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

Newsette

Volume 74, Number 2 Winter 2024

Remembering Past State President Carol Watson

It is with saddened hearts that Alpha Chapter says our final farewell to our treasured sister and friend, Carol Watson, who passed away after an extended illness on September 5, 2024.

Carol is preceded in death by her husband, Larry. She is survived by her two sons, Larry and Edwin. She leaves five grandchildren who she loved dearly. Carol served 39 years in Cabell County as a business and library education teacher. Her students were very precious to her. She was involved in setting up a student needs pantry with donated hygiene products, clothes, food and even prom dresses at Huntington High School. Students to this day use this pantry.

She enjoyed quilting, literature, the cinema and sports. She was very active in DKG, the Huntington's Woman's Club and Daughters of the American Revolution. Carol served Alpha Chapter in many capacities since her induction in 1981. These included president, first vice president, treasurer, webmaster, chairwoman of professional affairs, the personal growth and services committees as well as the hospitality committee. She was a definite go-to person and mentor for all members of our chapter.

Carol served as the 35th Alpha Phi State President in the 2009-2011 biennium. She chose as her theme "Healthy Mind/Healthy Body". The goal was to fight childhood obesity in West Virginia by encouraging students to be active for at least 15 minutes four times a week. This state project was called "15/4/YOU". Exercise bands were distributed to schools across the state.

Carol served other capacities on the state level including 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Southwest Regional Director, State Webmaster and the Technology and Communications committees. She received the Alpha Phi State Achievement Award in 2000. Carol attended numerous International Conferences and Conventions. She served as a member of the Educator's Award Committee, of which she was chairwoman from 2002-2004. Carol so enjoyed traveling to the international conventions. It was seldom that you would see Carol without her dear friend, Becky Wood. They were quite the pair.

"Bits and Pieces"

Vickie Skavenski, WVSO President

This is the time of year when we become more aware of the many blessings we have each day. I have had a wonderful fall visiting XI chapter in Beckley, Mu chapter in Spencer, and Delta chapter in Parkersburg. It is so very interesting meeting chapter members, seeing what they do in meetings, and sharing good fellowship with them.

After December 8, when I attend the Eta Chapter Christmas Tea, I will have visited 11 chapters with three more scheduled in the spring. That only leaves nine more—Epsilon, Theta, Pi, Upsilon, Phi, Alpha Gamma, Alpha Delta (Robin and I are working on a date), Alpha Theta, and Alpha Nu. Most of these are chapters that we are not hearing from at monthly meetings, state meetings, reports, etc. Please get in touch with me so that your state officers can help you get involved again.

Currently, we have submitted proposals for two sessions at next summer's International Conference—one by Connie Boggs, and one concerning the work we have done following the Revitalization Program that will be given by the officers and chapter members. Let's hope that WVSO gets a chance to show who we are in NOLA.

We will be having Past International President, Debbie LeBlanc, as our society representative at the state convention. She is so in tune with what is happening on the International level that I'm sure you will enjoy her society news talk and her round-table discussion at our Convention.

Finally, please keep the April 23-25, 2025, WVSO Convention in Flatwoods on your calendar. We will have fun activities, great speakers, learning activities, and the joy of being together. Each chapter is asked to bring a $20 door prize and a basket for the silent auction. If you can't do both, then please do one of these. Reservation forms and information are on page seven. See you soon!

WVSO 2025 Convention - "Building Bridges"

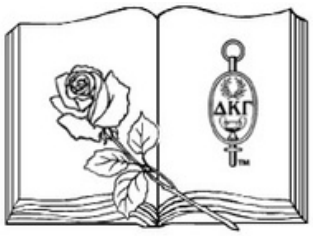
The theme for the 2025 Convention, "Building Bridges", reflects how Delta Kappa Gamma Society started building bridges in 1929 with 11 women educators, and we continue today to carry on this commitment in our West Virginia chapters. Nu and Omega chapters invite all members from the 24 chapters to join us as we proudly strive to share, to care, and to have lots of fun.

