

**BUILDERS
OF
SIGMA STATE**

PART II

1987 – 2007

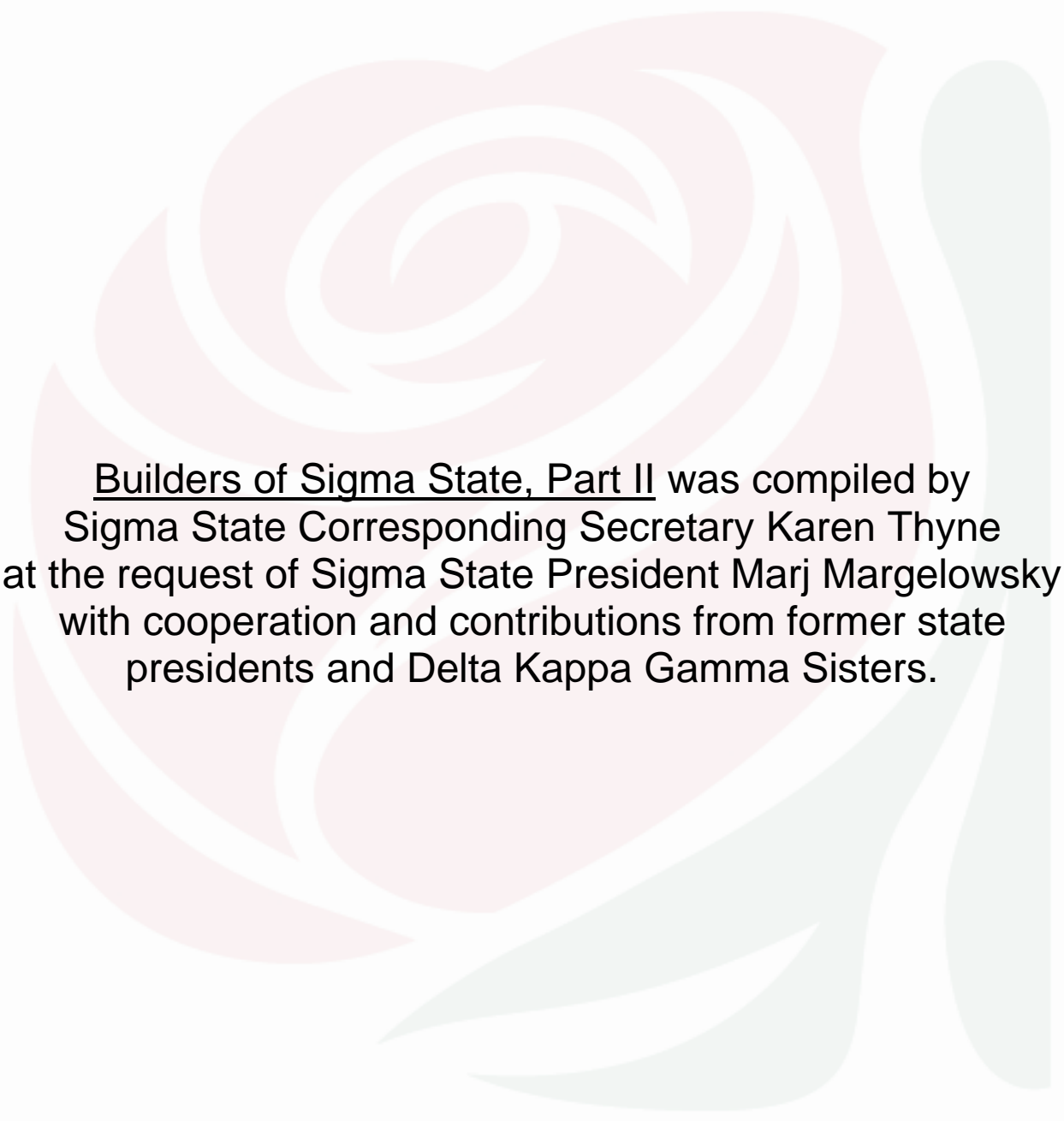


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Builders of Sigma State, Part II was compiled by Sigma State Corresponding Secretary Karen Thyne at the request of Sigma State President Marj Margelowsky with cooperation and contributions from former state presidents and Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters.

