

Bits and Pieces

Vickie Skavenski, WWSO Co-President

Things are going well since you elected co-presidents in April. Connie and I are working together to bring about new and awesome things for our members. When we did our Leadership Training in NOLA, the biggest problem we saw with WWSO DKG was the lack of communication and participation from some chapters. I am happy to say that I have now visited 16 chapters, and Connie is making visits too. Susan, Connie, and I met with the 2027 Convention Planning Committee comprised of Alpha Gamma, Phi, and Alpha Theta. They are moving right along, and we have signed the contract with Pipestem State Park to hold the convention there. In the spring I am hoping to be invited to visit Upsilon and Epsilon in the Northern Panhandle and Theta, Pi, Phi, and Alpha Nu in the Southern part of the state. Ladies, please invite me!

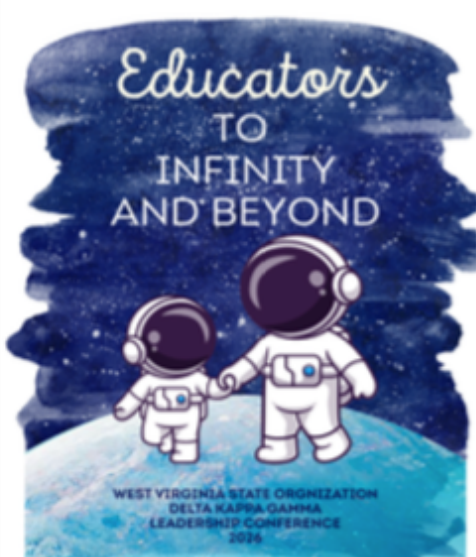
The WWSO Leadership Conference is shaping up—you have the registration in this Newsette and notice—you can now pay with Venmo!

Finally, to raise money for the International GIRLS fund, we are asking each chapter to purchase a piggy bank, decorate it, and bring it to conference. We will do a monetary voting for the best pig and that chapter will receive a trophy. Then we will auction the pigs—all money will be sent to International to help fund this project to train older girls in Africa. If we have any great auctioneers planning to attend conference, please let us know.

Have a wonderful holiday season and I hope to see so many of you in Canaan in April—remember, the conference is not just for your officers because we will have something for everyone!

DKG International Website Janet Lohr, 1st Vice President

The more I explore the DKG International website, the more I learn about our organization. For example, did you know that you can submit an inspirational quote to be published on DKG social media? Search **Open Applications** to find the form you need, and start encouraging others with your words of wisdom.



Meet Dr. Barbara Rodriguez Presenter at the WWSO Leadership Conference

Dr. Barbara Rodríguez is a university professor, speaker, and researcher in Educational Innovation. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Innovation and a Master's degree in E-Learning with a specialization in Digital Teaching. She completed her doctoral studies as part of the prestigious Eula Lee Carter Scholarship for Excellence, recognized for her leadership in promoting transformative and meaningful education.

Her academic work focuses on integrating microlearning, neuroeducation, and artificial intelligence to design engaging and personalized learning experiences. As a certified Health Coach in Emotion Biodecoding, she promotes a holistic approach that nurtures emotional balance, mental clarity, and spiritual growth within the learning process.

Founder of Liderazgo de Amor, Dr. Rodríguez promotes OMEGA Leadership—a Christ-centered model that unites neuroscience, emotional intelligence, and spirituality to inspire authentic, compassionate, and purpose-driven leadership.

Dr. Rodríguez believes that education is a sacred path toward healing and transformation. As she beautifully expresses, "True transformation begins when the mind and soul find healing; from there, the body and destiny follow." Her mission is to inspire educators and leaders to teach, lead, and live with love, wisdom, and integrity—illuminating the path toward an education that heals and empowers from within.



2026 Leadership Conference At-a-Glance

Friday, April 17

- 5:00pm–6:00pm: Registration and Acceptance of Exhibits
- 6:00pm–8:00pm: Friday Night Social

Saturday, April 18

- 8:00am–9:00am: Registration and Acceptance of Exhibits
- 9:00am–10:45am: Opening Session and Keynote Speaker
- 10:45am–11:15am: Break/View Exhibits
- 11:15am–12:00pm: Breakout Session #1
- 12:00pm–12:15pm: Break/View Exhibits
- 12:15pm–1:15pm: Lunch
- 1:15pm–2:00pm: Breakout Session #2
- 2:00pm–2:15pm: Break/View Exhibits
- 2:15pm–3:00pm: Breakout Session #3
- 3:00pm–3:30pm: Closing Session
- 3:30pm: Collection of Exhibits and Goody Bags

Condolences

- Marsha Stevens brother, Carl Cohenour, died on August 1, 2025.

