

# Wisconsin State News

Official Publication of the Wisconsin State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Wisconsin State Website <https://dkgwso.weebly.com/>

June 2023, Volume 72, Number 4

Wisconsin Group Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/groups/WISigmaStateDKG](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WISigmaStateDKG)

## Sharing the DKG Mission, Doing It Together

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As I write this, it is good to see flowers blooming and everything turning green. Spring has finally arrived, and summer is not far behind. There were times when I wondered when I could finally put away my snow shovels and window scrapers.

I want to thank everyone who helped make the 2022 Leadership Conference and the 2023 Convention such a successful in-person comeback. The Leadership Team and the Convention Committee met many, many times to plan each one. Each event presented a challenge as we researched and assembled the pieces. It was a pleasure working with such dedicated members who stepped in to assist when needed and were so detailed orientated. As we returned to in-person we included favorite things like raffles, silent auctions, table decorations, and most of all time visiting with each other. Who could have predicted we would become so familiar with Zoom meetings (and the repeated phrases “you are on mute” or “mute your microphone”) or that we would look forward to in-person events even if you had to travel?

Even as many of you headed home, this year's convention committee and the 2025 convention committee were meeting, sharing, and planning.

Thank you to all the wonderful, dedicated members I worked so closely with these past two years. I know the new officers will carry WSO forward into 2023-2025.

Stephanie Malaney  
2021-2023 WSO President

### Save the Date!

2023 International Conference  
Detroit, Michigan

July 11-15

Register to attend by June 11 for reduced fees.

Interested in volunteering at the conference? Visit the [DKG.org](http://DKG.org) website. Once you're logged in, go to **Events** and click on the **Detroit Conference**. You'll find a **Volunteer** link.

### Calendar Deadlines:

#### June

11 Int'l Conference—  
Detroit Registration,  
Reduced Fees

#### July

11-16 Int'l Conference,  
Detroit

#### August

15 WSN articles for  
September issue



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

## 2023 Wisconsin State Organization Convention

On May 6, Pewaukee was the place to be as DKG sisters from all over Wisconsin came together to socialize, reconnect, learn, and engage at the 2023 State Convention, *DKG LEADS: Literacy, Education, Advocacy, Diversity*.

Those of us who arrived on Friday had an opportunity to socialize that evening in the Hospitality Room. It was a great beginning.

The convention opened Saturday morning with the WSO Business Meeting. New officers for 2023 to 2025 were elected: Kathleen Clouthier (Pi), President; Chris Shewczyk (Chi), Vice President; and Kay Ziegahn (Lambda), Secretary. Also elected were Finance Committee members: Bobbie Momchilovich (Psi), Rachel Schultz (Lambda), and Kathy Zautner (Beta Alpha); and Nominations Committee members: Nancy Herrmann (Zeta), Isabel Piana (Delta), and Julie Trafton (Pi).

Leslie Bakkum (Theta), representing the Rules Committee, presented the WSO Bylaws Amendment Proposals for the state treasurer, state editor, and state webmaster positions. The proposals were voted on and amended to allow for additional terms when mutually agreed upon.

Changes to the WSO Rules and Bylaws to comply with DKG International, as a result of voting at the 2022 International Convention in New Orleans, can be found on the WSO website, as well as the required revisions to chapter rules.

The 2023-2024 budget proposal was presented by Finance Committee Chair Julie Hannon (Omicron) and approved unanimously.



Following the Business Meeting, the program began with our International Representative, Phyllis Hickey, Strategic Outreach Director, as she congratulated WSO on our many accomplishments, including increasing membership. She also updated us on the news from International.

Phyllis installed the 2023-2025 officers.

Bobbi Momchilovich recognized the 2024 Action Grant recipients (pages 10-11), and Ellen Dowd recognized the Give Back Grant recipients (page 6).



**Phyllis Hickey, Stephanie Malaney, Kathy Clouthier, Chris Shewczyk, Kay Ziegahn, Isabel Piana.**

The morning breakout sessions offered a wide selection to choose from: *Ghana Library Authority* by Christine Wolf (Chi); *Racine Underground Railroad* by Pauline Mitchell (Pi); an *Educational Panel* by Lori Ladiges, Mary Jane Carreno (Pi), Kim DeTennis (Zeta), and Kelsy Rusch (Zeta); and *International Speaker Roundtable* by Phyllis Hickey.

A reflection by Mary Jane Carreno (Pi) opened the luncheon. The highlight of the luncheon was the announcement by Kathy Clouthier (Pi) of the 2023 Missling Achievement Award winner, Mary Keene (Alpha Gamma). Kathy then recognized and thanked Stephanie Malaney (Omicron) for her service to WSO over the past two years. Our own "Madam Butterfly," Bev Mantey-VanCronkhite (Delta), was recognized for her long-standing dedication and support of WSO. We are very proud of her most recent achievement, her appointment as International Northwest Regional Director. Bev represents us well. She is only the second WSO member to be honored with that position, the first being De Britt (Theta).