BUILDERS OF SIGMA STATE, PART II

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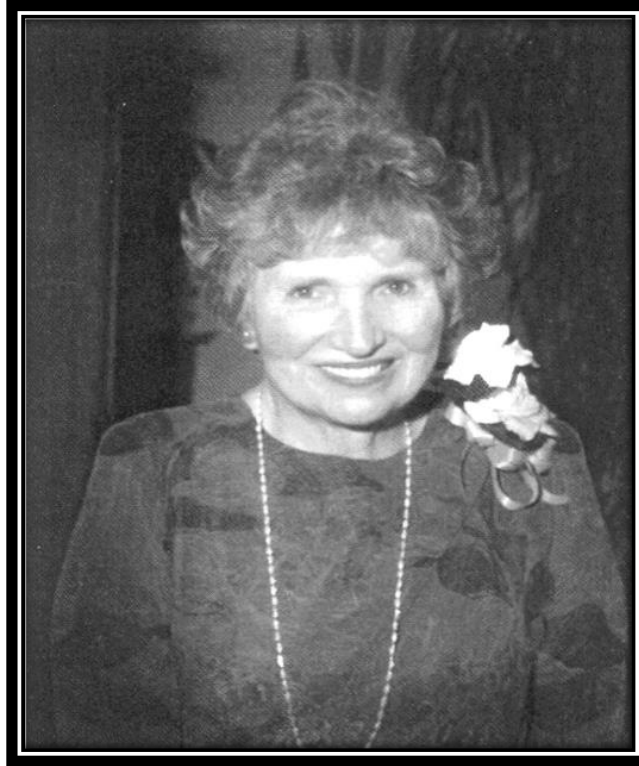
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Delta Kappa Gamma Song

Women teachers, to the calling
Firmly rally, never falling
Duty ne-er upon us palling,
Staunch, courageous we!
Loyalty and trust e'er heeding,
Mindful of our sisters needing,
Aid and guidance from those leading,
Helpful may we be!
To Delta Kappa Gamma
Faith we pledge forever!
Hand in hand our loyal band,
Forward moving ever!
Onward! 'tis our sisters need us,
Courage, Faith and Honor lead us!
Wrongs in truth and justice heed us!
Firmly shall we stand!

Guardians of the faith yet sleeping
For our sisters watch e'er keeping.
Deeds of others now we're reaping,
We for others stand!
To us pioneers have given;
We return their gifts to Heaven;
Work for others is the leaven
That inspires our band!
Oh, Delta Kappa Gamma
In thy fold we gather!
Unity and Liberty,
Shall be our watch words ever!
Education e'er we'll further;
Each is bound to each as brother;
With this faith in one another
We shall win, for aye!

- Annie Webb Blanton and Cora M. Martin



LOUISE LINN

1987 - 1989

Prior to serving as the twenty-third Sigma State president, Louise Linn was Sigma State first vice president and chair of the Research and Program Committee.

Louise served as Chi chapter president and dedicated time and service to various chapter offices and committees. She was a loyal member and friend, known to many as a lovely, gracious, talented, and endearing lady.

At the state level, Louise was a co-originator of the GAEP (Grants in Aid for Educational Publication) Award with Mini Benson and Helen Streng. GAEP Awards continue to assist Sigma State authors in the publication of their projects.

In addition to being a co-originator of GAEP, Louise and two

other sisters raised funds to start a Creative Arts Retreat for Sigma State members. This project continues to draw Delta Kappa Gamma members to an entertaining and enjoyable weekend of creative, fun activities.

She attended state, regional, and international conventions and also served on an international committee. Throughout her term in office, Louise continued to inspire and encourage fellow sisters to contribute to Delta Kappa Gamma as a dedicated member and willingly serve Sigma State as an officer and/or committee member.

Louise believed in two things in life ... the value of family and the value of an education. She spent her life nurturing both. As the mother of four children, she encouraged them to strive to obtain all the education they could. Her degree in Home Economics from the University of Illinois was later followed with a master's degree from Northeastern Illinois State College. Louise was certified as a school psychologist in the Northern Ozaukee School District and later the Port Washington District.

