The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators
West Virginia State Organization

NEWSETTE

Volume 74, Number 3 Spring 2024

2024 WV STATE ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 5

3:00	Executive Board Meeting
5:00 – 6:00	Registration & Acceptance of Exhibits
6:00 – 9:00	Friday Night Social with Dulcimer Dames and WV History Alive – Minnie Reed

Minnie Reed

Dulcimer Dames

Dr. Annie White

Saturday, April 6

8:00-9:00	Registration & Acceptance of Exhibits
9:00	Opening Session & Keynote Speaker – Dr. Annie White, Fred Rogers Institute
10:15 – 10:30	Break/View exhibits
10:30 – 11:15	Morning Workshops
11:15- 11:30	Break/ View exhibits
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 12:45	Break/View exhibits
12:45 – 1:30	Afternoon Workshop Sessions
1:30 – 1:45	Break/View exhibits
1:45 – 3:00	Closing Session
3:00	Collection of Exhibits and Goody Bags

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

BITS AND PIECES FROM YOUR WVSO PRESIDENT

Canaan Valley Here We Come!

Vickie Skavenski, WVSO President

Things are getting finalized and in just a month we will be at the Leadership Conference. The conference's main goal is to train new officers for the upcoming biennium, but there will be so much more. We will get together face-to-face to share stories, chapter news, and family pictures because as members of WVSO DKG we are a family.

We will laugh together, share our sad times, and rejoice in the glory of sisterhood. Please encourage your officers to attend the conference for the training sessions. I know that many of us have served in various offices many times, but there is always something new that can help breathe a breath of fresh air into our meetings. I am anxious to meet with the chapter presidents to schedule attendance at one of their chapter meetings. I also want to know what we can do on the state level to help your chapters.

Friday night is a time to get reacquainted and to enjoy the beauty of Appalachian music. Saturday we will have our keynote speaker, our training sessions, and other interesting sessions. We will recognize chapter achievements, honor our WVSO Chapter Presidents, and view chapter exhibits. Each chapter is to bring a door prize, and Jackie McDaniels, WVSO Second Vice-President will be posting the names of the lucky winners. Chapters are also bringing fund-raising items to sell, and don't forget to order one of the new WVSO red T-shirts or sweatshirts.

If your chapter has items that need to go to the DKG Archives in Morgantown, please bring them to the conference, and we will see that they get there. Hopefully, I will see you at Canaan Valley April 5th and 6th!

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Jackie McDaniel
WVSO 2nd Vice President

At our 2024 Leadership Conference, we are doing something new. Chapters that have taken in new members from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, will receive a red rose pin for each member in the chapter to proudly wear! We will continue this recognition next year, with a different red rose pin, at our 2025 State Convention! The new membership count will be between April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. Wouldn't it be great if every member of every chapter received a pin at Convention 2025?! Be on the lookout for worthy members!

**Don't forget, every chapter needs to turn in Form 2, even if no member in your chapter passed away. Just put "None" or "No one" in the list of members. Thank you!

HIDDEN GEMS OF WEST VIRGINIA

Janet Lohr
WVSO 1st Vice President

The West Virginia State Organization Leadership Conference will be held at Canaan Valley Resort State Park April 5-6.. What a great time to begin your quest to find hidden gems in the WV state parks! Before you arrive, check out the WV Department of Tourism website for two fun ways to start your adventure.

First, did you know that there are over 200 waterfalls in our state? The Waterfall Trail highlights 40 of these majestic beauties for you to explore. Sign up for the "passport" and open the app on your phone. As you explore each location, use the passport to verify your visit. You receive points for each waterfall, which accumulate to win prizes from the WV Department of Tourism. My son and his wife were able to receive the t-shirts for checking off 20 falls! The first level of prizes is reached with only three points. Lucky for us, three of the featured falls are in Blackwater Falls State Park, located only 12 minutes away from Canaan Valley Resort State Park. There is a "gentle trail" to view the Blackwater Falls, but it is not accessible at the main park entrance. Also, the path is not very smooth, so be careful. My 98-year-old mother-in-law used a walker, but it was difficult for her.

