

Wisconsin State News

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

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Wisconsin Group Facebook Page www.facebook.com/groups/WISigmaStateDKG



Communication, Cooperation, Connections,
to build DKG for the future

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6-8 Creative Arts
Retreat

November

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Application



As I start my WSO President biennium, I look forward to meeting and working with many of you. We know that our greatest challenge is to increase membership. With that goal in mind, we developed a "logic model" at the Texas Leadership Training. An Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting to plan a chapter presidents' presentation for an upcoming Zoom meeting. I know many chapters have planned their meetings for this year, but I'm hoping you can embrace and incorporate some of the ideas that will be presented to help increase membership.

The leadership team will **communicate** with you some strategies to make DKG known in your communities and to potential members. We need your **cooperation** to implement these strategies and other ideas that work for your members. If we make new **connections** with classroom teachers, our communities, and other educators, we can show them the value of DKG membership. Each chapter is on the front line in this battle, and we need you to lead the way.

As we move into the beautiful Wisconsin fall season, let us enjoy where we are and plan for the next season as well. Your WSO Leadership Team is willing to help. We can search for a suitable solution if we don't know the answer to your question.

Please see page 2 for my thoughts behind my theme, **Communication, Cooperation, Connections, to build DKG for the future.**

Stay safe,

Kathleen Clouthier
2023-2025 WSO President
dkgwsoprez23@gmail.com

WSO 2024 Conference

What breakout/training sessions would you like to attend at the WSO 2024 Conference?

Share your ideas with Chris Shewczyk
dkgwsovp23@gmail.com



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Communication, Cooperation, Connections to build DKG for the future

Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the earliest (1933-1942) New Deal programs established to relieve unemployment during the Great Depression. (www.britannica.com/topic/Civilian-Conservation-Corps).

The **CCC** became one of the most successful programs of New Deal back-to-work programs. (www.american-historama.org/1929-1945-depression-ww2-era/civilian-conservationcorps.htm)

The **Civilian Conservation Corps** played a significant role in getting the U.S. out of the **Great Depression**. (www.si.edu/object/archives/sova-nmah-ac-0930).

It is time for **DKG-WSO** and all chapters to get **to work** planning and presenting relevant programs that engage current members and draw new members into the fold. We need to **communicate and cooperate** with each other to make the necessary **connections** to get the Society out of our "**great depression**."

All members can participate in the growth of DKG. We need to bring forth and share ideas, attend programs as we are able, and ask about the needs of those still in the classroom/profession and how we can help them. We must invite prospective members to meetings so they can learn more about this amazing group of women.

Lastly, we must communicate to members about available money for personal growth, leadership opportunities, and relevant deadlines for these programs.

We can achieve these lofty goals if we **work together to communicate, cooperate, and connect**.

Texas Leadership Training

Wisconsin State Organization (WSO) sent President Kathleen Clouthier, Co-EEC Chair Chris Shewczyk, Membership Chair Roberta Gale, and Treasurer Trainee Julie Letellier to the Leadership Training in Dallas on June 23-25. Of course, our own Bev Mantey VanCronkhite was also present in Texas.

The three-day event started with a Friday evening general session giving an overview of the weekend. Each representative met in training sessions on Saturday morning for their particular focus area. We met as state organizations Saturday afternoon to focus as a team on a problem area for our region. We stated our problem, membership issues, and why the problem exists. We then developed a plan to address the problem. Many other groups were also dealing with membership issues. You will be hearing more about our plan as we develop our committee.

As the strategic plan gets developed, we will present it first to chapter presidents for feedback and distribution of the information and then rework it if necessary. We then plan to meet with the general membership to disseminate the strategies and ASK for your support and cooperation to work toward the goal of increasing chapter and state membership. Max Lucado's quote seems to fit here "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." Sunday morning was a wrap-up session before we headed back to Milwaukee.

Wisconsin State News Deadlines

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

Detroit International Conference

Wisconsin State Organization was well represented at the DKG International Conference in Detroit on July 12-16, 2023. The Steering Committee for the Conference was co-chaired by Beverly Mantey VanCronkhite (Northwest Regional Director) and Susan Perkins (Southwest Regional Director) and included Leslie Bakkum (Registration Coordinator) and Sharon Storms (Technology Coordinator). According to Bev and Susan, "The goals of this conference are to celebrate our members, provide opportunities for personal and professional growth, expand our network of friends and colleagues, and take time for ourselves to focus on being the best we can be." This well-rounded conference met and exceeded those goals.



Beverly Mantey VanCronkhite

Throughout the conference, Bev could be seen presiding at numerous breakfasts, lunches, and dinners; checking workshop rooms; and working to keep the conference moving smoothly. We were very proud of our Wisconsin presenters: Heather Thomas-Flores ("Honoring Language Diversity in the Classroom"), Pauline Mitchell ("The Racine WI Underground Railroad"), and Chris Shewczyk ("Ready, Set, Grow Your Chapter").



