

Meet our new DKG Alaska State Organization President Amy Budge – 2021-2023

I used to have a clear idea about who I was and what I was doing—a rhythm. COVID in our school place has us on a bungee cord daily: who is here, who is not, who is positive, who is close contact, who is on Zoom today, who is slipping through the cracks. Years ago, 1971, there was a book, The Geranium on the Window Sill Just Died but the Teacher Went Right on Teaching. I don't remember much about this book



except it reminded us as teachers to pay attention to our students as small humans, to be kind, gentle and respectful and to give them hope There is tremendous power in a child's life in being a teacher. The book stuck with me in my 52 years in education. I started teaching in 1969 in Jackson Hole at Wilson School to the smell of purple dittoes. I teach now with the luxury of instant online knowledge.

So this is a way of introduction to your new State President, here I am Amy Ellen Trimble-Budge in her COVID style Willy Nelson braids and many organizational skills learned from being in SPED since 1972, except for Parliamentary Procedure in which I will need support. I have been in Alaska since 1972 where I taught in Ketchikan for two years before moving to Homer. I had just completed my MEd at Utah State with a certification in Special Education—students with emotionally handicapped. I taught at the Homer JR SR High School for two years and then was a Program Director for our Gifted and Talented Program for four years. I started contract work with SRA traveling around the state training teachers in what became Reading Mastery. I loved this because I was able to go to places like Barrow, Old Harbor, Valdez, Fairbanks, all places with amazing teachers. I also taught part time for the University of



Alaska SE. I have been a Charter member of DKG Omicron since 1994. I love this organization; understand the fatigue that is driving teachers out of our ranks in droves, and grieve the loss of new teachers coming into the field. Our chapters are suffering because we flourish in a face-to-face venue with good food and that is the rub. We are forced into isolation. I was a girl scout all my youth so I promise to do my duty to our organization the best I can and with support.

My first to do item happened today. I asked Jennifer Minguez to move into first Vice president because Gara has agreed to move into second Vice president. The second item is for everyone who is a Committee Chair if you could please “Duck, Cover and Hold” so we can carry on, it would save everyone energy. Just one more term. The third item is huge which is our Fall Conference on ZOOM October 21st, Thursday at 6:30 pm. Each president needs to email me a one-paragraph summary of how many surviving members you have and one highlighted activity you are happy with and when you meet. I am planning on Zooming to each Chapter so include me in your ZOOM email invitations. I will attempt at least one. Because I am teaching fulltime I had decided a couple of years ago, I would not be a good State President because I can't travel and leave my job, but now thanks to the power of Zoom I can. I am at McNeil Canyon Elementary in Homer and I read my email every day. I also text. I rarely phone. My email is abudge@xyz.net. My cell phone is 907-299-2895. My landline is 907-235-8328.

I have included some random pictures my oldest daughter took this summer so you know who I am when I appear on your Zoom. I have two daughters. My younger daughter right now is ill with COVID here in Homer and is 14 weeks pregnant so my heart is



working overtime. My late husband and I built our log home in the 70's so I included a picture because it is still standing and company is always welcome.

I know that our organization still has a purpose and a solid voice in education and we will use it. We need to share the hope. We can do this!

I am sincerely and fondly,

Amy