In retirement, Louise developed a program for the old Stony Hill School historic site in Waubeka. It included a history of Flag Day, which began at the school, and a day of old-time lessons for modern-day students. She was named curator of the Cedar Community Heritage House, and helped turn an empty, old farmhouse into an historic site.



MARIAN MIEDEN

1989 - 1991

An innovative leader with a keen sense of humor and spontaneous energy and drive describes our twenty-fourth Sigma State president. She has high expectations for everyone and does everything with joyful enthusiasm!

Goals and accomplishments during her biennium were:

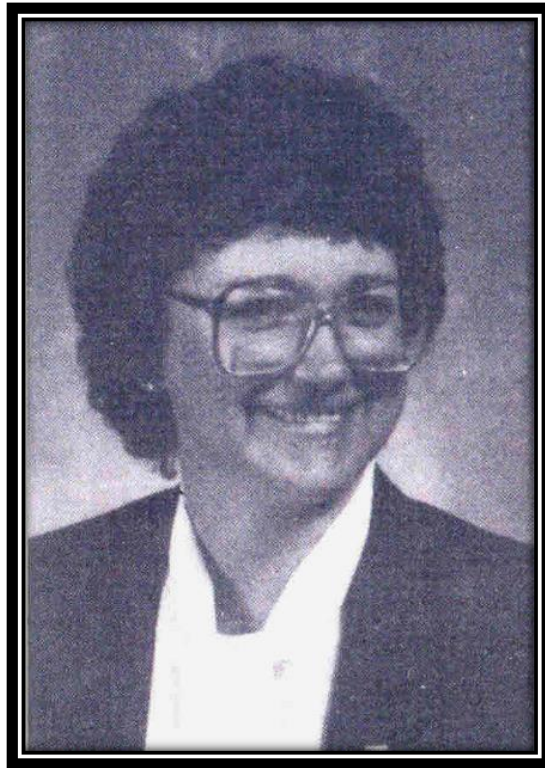
1. Visit all forty-eight chapters and to encourage Thinking for the Twenty-First Century.
2. Choose a committee to write a Long-Range Plan.
3. Have the Long-Range Plan approved by members.
4. Work with the Program of Work Committee and U.S. Forum Liaison to develop a Sigma State service project.
5. Help chapters set such a project into action at the grass roots level.

President Mieden's goals resulted in the formation of the Advisory Council for Action Implementation. It continues to play a vital role in the Action Grants awarded to chapters committed to education, women, and children in the area.

Marian served in numerous offices at the chapter level, twice as chapter president. For Sigma State, she served as chair of several committees, second vice president and then as first vice president prior to succeeding to the highest office as state president. She also served on the International Membership Committee from 1992-1994.

Honors and accomplishments are impressive, numerous, and varied...testaments to Marian's ability and drive to affect and lead others. They are: Honor Ten, UW-M 1949; Kappa Delta Pi 1949; Outstanding Leader in Elementary and Secondary Education in the Nation 1976; Delta Kappa Gamma's \$1,000 scholarship (study in Britain's First School; Fulbright Exchange Teacher to United Kingdom 1985-86; Outstanding Educator of the Young Child by Great Rivers Association 1987; Outstanding Woman Educator Award by La Crosse Area YWCA 1987; Dr. Lorraine Missling State Achievement Award 1998; and Onalaska's Woman of Achievement 2005.

Marian served as moderator for her church, presented professional workshops/in-services, and is active in community affairs on committees and boards. Her husband Loyd attended state conventions and did a remarkable job of creating Marian's wardrobe! Their two sons have met the high expectations of a most energetic and impressive woman!



JAN HARDESTY

1991 – 1992

Dr. Jan Hardesty began her leadership role in 1978 when she became a member of Gamma Chapter and served on many chapter committees prior to serving as its president. She was an active participant in a number of professional and community programs focused on social issues of the period.

Dr. Hardesty used innovative practices to attract new members by shortening meetings by sending out monthly newsletters that addressed issues that were resolved without introduction at meetings, and implemented a rotation system of meeting days, making it more convenient for members to attend.

Her professional experience includes science teacher for

six years; assistant principal, Wisconsin Rapids for ten years; superintendent of schools, Barneveld for three years, and superintendent of schools at Little Chute.

