

# BUILDERS

*of*

# SIGMA STATE



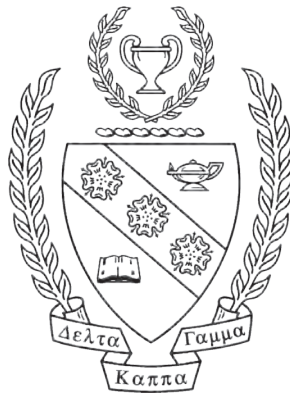
*Golden Anniversary*  
*1936-1986*





# ***THE FOUNDERS OF SIGMA STATE***

**Delta Kappa Gamma  
International**



compiled by  
Dorothy Johnson  
Elsie Chell  
Claire Mulvey

Second Edition  
2020



## DEDICATION

We dedicate this booklet to the women who teach  
and who serve the needs of all the world's children,

To those builders of the past, good work!

To those builders in years to come, carry on!

Yours is the challenge to light the way

To stimulate, honor, advance, sponsor,  
unite, endow and inform.

Be all you can be as Builders of Sigma State

A beacon of light as the statue of liberty

In the cities, in the villages, in the  
hamlets and crossroads

That all mankind may live in peace and  
understanding.

*Edythe Sandeman*



## Preface

Preparing a book of this scope is rather awesome. Looking back to the beginnings and evaluating the work of the pioneers and those who came later requires the contributions of many. It is sad to learn that in some instances there was so little remaining for research.

Since this committee desired that the contents of this booklet be confined to the work of the builder as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the task was made more difficult with little or no such material. We did not want straight biographical reports.

We asked for pictures and they too were nonexistent. It is a lesson to the chapters to keep material with a picture of each member in their files. Also a scrapbook kept by an historian can be invaluable as a source or a record of decisions made, of people and events.

The material we received varied as to quantity and quality. The articles on each builder thus vary as to amount and authenticity.

We are grateful to the chapter members for their contribution; to the former presidents who were helpful to them in gathering information; to the committee responsible for the 30 year booklet, *THE FOUNDERS OF SIGMA STATE*.

It is our hope you will find this booklet of some value in *Sigma's State's* 50th year. It is brief because costs are limiting. Writing about these "key women teachers" on a 5½ X 8" page was a challenge.

*Claire Mulvey*





## OUR BEGINNINGS

The formation of *Sigma State* began when Mrs. Mary Davison Bradford, former Superintendent of Kenosha Public Schools, was initiated by Annie Webb Blanton. Mary is often referred to as the “Godmother of Sigma State.” Later she became our state’s first honorary member. Dr. Blanton invited Mary to work with her in selecting Wisconsin educators to be invited to membership.

In February 1936, at a national meeting of superintendents and supervisors held in St. Louis, Missouri, six Wisconsin women, Maybell Bush, Elizabeth Hood, Edna Hood, Berenice Maloney, Elda Merton, and Elizabeth McCormick became members. Two others, Mary Birr and Louise Mears, were initiated at a meeting in Chicago later in the spring of 1936.

These eight, along with seven other selected educators, Bessie May Allen, Rosalie Ganz, Elsie Chell, Mae Hardie, Esther Krakow, Clara Mae Ward, Ann Gray Wescott, organized *Sigma State* on May 14, 1936, at the Loraine Hotel in Madison. These fifteen women along with Mary Bradford were the nucleus around which *Sigma State* grew.

They were educators from all over the state. Bessie May Allen was selected to be the first president. It was the responsibility of the founders to install chapters within the state and especially in their areas. Maybell Bush and Esther Krakow organized the first chapter, Alpha, in Madison November 20, 1937. The second chapter, Beta, was founded May 7, 1938, in Kenosha by the beloved “godmother,” Mary Bradford, assisted by Edna and Elizabeth Hood.

The first two state presidents were among the founders, Bessie May Allen and Berenice Maloney Crawford. The presidency passed to other capable leaders when Dr. Ella Hanawalt became president. These first three served for four years each. Jessie Caldwell served three years. Thereafter, the term of office was limited to two years, beginning on the uneven years. Elsie Chell, another founder, became the sixteenth president.

As noted elsewhere, Wisconsin hosted two Northwest Regional conferences. The first at Lawsonia, Green Lake, under the presidency of Edythe Sandeman in 1952. Under discussion then was whether our organization should become international. The second was held at The Inn on the Park, Madison, in 1981. This was during the presidency of Deloris Britt. The Chairman of the event was LaVon Wenger.

Our Silver Jubilee State Convention was held in Madison in May 1961 when Esther Czerwonky was state president. We had grown to 22 chapters with two more added within two months. That completed the first round of the Greek Alphabet.

*Sigma State* was involved in national and international activities by attendance of its members at conferences, workshops, and conventions. Many of the state presidents went on to serve on national and international committees. In 1950 Dr. Ella Hanawalt was chosen for the National Achievement Award. LaVon Wenger was a delegate to the World Conference of Women in Nairobi. Later she served a term as second vice-president. At present, Deloris Britt is completing a term as Northwest Regional Director.

As our founder Dr. Annie Webb Blanton says: "Our presidents are never past. The results of their work go on and on in future years, and we continue to call upon them for this and that service, to obliterate any notion

that we shall ever let them go. Each one has her own peculiar place in our affections.”