Dates to Remember

- **January 15th:** Chapter Presidents Zoom
- **February 1st:** WWSO & International Scholarship applications due
- **February 1st:** WWSO Achievement Award Recommendations due
- **February 17th:** Last day to book your room at Canaan for Leadership Conference
- **February 19th:** Chapter Presidents Zoom
- **March 19th:** Chapter Presidents Zoom
- **March 27th:** Leadership Conference Registration due
- **April 17–18th:** WWSO Leadership Conference

More Membership Mythbusting

Jackie McDaniels, 2nd Vice President, Membership Chair

Continuing from the Fall 2025 Newsette, here are more myths and truths about membership:

- Wearing DKG paraphernalia is a requirement.
 - **MYTH** – What a member wears is her choice.
- You have to buy a key pin.
 - **MYTH** – You do not have to, but you may if you like. (Several years ago, my chapter started buying the key pin for a new member.
- You must use traditional ceremonies.
 - **MYTH** – A chapter may choose what ceremonies they have and how they do them.
- You must attend 80% of all meetings to be considered an active member.
 - **MYTH** – There is NO attendance requirement.
- Once you are retired, you automatically become a reserve member.
 - **MYTH** – Retired members are still active members! Reserve is for members who are physically unable to attend in person meetings on a regular basis (Moved away, unable to drive at night, chronic illness).
- You must vote in person.
 - **MYTH** – Voting may be done electronically.
- Form 18A is the same as Form 6
 - **MYTH** – Form 18A is used when someone has dropped but has not passed.

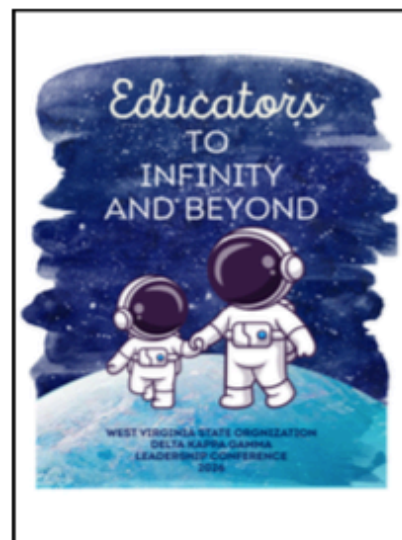
Educators: To Infinity and Beyond

Diane Bowsher

Let's face it! Women educators are out of this world! The Leadership Committee has been in "Kahoots" over the past several months planning the upcoming WVSO DKG Leadership Conference. Our conference will be April 17 and 18, 2026, at Canaan Valley Resort. We hope you will join us Friday evening for fun and fellowship. Come prepared to laugh, share food, and join in a friendly little competition.

Saturday will begin with a keynote address from Dr. Barbara Rodriguez, a DKG International Speaker, who comes to us from Mexico. She will be speaking on the topic of Artificial Intelligence. Following will be officer training sessions for chapter officers, along with fun, informative, and creative sessions for everyone. The sessions are "top secret" for the moment, but you don't want to miss it! Remember, the Leadership Conference is not just for chapter officers. It is for every DKG sister! It's a time to meet up with old friends, make new friends, and share our talents and thoughts.

Saturday will also include a delicious lunch. Registration and room reservation information can be found in this Newsette. Pay close attention to the deadlines! We can't wait to see you, our celestial travelers!



THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT... SEE YOU IN CANAAN VALLEY IN APRIL 2026!

West Virginia Represented in the International DKG Winter Arts Gallery

Ann Bennett, a member of Alpha Kappa Chapter, has had her stained glass accepted for the winter Fine Arts Gallery. You can find her stained glass entitled "Sunrise Over Snowy Mountains" in the gallery on the International Website.



