

E-Violets
Denver Area Alumnae Chapter
Sigma Sigma Sigma
May 2009

FOUNDERS DAY REVISITED

The luncheon celebration of the 111th birthday of our sorority, held on May 2, at the Denver Marriott West, was a lovely occasion. Fifty-nine members and guests attended. The unusual date was due to the heavy spring snow on April 18 and the resulting cancellation but everyone agreed it was well worth the wait.

A big thank you goes to Jackie Goreham, Terri Dimond and Carol Jordan who planned the luncheon and handled most of the details. Jackie worked with the Marriott on the date of the event and then the need to change it, menu selection etc. Terri collected the reservations money, no easy task as the postponement caused several members to need to trade or exchange funds. Carol made the delightful table decorations and nametags. Her huge, time intensive, homemade cookies, one for each of us to take, on very long sticks, were arranged as bouquets of lollipops tied with purple ribbons. They were displayed in glass vases full of jellybeans, which made each table a festive and colorful sight.

We appreciated the Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter printing the lovely lavender programs and sending them to us. They were unable to attend on May 2.

Toastmistress, Carolyn Wallisch, welcomed everyone and introduced our special mother and daughter guests. We were honored to have Stacey Slaughter, Delta Zeta and President of Denver Area Panhellenic, join us.

Scrumptious salads, Denver West Chicken Cobb or Parmesan Encrusted Salmon Cesar, bakery fresh rolls, beverages and desserts of Snicker Bar Pie or White Chocolate Raspberry Mousse were served as we enjoyed conversation. Having time to finish our desserts before the program started was definitely a nice touch.

Carolyn opened the program with the awards presentations. She began with the announcement of the two Alumnae Recognition Award winners, members who have been active in the chapter at least five years – Pauline Stewart and Lynn Harrington have been devoted members for many years. The Golden Violet was presented to Carol Jordan for fifty years of active membership. Nominees for Denver Area Panhellenic Woman of the Year and Alumna Achievement Award, Louise Jordan and Joanne Detary, respectively, were recognized for sorority and community service. All received a lovely nose gay bouquet of petite purple flowers. Congratulations ladies.

The theme for this year's program was *Remembering Our Purpose*. Five sisters described Tri Sigma's purpose, each with her own interpretation, spoken from the heart: Pat King, Wisdom; Sheryl Dahm, Faith; Katie Halfman, Power; Deb Wilcox, Hope; Sydney Pollock, Love. The inspiring messages were indeed a chance to Remember Our Purpose.

Our own Katie Scherping, National Foundation Board Member, spoke on the importance of the educational scholarships available to our members, specifically addressing the Lori Dahm Scholarship in which Katie and all of us have a personal interest. She told us of the generosity of our members who have contributed to it in the past and the hope we would make the scholarship fully funded in the near future.

Founders Day gifts to the Lori Dahm Scholarship were very generous. Donations and pledges of \$7,552 were made, leaving only \$4000 to fully endow the scholarship. This is a remarkable fete for our chapter and one that we, and the Dahm family, are very proud.

MAY MEETING IN REVIEW

The May 11, 2009, meeting at 6:00 p.m. was held at the home of Terri Dimond in Louisville. Terri, Videll Nordmark and Kathie Osborne were hostesses for the light supper of taste bud-tingling spring-wraps/hors d'oeuvres, several choices of cheese and crackers and a variety of fancy cheesecakes.

As we finished our coffee, President, Carolyn Wallisch, opened the meeting by welcoming five Eta Pi members who would receive the Arc Degree later in the evening: Erica Munguia, Sydney Pollock, Erica Poggenpohl, MacKenzie Lintz and Stephanie Bullen. Kelsey Jones, who recently moved to the Denver area, was also welcomed.

Treasurer, Sheryl Dahm, called the roll with 23 members present and proudly told of the \$558 raised for Children's Hospital through the Supper Solutions benefit and donations. The Sigma Boutique, a traveling shop of lovely purple and violet items Sigmas love to buy, collected \$105 for Eta Pi. Sheryl was especially pleased to personally thank everyone for the loving contributions to the Foundation and the Lori Dahm Scholarship.

Secretary, Pro Tem, Joanne Detary, read a note from Mandy Chocheles, Alumnae Vice President, congratulating our chapter on recruiting the most members this year. Carolyn said that number is 22. Katie Halfman was given a big thank you for her expertise at recruiting. Proximity to Eta Pi helps too.

Terri Dimond gave a brief report on Founders Day and Liz Alme was happy to say most of the King Soopers cards had been purchased. *See the note regarding the gift card purchases at next month's meeting – near the end of the newsletter.*

Marge Behm, Nominating Committee Chairman, read the names of all committee chairs and committee members for next year. Telephone callers are still needed as well as helpers for distributing Christmas swags after the fall sale.

Katie Halfman, vice president-elect, asked members to please volunteer to host a meeting or be a hostess/helper next year. She passed a sign-up sheet and said she would do the same next month.

Clarissa Crozier, Denver Area Panhellenic Delegate, reported on the Awards Luncheon, which was held at the Glenmoore Country Club on April 25, 2009. She was happy to tell of Sigma Sigma Sigma being recognized for having the highest percentage of member donors to this year's scholarship fund. She also reported that the recipient of the Woman of the Year was Carolyn Hunter, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Dr. Marion Downs, Gamma Phi Beta, received the Alumna Achievement Award.