The luncheon concluded with WSO Literary Co-Chair Donell Bonetti introducing the 2023 Nettessheim Award recipients.

Afternoon breakout sessions provided us with another choice of diverse topics, including *Nettessheim Authors* by Donell Bonetti (Zeta) and Brenda Rank (Zeta); *Among the Hmong* by Lucy Vue (Delta); an *Educational Panel* by Lori Ladiges, Mary Jane Carreno (Pi), Kim DeTennis (Zeta), and Kelsy Rusch (Zeta); *Autism from a Mother's Perspective* by Shelly VanTassell (Alpa Iota); *European Trip of a Lifetime* by Laura Gellott; *Celebrating Juneteenth Day* by Alethea Sumbry-Cetnarowski (Delta); and a *Funding Opportunities*

Panel by Bobbi Momchilovich (Psi), Ellen Dowd (Beta Alpha), and Laura Muchowski (Beta Alpha). There was indeed something for everyone.

Lively bidding on baskets this year yielded \$100 each as the winning bid for Beta Alpha and Zeta donated baskets. Which chapter will top that amount at the next basket auction? A total of \$1,452 was raised through the silent auction baskets and chapter donations, a Creative Arts Retreat woven Swedish snowflake, and rose centerpieces. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations, for both the baskets and the Foundation raffles.

The displays in the ballroom and foyer are proof that WSO is alive and well! Recipients of Action Grants and Give Back Grants created displays of their successful projects. There were also displays showing the excellent work of World Fellowship and Sigma State Foundation. The Creative Arts Retreat's display included an invitation to join the fun at their annual retreat. State Historian Helen Van Prooyen's (Gamma) display never disappoints as she meticulously collects and records our history and shares that history with us yearly.

Roberta Gale (Zeta) and Barb Albrechtson (Alpha Omega) honored our sisters who passed during the last year in the Celebration of Life: Deloris Britt (Theta), Ruth Burdick (Phi), Beverly Drunasky (Zeta), Beatrice Edgette (Beta Alpha), Mae Ellis (Pi), Lenna Hanson (Alpha Upsilon Sigma), and Linda Kunelius (Alpha Eta).

We left at the end of the day, looking forward to the 2024 Leadership Conference. Stay tuned for details.



## ***2023 Missling Achievement Award Recipient***

### ***Dr. Mary Kenne***



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Mary Kenne (Alpha Gamma) is the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Lorraine Missling Achievement Award. Because of her warm personality and attention to detail, Mary has united members in many leadership roles in Delta Kappa Gamma and the educational community. Her professionalism shines in her knowledge of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and in sharing this information with our membership.

Mary has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 1994 and has served Alpha Gamma as secretary for five terms and president for four terms. She has been instrumental in supporting efforts by chapter members to attain an ongoing funded scholarship at the local university endowment office. This fund provides a \$1000 scholarship each year to a university student in the field of education. In addition, when members expressed an interest in building and stocking Little Free Libraries, she supported the idea and helped implement three Little Free Libraries. Mary has kept the chapter apprised of opportunities that will help stimulate personal and professional growth. Our members look up to her as a leader to consult with on educational issues, Delta Kappa Gamma principles, and anything else needed to make the chapter successful.

As WSO President during the pandemic, Mary worked to keep us connected. She did not allow the stresses of the pandemic to interfere with her objectives. Zoom became an essential means of communication. She pioneered the first WSO online convention with great ease and success. Mary guided and energized significant revisions of the state constitution. She led the charge to hold the state convention as a well-organized, highly focused one-day event rather than the previous, more expensive overnight convention. On the state level, Mary has served on the Nominations Committee and Sigma State Foundation, as well as sharing her talents as Treasurer and Leadership Chair.

In Mary's role as principal, her ability to handle challenges without losing her calm demeanor and cheerfulness helped others see a leader who was able to think things through and make progress toward a successful conclusion. She provided a great example that helped others understand they, too, could advance in education and make a difference to students. In addition, she championed causes that would improve her teachers' goals.

Alpha Gamma sisters say of Mary, "She has a huge heart, a generous spirit, and an inspiring personality. No award can capture all she means to everyone with whom she is involved. She is a hard worker that doesn't expect recognition but truly deserves it."