Fading memories and lost records prevent the recall of many details but *Sigma State* has grown to 49 chapters under the direction of all our state presidents and to them we accord our thanks for *BUILDING SIGMA STATE*.

*Dorothy Johnson*

### **ON OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

Just a half a century ago  
Our state society was founded.  
Sixteen women educators met  
And the call to work was sounded.  
From far and wide across the state  
Other groups were charted;  
In the busy years that followed  
Goals were set and projects started;  
And now, more than two thousand strong,  
The challenge we've accepted:  
To help Wisconsin youth to learn  
In new ways - none excepted.  
No child too handicapped or gifted,  
None by race or lineage kept from  
Learning, growing - though our efforts  
Being all they can become.

Hold high the torch, a steady beam,  
To light the way for education;  
And teachers, following the gleam,  
Take up the task with dedication  
May we in each new year of growth,  
Our founders' dream perpetuate,  
So we'll be worthy of the name -  
*Wisconsin, Sigma State.*

*June Steward*



**Bessie May Allen ~ 1936-1940**

Bessie May Allen was the first president of *Sigma State*. “Why her?” you ask. She was a doer. She met life’s challenges head on. From the rural community of Postville, Iowa to Director of Home Economics Division at Stevens Point Normal (now University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point) with stops of teaching at Castalia and Hartford, Iowa; Whitly, Ontario, Canada; and Illinois State Normal School, she moved ever higher on the educational ladder. She received degrees from Iowa State Teachers College and a B.S. and M.A. from Columbia University in New York City.

Innovation was her forte in teaching and inspiring her students. Administration was a skill with which she was especially endowed. It is little wonder she was chosen as the first state president. All the founders were women with demonstrated qualities of leadership. These women were simply outstanding in their fields.

Building a new organization which was statewide was a formidable task. Sixteen members from all parts of the state were asked to develop chapters in their geographic areas. During Bessie May Allen's tenure the following chapters were organized under her leadership: Alpha-Madison, Beta-Kenosha, Gamma-Stevens Point, Delta-Milwaukee, Epsilon-Fond du Lac, Zeta-Green Bay, Eta-Waukesha.

Miss Allen did much to organize her local chapter, Gamma, which covered three counties including the cities of Stevens Point (Portage County), Wausau (Marathon County), Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids (Wood County) and later Merrill (Lincoln County).

On the International level she is credited with designing the hand painted Wisconsin flag which is displayed at all National Conventions. She also served as National Parliamentarian and on the Scholarship Committee.

Professionally she worked to break the discriminatory barrier against women. We honor Miss Allen for her contributions, chapter, state, and national as they were substantial and long lasting.



### **Berenice Maloney Crawford ~ 1940-1944**

In 1940, *Sigma State* convened for its fourth state convention at Stevens Point . After four years of dedicated service Bessie May Allen was giving up the presidency. She had laid excellent ground work for the organization. Miss Berenice Maloney, another founder, was installed as the second president to serve the next four year term. Within a few months Berenice became Mrs. Frederick Crawford.

During the four years that Mrs. Crawford served as president, she was busy as a teacher in the primary department of the State Teachers College, Oshkosh, and as a housewife. Occupied as she was in her professional and home life, she found time to install five new

chapters: Eta, Theta, Iota, Kappa and Lambda. Later in 1961, she helped to organize two more chapters: Chi and Alpha Beta.

At the formation of Sigma State on May 14, 1936, Berenice was installed as state secretary. In May 1938, she became president and a charter member of the newly formed Epsilon Chapter. In the early years of *Sigma State* she also served as parliamentarian.

Upon graduation from high school, her mind was made up. She was going to be a teacher. And teacher she was, at first in areas of English and history, later in the area of supervision of cadet teachers, then in the demonstration departments at Wausau and Columbia County Teachers Colleges. Along the way, she attended Stevens Point Normal for two years, then earned B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Minnesota in supervision and administration.

In 1960, Berenice became director of elementary student teaching at Marquette University, a position she held until her retirement. At the time the booklet, *THE FOUNDERS OF SIGMA STATE*, was approved as a thirtieth anniversary project, she served as chairman and wrote the history chapters as well as some of the biographies of founders.



**Dr. Ella M. Hanawalt ~ 1944-1948**

Dr. Ella Hanawalt served as *Sigma State's* third president, 1944-1948, after having been president of her own (Delta) Chapter. She was a professor of psychology and education at Milwaukee-Downer College. There, her goal was to train young women to be teachers of character, integrity, and idealism.

In her leadership positions she encouraged members to study and research our society and after careful analysis to work on improvements and revisions. A member said, she was "fair to a fault, generous, open-minded."



Dr. Hanawalt was a charter member of Delta Chapter which was organized November 5, 1938. During her presidency the programs were built on the theme of better teacher training. That period saw many changes in the theory and philosophy of making good teachers. Her expertise gave direction to this goal both in the classroom and with fellow teachers exploring ways of improvement.

Dr. Hanawalt felt that the *Sigma State* organization was in very good condition when she became president. At that time *Sigma State* had quite a few members unaffiliated with chapters and some really small chapters in quite a few isolated communities. She made a point of keeping them with the state and national organizations by writing them about purposes and programs. That helped them know they were a significant part of an important whole.

The original Delta Kappa Gamma Constitution restricted membership to white women educators. The International Committee on Constitution, on which Dr. Hanawalt served after her state presidency, succeeded in getting the word "white" deleted, making the Society interracial.