Heather Thomas-Flores

The preconference session on Parliamentary Procedures was excellent, and we learned, among other things, that minutes as we do them need to be corrected (more on this later). The wide variety of workshops provided something for everyone. There was even time for the Wisconsin contingent to spend an evening together at an Italian restaurant and later ride Detroit's people mover. The conference ended with DKG Sisters dancing and enjoying the sounds of the lively Dueling Pianos as they played popular tunes from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.



Pauline Mitchell

The highlights of attending any DKG International Conference or Convention are meeting DKG members from other areas; sharing thoughts and insights with them; learning about projects, initiatives, and opportunities for growth from other state organizations and local chapters; and getting an expanded vision of the work of our Society throughout the world. We had the opportunity to learn from those with expertise and from each other as we spent meaningful time with our DKG Wisconsin members. The experience was enjoyable and energizing. We recommend you attend an International Conference or Convention.



Chris Shewczyk



*Front Row: Leslie Bakkum
Second Row: Kathleen Clouthier, Pauline Mitchell
Back Row: Bev Mantey VanCronkhite, Bev Hess, Chris Shewczyk, Roberta Gale, Sharon Storms, Heather Thomas-Flores*



**Wisconsin
State Organization**



Mary Jo Nettesheim Literary Competition

Nancy Herrmann



Barb Cody

The Green Bay Zeta Chapter will continue to chair the state literary competition. Nancy Herrmann and Barb Cody will be the new co-chairs for the 2024 contest. Please encourage students to enter the contest and showcase their creative writing and illustrating.

The 2024 student and chapter entry forms and additional contest information are posted on the WSO website (<https://dkgwso.weebly.com/literary-competition.html>).

- The contest is open to Wisconsin students in grades 3-12
- Each chapter may enter a maximum of 10 books written in English to the state competition
- Additionally, each chapter may submit a maximum of 3 Bilingual Spanish books, one for each grade range 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12
- All 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place State winners will be invited to the 2024 WSO Conference

New this year, all books will be due to local chapters on February 2, 2024, unless special accommodations are made. This common date should eliminate the many questions regarding chapter due dates.

Important Dates:

- February 2, 2024 All entries due to local chapters
- March 4, 2024 Chapter winning entries are due to state
- March 16, 2024 Tentative date for state judging in Green Bay

Please volunteer if you:

- Will judge the state entries
- Would like to be on the committee
- Have ideas for a speaker and/or activity for the 2024 Conference Literary Competition Awards Ceremony

Contact Barb Cody or Nancy Herrmann with questions, suggestions, or concerns using the State Literary Competition email: wsolitcomp@gmail.com

***Chapter Presidents: Your chapter Literary Competition contact information is needed.** If you haven't already, please complete the Google form.

1. Indicate if your chapter is or is not participating in the 2024 contest.
2. List the chapter literary competition chair and contact information.

Click on the link (<https://forms.gle/ECK1RvkXaF5GSdVT8>), complete the form, and SUBMIT.

Contact Barb Cody, Literary Communication Chair, with questions (wsolitcomp@gmail.com or 608-475-3537).

In support of WSO President Kathy Clouthier's Communication, Cooperation, and Connections theme, we will try a new process of delivering *Wisconsin State News*. Beginning with the December issue, I will send a copy of the newsletter and the WSO website link to all chapter presidents or contact people. It will then be that person's responsibility to forward the newsletter to all members who receive it electronically.

For those members who receive a print copy of the newsletter, it will be the responsibility of the chapter to have someone print those newsletters. Then, how you would like to deliver them is up to the chapter. The preferred method is to have someone from the chapter hand deliver the newsletter. This is an excellent opportunity to "communicate" and "connect" with members who are unable to attend meetings. If it's not possible to hand deliver the newsletter, you can mail it.

We will try this process in December and February. We will then ask for your input as we evaluate the process. I will be contacting each chapter president in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sharon Storms, WSN Editor, dkgsseditor@gmail.com

Key Women Educators

The Gift of Literacy: The Road to Becoming a Reading Teacher

Alethea E. Sumbry-Cetnarowski, Delta Chapter



In the spring of 2020, the entire landscape of education was forever changed. So was I. The end of the school year had finally arrived. In early June 2020, I found myself sitting on my couch wondering if I did enough to help a second grader reach her potential in reading. The answer was yes and no. Yes, I followed the necessary procedures to work with her each day for 15 minutes, to check her progress at the end of each week and to document the data. I helped her obtain a much needed and highly anticipated special education diagnosis and additional support in reading. No, I felt like I hadn't exhausted all of the strategies and resources to prepare her for third grade work. When her diagnosis was determined, a fellow educator told me that even though I followed procedure, my student was going to be a person who never could or would read. I was in utter shock and awe. I logged off of the online meeting and cried. After much thought and a few additional online workshops during the summer of being "safer at home" I began my quest to become a licensed Reading Teacher.