White Roses

- Barbara H. Phillips, Delta Chapter, passed away in July 2025. She was a member of the chapter for 57 years.
- Nancy Bryant, Nu Chapter, passed away on August 20, 2025. She was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed.
- Mary Jeanette Toler, Alpha Theta, passed away on July 25, 2025.
- Janet Munson, Xi Chapter, passed on July 29, 2025.
- Linda Ramsey, Xi Chapter, passed away on August 29, 2025.
- Phyllis Spurlock, Xi Chapter, passed on August 31, 2025.
- Elizabeth Eppinger, Eta Chapter, passed on September 16, 2025.
- Darleen Miller, Eta Chapter, passed on September 17, 2025.
- Marie Rogers, Xi Chapter, passed on September 28, 2025.
- Janet Boyd, Eta Chapter, passed on October 28, 2025.

Chapter News

Beta

- At the November meeting, Beta members made gift bags for teachers at West Side Middle School. In addition, we made DKG wooden ornaments to place on the tree for the Holly Jolly Brawley Walkway celebration in downtown Charleston.

Eta

- This has been a difficult year for Eta Chapter. Five of our DKG sisters passed away, and several more lost close family members. Therefore, we have decided to donate a book to the school libraries where each of these ladies taught as a way of honoring their dedication to education.



Gamma

- Gamma chapter met in October at Emerge WV for a meet and greet with potential members. We had a great time making beaded keychains with three guests and we hope they'll be joining our chapter this year. For our November service project, we prepared lunch for the families staying at the Morgantown Ronald McDonald House. Connie Boggs received two grants totaling over \$3000 for her school from Your Community Foundation.



Mu

- Meghan Richards welcomed a son, Jesse Thomas, on September 23rd. The annual paper bag auction which raises funds for the recruitment grant was held after the November meeting. This year's grant will go to a female graduate from Wirt County High School.

Nu

- Nu Chapter collected school supplies for the new teachers in Nicholas County. Members personally delivered these supplies to each school welcoming new educators.

Phi

- Phi Chapter met at member, Theresa Bales' house for our October meeting. Theresa's sisters helped us create Fall/Halloween wooden crafts to take with us for decorations in our homes. We each brought a "scary" food item in keeping with the Halloween theme, and we enjoyed an informal meal together. Our group, though comprised of retired teachers as well as active teachers, enjoys the fellowship and fun of our meetings. We collectively share an interest in the education of the students we have taught and are teaching in McDowell County.



Chapter News

Alpha Beta

- Alpha Beta Chapter inducted two new members in September. Welcome Terri Burch and Paige Phillips! Part of AB's chapter project is helping the Upshur Parish House to pack Christmas break bags for students in need this December.

Alpha Epsilon

- Alpha Epsilon joined Gamma Chapter on September 20 with state leaders Connie Boggs and executive secretary Susan Marra installing new initiate Rose Coffindaffer from East Fairmont High School, following a powerful team-focused program by Lance Loya, author of *The WE Gear*, which reinforced our shared mission and the purpose of Delta Kappa Gamma Society; in October, chapter officers and leaders met in Fairmont to discuss membership, budget, special funds, and plans for our December 6 meeting in Morgantown.

Alpha Kappa

- The Delta Kappa Gamma – Alpha Kappa Chapter has had a busy fall. In October, members learned about the Educational Excellence Program, created vision boards, and collected WV items for the West Virginia School in Argentina and the West Virginia School in Argentina in Argentina. Betty Inskeep honored Mary Henderson, and Rosanne Bodkins agreed to chair the WWSO Finance Committee, earning the chapter's ROSE honor. In November, Vickie Lambert announced a slate of officers for March installation and Janice Fleury called for volunteers to serve at the Educators Rising State Conference 2026. Our "Make It, Bake It, Take It" auction raised \$970 for chapter projects, showing our continued commitment to service and leadership.

Alpha Theta

- On November 18, 2025, the Alpha Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma gathered at Twin Falls State Park for a warm and meaningful Christmas meeting filled with camaraderie, thoughtful discussion, and renewed purpose. We were honored to welcome Vickie Skavenski, West Virginia State Delta Kappa Gamma President, whose presence and words of encouragement added special significance to the evening. In the spirit of service, our chapter continued its support of the Wyoming County Christmas Toy Fund, with members contributing toys and monetary donations to help ensure that children in our community experience the joy of the holiday season.



WWSO Merchandise

We've partnered with a local shirt company to offer apparel featuring the state t-shirt design originally created by Connie. Use the QR code to visit the website and shop. Orders are paid for online, packaged and labeled with your name, and Vickie Skavenski will pick them up and deliver them to you at the DKG Leadership Conference in April! Check out pictures of some of the merch that are available on the website!