In 1986, Dr. Hardesty attended the Leadership Management Seminar as a Golden Gift Fund recipient. Meeting members who shared her educational goals made the seminar more meaningful, and she is thankful to those who contributed to the Golden Gift Fund for the opportunity.

The following year, Dr. Hardesty accepted the position at Barneveld and transferred her membership to Alpha Chapter. She reported: "Work keeps me busy, juggling time and paperwork, but it is one of the biggest thrills of my life." She hoped to sharpen her skills and become even more effective as an educator.

At Sigma State she served as first vice president, recording secretary, and chairman of the Finance and Membership Committees. Becoming so immersed in the totality of the Society made her more aware of her possible contributions as a member. She has also attended regional, state, and international conventions.

She currently lives in Little Chute with her husband and two sons. Dr. Hardesty continues to be active in many community and business organizations.



VIOLA SHEPPARD

1992 - 1995

Viola Sheppard, affectionately known as “Ole” by her Sigma State sisters, dedicated three years of service as president of Sigma State. “It takes a whole village to educate a child” was the theme she selected for her term.

“Ole” served as chapter president for three terms and devoted time and energy on various chapter committees. As chapter president, she provided excellent leadership, experience, and a solid base on which to lead Sigma State.

President Sheppard’s major goals were to keep frequent contact with chapters in the state through monthly letters and visiting almost every chapter during her term. She also began the Creative Arts Retreat with former State President Louise Linn. Another prominent contribution was serving on the

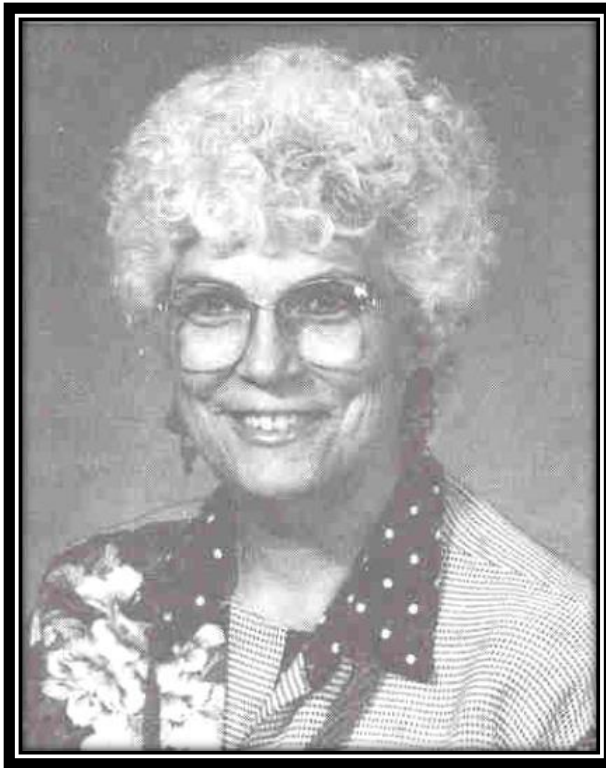
committee that created the Sigma State Foundation.

The Dr. Lorraine Missling Sigma State Achievement Award was bestowed on a much-surprised and grateful “Ole,” who devoted countless hours of time and service to a group she was chosen to lead. She also received the Wisconsin Association of Foreign Language Teachers Award and was recognized for starting the first Spanish Weekend at Green Lake in 1978.

She enjoyed working with many friends in Delta Kappa Gamma. She continues to value and enjoy those friendships. Time spent with family, which includes fourteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren, is high on her list of priorities.

“Ole” proudly revealed being a Republican since childhood and was active in election campaigns. The thrill of her life was when she was selected to be one of the greeters when President Bush visited Oshkosh in October 2004. She not only shook hands with President and Mrs. Bush, but he gave her a hug and a kiss on the forehead.

Over the years, she has enjoyed writing letters-to-the editor and is adamantly opposed to those who denigrate our country and deny its Christian heritage. We are fortunate to have had her involvement and leadership in Delta Kappa Gamma. Picture a pert, gracious, lady with a trove of lovely hats, always with a friendly smile greeting sisters at Delta Kappa Gamma events, and you have our dear “Ole.”