In 1950, the National Achievement Award was given to a very surprised Dr. Hanawalt at the National Convention in Dallas, Texas.



**Jessie E. Caldwell ~ 1948-1951**

Jessie Caldwell was the fourth president of *Sigma State*. Transitioning from four to two-year terms on uneven years, she served a three-year term 1948-1951. Thereafter, presidents served two-year terms. Selecting her proved that this organization was destined to represent teachers from the whole state, since Jessie came from La Crosse. During her presidency, this growth was demonstrated with the establishment of new chapters in Shawano, Milwaukee, and Neenah-Menasha.

She was a charter member of Theta Chapter in La Crosse. When it was installed February 14, 1941,

she was elected its first president. Nearly every club or organization she joined, subsequently elected her president. All this attests to her qualities of leadership and administration.

Jessie's mother died when she was eleven so she grew up as an only child with an attentive father. She did very well in school and decided at an early age to be a teacher. Upon graduation from high school she accepted a teaching position in rural La Crosse County. Two years later she enrolled in the two-year program at La Crosse Normal.

So began her professional career. She alternated between teaching and getting a B.S. and M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City. Actually when she retired forty-seven years had been spent in education, thirty-five in the field of elementary supervision at La Crosse State University.

Jessie was a friendly person and a gracious hostess. Certainly as state president she sought out the membership to build a feeling of unity. This was especially important to the members in her area. All the previous presidents were identified with the eastern or central part of the state. She fulfilled a major purpose of the International organization, "unite key women teachers."



**Edythe M. Sandeman ~ 1951-1953**

Edythe Sandeman became the fifth president of *Sigma State*. Under her supervision Wisconsin hosted the Northwest Regional at Lawsonia, Green Lake, Wisconsin, a first for *Sigma State*. At this conference, National President, J. Maria Pierce, assisted in the workshops and helped the membership to think about its problems, look at the proposal of becoming international, and inspired us as key women teachers to greater service to education and to all worthwhile efforts everywhere.

Dr. Ella Hanawalt, the state executive secretary, shared some of the state president's responsibilities especially at the time of the WEA convention in Milwaukee. At a meeting on Thursday night of the convention women were initiated as state members. These women were expected to form new chapters about the state.

Edythe's best efforts were in the area of recruitment of the best, eligible women and the recognition of black women educators. She assisted in the organization of three new chapters. Her honors in the Society, besides being *Sigma State* president, were being a charter member and president of Alpha Chapter, president of Omicron, and member of Alpha Psi Chapter. She was also a member of the International Relations Committee. To each responsibility she brought her special expertise and enthusiasm. As in her many teaching and supervisory positions she was innovative in her approach to challenges. For several years she served as the state historian.

Born on a farm near Livingston and graduating from the local high school and Platteville State Teachers College, she developed a strong attachment for the quiet beauty of the rolling hill country which she frequently recalls today in her poetry and prose. Writing is one of her enjoyments and retirement gives her more time to pursue this activity.



**Hazel Marie Healy ~ 1953-1955**

Hazel Marie Healy became the sixth *Sigma State* president after serving a term as vice-president. Another president remarked that Hazel was an excellent president and hard to follow in that office.

Following her term as president she served 1955-1965 as executive secretary of the state organization. In that capacity she planned the Executive Board meetings and the general meetings held in Milwaukee at the time of the State Teachers Convention. The office was abolished at the Executive Board meeting in 1965.

She served the International Society as a member of the Committee on Expansion and the International Committee on Awards. While attending many regional and international conferences and conventions she served as a recorder.

Hazel taught in the Milwaukee Public School System for more than 40 years, at Washington High School as a teacher of senior English from 1921-1956, then as a mathematics teacher until 1962. For twenty years of her tenure there she was the advisor for the yearbook.

Delta Chapter used her administrative skills with committee chairmanships and in the offices of president and vice-president. At the celebration of Delta's twenty-fifth birthday at the Wisconsin Club on November 12, 1963, Hazel played an important part as a Gift Bearer in a ceremonial celebration. At the close of the meeting to emphasize the significant phases of the memorable evening, the membership joined Hazel in repeating the Invocation with its concluding plea:

*“Help us to become better builders,  
builders with vigorous minds and  
charitable hearts.”*



**Rowena L. Allen ~ 1955-1957**

Rowena Allen, a charter member of Gamma Chapter, served as the seventh president of *Sigma State*. A teacher in Portage County and elsewhere in Wisconsin, she had devoted all of her adult life to that field of endeavor. After attending Amherst grade schools, she graduated from Amherst High School in 1916 and became a student in the rural course at Stevens Point Normal School. She left there to teach schools in Waupaca, Lincoln, and Portage counties.



During her years of rural teaching, Rowena continued her education through summer session attendance and correspondence courses. She received a B.E. degree in 1936 and received her Master of Philosophy degree in 1945 from the UW-Madison Graduate School.

Rowena was active in the Portage County Mental Health Association; local, state, and national education associations; and at one time was president of the Central Wisconsin Education Association.

She began a long career as Portage County supervising teacher in 1928 and in 1949 began her first four-year term as county superintendent of schools, remaining there until her death in 1961. Her persistent efforts to stimulate community action and improve coordination of services led one parent to observe that "not only the mentally alert but the mentally retarded now have the opportunity to become acceptable and useful members of society."

*Sigma State* profited from Rowena Allen's professional devotion.