Next, remember how much you loved swinging as a child? Or maybe you still do. If so, you can search for the Almost Heaven Swings, located throughout the state. The WV Department of Tourism website provides you with a list of sites and a map. You can check two off the list if you attend the conference, because one is found in Canaan Valley Resort Park, and another is in Blackwater Falls state park. Be aware that the trail to the Blackwater Falls swing is rocky and hilly.

Finally, here is a quick, tip list of things to enjoy around Canaan Valley State Resort and Blackwater Falls State Park.

1. Fresh, Mountain Spring Water - Bring a cup or a jug and fill it up with water right from the spring. You will find a pull-off on WV Route 32. Head south out of Davis and pass the Shop 'n' Save. Cross over the Blackwater River, and you should see the pipe on the right side of the road.
2. Aromatherapy - The hotel used to provide Wild Mountain Soaps and Lotions in the rooms, and I hope they still do! If not, you can find the products in the gift shops at both parks. The scents are heavenly (My favorite is the honeysuckle). Once you try them, you will be hooked.
3. Spectacular Views - Depending on the weather, you may be able to visit Canaan Valley's Ski Resort and use the chairlift for a scenic ride to the top of the mountain. From there, you can explore the beauty of the valley. My husband and I even found a spot where hang gliders launch.

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!

PUBLICATION REMINDERS

Publication exhibits will be received Friday evening and Saturday morning, April 5-6, at the state conference at Canaan. Each chapter may enter and display a traditional or digital scrapbook, bulletins or newsletters, newspaper clippings, and a single display board that highlights chapter work. Judging guidelines for each publication type may be accessed at www.dkgwv.org under "Publication Awards". Chapters submitting a digital scrapbook must send a link to the book to vickie_saville@hotmail.com no later than April 1st.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Alpha Kappa

The sisters of Alpha Kappa are looking forward to a busy spring with the election and installation of officers, recognition of years of membership, and the possibility of taking in new members. **Rosanne Glover**, author of "Chloe, A Very Special Goat," will be presenting a program on how to get published, and in April we will prepare nursing journals for our two local colleges,

Member **Janice Heavner** has started a new club at Pendleton County High School—PCHS Educators Rising Member to encourage future teachers. The club has been raising money with a strawberry sale for community service projects and for members to attend state and national conferences.

Xi

Xi Chapter celebrated their 67th birthday this past December. They also broke a record for funds raised at their Make-Bake and Take Auction. The $2045 will go to support our Grant-in-Aid, Operation Backpack, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, as well as provide aid for State Conference attendance.

Beta members pictured left to right. Jeanette Farmer, Penny Purcell, Sandy Bowles, Brenda Knighton, Nancy White, Barb Tabaretti, Kathy Knighton, DeEtta Hayes, Donna O'Field, Bev Bisbee, Elaine McClaugherty and Norma Ulery.

Mu

Mu Chapter met in November to learn about the scholarship and grant money available from WVSO and DKG International. They held a paper bag auction to raise funds for the 2024 Recruitment Grant which will go to a Calhoun County High School graduate.

The March meeting will be held on the 2nd at the Woman's Club Building in Elizabeth. As part of the book club activity for our March program, we will collect books which will be donated to the library of the new Spencer Middle School that is scheduled to open in the fall.

Carol Williams and Doris Weekley

Beta

Beta Chapter hosted the annual Christmas luncheon on December 9 at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center with Alpha Iota chapter in attendance. Our guest speaker was Rachel Saar, author of the children's books, *Beautiful Me* and *Bed Trolls*. These books were very creative and held a message for adults as well. Chelsey Billanti was the recipient of our Early Career Educator Award. She is a preschool special needs teacher at Ruffner Elementary School. She was selected from several applications received from Kanawha County.