CHARLOTTE MYHERS

1995 - 1997

Charlotte Myhers was honored and humbled to be the twenty-seventh president of Sigma State. The “Weaving a Daring Dream of Action” theme for her biennium continued implementation of Sigma State’s Long-Range Plan, presently entitled Action Implementation.

Goals and accomplishments for her biennium:

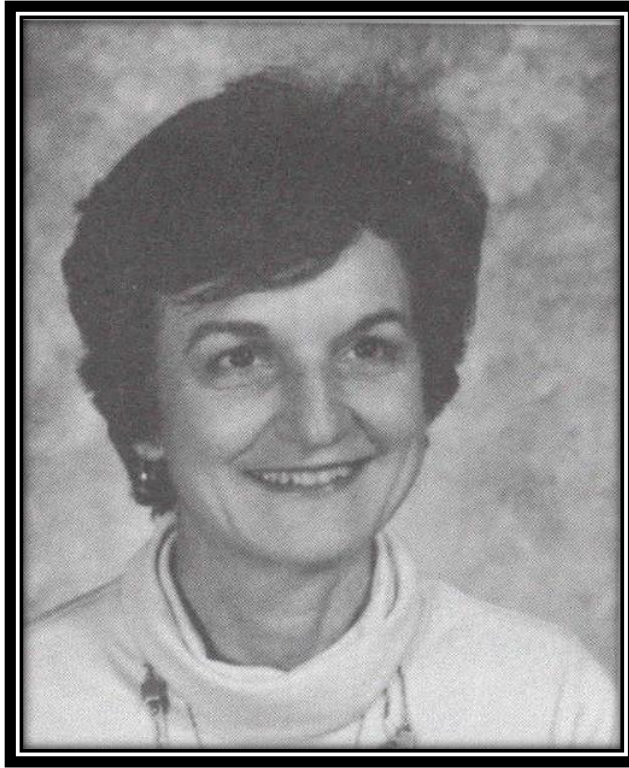
1. **Membership**– Chapters to increase membership by 25% by year 2000.
2. **Program of Work**– State regional plan approved. Forty-eight chapters created 12” quilt squares for regional banners displayed at state conventions.
3. **Communications**– Each chapter encouraged to add unique information to a state-produced video promoting Sigma State.

4. **Professional Development**– Assisted and encouraged chapters to seek and work with like-minded service organizations in their communities.
5. **Implementation of Regional Meetings**– Communicated state and international business with several chapters in one trip.
6. **1996 Changing of the Guard**– Conducted via video-teleconference with new technology paid for by independent telephone companies.
7. **“Resource Directory of Sigma State”**– Initial publication to boost chapter program development.
8. **Ad-Hoc Committees**– Job description for executive secretary; study of computer usage to network chapters, state leaders, and service organizations; create Sigma State Foundation; and provide more opportunities to attend state and international meetings.

Char was initiated and very active in the Alpha Kappa Chapter. She served on state committees as member and chair, was elected to state offices, and attended Northwest regional conferences and international conventions.

She was honored to be a public school educator for thirty-four years and was celebrated with the Herb Kohl Teacher of the Year Award. She served as a Sunday School teacher with Bethel Series training. She cherished visits with DKG sisters and concluded with this thought: “May the loving finger of God touch your heart and leave a print that can never be erased!”

Char and husband Ron summer in Wisconsin and winter in Arizona. They are very proud parents of two grown children who are successful professionals.



LORETTA CULLMANN

1997 – 1999

Loretta Cullmann served as the twenty-eighth Sigma State president, one whose biennium was the last of the twentieth century. Prior to assuming the leadership, she served as second vice president.

