

Eta Mu Chapter History

Eta Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma was chartered on April 20, 1968 under the auspices of founding chapter, Alpha Epsilon. Eva Wylde of Alpha Epsilon was the chapter organizer who skillfully conducted the charter members through orientation and organization as a chapter and served as mentor to the fledgling group for its first two years. She had been the second grade teacher of one of the charter members and was the current school principal of another. Eva advised us to discover the unique capabilities of every member, learn the goals and accomplishments of Delta Kappa Gamma, and enjoy the process.

The Eta Mu charter group consisted of seventeen women from Modesto and surrounding communities representing preschool through college educators. The diversity of the membership facilitated communication that was very enlightening and fulfilling. A feeling of camaraderie developed. The Student Center at Modesto Junior College was the venue for initiation and installation of officers. Six Chi State officers and three other Modesto chapters joined Eta Mu for the joint installation of officers. In 2005, six charter members remain on the roster of 30 members.

In 1993, Eta Mu Chapter published a booklet marking its 25-year anniversary. The booklet featured an article by or about each charter member. Members expressed pride in the group and their bonds of friendship and love. They described the knowledge and inspiration derived from Eta Mu membership. They also praised the wealth of ideas and support available at state workshops and conventions.

During the 1976-78 biennium, Eta Mu members accepted the formidable task of sponsoring a new chapter, Iota Epsilon, in Sonora. Nineteen women in education were initiated into the new chapter at the historic Episcopal Church in Sonora. Seven Chi State officers officiated.

What began so auspiciously has not diminished over the years. As an association of women united in a common interest and life's work, Eta Mu members remain a strong, cohesive group and a continuing source of inspiration, pride, and community.

About Modesto

Modesto is near the geographic center of California. Located on Highway 99 in the Central Valley, it is easily accessible from throughout California. The San Francisco Bay Area lies west of the valley beyond the coastal mountain range. Eastward are the foothills of Mother Lode gold fame, the majestic Sierra Nevada range, and Yosemite National Park. Most are day trip options.

Modesto was established as a one-square-mile town by the Central Pacific Railroad in 1870. Newcomers saw a community of 25 buildings, either hastily built or moved from other locations. It was a bleak settlement on the plains without trees or vegetation but an abundance of wind-blown sand. Modesto received its name when a prominent San Francisco banker and railroad