent of the e-mails being sent to chapter presidents is that they are to forward the e-mails on to chapter members.

### **Personal Growth & Service—Corlyn J. Peters:** See report.

1. The Woman of Achievement Awards will be presented at the banquet of the Tau State convention on Saturday, April 20. Cory thanked the chapters who submitted nominations and is still interested in receiving nominations from other chapters. Letters will be sent to chapter presidents and to the honorees with details about the presentation. Please note that the convention registration must be paid in advance and that banquet meals be ordered and paid for in advance. Tau State does not cover these costs; it is up to the honoree or her chapter.
2. Cory is concerned that, in the Tau State standing rules, it doesn't say who is to submit the application. Cory is following up to ensure the chapter supports its candidate(s). She will edit the form so it states clearly that the form needs to come from the chapter, not individual members. The issue needs to be addressed more specifically in standing rules and bylaws, where it's merely implied that the form should come from chapter, not the person applying. An Executive Committee member reported that Jan Sorell had the same type of thing happen when she was chair.

### **Professional Affairs—Joanne K. Lockner:** See report.

1. Joanne has received one nomination for the Recruitment Grant and is awaiting one application. If it is postmarked by January 15, it will be considered.
2. Joanne will be in Ecuador February 17—March 5 to help her family with a new baby.

### **Communications—Marcia K. Essman:** See report.

1. The communications committee is working on selecting a recipient for the Jeannette Fair Children's Book Award. They are reading several books in order to meet and make a selection.
2. A number of other state organizations are sending their quarterly newsletters via e-mail, sharing their experiences and projects. Those websites could be shared with Tau State members, if we wish, so we can see what's happening in other states.

### **Program—Diane Wippler:** See report.

1. Yearbook forms with the programs for 2012 – 2013 need to be submitted to her. Chapter presidents are responsible to send this to her or get the chapter program chair to submit them.
2. A discussion ensued by the executive committee to address the problem of deadlines and receiving submissions from chapters in a timely fashion: In the past, every month, the chapter president received a letter about what was needed to be sent in; perhaps the vice presidents can help with this problem. International sends a letter to the one person on file. The calendar is on the website, but people forget to check the website. The timeline was shared at new presidents meeting, but perhaps needs to be repeated to presidents frequently, so President Phyllis will send out a reminder next week.

**North Star News Editor—Roberta Johnson:** The deadline for *North Star News* submissions is February 2, 2013. Articles, announcements, good news, etc., about the spring convention, chapter projects, programs, speakers, Jeannette Fair Book Award, Women of Achievement, necrology, membership incentives may all be submitted. All can be sent electronically, with photos in JPEG format to [Robbie@pmlink.com](mailto:Robbie@pmlink.com).

### **Leadership Development—Barbara Whiting:** See report.

1. At the fall executive board meeting, a motion was passed to apply for a Cornett Seminar Grant to support a series of seminars around the state on the topic of Ending Human Trafficking. The application was denied, but the committee is submitting other applications in cooperation with World Without Genocide. No results yet.
2. The *Ending Human Trafficking* seminar/workshop will be presented at the Tau State spring convention, on Friday afternoon, April 19 for DKG members and nonmembers. Clock-hour certificates will be available and the content will build an understanding among Minnesota's educators of how extensive the problem is in Minnesota, and the actions we, as educators, can take. The committee will be seeking hosting assistance from local chapters, and hopes that everyone will help with publicity.

### ***STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS, Cont'd. Leadership Development Report, Cont'd.***

3. The second annual Tau State retreat, with its theme of Empowering Women, focusing on learning and laughter, will be held in June, 2013 at St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Look for details about applying in the *North Star News*.

Barb and members of her committee are available for leadership training. Let her know how leadership development committee members can help.

#### **Webmaster and Technology Report—Laurie Huston:** See report.

1. Since the fall Tau State executive board meeting, Laurie has been focused on updating the website to include e-mail addresses of current chapter presidents and other board members, as well as updating "important dates" information. Remember to advise Laurie of dates and forms that need to be posted. These can be sent electronically to Laurie. Also, remember that before mailing/e-mail addresses, telephone/fax numbers, news/pictures of an individual or group can be posted, specific written consent from the individuals involved need to be obtained and kept on file. Chapter presidents should verify that the information posted about her chapter's website is accurate and current.