**Gertrude Anderson ~ 1957-1959**

Gertrude Anderson was elected president for years 1957-59 after serving as first vice-president. She had been initiated into Alpha Chapter November 5, 1938, one year after its founding. An active and dedicated member she served as president, chairman of Program and Legislative Committees as well as serving on others. The latter responsibility she held until her death in 1974. During those same years she co-chaired the State Legislative Committee and served a term on the National Legislative Committee.

Besides her interest in laws affecting the schools and how the whole area of education could be improved, she was involved in the fledgling Civil Liberties

Union, the Governor's Commission on Human Rights, the Dane County United Nations Association, and Junior Red Cross, to name a few.

It must be said of Gertrude that her dedication to the ideals for which Delta Kappa Gamma stands, can be spotted early in her life whether she was in the classroom or working on a community project. One Alpha member wrote, "One of the secrets of her success as a teacher was her ability to integrate--yes--her habit of integrating her life around the needs of children, her own need for growth and fulfillment, and the wider societal needs of a nation seeking its own identity."

Leading our state organization was a new dimension to her life of giving of her talents to a program in which she believed a total commitment would make a difference. And she did! No other person has made members as aware of the need for knowledge of what transpires in our legislative bodies. Through her gentle prodding, sixty-four members attended the first International Convention August 16-21, 1958 in Minneapolis. (Almost an all time high for *Sigma State*.) Also, during her biennium several new chapters were being prepared for installation.

Children enjoyed being in her classroom and we all were touched by her dynamic and enthusiastic attitude. Several Madison organizations honored her as "Woman of the Year." The WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL lauded her achievements in "Know Your Madisonian" column and THE CAPITAL TIMES editorialized her the day following her death as "A Lifetime of Love." She was special.



**Esther M. Czerwonky ~ 1959-1961**

Esther Czerwonky served *Sigma State* as its ninth state president. Previously she had been vice-president. During her term *Sigma State* celebrated its Silver Jubilee Convention in Madison commemorating its twenty-five years of growth in Wisconsin.

She demonstrated her qualities of leadership and devotion to excellence in education as well as her belief in the purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma as a charter member and the first president of Xi Chapter when it was organized in 1950. Later she served as chairman of a number of committees.

Her familiarity with the organization and her enthusiasm and unfailing kindness helped to make Delta Kappa Gamma a viable factor in the lives of its members.

During her term as state president she was involved in organizing new chapters in the state. Later she served several terms as chairman of the State Necrology Committee.

Delta Kappa Gamma International recognized her qualities in the field of education and asked her to serve as a member of the Constitution Committee. She also was chairman of the International Research Committee, chairman of the International Membership Committee and served as a member of the International Publications and Publicity Committee.

As a Milwaukee Public School teacher, Esther was corresponding secretary for the Milwaukee Teachers Association and served four years as a vice-president. As a principal, Esther was elected president of the Milwaukee Elementary Principals Association. Her abilities as a professional among professionals and a leader among leaders was recognized. Delta Kappa Gamma *Sigma State* grew because of her talents.



### **Alma Therese Link ~ 1961-1963**

The tenth president was Alma Therese Link. Under her constructive direction and the preparation by the preceding president, Esther Czerwonky, the state was ready to install several new chapters - five to be exact. A number of these were formed by dividing earlier chapters.

Alma's goals were akin with the purposes of the National Society. She visited every chapter during her biennium. Further contact with many members was made at state conventions in Marinette and Waukesha.

She served the state as editor of the newsletter for fifteen years. Continually she emphasized the purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma: to stimulate personal and professional growth of members and encourage their participation in programs of action, to advance the professional interests and position of women in education.

When writing *THE FOUNDERS OF SIGMA STATE* was planned, Alma was selected as the editor. In the foreword she wrote: "These simple portrayals were written to keep fresh the memories of the really great women educators who are our *Sigma State* Founders of Delta Kappa Gamma .... May you enjoy each phase of the book, may it serve for future reference and research, and may each be stimulated to live better lives and to become finer teachers as we understand more completely the trials and triumphs of our sixteen founders."

As we think about Alma we are impressed by her dedication to education. The leadership we knew carried over to other professional positions: president of Wisconsin Education Association 1965-66, editorship of the HANDBOOK for WISCONSIN TEACHERS 1954 and 1960, and presidency of the Oshkosh Education Association for five terms. Truly as was said of her, "Alma was always ready to do more than her share for the improvement of education." Alma was a member of Epsilon Chapter, Oshkosh.



**Florence Trainor ~ 1963-1965**

Florence Trainor became the eleventh president of *Sigma State* after having served as president of Beta Chapter in Kenosha.

She had an enthusiastic approach to the first year focus of "Changing Patterns of Our Culture" under the four year program plan of "New Dimensions - New Goals" set for 1963-1967 by the International Society. Under her leadership our goals were involvement in world fellowship, extension of the scholarship program, and the development of creative leadership among the



organization's members. On the international scene she promoted International scholarships, world fellowship, International Achievement Awards and International Honorary Member Awards.

During her presidency several new chapters were installed. She attended these ceremonies with pride as she did her attendance at conventions, workshops and conferences on the national scene. After her presidency she served several terms as state parliamentarian.

Florence grew up on a farm on Irish Ridge not far from the Wisconsin River in Grant County. She walked two miles to school and thus needed no other recreation. When she attended Fennimore High School she commuted on weekends via the narrow gauge railroad between Fennimore and Woodman.