How could I improve a future outcome like the one I had just experienced to ensure that students had the necessary tools to succeed in reading? I researched coursework offerings and the timeline that was necessary to complete the work. With my husband's blessing and support, materials were purchased and I was again a registered graduate student.

After four consecutive semesters of hard work, I have learned a great deal about myself and what it means to be literate in this world.

As I complete the final phase of my graduate work, I have had time to review and reflect upon my final portfolio. The process has been priceless. In the beginning, I didn't believe that I would or could finish what I had started. The few years leading up to this final semester have been some of the toughest in my 25 years as a veteran teacher. When I looked at the final collection of standards I had to meet, it seemed impossible to achieve. My greatest fear was that I didn't have the necessary artifacts to show that I knew what I was doing. After all of the work, time and energy, would I let myself down?

After a meeting with my professor, I had the clarity that I needed. One Saturday afternoon in mid-February 2023, I was ready. To get comfortable, I brewed a cup of coffee, opened my online files, and began analyzing and selecting my evidence.

Being the self-proclaimed pack rat that I am, what I needed was there. I had saved years of my work. I was thrilled to see a wide variety of documents, lesson plans, recordings, spreadsheets, slideshows, essays, projects and summaries that were worthy of uploading into my final portfolio. This realization helped me regain my confidence and affirm that I could indeed do this. I worked hard that entire day. First, I created seven electronic folders, one for each of the seven standards as determined by the International Literacy Association. Next, I created cover sheets for each folder. The most challenging part of the process was remembering how I named my pieces in my online files. To make my search easier, I decided to go back to my original time of inspiration, June 2020. From here, I looked at each item that had anything to do with reading. As I analyzed each piece, I compared what I had to what the standard specified. If it qualified, I listed the name of the artifact on my standards table. Next, I made a copy of the online artifact and moved it into my electronic folder. My artifacts were lining up with the standards and many pieces overlapped to meet the goal of more than one standard.

I repeated this process in one, eight hour sitting only stopping to refuel and push on. I reviewed all items that I created from June 2020 until February 2023. I then proceeded to color code each of my online folders. They are labeled in this manner: my full name, Alethea Ellen Sumbry-Cetnarowski, project name, International Literacy Association standard number, standard goal and description, and the date. I went back and double checked that each artifact was in the right place, and I ensured that my professor had access to my work. I am so incredibly proud of this accomplishment.

(Continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

As I come to achieve my goal, I ask myself three questions: First, what does it take to help a student become a proficient reader? Second, what is the difference between a student who struggles to read and a student with a reading disability? Finally, do I have what it takes to know the difference and lay the foundation for my students that will give them the ability to be a proficient reader? As I reflect upon my journey to obtain this license, I have found the answers to these three questions.

First, in order to help a student become a proficient reader, I know that it takes a high level of dedication to provide explicit, systematic instruction on a regular basis. I have the intrinsic motivation and skill to make this happen. Second, through careful study and direct work, I understand and can identify the differences between a student who struggles in reading and a student with a reading disability. For the past three years, I have been able to work with students in this regard.

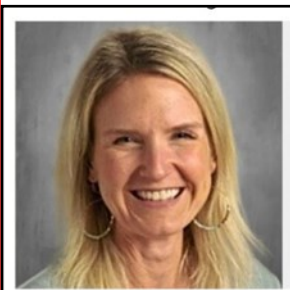
With impactful planning, delivery of interventions and collecting data, I have been able to prove or disprove the need for individualized reading plans for over 20 students in grades 1 - 5. Finally, I am fully confident and have proven myself capable of recognizing and pinpointing student strengths and areas of need in reading.

The greatest gift that anyone can receive from compulsory education, in the public or private sector, is the gift of literacy. I am hopeful that all children can receive this gift before graduating from high school. It is the hallmark of education and the key to a productive and successful future as a global citizen. As I make my mark as a Reading Teacher, I look forward to making this dream come true for my future students for many years to come.

A very special thank you to my dear husband Dwayne. You are my biggest cheerleader, supporter and my rock. I love you, and I could not have done this without you by my side. Thank you for helping me fulfill my dreams. This essay and my portfolio are dedicated to my children Andrew, Myles and Nicholas. You continue to inspire me to be the best educator that I can be as I see learning through your eyes. Never give up on your dreams. Thank you to my parents Jim and Linda Sumbry, for purchasing numerous books and magazines that filled our home when I was a child along with countless trips to the local bookstores and libraries. Sarah Sanders, Dr. Dosemagen, Dr. Luckman, Dr. Zignego, DKG-Milwaukee Chapter members, Kathy Hansen and Chris Kargol, thank you for your continued encouragement. To my ancestors, I stand on your shoulders when I work to provide children with the ability to read; a right that many of you were once denied.