*Donell Bonetti*

# *Mary Jo Nettesheim Literary Competition*

*Established 1985*

*Brenda Rank*



## **DKG State Literary Competition ~ 2023**

This all began, 39 years ago, in 1984 with Mary Jo Nettesheim initiating the writing competition for grades 3, 5, and 7. The goal was to raise the awareness of Wisconsin's DKG organization. She was an enthusiastic 6th grade teacher who probably did not know the impact that she was creating. This year:

- 783 students in the state participated by submitting their books to a local chapter
- 147 chapter members were involved
- 109 books were submitted to the state-level competition from 15 chapters in Wisconsin
- 16 DKG members from several chapters throughout Wisconsin came together to judge the submissions on March 18.
- 46 students received a state-level award for their work and were honored at the May 6 WSO Convention

There are so many people to thank for making Mary Jo's dream continue to happen. Whatever part you may have played with influencing the literary work of Wisconsin's students, it was important, impactful, and influential. Thank you!



**DKG members from several chapters throughout Wisconsin came together to judge the submissions.**

## **Highlights from the Award Ceremony on May 6**

One hundred literary and illustrator award recipients (parents and teachers included) joined DKG members at the WSO Convention in Pewaukee. All the winning books and medals were on display. The winners and their families were congratulated during a presentation by Literary Co-Chairs Donell Bonetti and Brenda Rank. Students who were awarded first place had the opportunity to read their winning books for family and DKG members. Author Laura Gellot spoke to the students and families about her journey as she published two books. [Please enjoy a few highlights from our Literary Competition.](#)

### *Wisconsin State News Deadlines*

**August 15 for September Issue \* November 15 for December Issue  
January 15 for February Issue \* May 15 for June Issue**

## Remembering De Britt

On a cold, rainy Saturday at the end of March, North Presbyterian Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, radiated with the love and respect our community felt for Deloris Vivian Britt. The sanctuary was filled with members of her family, former students, friends from church, colleagues from the educational community, her Eastern Star sisters, and her Delta Kappa Gamma sisters from Theta chapter and Wisconsin State Organization.

Seated in the middle of the congregation was the Thao Family. During the service, Nou Chee shared a moving remembrance on behalf of the family. With words, tears, and humility, she talked about their love and respect for their *Teacher De*. When Yia Yang Thao and Samuel Ning Sou Thao arrived in La Crosse in 1979 as part of the Hmong resettlement, De taught them to read. What blossomed from that teacher/student interaction was a special relationship that influenced the lives of Yia Yang and Samuel Ning Sou Thao and the ten (10) children and fifteen plus (15+) grandchildren that blessed their marriage. Deloris took the children shopping for school supplies, shoes, clothes, and winter gear and never missed celebrating family birthdays and holidays with gifts. She was actively involved in their lives. De and Franklin provided the guidance, love, and support only a family can provide. The lives of three generations of the Thao family were influenced by the friendship and unconditional love of their *Teacher De*.

De's obituary tells the story of her life, her intelligence, and her journey as a high school educator from Black River Falls to UW-La Crosse, to Bangor, and finally to La Crosse Central High School. It tells us about her interests, community involvement, and sixty-one (61) year membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. It tells us what she accomplished in her well-lived ninety-seven (97) years on this earth. Obituary link:

[Deloris Vivian \(Jandt\) Britt Obituary](#)

The real story of Deloris Vivian (Jandt) Britt is not in what she accomplished but in who she was; a generous and independent woman with a dry sense of humor and a touch of "sass" and an extraordinary educator who was interested and actively involved in the lives of her students. She was our beloved *Teacher De*.



### DELORIS BRITT ~ THETA CHAPTER

June 3, 1925 - March 24, 2023

De was inducted as a member of Theta chapter, Wisconsin State Organization, in April 1962. During her 61 years of membership, she has exemplified the Mission, Vision, and Purposes of DKG, serving as Wisconsin State Organization President (1979-1981), Northwest Regional Director (1984-1986),



and DKG Educational Foundation Trustee (1994-2000). In addition, she compiled *The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation A History*, published by the DKG Educational Foundation in July 2000. In 1993, Deloris received the Dr. Lorraine Missling Sigma State (WI) Achievement Award. She remained an active and cherished member of Theta chapter until her death.





### **News from Sigma State Foundation**

**For more information about Foundation business, contact  
Foundation President Karoleen Glenzer**

**karoleenglenzer007@hotmail.com 715-341-6767**

***Mission: To accept, manage, and distribute contributions that will  
enhance the future quality of education.***



Delta Kappa Gamma members from all over the state joined in fellowship and learning for the spring convention. The break-out sessions were so tempting that it was difficult to make choices! I especially learned from Shelly VanTassell's presentation, "Autism from a Mother's Perspective." If your chapter is considering a grant of any kind, the "Funding Opportunities Panel" was appropriate for new and seasoned grant writers.

Our Directors have greatly appreciated Wisconsin State Organization members' generosity in supporting the Foundation. Sigma State Foundation uses your donations to promote and extend DKG's work through chapter projects and service to educators and their communities. Donations can be sent to our Foundation treasurer, Marcia Trentlage, at 728 Thelosen Dr., Kimberly, WI 54136-2336. The donation form is available on the WSO [website](#) under Sigma State Foundation.