Miss Trainor (the KENOSHA NEWS called her a real trainer) came from a family of teachers. Her mother, a teacher too, had five daughters, four of whom became elementary teachers. In May 1964, she retired after 41 years in the Kenosha Public School System, 31 of those years having been in first grade at the Columbus School. Also, for 21 years she taught a citizenship class at the vocational school. All her life she gave of herself to others.



**Mabel Jensema ~ 1965-1967**

Mabel Jensema became *Sigma State* president in the biennium of 1965-67, thus becoming the twelfth state president. During these years she gave unstintingly of her time and energy in promoting the growth of Delta Kappa Gamma in Wisconsin.

During her presidency the office of executive secretary was eliminated and replaced by a corresponding secretary and recording secretary. In order to better

serve the expanding of chapters in the state, Mabel initiated four sectional workshops in four areas of the state.

Mabel joined Epsilon Chapter at Oshkosh in 1954 and became its president in 1958 . When she moved to Sheboygan Falls she was active in Tau Chapter as vice president and president for two terms.

A native of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, Mabel attended Milwaukee Teachers College, and later received her B.A. degree from Oshkosh State Teachers College. She received her M.A. from the University of Wisconsin Madison.

Her teaching career is certainly varied. She began in the rural schools and moved on with her training to critic teacher, principal, and elementary supervisor. After her retirement she taught special education at Sheboygan Falls Lightfoot School.

Delta Kappa Gamma has always had a warm spot in Mabel's heart. She has given many years helping to make *Sigma State* progress. She enjoyed International Conventions and Regional Conferences where she developed a sense of trust of our organization and developed lasting friendships with other delegates.



**LaVon Wenger ~ 1967-1969**

LaVon Wenger was elected the thirteenth president of *Sigma State*. What had the members done? A society of women educators had, as their state leader, an ex-Marine, a fastball pitcher for a softball team, a church teacher, a mother and an educator. "What would happen to *Sigma State*?" "Things" did happen. Her executive board, administrative board, and committee chairpeople implemented the seven Purposes of the Society. The Society's business was conducted to the letter; the Program of Work theme was applied at local and state levels; Educational Services were also supported, and Ad Hoc committees information was relayed to the membership. Area leadership workshops were conducted throughout the state with Headquarters' staff in attendance as resource workers.

Scholarships at both the State and International level were strongly supported. Strong support was given to a number of foreign students.

From the time LaVon was initiated, she never once forgot her responsibilities as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International. Regardless of the task, she accepted. She served on local committees, as treasurer and as third president of Phi Chapter. International must have realized her capabilities, because following her state presidency, she served at the International level for six years.

Those who attended International Conventions and Northwest Regional Conferences remember her work as a participant on panels, in workshops, speaking or recording. She served on Leadership, Membership, Necrology, Program of Work and Travel and Study committees. She was the first Wisconsinite to be elected to International office, second vice-president under president Esther Strickland. She chaired the Ad Hoc Committee of the Golden Gift Fund. Her ground work made it become a reality. The electrifying luncheon address: What Now--- Women? given at the Omaha Regional and the "Visions of Glory" message at the regional breakfast in St. Louis are well remembered.

The culminating activity of her hard work in the Society was having the responsibility of chairing Dr. Janet Shelver's Northwest Regional in Madison, Wisconsin. Not a chapter in the state was left idle. It was a huge success in both spirit and finance.

She expressed her creed in living in the Visions of Glory speech: "So tomorrow may be a little less easy, a little less carefree than today...Life is not a series of troubles or woes, but there is, of course, trouble ahead for anyone who is leading a full life."



**A. Freda Carlson ~ 1969-1971**

A. Freda Carlson served *Sigma State* as the fourteenth president. The purposes of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society were likewise her own goals for *Sigma State*. As president she wrote the preface to the booklet, *THE FOUNDERS OF SIGMA STATE*, published in 1971 to celebrate our first thirty years.

Her devotion to Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is limitless. It has made her an honored and widely recognized member of the Society.

Her regular attendance at numerous conventions and conferences on the state and international level has made her many valuable friendships in all parts of the country.

She was a charter member of Xi Chapter when it was formed in 1950. Her first position was membership chairman, next, treasurer for nine years. In 1960, she was elected chapter president. After that biennium she was appointed state membership chairman serving for five years. While in the latter post she actively participated in the installation of the new chapters. Freda did serve on the International Membership Committee.

Freda's commitment to her profession is manifested in her membership in other organizations also. She was a member of Omicron Nu and Phi Upsilon Omicron, honorary societies in the home economics field. Due to her work and concern a local chapter was chartered.

During World War I, Freda was a volunteer worker for the American Red Cross, and she also served on the Junior Red Cross Board for thirty-five years. While a member of the Milwaukee College Women's Club she completed sixteen years as chairman of the Welfare Committee. She also served on the Welfare Committee of her church for twenty-five years. Longevity and steadfastness are characteristic of this lady.



### **Dora Hartenberger ~ 1971-1973**

Dora Hartenberger became the fifteenth president in 1971. Her first official duty was to attend the Northwest Regional Conference in Duluth, Minnesota. There she met regional and International officers and with twelve state and three Canadian province presidents helped to plan the Society's work.