On February 24, DKG was represented by both Beta and Alpha Iota Chapters at the East End Resource Center by donating food items for the Annual Heart and Soul Dip Dinner. The proceeds go to provide comprehensive senior services including arts and crafts, field trips and community events, lunch and transportation and exercise programs. In March we look forward to our annual auction with Alpha Iota Chapter in attendance. This is always a fun meeting helping both chapters to raise funds for programs to assist our members and helpful activities to enrich the lives of our community members.

MORE NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Omega

Omega Chapter met on December 2, 2023, with twenty-two members attending. Our Omega Moment was a heartfelt special recognition of our Omega Past Presidents. **Sharon Burns** designed beautiful certificates that were presented to seven past presidents. Omega also celebrated its fifty-eighth birthday with an original tribute, recognizing the twelve original charter members of Omega Chapter on its founding on December 11, 1965. Cupcakes with red roses were served after a delicious lunch. A Yankee Swap Christmas Ornament exchange was enjoyed by all.

White Roses

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."
– Thomas Campbell

Mary Pat Glover, Alpha Delta Chapter – February 7, 2024

Dorothy Romine Harper, Alpha Kappa Chapter – February 13, 2024

Condolences

Jo Ann Harman, Alpha Kappa, on the passing of her husband, Bob.

Ruth Ann Hutchinson, Alpha Delta, on the passing of her husband, Harold.

Karen Berkhouse and Brittney Vaughan, Mu, on the passing of Gene Berkhouse (husband and father).

DKG MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Glenda Wait (Xi) will be co-presenting a session at the International Convention with her daughter Kathy Houghton entitled "Adult Literacy—Why Does It Matter?" Kathy is the Executive Director of Literacy New York. Glenda will also have an article appearing in the Collegiate Exchange where she talks about her two years as WVSO State President.

Our current state president, **Vickie Skavenski**, is the subject of a blog entitled, "Art—Ask for More" on the International Art Gallery page. The blog talks about her basket making and the need for art in the classrooms.

WELLNESS

February 17 was Random Acts of Kindness Day. Why designate one day a year when every day can be Random Acts of Kindness Day? Some activities might include:

- Send a thank you note
- Pay at least three compliments
- Smile at three strangers
- Walk a neighbor's dog
- Buy someone a hot beverage
- Phone a friend
- Run an errand for a shut-in friend
- Hold a door open for someone

West Virginia State Organization Leadership Conference April 5-6, 2024

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: 1043A2
Or use the link below
https://www.canaanresort.com/book-now?pid=34889
$131.62 per room ($109 +tax and park fee)
Make your room reservations before March 5th, 2024, for the group rate.

Conference Registration Form

By **March 21, 2024**, send this form and a check payable to **Alpha Phi State** to Executive Secretary Susan Marra
519 Persimmon Lane, Bridgeport, WV 26330

Please print the following information:

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

2024-26 Chapter Office _____

State Office or Committee _____

Registration ……..$20.00 ($25.00 if postmarked after March 22, 2024) $_____

Friday Night Social Event (Free) …….. I will attend Yes _____ No _____

Saturday Morning Breakfast Buffet (provided for those staying Friday night) Yes _____ No _____

Saturday Luncheon …… ($28.00) $ _____
Lunch includes Grilled hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Pasta Salad, Chips, Desserts, and Drinks.

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

Total Enclosed $ _____

DKGIEF: Women Honoring Women

Honor a woman who has had a significant impact on your life or career.

For each $25 donation made in honor of that special woman, DKGIEF will send you a specially designed card and pin to present her. **Your donation must be postmarked or received between March 1, 2024 through April 15, 2024,**

DKGIEF will offer a different pin each year in celebration of International Women's Day.

The initial 2024 pin features the blue hydrangea which symbolizes gratitude and heartfelt emotion. Parts of the flower and stems will be raised to give a 3D effect.

For further details on how to make your donation, visit the DKGIEF website or scan this QR Code with your mobile device.

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