As the Sigma State Foundation is completing its roster of Directors for the coming term, you may be invited to become a part of our team! We meet about four times yearly via Zoom to enable our chapters to do *wonders in their world*. Think about joining us to find out why we have such a good time giving away money to fund your great ideas!

## **Give Back Grant**

### **2023-2024 Recipients**

**by Ellen Dowd, Chair**

Congratulations to the following chapters for their innovative projects:

- Pi chapter was awarded funding to provide scholarships to six students, ages 6-14, to attend the Eco-Justice Center in Racine County. The center is an environmental and organic farm center that promotes healthy ecosystems and sustainable growing practices.
- Omicron chapter was given funding to provide shelving, bins, and other storage to store food, clothing, and school supplies for the Community School Center at Jefferson Elementary School. The Center helps reduce educational barriers for disadvantaged students.
- Alpha Gamma chapter was given funding to purchase a microphone to help promote the arts through the Whitewater School District Theater Program. Students in grades five through seniors participate in the program.
- Alpha Beta chapter was awarded funds to assist a teacher at Slinger High School. Funding will help pay for speakers and transportation to teaching sites. He is teaching a CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) class.
- Chi chapter was awarded funding to offer five teachers a grant to be used for a classroom or school-wide project. Compliance with a mini-grant requirement to not use for literacy purposes would be monitored.
- Beta Alpha chapter was given funding to offer a scholarship to one senior high school student to attend a leadership camp put on by WASC (Wisconsin Association of Student Councils).

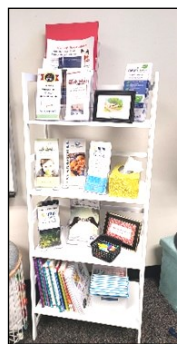


**Wisconsin  
State Organization**



## Give Back Grant: Jefferson Elementary Community School Project

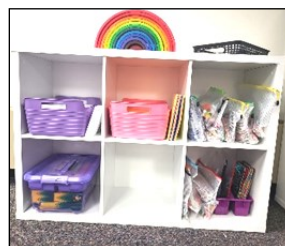
Omicron is one of the 2023 Give Back Grant recipients. Through this grant, Omicron was able to assist Jefferson's Community Schools



Resource Coordinator to purchase needed storage systems to organize and store items that are distributed to students and families in need, such as school supplies, clothing, and food. These items address student basic needs and, in turn, support and improve student achievement.



The picture (above right) is of the Omicron presentation of the storage systems to Lori Leschisin, principal, and Leah Zwiers, Community School Resource Coordinator, as well as the storage units in use. Omicron members Marcia Steffenhagen, Yvonne Fuller, and Julie Hannon presented the items on behalf of the chapter.



## Key Women Educators

### Celine Wong

by Isabel Maria Piana, Marie Therese Campos, and Jeane Fleck



Celine Wong, a Delta member for 25 years, was featured on the Interactive Board at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre during the February 7 to March 19 run of "The Heart Sellers" which shares the challenges of two Asian women who adjust to life as wives of resident doctors who immigrated to the United States during the shortage of healthcare workers.

This Interactive Board features the experiences of Asians who immigrated to the United States in the 1960s and 1970s. Celine's "Accepting Who You Are" is her immigration reflection recorded in a youth voice. We are proud that Celine was chosen and consented to share her thoughts about the importance of "Accepting Who You Are." If you want to hear part of her story, go to <https://www.milwaukeeep.com/202223/heart-sellers-audio-stories/>.

Celine was born in China and emigrated from Hong Kong to the United States in 1962. She decided to come to the United States because there was only one university in Hong Kong. But first, she had to be accepted by a college to receive permission to enter the States. Mount Mary College, now a university, recognized her potential and offered her the opportunity to study here.

The Chinese/Asian population, on the whole, was still relatively small in Milwaukee when she arrived. Midwesterners wondered what her nationality was. Celine surprised many with her English, Chinese, Shanghainese, and French fluency. Her new friends took her to sample Milwaukee's "Chinese" cuisine, like chop suey, egg foo young, and fortune cookies. However, she only heard of these foods once she arrived here. Most people should have realized that there were many trained chefs in the European tradition in Hong Kong, and Celine was familiar with European pastries and other delicate dishes.