2. Laurie has also added a Tau State history page to the website. Click on it and see what's there!

3. Report on technology that Tau State owns. Kathy Patton is trying to get caught up on what we have and no longer have/need. Melanie Reap may still have the computer that was given her, but not used, as Recording Secretary. Kathy will follow up with Melanie about the computer. Dianna Brusven said that she made a list of what we had, inventoried it, and that most members responsible for individual items, had our equipment covered by homeowner's or other insurance, so Tau State has no insurance coverage on any items.

4. Membership pins have *not* been returned to sell to current members. They are supposed to turn in pins, but that never happened. Kathy will send a list of paraphernalia to President Phyllis and she will add what she has and return the updated list to Kathy.

#### **Nominations—Sally Nyhus:** no report.

See New Business. Sally reported that the slate of officers remains incomplete as of this date, since the 2 secretarial positions remain unfilled. Please let Sally know if you have names of anyone who can be contacted about becoming either of the secretaries.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Recruitment Receptions:**

1. Tau State is willing to send out Tau State members to attend any recruitment receptions. Chapters can receive a \$20 reimbursement for expenses and help via the telephone to organize one.

2. Reimbursement for expenses—is this for one reception, or can there be reimbursement for more than one? A new motion is needed to clarify or extend the monies. The cheers committee money was put back into the budget, since the ad hoc committee's duties ended two years ago. The monies went to leadership development and membership. The original intent was a one year, one time recruitment emphasis, but do we want to extend the use of those monies to more than 1 reception per year? Kathy would like to support them, since if they bring in members, it will bring in more money to our treasury in return. Is there a motion? Should it be presented to executive board? Some committee members felt that \$20 wasn't enough to make much difference between having/not having a reception. Diane Larson stated that since we have over \$3000 in the account, we should consider adding more than one reimbursement per chapter. Phyllis pointed out that some of the money in the account is for the summer retreat, so that's why it needs to go to the executive board for approval. Carolyn felt that we have to do this, money doesn't matter one way or the other. It was decided that the money should be left in the account until the next vote can be held by the executive board. At the April board meeting, there should be a breakdown of the revitalization monies comparing what was used to what could be used and how the budget would look. If all 21 chapters used the \$20, it would be \$420. International has guidelines for the use of monies. After international dues are taken out of the Available Checking account, we will have about \$12,000 left for the entire budget.

3. Kathy's group had pot luck, with the pots provided by members; Carolyn's group is going to have wine and cheese. Beta Beta extended invitations after names were submitted to the membership committee, while Carolyn's made personal invitations. This shows that there are many ways to provide a recruitment reception and none are right or wrong. We need to share what worked with all the other chapters.

#### **Annual Reports (President's and Necrology):**

These reports from the chapter presidents and chapter membership chairs were due February 1, 2013. Please get them to President Phyllis (president's report and necrology report) and Marge Bates and Rosalie Huston (necrology report).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Tau State Convention:** Crowne Plaza, April 19-21, 2013

**Leadership Training:**

1. Should the leadership training workshop that was held in May of 2012 continue in 2013? Of 21 chapters, 12 -15 actually attended, based on packets left; this is between 57 and 71%. Carolyn thought the opportunities for all the treasurers to get together with Dianna in a very positive environment was a good use of monies, so perhaps we could add mileage this year. According to the standing rules & bylaws, we need to provide some type of training. It could be provided every other year at the fall board meeting to keep us in compliance. Since the training is important, we could provide the training on the Friday of the Tau State conference/convention: more people are there anyway. It could be all be done in 1½ hours, but there are already time issues at the conference/convention. If we did this, chapter elections would have to take place in February, and many chapter don't hold elections until April or May.

2. Cory suggested e-mailing chapter officers to get a feeling whether they need another meeting at a separate place and time. She pointed out that other states have 2-day retreats for committee chairs and elected leaders which are separate from the convention/conference. While she doesn't see that happening in Tau State, she does see the need to address this with chapter presidents, treasurers, and chairs.

**Nominations:** President: Kathy Patton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Sally Nyhus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Ann Vanvick. There are no candidates yet for Recording Secretary or Corresponding Secretary.

Cory reminded the future vice presidents that the fall executive board meeting will be held in the metro area because the conference will be in Duluth. The timing of that goes by fiscal year, not calendar year.

**2nd Annual Revitalization Retreat:** June 25-26, St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN

**Northwest Regional Conference:** Cheyenne, WY July 31, - August 3, 2013. February 15 is the deadline for proposals for being a presenter.

**Announcements/Good News:** Good meeting! Sally send out nominations report. Carolyn has already sent a card to Ellen.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Corlyn Peters, seconded by Dianna Brusven, that the meeting be adjourned. President Phyllis E. VanBuren declared the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.