The topic and plan of study for 1971-75 was introduced by Loretta Halleck as "Changing Times-Challenge or Dilemma." With this in mind Dora and her first vice-president, Margerite Wolfinger, listed the goals for dedicated women in *Sigma State*. Those goals included: to serve our country and our Society with faith and trust



to develop tolerance, to foster a habit of thinking of the needs of others, to learn to be flexible, and to learn how to effectively use our most important asset - our talented and intelligent membership.

Dora lists as one of the highlights of her biennium visiting the chapters and seeing how each individual chapter carried out the theme of work. Another highlight was visiting with two state founders, Rosalie Ganz and Ann Gray Wescott, who were no longer able to attend meetings. While in Bismarck she extended the invitation for Northwest Regional conference in Madison for July 1981.

One new chapter, Alphi Pi, was installed during her presidency and work on two more was started. The state conventions were held at Milwaukee and Kenosha.

There were two sad moments: Mrs. Loretta Halleck, International Program Director, and Florence Trainor, past *Sigma State* president and current state parliamentarian, passed away leaving a rich heritage for *Sigma State*.

Dora served Upsilon Chapter in Beloit as treasurer, vice-president, and president as well as directing several committees. She also chaired the Beloit State Convention in 1968.

Dora received her B.E. degree from Whitewater State Teachers College and her M.A. degree from Northwestern University. She held memberships in education associations at all levels and served as delegate to state and national meetings.



**Elsie M. Chell ~ 1973-1975**

Elsie Mildred Chell, a founder of *Sigma State*, was elected as the sixteenth president in 1973. During her biennium work was done on increasing the membership and making the organization better known.

Elsie visited each chapter in the state each year she served as president. It was decided to have the newsletter published four times a year. As a result the state meetings were better attended. Also she sent monthly letters to each chapter president to help them keep abreast of their activities. Many of these leaders were most grateful to Elsie for giving much needed direction.

Her meetings were memorable for starting on time and moving with efficiency.

She was initiated May 15, 1936, as a member of Tau State (Minnesota). She was at the time a supervising teacher in Polk County, Wisconsin, and very close to the Minnesota border. Elsie was selected as a founder of *Sigma State* because of her many accomplishments as an outstanding woman educator in northwestern Wisconsin.

Elsie earned her B.E. degree from Superior Teachers College and her M.A. from the University of Iowa. She also attended summer sessions at Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin and Greeley, Colorado.

Her teaching experience includes rural, state graded, junior high school, and college. Her contributions in her field include the changing of the rural program from 24 classes a day to 18. Also, she introduced the Correlated Unit method of teaching which reduced the number of classes and correlated the subject matter to make it more meaningful to the pupils.

She has served educational circles, community services, and her church by her involvement in a wealth of worthwhile activities. Since her retirement she has been elected to the county board. To all these she brings a vibrant enthusiasm. Elsie has been a member of Psi Chapter.



**Dr. Lorraine Missling ~ 1975-1977**

Dr. Lorraine Missling, Professor of Business at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, became the seventeenth president. She served as first vice-president the preceding biennium.

It was a very busy two years for Lorraine with her teaching at the university and traveling about the state meeting the key women teachers-members of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. She spoke to all but six chapters during her presidency. She also served on the International Professional Affairs Committee where she attended several meetings at the home office in Austin, Texas.

At this time she felt her commitment was to her students and could no longer serve at the International level.

Lorraine became active in the Society as a member of Xi Chapter in Milwaukee. She served as recording secretary and was elected *Sigma State* secretary. At this time she was chairman of the Business Education Department at Nicolet High School in Milwaukee. In 1965 she accepted her present position at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She transferred her membership to Kappa.

In 1968 Lorraine was named recipient of an International Delta Kappa Gamma scholarship and chose to attend the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks where she completed her doctoral degree.

Her contributions to *Sigma State* are numerous: two terms as scholarship chairman, parliamentarian at local and state level, and most recently chaired the committee for writing the new state by-laws.

Lorraine remembers vividly working with such "greats" as Freda Carlson and Esther Czerwonky when she first became a member. The enthusiasm of this lady is pervasive. Delta Kappa Gamma members are fortunate to have her as a member and leader.



### **Darleen McCormick ~ 1977-1979**

Darleen McCormick, “Miss Mac,” to hundreds of students at Madison Central High School, was the eighteenth president of *Sigma State*. “A Delta Kappa Gamma member never says ‘No’!” The gist of this saying did not begin with her, but it was her approach in making appointments or asking for help during her biennium. She believed strongly that all parts of the state, and as many chapters as possible, should be represented and involved on committees and in workshops. Darleen planned two fall workshops, held in Wausau, to assist presidents and program chairmen in formulating plans for their chapters.

Several members wished to publish some of their

aids for teaching but found printing difficult and cost prohibitive. Aid for them was discussed and in another year GAEP (Grants-in-Aid for Educational Publication) was born. Thanks to the dedication to the project by these women and the leaders of *Sigma State*, it is working.

Darleen was aware of the importance of scholarships to Delta Kappa Gamma women. She encouraged members to apply and that the committee would award increased amounts of available funds.

Participating in the plans for the Northwest Regional Conference to be held at The Inn on the Park, Madison, was high on her agenda after her presidency. Even though she did not live to participate in the actual event her cross-stitch design of our Greek letters for the Wisconsin Night gift was carried out by members throughout the state. She was there.

During her presidency she regretfully accepted the resignation of our treasurer of 23 years, Daisy Acker, who chose to be less involved but always available with her unlimited knowledge.