However, there was a period of acclimation, as evidenced by a classmate's story: "One day, early in our friendship, Celine came to my room and announced she was going on her first American date. It was a blind date, and she was concerned about what to wear. So we went through her closet and chose an outfit we thought was nice. Then we discussed what the date might be like and do's and don't's. Girl

talk! After the young man arrived on the night of her date, she came to my room. I opened my door. There she was, looking fabulous in her FULL-LENGTH mink coat! I went to MY closet, took out my cloth coat, and said, 'Celine, he will pass out if you meet him in a mink coat. Wear this!' I handed her my cloth coat. She was not used to sharing clothes with other people, and probably many other things must have gone through her mind as she chose to go down in the mink coat. She started elegantly down the stairs. Halfway down, she told the young man she'd be right back. We exchanged coats. Then off she went on her first American date in a cloth coat! After her date, she came to my room and told me she had had a VERY nice time, and we both laughed so hard!!! I knew then that however badly I advised her on life in America, she would take it with her natural grace and classiness, and we would LAUGH." *By Jeane Fleck*

Celine's life was full after graduating with a B.A. from Mount Mary College, marriage, the birth of her two sons, work, and pursuit of her teaching license. She became a teacher, working in parochial schools and then for Milwaukee Public Schools, as a regular and special ed teacher with mostly middle school students.

Today, Celine shares her time and talents with her grandchildren and the many elderly citizens she cares for. This work has brought her much personal satisfaction. She also is a patron of the arts and enjoys many different art forms. For many years, she helped staff the Information Booth at the once-annual Mount Mary Starving Artist Show. She continues to share her interest in various cuisines. And she loves working with international groups. Her history background helps her relate with many people from around the world. But, most of all, she continues to be an enduring friend and is always willing to help old and new friends in many ways

**International News**  
**An Opportunity to Make a Difference**

**Now Accepting Applications for the Position of  
 DKGIEF Director**



The future growth of DKGIEF depends on the **skills** and **experiences** of elected DKGIEF directors and their **level of passion** for the vision of the Foundation to "educate the world."

DKGIEF Directors manage the following funds for the purposes of fund-raising, investment, donor management, and distribution of awards:

- Scholarship
- World Fellowship
- International Speakers
- Emergency
- Cornetet Eunah Temple
- Holden
- Educational Projects
- Golden Gift
- Educators Book Award

If you are passionate about the DKGIEF's mission and have the skill set to contribute to the work of the Foundation, we urge you to apply to become a DKGIEF director. General information and application can be found on the DKGIEF webpage.

**Red Roses of Welcome to Inductees**

ALPHA UPSILON SIGMA	Isabel Rooney	2/23
PI	MaryLynn Conter Strack	2/23



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.



# CREATIVE ARTS RETREAT Registration Form

THEME: "MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE"

October 6 - 8, 2023

Lone Tree Lodge

Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI

Send registration form by September 1st with the

**check made payable to:  
Arts and Crafts Retreat DKG**

To: Kathy Goodwin

917 Arthur Avenue

Racine, WI 53405

262 632-9862

email: kmgoodwin@twc.com



\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ WI (zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$150 per person, which includes 3 meals and lodging for 2 nights (based on double or triple occupancy room)

Saturday only fee: \$35 for 2 meals, park fees and gratuities

Check One:

Vaccinated Attendees: 2 or 3 person room - Roommate Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Non Vaccinated Attendees: Roommate Preference \_\_\_\_\_  
or Single Room (Extra Charge of \$89.00)

Saturday only fee of \$35.00

Single Room: (if available) Extra Charge of \$89.00

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to present a craft \_\_\_\_\_ Craft I might teach \_\_\_\_\_

Questions for the committee? Contact: Toni Durben at: [adurben42@gmail.com](mailto:adurben42@gmail.com)

# Wisconsin State Organization Committees Working for You

## Action Grant Committee

by Bobbi Momchilovich, Chair

The WSO Action Grant Committee has been hard at work revising the "2023 Action Grant Application for Projects in 2024-2025" and the "Rubric for WSO Action Grant Evaluation." Both forms can be found on [dkgwsowebly.com](http://dkgwsowebly.com). Click on Action Grants, and all the necessary forms regarding Action Grants will be there! In addition to the Action Grant Application, you will find the "DKG-Wisconsin State Organization Action Grant Writing Handbook." This handbook contains hints on writing a successful grant as well as a page of "action verbs" that can be used in writing SMART Goals. The "2023 Action Grant Application for Projects in 2024-2025" is due on or before December 1, 2023, to the Action Grant Chair. Once an Action Grant is awarded, the "Action Grant Expense Voucher" with receipts attached and the "Action Grant Self-Evaluation Form" must be submitted to the Action Grant Chair on or before May 1, 2025. In addition to these requirements, Action Grant recipients must write an article for the WSO newsletter during 2024-2025 and present a display about their project at the 2025 Convention.

Action Grants were first awarded in 2005 to provide "seed money" for chapters to initiate a program in their schools and/or communities. Later, a literacy component became a requirement for the Action Grant. Funds requested through Action Grants must be used for literacy materials and cannot be used for speaker fees, service fees, travel or lodging expenses, or refreshments. As of 2022, 30% of the total amount of funds requested must come from supplemental monies from the chapter and/or community resources to show support for the project.