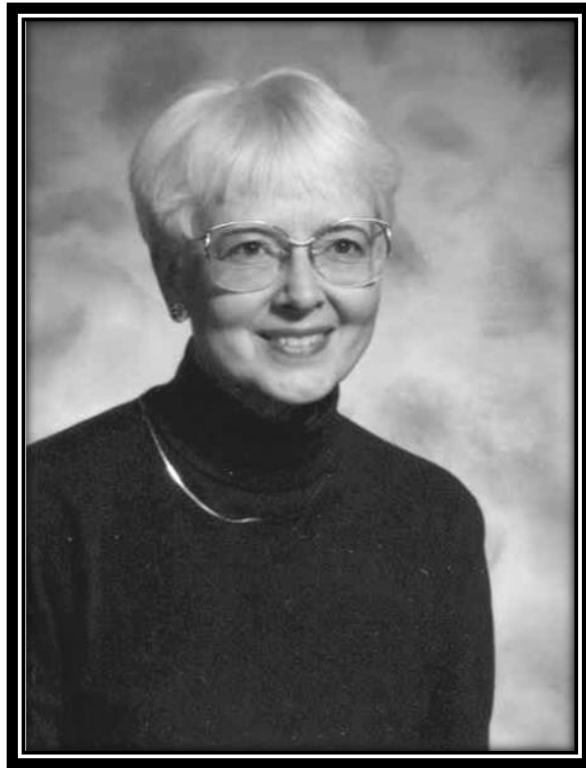
Loretta became a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (Chi Chapter) in 1983. She served as chapter president for two terms and was involved in many other chapter positions. At the state level, she served on GAEP, Scholarship, and Nominations committees. Her longest term of service was in revising “Sigma State Long Range Plan of Action” and then “Action Grants.” She also conducted leadership training throughout the state.

After serving as Sigma State President, Loretta remained

active in the leadership role and willingly dedicated time and service at the international level. She attended the 2001 Leadership Management Seminar for two weeks in Austin, Texas as a Golden Gift recipient. She also served on two International Committees: Personal Growth & Services (2000 – 2001) and Professional Affairs (2002 – 2004). We were very fortunate to have Loretta represent, not only herself, but Sigma State as well.

Loretta grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and received her bachelor's degree from Kent State University. She completed her master's degree and took additional classes when she moved to Wisconsin. Her teaching career began at John Glenn School in Seven Hills, Ohio. That was followed with her long teaching career in Cedarburg in grades fourth, fifth, and eighth.

“We Create Tomorrows – Learning, Educating, Leading” was the theme for Loretta's biennium. She has definitely remained true to it by being actively involved with Sigma State and Chi Chapter, and always willing to be of service to fellow sisters.



PATRICIA J. POPPLE

1999 - 2001

Under the leadership of President Pat Popple, Sigma State entered the twenty-first century. “The Spirit of the New Millennium: Creating Lifelong Learners through Leadership” was the theme of her biennium.

Pat led Kappa Chapter as president for two terms and served and chaired several chapter and state committees. She was also Sigma State first vice president prior to assuming the duties as the twenty-ninth Sigma State president.

Her accomplishments were numerous and impressive. She collaborated with the Long-Range Strategic planners to put the executive secretary position in place. She worked to implement Sigma State Foundation strategies and secure funding; appointed a task force to study long range plans for equipment;

appointed a committee to study feasibility of a state web site; improved communications utilizing new technologies and networking with other chapters; assigned state committee chairs to contribute to the state newsletter for updating members; strived to study budget procedures; and suggested considering creative financing for convention/workshop/committee expenses.

Pat focused on membership: to gain, retain, and reclaim members; to encourage mentoring of and by members; to provide incentive grants for conventions; to work at grass roots level with action grants; and to network with other organizations in the community and state. She encouraged members to be knowledgeable of current educational legislation and issues at the national, state, and local levels. Finally, actions were put into motion to tap talents and recognize achievements of each member, research and model meaningful alternatives of learning, and continue biennial leadership training for state officers.

She was honored to serve on the International Golden Gift Fund Committee and attended the Leadership Management Seminar in Waco, Texas in 1981. In 1991, she received the Dr. Lorraine Missling Sigma State Achievement Award.

After an extremely rewarding career, Pat retired in 1998 after thirty-seven years in educational work. This knowledgeable, hardworking, compassionate leader worked for thirty-one of those years in school administration as elementary principal, middle school principal, and assistant district superintendent in Rice Lake, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire School Districts.



ANNA PITZO

2001 – 2003

Anna L. Pitzo became Sigma State president in 2001 after serving as first vice president and recording secretary. She was also a member of the Sigma State Foundation and chaired the Standing Rules Committee. It was her pleasure to serve on the committee for the Northwest Regional Conference held 2005 in Milwaukee.

