



NEWSETTE

WVSO Members Attend International Conference

Delta Kappa Gamma members attended the Delta Kappa Gamma International Leadership Conference July 12-15, 2023, in Detroit, Michigan. The International Conference committee organized many beneficial sessions with opportunities to learn, grow, and share with DKG sisters. WVSO members who attended the conference were: President Vickie Skavenski, Past President Joanne Gregory, Executive Secretary Susan Marra, Treasurer Deloris Lipps, Dr. Glenda Wait, and Editor Connie Boggs.

WVSO members were highly involved in this conference. Joanne Gregory, Susan Marra, and Vickie Skavenski worked to organize the Society Expo where attendees could shop from local vendors, meet International Committee members, and view exhibits from the DKG Fine Arts Gallery. Dr. Glenda Wait presented a session with International President Dr. Debbie LeBlanc on the Society's Leadership Discovery Centre and our Local Leading Lady state project was presented by Joanne Gregory, Susan Marra, and Vickie Skavenski.

The Conference wasn't all work for the West Virginia ladies. Before the conference and during the evenings, members explored the local attractions and enjoyed delicious meals. Some brought their passports and crossed into Canada for the day, others explored local landmarks, and everyone enjoyed our West Virginia dinner at a local Cuban restaurant.

Next year, the International Convention will be held from July 9-13, 2024, in National Harbor, Maryland, near Washington, DC. The keynote speakers will be Margot Shetterly, author of the #1 New York Times best-selling book *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*, and Andre Bradford, award winning slam poet.

We would love to have a large representation from West Virginia attend next year!



Presidential Thoughts, Hopes, and Dreams

By: WVSO President Vickie Skavenski

This summer has been a very busy one for your DKG leaders—first, Susan Marra (Gamma), Janet Lohr (Eta), Jackie McDaniels (Alpha Beta) and I travelled to Texas for a weekend leadership training conference. We saw probably ten minutes of Texas from the airport to the hotel, but in those two days of meetings, we accomplished much. The goal of the training was to put together a leadership plan highlighting the biggest problem for your state. I don't think it will surprise you to know that every state, province, etc. on the international level had the same problems we do—maintaining membership, attracting new members, and making DKG relevant to all members. The four of us put together a plan and beginning in September, the Membership/Expansion Committee, the Educational Excellence Committee, the Revitalization Committee, and I will meet on Zoom to formulate a survey which will be distributed to all chapter members. We want to move forward, grow WVSO membership, and provided support to all chapters—I keep saying our mantra will be “How can we help?”



Then, Joanne Gregory (Beta), Susan Marra, Connie Boggs (Gamma), and I stuffed Joanne's car and headed to Detroit where we met up with Deloris Lipps (Mu) and Glenda and Jerry Wait (Xi). We took part in so many areas of the leadership conference—Joanne was the Society Expo Coordinator, Susan was the Committee Connections Coordinator, and I was the Emergency Fund Coordinator. Connie helped with setting everything up, collecting the Emergency Fund envelopes, and taking pictures for the Newsette. Many of us attended the preconference trainings on Parliamentary Procedure and Yoga. We also attended as many sessions as we could, and Joanne, Susan, and I presented a session on the “Local Leading Lady” project. On Friday evening we had a WVSO dinner at a Cuban restaurant recommended by the Detroit President and Executive Secretary. While we were walking back to the hotel, Joanne said we should meet in her and Susan's room on the 23rd floor to go over our presentation for the next day. I was on the 10th floor, but there were elevators, so I agreed. We had just started to talk about the power point when we heard, “There is a possibility of fire in the building. Please evacuate now. Do not use the elevator.” Joanne, Susan, and I went down 21 floors to the second floor where we were told that someone had pulled the alarm, and we could take the elevator back to our rooms. I did not return to the 23rd floor!

Connie and I attended the US Forum which was totally different from the forums of the past.

The panel discussion was entitled, “How Schools, DKG, and the Community Can Address Student and Staff Mental Wellness?” With this new focus on mental, as well as physical, wellness, we will have a new Ad Hoc Committee on Wellness led by Barbara Tabaretti (Beta).