During the WSO State Convention presentation, the Action Grant Chair presented the following "Advice from Action Grant Self Evaluations." This is a compilation of the advice submitted by chapters with successful Action Grant projects as reported on the "Action Grant Self-Evaluation Form."

### Advice About the Application

- \* Follow the application carefully.
- \* Use the Action Grant Handbook and follow the SMART Goals.
- \* Review of the grant writing tips on the WSO website, along with looking at past approved grants, is very useful.
- \* Plan ahead and make sure you have a literacy component to your application.
- \* Make sure the applicants are flexible and have a contingency plan. Have alternatives to timelines and goals.
- \* Keep the outcome in mind while doing this.
- \* Include as much detail in your application as possible, knowing adjustments can always be made.

### Advice About the Chapter

- \* Choosing a project that your members can work on throughout the year is a great way to keep members interested and active.
- \* Take advantage of this opportunity to increase literacy by writing a grant. Have teaching members share their expertise in selecting pertinent projects.
- \* If you don't apply for a grant, you will not have the opportunity to create a future project for the chapter. It was exciting!
- \* Make the completion of the Action Grant Application a team effort. Including chapter members and the grant recipient is helpful.
- \* Having funds for project implementation is important for getting the receipts needed for grant money reimbursement.
- \* Promote the project idea with the chapter members before writing the proposal.
- \* Start discussing the grant idea at the first meeting of the year. Look at the need for literacy in the community.

- \* Don't be daunted by the paperwork. Get several members together and work through the application. Remember that you are teachers, and your grant can make a difference in students' lives in your area.
- \* Have a specific goal and get as many members involved as possible.

**Advice About the School and Community**

- \* Become involved with the service groups in the community to assist with project funding.
- \* Keep in touch with the public library to know the literacy needs in the community.
- \* Look at what's happening in the community where many people are involved and put a literacy component to it.
- \* If you're working at a school, have a strong, supportive staff person involved in the grant.
- \* Make personal contact with the community agencies supporting the project so that they understand completely what the project goals are and what DKG is all about.
- \* Look at existing community activities and discuss how the chapter could add a literacy component to what is already happening.

An informational Zoom Meeting will be open to all members on Thursday, October 26, 2023. A WSO Action Grant Committee member will present information on how to write effective evaluation questions as part of the Action Grant application. There will also be time for questions and answers about the application process. Notice of this meeting will be sent to all chapter presidents.

The following chapters were notified in February that they received an Action Grant and are to be congratulated for planning forward-thinking projects with an emphasis on literacy:

Alpha Iota	Shakespeare Graphic Novels	\$500
Alpha Xi	Books for Babies	\$200
Beta Alpha	Spreading the Love of Literacy	\$650
Psi	Creative Starters for Future Writers	\$1,500
Zeta	TAPP-Teen Age Parent Program	\$800

We are pleased to announce that a total of \$3,650 was awarded this year.

For more information about Action Grants or the Action Grant process, please contact a WSO Action Grant Committee member:

Bobbi Momchilovich, Chair bobbimomchilovich@hotmail.com	Pat Chuchwar, Secretary pnjchuch@centurytel.net	Wava Haney haneyw@uwplatt.edu
Linda Jentzsch sljenn44@gmail.com	Ann Walser anncwalsen@gmail.com	Kathy Clouthier, WSO President dkgwsovp@gmail.com

**Educational Excellence Committee** by *Chris Shewczyk, Chair*

As educators, our experiences have taught us the importance of assessing and adapting our activities to ensure they are effective. The Society has followed the decline in membership closely and reached out to state organizations and chapters for years, encouraging us to make suggested changes they determined would grow membership. However, each year that passed has brought greater concern.

Educational Excellence (EE) and Membership Committee members of the Wisconsin State Organization (WSO) have continually sought ways to help membership grow. As a result, the committees joined together with the Leadership chair, created Delta Force, and began a more personal connection with members through the Monday Minute. In addition, a [website](#) was created by the EE Committee to share projects that would interest, support, and draw the educators we are looking for.

What else do we offer that will entice educators to join our chapters beyond:

Fellowship \* Scholarships and Grants \* Global Awareness \* Work of the U.S. Forum on *Recognizing Mental Health Issues for Educational Staff* \* Connection with Directors of Teaching and Learning in your districts \* Volunteering in those districts.

It is time to start marketing our chapters. Let's go!



## Membership Committee

by Roberta Gale

### Membership Minute

Hello team, let's be blunt. Our WSO team is losing membership and it is in decline. We HAVE to make a change. Think carefully about what YOU can do to change our game plan. I am here to help you, work with you, and encourage you. You are the on-court team and I am your cheerleader. Let's make an effort to win this game of membership. Take time this summer to come up with ideas and share them with me.