A special entertainment is scheduled for the Friday Night Social Event starting at 7 p.m. West Virginia storyteller and actress, Karen Vuranch, will recreate the fire and energy that was Mother Jones in a living history performance. This presentation is a History Alive! program of the West Virginia Humanities Council. Also, live music will be presented by Jason Hypes, Nicholas County High School Choir Director, along with Joe Hypes.

Membership Updates

By Jackie McDaniels
WVSO 2nd Vice President

- If there is a death in your chapter, remind your president or designated member to send in Form 6 as soon as possible.
- At our State Convention in April, chapter presidents will be recognized with a Golden Rose Pin if they completed the requirements listed in the President's Packet they received this summer.
- Finally, all members of your chapter will be rewarded with a red rose pin (different design from last year) if your chapter has taken in at least one new member between April 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025. If you already know your chapter will be inducting a member(s) in December, January or February, please let me know asap, thank you!
- Email - Jackiemcdaniels08@yahoo.com



White Roses

Betty Wright (Mu) February 14, 2024

Condolences

Anna Flint (Mu) in the passing of her sister in September.
Carol Williams (Mu) in the passing of her uncle in September.
Lynne Petrosky (Alpha Beta) in the passing of her mother in October.

Gems of West Virginia

By Janet Lohr
WVSO 1st Vice President

When I think about Christmas in West Virginia, no state parks come to mind. Instead, I want to tell you about a municipal park located near the Ohio River - The Festival of Lights at Oglebay Park.

There is a six-mile drive-through light experience of over 100 displays. You can stay in your own car or ride on the trolley. I recently asked a little girl what was her favorite part of going to Oglebay for Christmas. She told me it was seeing the deer. I thought she meant the live reindeer located at the Good Zoo at the park, but she was talking about the wild deer, which roam freely throughout the light displays.

Speaking of the Good Zoo, there are many additional family activities you can enjoy. Besides visiting Santa and his reindeer, you can sing and dance to the outdoor musical light show or view the laser show in the warmth of the planetarium/theatre. Throughout the park, you can enjoy ice skating, the Snowflake Express train, wagon rides, and the Christmas tree trail.

Believe it or not, this is not everything you can experience during the holidays at Oglebay; check the website for more ideas. So, don't be a Grinch; make this West Virginia park a part of your Christmas celebration.

Congratulations

Megan Lynch (Alpha Beta) on the birth of a baby girl, Stella, in August.

WVSO Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee

~~~~~Chapter Rules~~~~~

Should be reviewed, amended, and sent to Joanne Gregory (busyteach@gmail.com) Chapter Presidents, Parliamentarians, and others who work with the Chapter Rules need to make revisions to bring your document in line with the International Constitution and Standing Rules and the WVSO Bylaws and Standing Rules. International has published a list of the amendments that passed that will impact WVSO Bylaws & Standing Rules and Chapter Rules. That list is available on the WVSO website and the WVSO Facebook page. It can also be found at DKG.org. Click on Constitution & ISR, then go to: Updates for State Organizations and Chapters (2024)

Deadline for sending Chapter Rules to Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee is February 1, 2025.

~~~~~Proposed Amendments to Bylaws and Standing Rules~~~~~

Proposed amendments to the WVSO Bylaws and Standing Rules will be considered during the 2025 WVSO Convention. There is a form on the WVSO website and the Fall 2024 Newsette to complete if you, your chapter, or a committee would like to see change(s) in the WVSO documents.

Proposed amendments must be USPS postmarked or electronically submitted by midnight on January 6, 2025.

WVSO Achievement Award Committee

Do you know an outstanding DKG member? Now is the time to nominate them for the state's highest honor, the WV State Achievement Award. The nomination form can be found on the WVSO website, under Achievement Award and are due **February 1, 2025**. You can also request a written copy from Vicki Jenkins, at jenkinsvicki00@gmail.com. Completed forms can be emailed or mailed to Vicki at 743 Caledonia Dr., Martinsburg, WV 25405-5739. Be sure to nominate a deserving member!