Bobbi Smith, who was at a family reunion on Founders Day, was presented with her Golden Violet. Has it actually been fifty years?

Carolyn commended Sharon Rockwell on the three outstanding articles that appeared in the Spring 2009 edition of the Triangle. Through no fault of Sharon, many of her previous attempts to get Denver news published failed. Thank you, Sharon, for your persistence. It finally paid off, and in a big way!

Carolyn told of the recent death of Gwen Henry Rosentrater who lived in Ashland, Oregon, since retiring from Littleton Public Schools as a teacher and mentor. Many of us who were students at Colorado State College (now U.N.C.) and members of

Iota Chapter in the early 1960's knew Gwen. She died of a progressive and rare neurological illness similar to Lou Gehrig's disease that she battled the last seven years.

We were reminded of the Sigma Sisters Getaway to New Orleans, LA, July 9 -12. It will be a great opportunity to have quality time with those sisters you never get to see or maybe those you see but never have time to sit down with and just talk. Anyone who is thinking of going needs to contact Michele Hecktor who would love to go – but not alone. Reservations must to be made by June 19, 2009, at the Country Inn and Suites, which is offering a rate of \$85 per night.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 when Carolyn excused herself to get ready for the Arc Degree. The members played mad libs, a game of filling in nouns, adjectives, verbs or adverbs orally in a story written without them. We took turns naming a specified part of speech at Lynn Harrington's direction. She wrote them down and then read the story using the words we had selected. The silly combinations were extremely funny and we all filled our laughter need for the day.

The Arc Degree was given to the five young women from Eta Pi at Metro State followed by congratulations and well wishes. Watching our chapter grow is indeed a gratifying experience.

JUNE MEETING

The June 8, 2009, meeting and potluck supper will be held at the home of Marge Behm at 6:00 p.m. Carol Jordan and Cookie Cookson are hostesses. Bring you favorite summertime picnic creation to share as we eat in Marge's beautiful garden/yard.

The end of the year business meeting includes officers and committee chairs turning in yearly reports, new officers being installed and presentation of Purple Plate Awards. What in the world are Purple Plate Awards? Be sure to come and find out.

YEARLY REPORTS

If you are an officer or a committee chairwoman, please bring your purple folder to the June 8 meeting, with the yearly report inside. Carolyn will give it to the officer or chair taking your place. The purpose of a yearly report, or brief statement about the responsibilities of your commitment, is to help make the transition an easy one for whomever is filling your shoes. The June 8, 2009, meeting is the last one of the triennium. The installation of the new board that evening is the beginning of the next three-year term.

NATIONAL DUES INCREASE

National dues are increasing in 2010 by \$10, going from \$35 to \$45. Lifetime dues are remaining the same at, \$1050 but Triennial dues are increasing to \$130.

If you have not paid lifetime dues, Sheryl Dahm, Treasurer, will accept your dues in two installments, \$45 and \$42.50 paid in consecutive months. Sheryl must have 2010 National dues paid by December 1, 2009. If you have paid lifetime dues, there is no change and you will pay local dues of \$42.50.

KING SOOPERS GIFT CARDS

Liz Alme, chair of King Soopers Fundraising for chapter expenses, hopes we'll come prepared to purchase extra gift cards at the June meeting. This is a quick and easy way to help the chapter and buy groceries at the same time. Don't forget that you can also find flowers and books at King Soopers. The cards are \$100, good for the same

amount of purchases. The chapter receives about 3% of the value, which was over \$400 for 2008-2009.

June is the last meeting until September so be sure to purchase enough gift cards to get you through the summer. Stock up on those sale items for the freezer.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Clarissa Crozier, Webmaster, has made many creative updates that you will find very interesting when you go to www.denversigma.org. **A slide show of Founder's Day is also included on the Slide Shows page.** Clarissa always removes personal information, including e-mail addresses, when putting articles on the Web site.

Other websites you may like are www.npcwomen.org - www.thesororitylife.com - www.denverareanhellenic.org.

NEW E-VIOLETS EDITOR

As the triennium comes to a close, new officers and chairman take the helm and Lia Moran is the very capable sister who will write the electronic newsletter every month. She will also fill the office of Secretary; the two responsibilities, with similar tasks, will be combined.

It has been my privilege to serve as the Editor of E-Violets the last three years. I thoroughly enjoyed being heavily into the loop, making phone calls and sending e-mails to assure all information was accurate. It has also been a technical challenge but my live-in computer expert husband, Dave, was there to help with even the smallest glitch.

Thank you to everyone who in sisterly fashion, willingly and quickly answered my questions. I hope Lia finds E-Violets a rewarding Sigma experience. I did.

SIGMA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Who was music chair and president of her collegiate chapter, has eleven grandchildren, says chocolate candy is her favorite food and laughed at herself when she was the focus of a story Deb Wilcox told? This charming Sigma would like to meet Abe Lincoln and is giving stuff away rather than collecting. If you guessed Videll Nordmark, you are right. Videll is the Sigma in the Spotlight.