This was the culmination of a year's worth of Zoom meetings where everything was planned, and it was a good conference. However, with three conferences for the summer—Michigan, Arizona, and Finland, attendance was down at each one. Therefore, there will only be one conference in 2025, and it will be back in New Orleans. Next year's International Convention will be at National Harbor, MD, July 9-13.

I have been working to finally finish the committee appointments, but it has been a slow process. Thank you to everyone who has graciously agreed to serve—when I open an email that says, “Thanks for asking—I'd love to serve.”, it's like hitting the lottery. Even my three no responses were lovely in their reasons for not being able to serve at this time. It is the no responses that are a little frustrating, but I will persevere and like the judges on “The Voice”, I will soon be able to say, “My team is full!”

I am looking forward to a great biennium where we all support our teachers, honor our West Virginia and Appalachian heritage, and generally make WVSO DKG a group of women educators who like each other, who laugh with each other, who help each other, and who learn together. See you soon on Zoom or at the 2024 WVSO Leadership Conference in Canaan Valley.

Jackie's Membership News

By Jackie McDaniels, WVSO 2nd Vice President

Reporting the death of a member is a required task for chapter presidents, but it is also an important way to honor a sister who has passed. Immediately upon the death of a member, Form 6 needs to be completed and a copy is to be emailed to International Membership Services (mem@dkg.org), WVSO Treasurer, Deloris Lipps (deljlipps@gmail.com), and WVSO Membership Chair, Jackie McDaniels (jackiemcdaniels08@yahoo.com).



Where is Form 6? Go to dkg.org, sign in, click on "MYDKG," then "FORMS," "MEMBERSHIP," and then "Form 6."

The bottom part of Form 6, "Delta Kappa Gamma Society and Professional Information," is very important to properly honor a chapter member.

When was the last time your chapter took time for members to update their Form 82, Chapter Biographical Data Sheet (chapter use only)? This can be a great resource to properly fill out the important section of Form 6!

2023-2025 WVSO Strategic Goals

1. Support women educators as they continue to work with each other to teach and help students succeed in the classroom and extra-curricular activities. Highlight the achievements of these educators through articles in local papers and the Newsette.
2. Encourage chapters to provide meaningful activities that deliver a balance of collaboration, community service, and social events. Work with chapters to develop a state Speakers Bureau for West Virginia and Appalachian speakers in addition to leadership and motivational speakers.
3. Urge members to become more proficient in technology and use of communication tools by: (a) developing chapter websites, (b) using the West Virginia State Organization Facebook page as well as the state and international websites, (c) downloading and using the DKG app, (d) providing Zoom or similar engines as a way for virtual participation in meetings, and (e) other technology as deemed beneficial by the chapters and state. The technology committee will assist in any way needed by the chapter and its members.
4. Encourage chapter presidents to achieve the Gold Rose.
5. Collaborate with the membership committee, revitalization committee, leadership development committee, the webmaster, and communication committee to implement a program of relevancy for all chapters.
6. Encourage mental and physical wellness for all chapter members.

White Roses

"The song is ended, but the melody lingers on."
– Irving Berlin

Sara Lueck (Eta) - April 13, 2023
Beverly F Francesa (Xi) - June 12, 2023
Jewell Francesc Graybeal (Xi) - June 18, 2023
Mary Katherine Chandler (Xi) - July 13, 2023