<u>Guidelines</u>

- The WV State Special Achievement Award will be presented annually to an active member for outstanding service and leadership in Delta Kappa Gamma at the state and chapter levels, and for notable contributions to education. The recipient must be presently engaged in rendering exceptionally fine service to the society.
- A minimum of five years of active membership in good standing is required for a nominee.
- The nominee need not have been a state president.
- Nominations are to be submitted on the prescribed form. Additional information must be typed on an additional sheet of paper and include name and number of the sections with which it corresponds. Individuals who wish to nominate may do so through their own chapter. The nominee does not have to be a member of the chapter that submits the nomination, but the prescribed form should be used.
- A WV member shall receive the WV State Achievement Award only once.

Chapter News

Alpha Epsilon

On October 5, Alpha Epsilon held its first chapter meeting of the year at the beautiful Carriage House Bakery and Café in Aurora in Preston County. **Karen Zinn** and **Patricia Dixon** made the arrangements for the meeting. Patricia Dixon knitted bright orange pumpkins for favors and Karen Zinn gave the history of the Carriage House.

Janet Mundell and **Jean Hinzman** reported on the April Leadership Conference and Jean presented a short program on tools available from International to help chapters and members.

All Alpha Epsilon officers were present for the October 5th meeting. Standing left to right are **President Jean Hinzman, Vice-President Karen Zinn, and Treasurer Patricia Dixon** and seated is **Secretary Janet Mundell.**

Alpha Mu

Alpha Mu Chapter gathered on August 8th for a summer picnic at the Heritage House, marking a memorable occasion for the chapter's members and guests. Providing a chance for both veteran and new members to connect, reflect, and plan the year, and hear from special guest, WVSO President **Vickie Skavenski.** The event, held in a beautiful outdoor setting, featured a delightful afternoon of socializing, delicious food, and games that brought members together in a relaxed, casual atmosphere.

Alexa Bushovisky, a science teacher at John Marshall High School in Marshall County and member of Alpha Mu Chapter, earned West Virginia Public Broadcasting's Above and Beyond Award for September, 2024. This award recognizes excellence and creativity of Mountain State teachers.

Eta

On Sunday, December 7, we will have our annual Christmas Tea. Members are asked to bring resupply items for local teachers, such as paper towels, tissues, pencils, dry erase markers, and cleaning wipes. These will be distributed to the schools after Christmas. We will also be accepting donations of new toys for the Shenandoah Women's Shelter, so the mothers there can give their children a gift for Christmas. In addition, some of our members helped provide toys and gift cards for R.A.P.P (Relatives as Parents Program). This group is very near and dear to our chapter, as some of our members are active participants in the organization. Our chapter believes that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others. This spirit of giving is not limited to Christmas, as our chapter assists a variety of charities throughout the year.

Chapter News

Alpha Beta

WVSO President **Vickie Skavenski** visited Alpha Beta chapter on September 8 to induct four new sisters: **Cheryl Cain, Elaine Gum, Gini McCourt-Davison & Rosanne Siggia-Walker**. Don Nestor spoke to the chapter about the Foundation for Better Schools in Upshur County, including how the Foundation can finance classroom projects and help departments pay for equipment.

Omega

Omega Chapter members have had a busy fall. We prepared welcome bags of goodies and teacher needs for our 26 new Fayette County teachers in September. During October and November, members spent two days a week delivering books and blankets to 21 preschool classrooms for our Snuggle & Read project. Our members with our Nu sisters have also been working on favors and the final details in preparation for the 2025 WVSO Convention.

Omega members **Laken Bone, Peggy Watson, Donna Smith, Margaret Higginbothan, Kathy Rutledge, and Cindy Ray** at our September meeting.