Here is a link to an article that may give you some starting points: <https://www.apify.com/blog/10-overlooked-tactics-for-increasing-membership-at-your-organization/>

The five things to consider before you look at the specific proven ways to increase membership are:

- ⇒ Understand your members
- ⇒ Clarify your mission
- ⇒ Know your value
- ⇒ Evaluate your resources
- ⇒ Plan your process

Also, check out the membership plan on the [DKG.org](https://www.dkg.org) website under **Resources >Membership >Membership Plan**.

Go, WSO DKG team, go!

Precept: "Champions keep playing until they get it right."

-Billie Jean King

## Rules Committee

by Leslie Bakkum

The Wisconsin State Organization Bylaws and Standing Rules have been revised to reflect action at the 2023 WSO State Convention. This revision reflects changes to the term limits for the offices of state treasurer and state editor and a new term limit for the office of state webmaster. Additional revisions, necessitated by changes in the DKG International Constitution and Standing Rules are also reflected in [Wisconsin State Organization Bylaws and Standing Rules, Amended May 2023](#). The document was distributed to all members of the WSO 2023-2025 Executive Board and is published on the state website.

*Wisconsin State Organization Bylaws and Standing Rules, Amended May 2023* serves as the guiding document for all decision making in our state organization, effective immediately. Please destroy any previous versions you may have in your files.

## Chapter News

**Alpha Beta** hosted our annual Awards Reception to recognize Literary Contest winners (1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Honorable Mention and Illustrator awards). The 1<sup>st</sup> place winners read their story, 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners presented a summary of their story, Illustrator award winners share the medium they used in their illustrations and why they chose it. We had 55 in attendance, including eight teachers who came to support their student writers. We also awarded one scholarship and a Give-Back Grant.

**Literary Winners** : Pictured are the grades 3-8 literary winners; Karalyn Hesse, WSO 7<sup>th</sup> grade 1<sup>st</sup> place winner is also pictured wearing her state medal. She was so proud



**Scholarship Winner:** Kasey Yu, Hartford Union High School, was presented a \$750 scholarship. Kasey will be attending UW-Platteville for music education. While Kasey is a very active student, from music to sports, she also excels academically (honors/awards from State Solo and Ensemble Competition, Rotary Student of the month, music student of the month, National Honor Society, forensics, Hartford Chronicle reporter, and member of the math team); she is an athlete, lettering in gymnastics and track and field. A great achievement for Kasey is the World Food Prize award. The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute focuses youth efforts to address global food security issues. Kasey submitted a research paper on a critical aspect of food security and presented her findings. She was chosen as 1 of 250 students worldwide for her work. As a future educator, Kasey feels it is important to *listen* to help students feel safe, having compassion because for some it is the only safe place for them or the only place quiet enough for them to be able to work. Kasey writes, "Everything I start, I finish to the best of my abilities no matter how much time it takes." Kasey's English teacher writes, "It is Kasey's perseverance that will make her a success." Kasey also feels that it is important to be willing to learn, take every opportunity to learn something new because it may have an even more positive impact on students.



**Give-Back Grant:** Nathaniel Grimm, Slinger Higher School, was presented this Grant to support his Introduction to Teaching, dual-credit course, which helps students become better informed about the Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade teaching profession. The WSO Give Back Grant makes it possible for Nate to finance bus transportation to teaching sites and provides funds for guest speakers. It is our hope that by supporting programs such as Nate's, we help students learn about the field of education. This course provides an option for students to earn college credit for an entry-level course in education.



**Membership Service:** Mary Holtan was recognized for 50 years as a member of DKG and her service to Alpha Beta.

**Alpha Gamma:** Happy 60th!



**Alpha Omega** has had a busy spring with a fantastic presentation at our February meeting by Cindy Stuhr on how she makes coasters. At this meeting, we were able to raise \$500 for a scholarship for a student at Western Technical College going into education. Pictured right is an example of Cindy's art work.



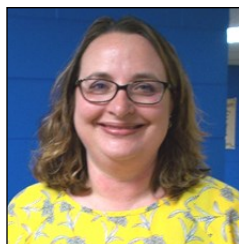
In April, we inducted new members pictured below: Merry Kocar, Amy Hysel, Mary Ann Gschwind, Pam Griffith, and Margaret Wood who was reinstated.





We held our first Rummage Sale for Teacher Scholarship in May and made over \$600. What a successful group event. Everyone is looking forward to another and better fundraiser next year.

In June, we are looking forward to a joint meeting with Theta chapter at the Freight House. Our speaker will be Tita Yutuc, CEO of the Family and Children's Center.