Condolences

Regina Sherman (Eta) lost her mother, Wanda Householder

Rhonda Loving (Alpha Theta) lost her mother-in-law, Ellenore Loving



News from the Chapters

Eta

Eta chapter is busy! Eta members celebrated their chapter birthday with a wonderful mnemonic “Happy Birthday” presentation, developed by First Vice-President, **Vicki Jenkins**. Members enjoyed a very informative program explaining the purposes and positive impact of the CASA program and opportunities to volunteer with CASA. members donated many toys and other items to the CASA program for distribution to children in their care. The Literacy Committee, led by enthusiastic chair **Sue Flanagan**, conducted a book sale to benefit future literacy projects. **Janet Lohr**, Second Vice President, led a dynamic and interactive “Founders Free” Escape Room program. This creative, innovative program required members to use secret code pens, magnifying glasses, and their collective brainpower to work together to help our founders “escape” by working together in groups to find clues, break codes, and unlock boxes. Unlocked boxes sometimes included fun prizes! **Rebecha Catlett, Carol Grow, Nancy Broadley, Linda Martin Kathy Bennett, Ronda Albright, and Jay Russell** presented a touching and meaningful memorial service for Eleanor Effland and Treva Kerns. The service was written by **Vicki Jenkins** and included the scripture readings of John 14: 1-6, 25-27. The poems “Remembering” and “The Rose Behind the Wall” were read aloud. **Linda Martin** and **Kathy Bennett** shared special sentiments. **Bett Sims** sang an absolutely beautiful arrangement of “El Shadai.” A live auction to benefit Eta Chapter’s Grants-In-Aid program, hosted by the Professional Affairs Committee and auctioneered by **Kathy Bennett**, was held. Members bid on approximately twenty purses (some with surprises inside!), themed baskets, very special birdhouses handcrafted by Mr. Jim Holland, and a large watercolor painting from Eta member **Ronda Albright**. During the summer months, Eta Chapter members held meetings in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties to discuss prospective new members.



Epsilon

Epsilon Chapter recently provided meals for a day at the House of the Carpenter’s summer literacy camp. Members **Linda Arbogast, Barbara Cover** and **Jennifer Litzenberger** served up French toast sticks to the participants (and parents) for breakfast before the day’s activities started. Then Linda and Barbara cooked up chicken tenders and macaroni & cheese for lunch which was a very popular choice!

Pictured below are Linda Arbogast and Barbara Cover at the HOC Literacy Camp breakfast counter.



Gamma

Congratulations to **Connie Boggs** on her appointment to the Marion County Public Library Board of Trustees. **Connie Boggs** and **Susan Marra** attended the International Conference in Detroit. Susan served on the steering committee for the conference.

Pictured below are **Connie Boggs, Joanne Gregory, Vickie Skavenski, and Susan Marra** in Canada with Detroit in the background.



More News from the Chapters

Phi

Phi Chapter is eagerly anticipating the beginning of a new year after a restful summer break. We have become a small chapter, but we continue to enjoy our long-time friendships through our service to our chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

We have fifteen active members and one honorary member. We are fortunate to have in our chapter a mother-daughter duo who work tirelessly to help us achieve our chapter goals. June Linkous, a McDowell County retired home economics teacher, became a member in 1977. She holds the distinction of having the greatest number of years of membership in our chapter.

Her daughter, Katie, was inducted into Phi Chapter in 2009. Katie currently serves as counselor at the McDowell Co. Vo-Tech School and an online instructor for Liberty University. June and Katie are a devoted mother-daughter team who are loyal and active to Phi Chapter.

Alpha Kappa

The members of Alpha Kappa Chapter of DKG will meet October 21, 2023, at the Forman Center, where Mineral County will host a "Homecoming" event where former members will be invited to attend and see what the chapter is now as compared to their chapter before. We are hoping that we can get former members to return.

On November 11, the chapter will meet at Moorefield Middle School for a "Make It, Bake It, Take It" fundraiser for projects. Pendleton County will be the host for this event which will feature the crafting and baking skills of members.

Several members will be serving on state committees with Vickie Saville chairing the Communication and Publicity Committee and the Publication Awards Committee, Jo Ann Harman the Scholarship Committee, and Susan Garrett the Disaster Committee. It is a blessing to have chapter members who are willing to step up and serve.

Xi

On August 8, Xi held a luncheon at Logan's Steak House with 28 members in attendance. We discussed project and program possibilities for the upcoming year. Discussion included existing projects, potential projects, visitation and tours, suggested speakers, and programs to empower members.

Pictured are **Janine Bullock, Quirina Bullock and Debbie Barr.**



Alpha Iota

Summer found members enjoying community involvement events! **Nancy Winefordner, Margie Turley, and Yvonne Martin** were student group leaders at the Spring Heights Day Camp-what a super fun learning time! Our new treasurer, **Gale Pukall**, participated in Charleston's 15-mile run on Sept. 2nd. Members were invited to wear red and come to cheer her on at Oakwood Rd.'s water station.