Alpha

In September, **Diane Bowsher** and **Gloria Urian** shared insights from their attendance at the DKG International Conference. Their presentation sparked engaging discussions, including the exciting possibility of forming a collegiate chapter at Marshall University. This idea gained momentum in November, when Marshall University senior Abbi Carney attended a chapter meeting to explore opportunities for collaboration with the MU College of Education. We look forward to seeing this initiative take shape!

Congratulations to **Leah "Josephine" Fidler** who was inducted to the 2024 Greater Huntington Wall of Fame!

Alpha Kappa

Alpha Kappa met in October for an Open House where prospective members were invited to learn more about DKG and its members. After brunch, **Jo Ann Harman, Ruby Alvaro Donna Bodkins, and Becky Heavner** discussed the benefits of the organization. Members then filled 49 purses with toiletries and other donated items for the Eastern Regional Family Service Network.

At the November meeting, the chapter inducted four new members—**Barbara DiBennedetto, Keleen Poling, Ashley Skavenski, and Ashley Wilkins.** After the beautiful ceremony, the chapter had a rousing auction for World Fellowship led by **Pam Boggs** and auctioneers **Yvonne Williams and Missy Whetzel** which raised over $700 for the new GIRLS initiative.

WEST VIRGINIA DELTA KAPPA GAMMA STATE CONVENTION

Hosted by Nu and Omega Chapters

April 25 - 27, 2025

Flatwoods Days Inn and Suites

350 Days Drive, Sutton, WV 26601

Call 1-866-700-7284 to make room reservations. Reserve by April 12, 2025.

Ask for Delta Kappa Gamma West Virginia State Convention to get the group rate.

$114.19 including tax, for 2 full beds. Free breakfast for overnight hotel guests.

Convention Registration Form

Send this form and a check payable to **DKG Society Omega/Nu Convention** to the convention treasurer, **Linda Taylor, 230 Irish Street, Summersville, WV 26651.**

Please print the following information:

Name _____Chapter_____

Address _____

City _____State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Chapter Office _____State Office or Committee_____

I am interested in participating in the state chorus.....Yes ____ No____

Registration ..... $20.00 ($25.00 if postmarked after April 11) ..... $_____

Friday Night Social Event—No Charge (7:00 - 8:30) ..... I will attend. Yes ____ No ____

(All breakfasts are in the Woods and Waters Restaurant 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. included in room rate.)

Founders' Day Celebration Luncheon (Saturday) .....$35.00 $ _____

Menu: Deli Board consisting of choice of Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, or Pasta Salad, Chef's Choice Soup, Sliced Ham, Turkey, and Salami along with American, Swiss, and Pepper Jack Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Mustard, and Mayo with a variety of Bread, Dessert, and Coffee, Tea, or Water.

President's Banquet (Saturday Evening) ..... $45.00 $ _____

Menu: Visions Baked Steak, Grilled Italian Seasoned Chicken Breast, served with a House Salad w/ Ranch & Italian Dressing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Vegetable Medley, Dinner Rolls, Chef's Choice Dessert, and Coffee, Tea, or Water.

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

Total Enclosed $ _____

Beta

At a recent Beta chapter meeting, Natalie Scott and Robin Baumgardner from Kanawha County Schools shared information on Home Schooling, Charter Schools and the Hope Scholarship. They answered questions and were most informative. Joanne Gregory shared information on the new International Educational Excellence Committee project GIRLS.

Mu

Mu Chapter has had a busy start to this year with meetings in September and November. Our September meeting featured a visit from State President Vickie Skavenski. Our November meeting included a program on the health benefits of herbs presented by Barbara Owens.

Phi

Phi Chapter was delighted to welcome two new members at our October meeting. **Anne Marie Gentry-Vance** is a teacher at Mount View High School and is the niece of Phi member **Elaine Gentry. Emily Hicks-McCoy** is a teacher at Mount View Middle School and is a 2018 Phi Chapter Grant-in-Aid recipient. We feel confident that they will be wonderful additions to our chapter. They are both enthusiastic about their teaching careers, and will bring with them new ideas and insights for our chapter.

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.

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