Darleen had many friends in Alpha Chapter but, since at that time it had nearly 100 members, it was decided Madison should have another chapter. Phi was established with Darleen as its first president. Later she served or chaired committees on the local and state level. She also was elected state corresponding secretary and second vice-president before her presidency.

Music was both her vocation and avocation. She had degrees from Milwaukee State Teachers College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Having choral students achieve a beautiful sound was her reward.





**Deloris Britt ~ 1979-1981**

Deloris Britt became our nineteenth president in 1979. As such she directed two state conventions, one at Milwaukee and the other at Fond du Lac. The Northwest Regional Conference was held at Madison in 1981 with LaVon Wenger as General Chairman. Deloris was coordinator for the Leadership Development Conference for state presidents during the two days preceding the meeting.

At an Executive Board meeting on September 13, 1980, the GAEP Fund was approved. This had been under discussion at both state and international levels for a couple of years. Mini Benson, Louise Linn, and Helen Strang had made the original plan and stood ready to



build up the funds. A great idea was on its way, thanks to the dedicated work of a few.

Participation and leadership are the key words in Deloris's membership in any organization of which she is a member. This is especially true of her association with Delta Kappa Gamma. This desire for participation was a goal she wished to inspire with other members. Become informed, participate and you have made a contribution.

Delta Kappa Gamma claimed Deloris as a 1962 member of DKG and found her to be an enthusiastic worker. She attended state and international conventions and regional conferences. Here was learning and participating. She was Theta president from 1966-68 and a member of the International Travel-Study committee for two years, 1974-76.

In 1982, she became a member of the International Leadership Committee and took part in the 1984 Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar in Champaign, Illinois.

*Sigma State* is very proud of Deloris as she is the first of our members to be elected Northwest Regional Director. The conference in Portland, Oregon, in July of 1985, was her responsibility. It was a great meeting and our members, thanks to Deloris, got to participate in a very real sense.

Deloris was raised on a farm and has worked all her life in our state. As a teacher she taught English and reading for thirteen years. Twenty years were spent as a media specialist in La Crosse. She has acquired two master degrees along the way. Also she has been actively involved in educational groups, including WEA and NEA.



**June Steward ~ 1981-1983**

Serving as the twentieth president, June Steward set as her major goals, (1) to help members learn more about Delta Kappa Gamma, (2) to encourage members to become involved in its impressive programs and projects, and (3) to take pride in what Delta Kappa Gamma was doing to improve educational opportunities for women all over the world. In order to accomplish these goals, several activities were developed.

In 1982, the GAEP committee had its first of three annual raffles to raise money for its special project: awards for publication of educational materials written by *Sigma State* members.

Two extra sets of slides and tapes were made by the Scholarship committee to encourage more members to

take advantage of the monies available through our state organization.

In order to get more members involved in Delta Kappa Gamma activities on the International level, June organized a bus tour (with the help of the state corresponding secretary, Cheryl Kuschel) to the 1983 Northwest Regional Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Memories of the tour still bring joy to the 23 members who took the trip. They helped bring the total of Wisconsinites in attendance to a record 48.

Probably the most satisfying event during June's term as president was to help organize two new chapters, Alpha Chi and Alpha Psi.

Her service to this organization began when she was initiated into Chi Chapter as a charter member in 1961. She deserves two gold stars to attest to her perfect attendance at chapter and state meetings.

Her service record is lengthy, chairman of several committees, vice-president, (first and second) and president of Chi. On the state level she served as second vice-president and state convention chairman. She also has been chairman of the Policy, Nominations, Professional Affairs, and Personal Growth and Services Committees. Recently she was member of the state by-laws committee.

June has been active on the International level as well, serving on the 1984 Elections committee, and at present on the International Membership committee. Besides giving of her many talents, she has time for family, many help organizations, her art and poetry. Quite a lady.



**Gloria Barclay ~ 1983-1985**

Our immediate past president is Gloria Barclay. She was a 1962 initiate of Theta Chapter and later transferred to Alpha Delta when she moved to Hartland to serve as media coordinator in Arrowhead High School. She was reputed to be the first Wisconsin librarian to digitize her library.

Gloria's approach to the presidency of *Sigma State* was to reason out alternatives, determine a course of action, and proceed. She did this with dash and alacrity. She chose **WE CAN** as the theme for the 1984 convention at Beloit: **Women Educators: Capable, Articulate, Necessary.**

Three area workshops were held in the spring for new presidents, treasurers, and any interested committee members. They were great for new officers to become familiar with their responsibilities. The exchange of ideas was exciting. A new state constitution was written and adopted.

A legislative committee was appointed by her to work with chapters to become alert to legislative and political issues that involve any aspect of school policy, or more specifically, women in education.

The writing contest began during her biennium. Sixty winning entries from 28 chapters were submitted by third, fifth, and seventh graders in 1985. The contest for 1986 has been extended to include grades three through seven.

Gloria from the first day of her biennium stressed the importance of communication, meeting with others, extending the hand of friendship, and listening as others speak. As she pointed out in one of her *Sigma State* newsletters, "The opportunities of friendship and support that our sisterhood provides are waiting for each of us when we open ourselves to them .... Communication is a way for us to remain receptive to each other and perceptive to each other's needs. Good communication leaves no one out."