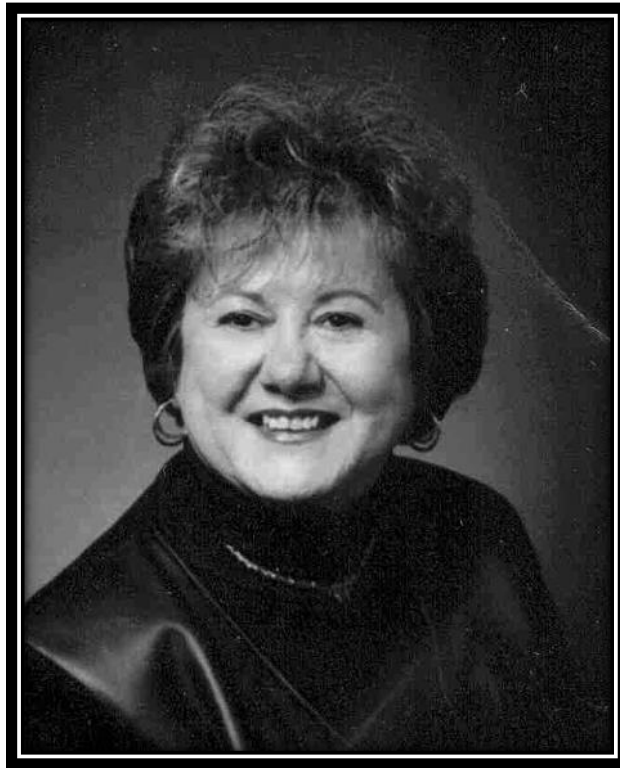
Anna traveled throughout the state visiting chapters and emphasizing her goals: chapters **COLLABORATE** with each other to focus on strategies to implement and strengthen the purposes of the Society, **COMMUNICATE** those ideas to each other, as well as those in the field of education, and **COMMIT** themselves to fulfilling goals from the strategies that would continue to make the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International a visible and viable force in the field of education.

During Anna's biennium emphasis on good nutrition began with programs prepared by the U.S. Forum Committee. The initiative raised the awareness of the connection between good nutrition and learning; a nationwide awareness resulting in legislation to improve nutrition in schools.

Anna was initiated into Alpha Alpha Chapter in 1982 and served as chapter president in 1988 and 1994. She also served in other elected positions and served on many committees, including the committee which organized the 1990 and 2002 Sigma State Convention. At present, she serves as editor of Alpha Alpha's quarterly newsletter.

Educated in Western New York State, Anna came to Wisconsin in 1959 after her marriage to Edward Pitzo. She taught in the Shorewood and Whitefish Bay school systems and retired in 1993. Anna continues to remain active with demonstrations and workshops conducted at area schools, at the Holiday Folk Fair, and at Student Culture Days she initiated at the Italian Community Center. These activities led to her being named Italian of the Year in 2004 by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. She received the Star Award from Milwaukee Ladies of UNICO in 2001 for service to the community and organization. In 1999, the Italian Folk Art Federation of America bestowed on Anna the award for outstanding contributions to the Italian community.

Community activities continue to be a big part of Anna's life ... and when these activities help to provide scholarships and assistance to women educators, a key purpose of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, they are truly rewarding.



MARLENE VERKUILEN

2003 - 2005

“Dare to Dream, to Believe, to Achieve” was the theme of Marlene Verkuilen who was honored to serve as Sigma State’s thirty-first president. She led the state with enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

The goals for her biennium were to study the feasibility of restructuring regional boundaries making regional gatherings more user-friendly, to update the Sigma State web site and share access to relevant information, to continue to support Sigma State Foundation, and to provide leadership development opportunities via workshop and convention formats. Additional goals were to encourage chapters to invite legislators to meetings to interact on key issues, to recognize various achievements of Sigma State members, and to send letters and cards to members celebrating special occasions, as