**Nu** inducted Valerie Brooks (left) and Janet Paisar (right) during our chapter's May 2 meeting held at the Marion Public Library. Valerie is the Career and Technical Education Coordinator for CESA 8 and 9. She started her career as a high school special education teacher in Shawano and spent most of her career working for CESA 8 as a director of special education. Valerie earned her bachelor's degree from UW Oshkosh in special education in 2000 and master's degree from UW Stevens Point in education in 2008.



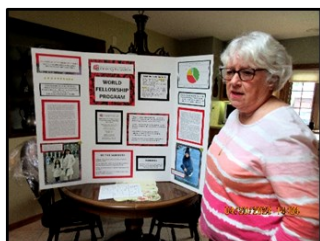
Janet Paisar is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Rexford-Longfellow Elementary School in Clintonville. She earned her bachelor's degree from UW Oshkosh, majoring in elementary education with a minor in PreK-9 language arts. In addition, Janet earned a master's degree in technology from Viterbo University. She worked at Keshena Primary School for three years, eight years at Marion Elementary School, and has worked in Clintonville for 21 years.

Jenny Hangartner, Library Project Chair, reported this year's grant recipients at the May meeting. Sacred Heart School Library in Shawano and Clintonville Middle/High School Instructional Media Center each received a \$200 grant to purchase books. Nu Chapter also sponsors a Books for Newborns project where wrapped books are given to hospitals and clinics in Shawano and Waupaca counties for distribution to new parents. In addition, every three years, the chapter awards a \$500 grant to a student who has graduated from a high school in Shawano or Waupaca County and is enrolled in a school of education.



**PI** chapter enjoyed a presentation by Kathy MacAvaney, K-12 school librarian for St. Francis School District, and Carrie Richmond, Racine Public Librarian, on challenges facing school libraries and public libraries. They let us know how books are chosen for libraries and how they have dealt with challenges to books that are in their collections. Also in the photo are Ellie Boldus, Barb VanderLeest, and Jeanne Piper.

**Theta** says, "Rain, cold weather, and river flooding will not deter us!" We shared a fun INDOOR meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> focusing on the DKG Core Value, Global Awareness. The desserts and ice cream were delicious, a fun ice breaker got the meeting rolling (with dice), and we received our First Step DKG business cards, created by Barb Cody, our WSO webmaster extraordinaire! Marie Allen shared the World Fellowship display board and the stories of two 2022-2023 DKG World Fellowship recipients. *Bulgan Tsolmonbaatar* (Mongolia) is studying Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. *Vidarshani Ellepola* (Sri Lanka) is studying Food Material Science at Ohio State University in Columbus.



Marie Allen ~ WSO World Fellowship



**Thank you, WSO Webmaster, Barb Cody!**  
 Front Row: Mary Saphner, Judy Anderson  
 Middle Row: Barb Weinberger, Marie Allen, Peggy Green, Ruth Scholze  
 Back Row: Shari Eberhardt, Patsy Hofer, Judi Konop



# Breakout Sessions

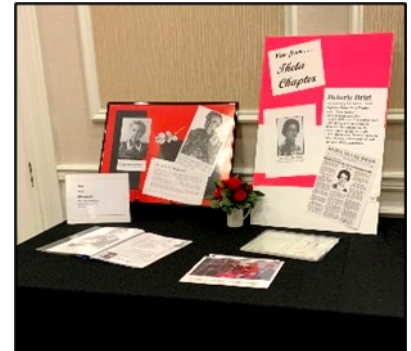
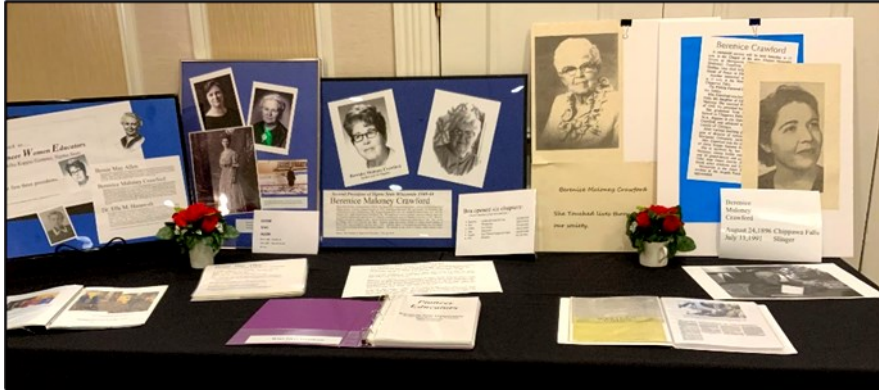




## Displays







## and Baskets







## Together Again



World Fellowship



Lambda



Delta



Pi





Beta Alpha







*A special Thank You to:*  
*Barb Cody*  
*Kathy Harrison*  
*Isabel Piana*  
*Julie Trafton*  
*for submitting pictures*