**Irene Schroeder ~ 1985-1987**

Our current president is Irene Schroeder. If you have attended a state convention or conference, you have seen her selling her artistic rosemaling articles. At those functions a percent of each sale was given to the scholarship fund. A great contribution, you say! That is only the beginning! She thrives on projects for raising money to help others. In Alpha Chapter she has sponsored many good will programs during her four years as president.

When asked for goals for Delta Kappa Gamma during her biennium, she listed eighteen. A big order! Not for this lady! She has expertise, stamina, and an organized mind.

Space does not permit listing all of them, major ones are:

- 1- Bring number of chapters to 50 in this our Golden Year.
- 2- Expand the writing project.
- 3- Develop more unity among the chapters.
- 4- Encourage members to have a more active role-accept responsibilities for projects or programs. If a person joins she should be a working part of the organization.
- 5- Each chapter should have money making projects to assist members to attend special workshops, or summer sessions.
- 6- Seek out potential candidates for state scholarships and encourage them to apply.
- 7- Members need to become acquainted with current issues in education.
- 8- Chapters should give some money to community needs. It may give us some much needed publicity.
- 9- International gives help and direction to the major committees. All these ideas should be shared.
- 10- Monies in chapter treasuries should be spent for the good of the organization-now. Send the treasurer or program chairman, besides the president, to State and International meetings. This is a service organization.
- 11- All members should become acquainted with the constitution, both state and international, and the policies of both.

And there are other equally inspiring and desirable goals. As she says we are Key Women Teachers; we should be a focal point for inspiration and execution.

Irene recently retired from the Madison School System and now divides her time between homemaking, grandmothereing, visiting chapters, contributing to her church organization, rosemaking, craftmaking - are you breathless? There are even more activities, but enough for now. She is one busy lady!





## COLLECT

God of all ages past, Father of all, we of *Sigma State* pause at this our 50th Anniversary Year, for retrospection and contemplation. May it be for us a time of humble, searching introspection.

We thank thee for the sturdy founders of DELTA KAPPA GAMMA, the presidents that have served *Sigma State*, and those who followed in their paths, who with undaunted courage laid for our beloved Society such an enviable foundation upon which to build and to endure.

As you, the all-powerful and all-kind God, have promised to give what we ask for:

For the coming years, give us a greater love, a stronger faith, and a firmer hope for meeting the goals of DELTA KAPPA GAMMA.

Give us the good judgment and strength we need to live as we should each day with ourselves and with our fellowmen.

Give us the greatness of heart that will keep us from prejudice and hate and ingratitude.

Give us health. For our families and friends and all men, grant peace.

All this we ask with grateful hearts.

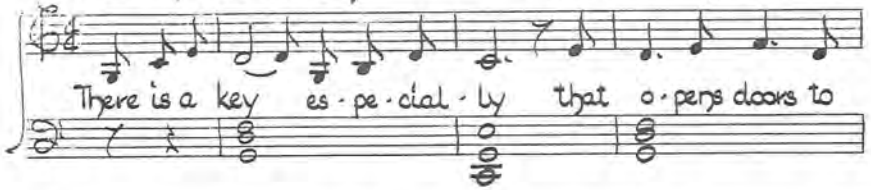
Amen.

*Irene Newman, Alpha Chapter*

# OUR GOLDEN KEY

• Florence Emerich (Omicron)

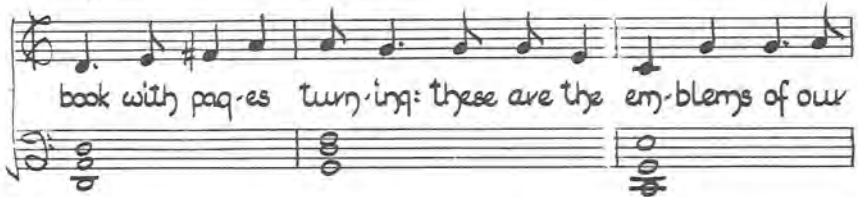
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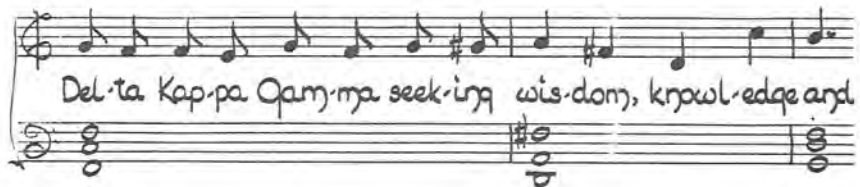
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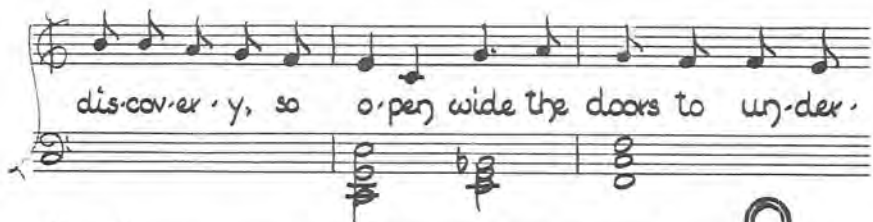
book with pag-es turn-ing; these are the em-blems of our



Del-ta Kap-pa Om-i-ga seek-ing wis-dom, knowl-edge and



dis-cov-er-y, so o-pen wide the doors to un-der-



-stand-ing with our Gold-en Key.







Δελτα

Γαμμα

Καππα