Monday, November 8, 2010 | 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Grand Hyatt Denver, Room: Sunlight Peak
1750 Welton St., Denver, CO

DRAFT MINUTES

Members: Lucy Annang (Mu), Dwight Barrett (Kappa), Christina Benjamin (Omega), Alberto Caban-Martínez (Beta Sigma), Noel Chavez (Lambda), Caroline Chan (Beta Pi), Tainya Clarke (Beta Sigma), James Ebert (Gamma Alpha), Carolyn Fowler (Alpha), Mildred Hunter (Lambda), Eric Hurwitz (Gamma), Penny Jessop (Eta), Michael Joseph (Beta Iota), Kim Judd (Beta Gamma), Carole Kacius (Beta Zeta), Brenda Kirkwood (Omega), RaeLynn Mitchell (Alpha Tau), Donald E. Morisky (Iota), Mary Murphy-Phillips (Alpha Beta), Catherine Nolan (Alpha Delta), Kay Perrin (Iota), Renee Royak-Schaler (Beta Tau), Darcy Scharff (Alpha Delta), Misty Smathers (Alpha Sigma), David Steffen (Theta), Stephanie Tortu (Alpha Psi), John Vena (Beta Chi), Janice Vendetti (Beta Rho), Sara Wagner (Beta Chi), Donna Williams (Alpha Psi), John Williams (Beta Gamma), Jingzhen Yang (Alpha Phi)

National Officers: Muriel Harris, Amy Lee, Donna Petersen (unable to attend: Nancy Partika)

Staff: Allison Foster and Kate Howe

Guests: Monica Machado (University of Maryland)

The President of the Society, Dr. Amy Lee, called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Dr. Lee then welcomed the new chapters that had been established since the last business meeting in 2009:

- Gamma Alpha, Wright State University MPH Program
- Gamma Beta, Indiana University at Bloomington MPH Program
- Gamma Delta, American University of Beirut Graduate Public Health Program

Dr. Lee and Dr. Muriel Harris presented the 2010 Delta Omega Award for Innovative Public Health Curriculum to Dr. Amy Brock Martin (Mu chapter, University of South Carolina) for “Perspectives in Rural Health.” Dr. Martin then gave a brief presentation about her curriculum, which is posted on the Delta Omega web site.

Dr. Lee invited attendees to introduce themselves, and then led the “tchotchke-exchange” ice breaker.

Dr. Lee then called for approval of the 2009 minutes and 2010 meeting agenda. Both were approved by vote of the council.
Dr. Lee then announced the results of the 2010 officer election. Ballots had been distributed prior to the meeting and collected at the start of the meeting. (Ballots were also available at the meeting for council members to cast votes for their chapter.) The following officers were elected by vote of the National Council:

- Muriel Harris, President (confirmation vote)
- Carole Kacius, President-Elect
- Eric Hurwitz, Member-at-large

The new officers were welcomed by the council.

Ms. Howe gave the secretary’s report. She reported that most chapters had sent in chapter reports and dues, but reminded those who had not to do so as soon as possible as both are requirements to maintain active status. Chapter reports can be downloaded from the national website or requested through the national office. She also mentioned that the reports are a good way to make sure the national office has the correct contact information for each chapter. Current contact information was provided as a hand-out. The Chapter Contact list and status of chapter reports and dues are posted in the “Chapter Administration” portion of the website. If you need log-in information for your chapter, please e-mail khowe@asph.org. (Reminder: Dues payments should be sent as checks made out to “Delta Omega.” If you need an invoice to process payments, please e-mail khowe@asph.org).

Dr. Harris gave the treasurer’s report. The financial statement presented to the council members showed that Delta Omega closed the year (ending September 30, 2010) with reserves of $33,417.11. There were no significant expenditures or changes from the budget proposed last year. Dr. Harris then presented the FY10 projected budget. The projected budget was similar to previous years, with no large changes. The council voted to approve the budget for FY10.

Dr. Lee gave the report for the Publications Committee. She stated that the Classics project is still in need of introductions and suggestions for new publications. She asked attendees to consider submitting an introduction or idea for a class article, and to encourage their members to do so as well. Dr. Lee also mentioned that Delta Omega had collaborated with the University of Kentucky in April to start an “oral history project.” This year’s honorary inductee, Dr. Kristine Gebbie, was interviewed by Dr. Hugh Tilson in an 11-part segment. The National Office had just received the files from the University of Kentucky and will be posting the segments on the web site. Delta Omega would like to continue this project and hopefully coordinate an interview with a “living public health legend” each year. Please send any suggestions for interviewees to the National Office (khowe@asph.org).

Dr. Harris presented the inaugural Chapter Awards on behalf of the Awards Committee. This was the first year the National Office had bestowed awards to recognize chapters with Active Chapter of the Year, Chapter Service, New Chapter of the Year, and Chapter of the Year awards. Applications were due on September 30 and Dr. Harris reported the National Officers were very pleased with applications received. The following chapters were then recognized and presented with a certificate and Delta Omega decals:

- Active Chapter: Omega chapter (George Washington University)
- Chapter Service: Gamma chapter (University of Hawaii)
- New Chapter of the Year: Beta Sigma chapter (University of Miami)
- Chapter of the Year: Tau Chapter (University of South Florida)
Dr. Harris congratulated the chapters for their achievements. The National Office plans to continue Chapter Awards, which will be due September 30 of each year. The Call for Applications will be distributed to chapters in the spring/summer.

Dr. Petersen then led a group discussion on whether the Society should expand to include undergraduate members. This is a topic that had been discussed in previous meetings. She said, as the number of undergraduate public health programs is growing, Delta Omega should explore this opportunity to expand membership and increase “professionalization” of the field of public health. Some of the questions to consider are: Who would be eligible?, Would there be different criteria for undergraduate vs. graduate student members, etc.? A summary of comments is below:

- Attendees voiced support for Delta Omega to expand to undergraduate members. One noted “if we don’t, someone else will.”
- It was suggested that the structure of the undergrad membership could mimic other professional honor societies (i.e. have two levels of membership, induct members then fellows, etc.)
- Criteria should be based on CEPH accreditation, similar to current criteria. (CEPH is currently looking into accreditation for undergraduate public health programs.)
- It was recommended not to wait for CEPH to make a decision to begin the process.

It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to look further into the issue. The following members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Penny Jessop (Eta), Carolyn Fowler (Alpha), Kay Perrin (Tau), James Ebert (Gamma Alpha), and Alberto Caban-Martinez (Beta Sigma). The subcommittee will work to form recommendations for Delta Omega and report out to the National Council.

After the discussion, Dr. Lee reported that Dr. Kristine Gebbie had been elected as this year’s national honorary member in April. If members have nominees for national honorary members, please send them to the National Office.

Dr. Lee then led a discussion of other business. Those chapters who were honored with Chapter Awards were asked to provide examples of chapter activities and ways they were able to build the chapter’s presence on their campus. These examples will be posted on the national web site (www.deltaomega.org) as a resource for other chapters.

Before adjournment, Dr. Lee announced the official transition of new officers. Dr. Petersen was recognized and thanked for her many years of service in Delta Omega leadership.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and members were encouraged to attend the reception and presentation of awards for the 2010 student winners who had presented earlier at the Student Poster Session.