Other Items available: Long Pocket Cardigan, Merino Cardigan Sweater, V-Neck T-Shirt, and a Long Sleeve T-Shirt

Head here to shop: <https://tinyurl.com/ncnrnsaz>

GOLD ROSE AWARD CATEGORIES FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENT RECOGNITION YEAR 2025-2026

Please put a checkmark before the number of each of the items below that you have completed. If you can receive two points, put two checkmarks. Then email this to jam0662@yahoo.com or mail to Jackie McDaniels, 133 Phillips Dairy Road, Buckhannon, WV 26201. A minimum of 15 points will qualify the chapter president for a Gold Rose Award.

- Did you or anyone in your chapter attend the 2025 WVSO State Convention?
- Did your chapter have at least one convention exhibit there?
- Is at least one of your chapter members a state officer or on a state committee?
- Have you or a designee attended at least 2 chapter president Zoom meetings?
- Has your chapter taken in 1 or more new members from April 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026?
- Did your chapter plan a chapter yearbook (program book) either in print or electronically?
- Did you send a copy of your yearbook (program book) to the State 1st VP?
- Did you produce a chapter newsletter this year?
- Did you or a member of your chapter send in an article for the Newsette? (can earn up to 2 points for 2 or more articles) send articles/chapter info to askavenski@gmail.com
- Has your treasurer filled out and sent in the IRS form 990?
- Has your chapter participated in a community service project?
- Has any member of your chapter posted to the WVSO Facebook page?
- Has your chapter developed a chapter website this year or maintained a chapter website?
- Has your chapter collaborated with another chapter?
- Have you invited one of the state co-presidents to a chapter meeting?
- Have you or a designee filled out and sent in a Form 6 for any member who has passed?
- Have you or a designee filled out and sent in a Form 2 to the State 2nd VP, Jackie McDaniels, by Feb 1? ALL chapters are required to turn this in, even if no members have passed. Simply write No Deaths on the form.
- Did your chapter plan a program based on the DKG Excellence in Education category (any program suggested on the DKG International website) or complete a DKG vision board?
- Did you submit the chapter president's report to the state president (will be emailed to you in December or January) by February 1st?
- Did your chapter establish a collegiate chapter or maintain collegiate memberships in your chapter?
- Has your chapter recognized or helped create a rising star – someone who has demonstrated leadership skills?
- 1Did your chapter plan a program based on a WV author/book and or an Appalachian author/book? (can earn 2 points for 2 programs)
- Did any member in your chapter distribute society information to nonmembers? (Ex: Unlock Your Potential brochure)
- Did you or your treasurer update any information on International's website? (Ex: updated a member's address or email change)
- Did any chapter member send letters to lobby for a Dr. Annie Web Blanton commemorative postage stamp?
- During this past year, did your chapter, or any chapter member, contribute \$19.29 or more to the DKG International Centennial Celebration?

**West Virginia State Organization
Leadership Conference
April 17-18, 2026**

Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center
230 Main Lodge Road, Davis, WV 26260

If you're planning on coming the night before, you must make your own reservations with the hotel.
Call 304-866-4121, Option 1 to make reservations. Use Group ID: 1077JQ
Or use this link - <https://www.canaanresort.com>
\$145.20 per room (\$119 +tax and resort fee)

Make your room reservations before February 17, 2026, to ensure the group rate.

Send this form and a check payable to
Alpha Phi State to
Executive Secretary Susan Marra
519 Persimmon Lane, Bridgeport, WV
26330
by March 31, 2026

OR

Complete this form online and email it
to Susan Marra at
smarra1950@gmail.com
and
Pay with Venmo - @Diane-Bowsher
(Include your name and chapter)
by March 31, 2026
Venmo Questions? Call Diane at 304-
634-1715

Please print the following information:

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

2026-2028 Chapter Office: _____

State Office or Committee: _____

Is this your first time attending Leadership Conference? YES _____ NO _____

Registration is \$20.00 (\$25.00 if postmarked after March 31,2026) \$ _____

Friday Night Social Event (Free) I will attend Yes ____ No ____

Saturday Luncheon is \$32.00 \$ _____

Luncheon includes Two Soup Selections, Salad, Baked Potato Bar, Rolls, Desserts, and Drinks.

Any Special Dietary Needs (Vegetarian, Gluten Free, etc.)? _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please note that breakfast is not included this year. However, there will be a Saturday morning break that will include donuts, yogurts, granola, and drinks. There is also a breakfast buffet at the resort.