AI's Planning Committee, **Genene Gourley, Yvonne Martin, Gale Pukall, Pat Schillings, Margie Turley, and Martha Hopper** met at Genene's beautiful home several times in August to plan for the '23-'24 year. Our first chapter meeting is September 19th and will feature our new DKG President **Vickie Skavenski**. Beta Chapter has been invited to share Vickie's presentation on her new state goals. Refreshments will be a "birthday party" for our former chapter president, **Coleen Vannoy**. Alpha Iota members love DKG learning mixed with fun! We look forward to a very successful year.

More News from the Chapters

Alpha

This is going to be a big year for Alpha Chapter, we hope. We are doing a few new things this year and you know how change can go.

For our project this year, we have decided to focus on one thing, again. This year we are going to take a vote on what our project focus will be. Last year our focus was Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This year we will be voting on three different choices: Dolly Parton Library, Adopt a School (school supplies) and Lily's Place.

Also, new to us this year, Paramount Arts Center in Ashland Kentucky does a Festival of Trees and Trains. We will be creating a tree to donate to the festival, the money for sale of the tree will go to the Paramount Arts Center for education.

I am super proud to say that Alpha Chapter had a large showing at the WV Convention in Flatwoods.



Beta

Beta members and prospective members met at Panera Bread August 9 to finalize plans for our programs. Pictured left to right standing are **Helen Warren, Sandy Bowles, Barb Tabaretti, Jeanette Farmer** and **Bev Bisbee**. Seated left to right are **Karen Simon, Donna O'Field** and **Joanne Gregory**.



Mu

Deloris Lipps presented the 2023 Mu Chapter Recruitment Grant to Trinity Sears during Wirt County High School's Awards Assembly on May 19th. Trinity plans to become an English teacher.



Alpha Theta

Alpha Theta held their end-of-school-year meeting at Twin Falls State Park on May 23, 2023. During this meeting, **Pam Bailey**, recording secretary, assisted the group in making an origami bird. Several members attended and one member from May 9, 1991 (Carolyn Wilcox) reinstated her membership. Welcome Back, Mrs. Wilcox!

Front Row left to right: Donna Sue Dixon, Sonja Davis, Victoria Knight Clay, Carolyn Wilcox, Camy Crouse, and Pam Bailey

Back Row left to right: Tina Adams, Sharon Norman, Marsha Stevens, Debbie Marsh



Thank you everyone who purchased a copy of the WVSO DKG History Book! Once people began reading the book, a few errors were found. Please make the following corrections to your copy of the WVSO DKG History Book.

- Pg. 9 Paragraph 3 – the words ‘odd’ and ‘even’ need to be switched. Conventions are in odd-number years and Conferences are in even-numbered years.
- Pg. 33 Delphene Haddox is Delta Chapter’s president for 2022-2024. Change Becky Brabham years to 2018-2022.
- Pg. 49 – Correct Lois McCutcheon’s misspelled first name for the 2022-2024 years.
- Pg. 59 – The 2010-2012 & 2012-2014 presidencies are listed twice. Please strike out the duplication.
- Pg. 61 – The 2008-2010 presidency is listed twice. Please strike out the duplication.
- Pg. 62 – Mary Wilson’s presidency was from 2006-2010; not 2020.
- Pg. 64 – Please include the following information for Chapter Presidents. Cindy Wills 2004-2006 and Mary Ann Triplett 2006-2010.
- Pg. 83 – Strike out Ann Workman from the National Board Certified Teachers List

The Newsette is published
four times a year:
Fall, Winter, Spring and
Summer
by the West Virginia State
Organization of The Delta
Kappa Gamma Society
International.

Deadlines are September
1, December 1, March 1,
and June 1, respectively.

Please send
correspondence to
Connie Boggs, Editor
50 Fire House Rd.
Fairmont, WV 26554
Phone – 304-376-3197

NEWSETTE
Connie Boggs, Editor
50 Fire House Rd.
Fairmont, WV 26554

DKG[™]



**West Virginia
State Organization**