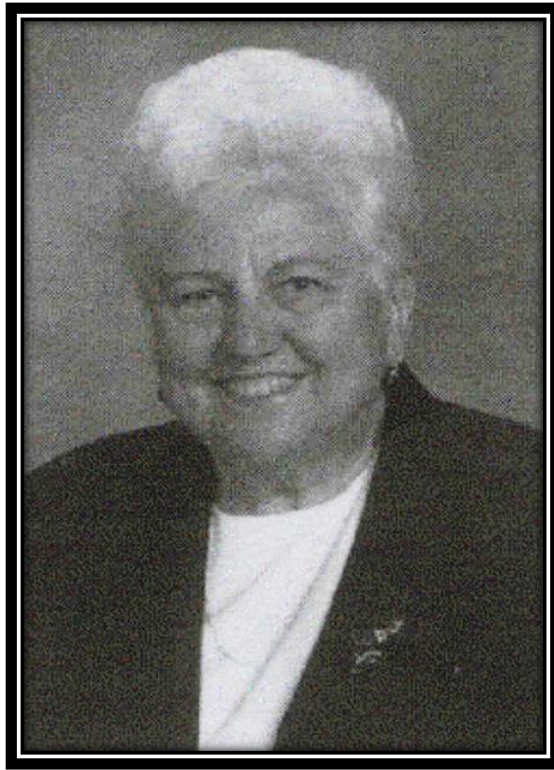
well as achievements in the field of education.

As a member of Omicron Chapter, Marlene served in practically every capacity as well as serving on chapter committees as a member and/or chair. She used her great organizational skills to co-chair two Sigma State conventions.

Prior to assuming the office of Sigma State President, she served as first vice president, second vice president, and corresponding secretary. Marlene also served as a member and chair of numerous state committees. She was on the Advisory Council for Action Implementation and presently serves on the Sigma State Foundation Board of Directors. It was her pleasure to serve on the Executive Committee at the international level.

Marlene served on many levels and capacities for educational, civic, and church groups, presented at workshops, and co-chaired the Summer Academy for Gifted/Talented Students in Fox Valley. She was awarded a Sigma State scholarship, the State of Wisconsin Outstanding Gifted/Talented Coordinator Award and was named Teacher of the Year. She also co-wrote the Kaukauna Gifted/Talented Program.

In her words, "Delta Kappa Gamma is a wonderful organization which encourages women to spread their wings and take a leadership role in bettering the status of women educators throughout the world. The more involved we become in this society, the more friendships we acquire. We try to hone our leadership skills and challenge one another to continue to improve the learning opportunities for our Sisters!"



MARJORIE MARGELOWSKY

2005 - 2007

Marjorie Margelowsky served as the thirty-second Sigma State president. She selected a powerful theme for her biennium: “WE CAN! Women Educators: Caring, Articulate, Necessary.”

In 1971, Marj was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma, and became chapter president in 1975. Following her service as chapter president, she served on many committees at the state level. In 1979 - 1981, Marj was second vice president with Deloris Britt as state president. She continued serving Sigma State as state treasurer for seven years. Since her chapter presidency, she attended all state conventions and workshops, and chaired the state convention in Menomonie. Her legacy of service to Delta Kappa Gamma included attendance at Northwest regional conferences and international conventions

and serving on the committee to plan the Northwest Regional in Madison in 1981. Marj was state president when the Northwest Regional was held in Milwaukee in 2005. Traveling to San Diego was a special trip for her as part of the International Board of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Marj is very thankful to have been invited to join Alpha Xi chapter, and the friends and mentors have been most rewarding. It led her in a direction to do things she never would have had a chance to do. Visiting chapters throughout the state has been a very special part of her job. She met former treasurers and chapter members she had the pleasure of working with at the state level. In 1996, Marj was the recipient of the Dr. Lorraine Missling Sigma State Achievement Award, a well-deserved award after twenty-five years of continuous, dedicated service to Sigma State.

A kind, caring, and thoughtful lady, Marj was raised on a farm and attended a one-room school. After raising her family, she taught grades three through six for twenty-two years. She continues to sub after her retirement from teaching. An active church volunteer and in her community, she has served as president of many groups over the years.

Alone since her husband passed away in 1994, Marj continues to take the leadership role in her family of two sons, three grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters. Travels take her to Florida, Colorado, Nebraska, and Washington.

Note: It is due to Marj's foresight that Part II was created to preserve the presidential history of Sigma State.