Katie Malterer, Alpha Beta Chapter

by Donna Dinco



Congratulations to Katie Malterer as she transitions to her new role as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the School District of Hartford Jt. #1. During her 13 years in the district, Katie served as a 7th-grade ELA teacher, a 5th-grade teacher, and as the District Literacy Coach.

As Katie transitions to a new role, I have an opportunity to reflect on the opportunities I have had to work with Katie since her first day in the district as a new teacher, professionally as the English Language Arts curriculum chair, member of the staff development council; and her role as a mentor to new teachers in the district.

Katie has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 2017 and serves as chair for the Literary Contest.

I mentored Katie when she pursued her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, so I am excited for her as she continues to work toward her personal and professional goals. Katie is willing to learn and grow professionally; her commitment to honor the profession through her dedication to her students and desire to make a difference, one learner and one teacher at a time, reflects the purposes of DKG.

Outside of the classroom and her district responsibilities, Katie enjoys running, reading, roasting coffee, and family activities with her husband Adam and son Aiden, who will be in 1st grade this year. Last week you could find Katie serving root beer floats to students and families at the district school picture night.

Katie is very enthusiastic about her new role in the district. I applaud Katie's desire to explore new challenges.

Alpha Iota Helps Kids Locally and Globally: One Letter and Donation at a Time

By Jen Schrab, Alpha Iota Chapter

Jefferson Elementary School in Janesville, Wisconsin, hovers between 60 to 70% poverty. Teachers there must use strategies for teaching that engage low-income students. Two accepted best practices for teaching students of poverty include connecting them to their community and providing them with hope. This



is where Alpha Iota stepped in, and the persuasive letter project was born.

Third-grade teacher Jen Schrab, a Delta Kappa Gamma member, asked her fellow Alpha Iota members if they would receive persuasive letters from her students and make a donation on their behalf. Of course, the members rolled up their sleeves (brought out their checkbooks) and went to work. Students wrote to members who volunteered, persuading them to donate to Friends of SizaBantwana (FOS), an organization Jefferson has partnered with for ten years. FOS helps children in rural South Africa who are orphaned or vulnerable due to the AIDS epidemic. Students used their best persuasion techniques (not always the best penmanship, although they tried) to encourage the receiver to donate money to help the kids in South Africa.

These kind donors wrote back to their students and enclosed generous donations for FOS. The students were thrilled to get mail. For some, it was the first letter they had ever received. Screams of joy would erupt as students would add their new donations to the total for the class. Members of DKG provided hope to the third graders by allowing them to be the purveyors of hope to other children halfway around the world. These

students were able to help others without relying on their own economic status. Even though they were kids, they were making a difference and were extremely proud of that newfound ability. Not only were they connected to local community members through persuasive writing, but also, they were connected to a larger community—a global community. Students were excited about what they were going to do with their donations. The grateful kids would discuss spending possibilities, including buying food parcels, school uniforms, and toiletries for the needy children.

In July, Jen Schrab led a group of 13 volunteers to SizaBantwana in South Africa. This is where DKG helped the second set of children. Their generous donations were given to FOS on behalf of the Jefferson third-grade students to purchase 20 food parcels. Each food parcel feeds a family of four for one month. In addition, many DKG members donated knit items, suitcases, stickers, and other items for the children. It is the members of Alpha Iota who have such kind hearts. They have helped two sets of kids. Locally and globally. It doesn't get better than that.



For more information on Friends of SizaBantwana see www.friendsofsiza.org



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



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.**



A warm welcome was given to Barb Cody and Mary Kenne as new Directors at our meeting in July. We are fortunate to have attracted two such highly experienced women to the Sigma State Foundation.

The Sigma State Foundation works diligently to oversee the assets of the Foundation in order to support the goals of the Wisconsin State Organization. During our summer meeting, reports by our Finance Committee have shown that we are in a position to continue to support DKG's mission and purposes as reflected in Action Grants, Give Back Grants, Leadership Development Grants, and the Nettlesheim Literary Competition, to name a few. For a complete listing and deadlines for these grant opportunities, please refer to the WSO website. For your information, Amazon has discontinued its Amazon Smile Program, so it's more important than ever to take advantage of the donation form on the WSO website. We appreciate the generosity of many members during the spring conventions and conferences.

We are strong and active in doing the work of our organization, so please consider taking advantage of the grants and opportunities that DKG and the WSO offer to all of you and your chapters.

Wisconsin State Organization Committees Working for You

Action Grant Committee

by Bobbi Momchilovich, Chair

The WSO Action Grant Committee met via Zoom on Friday, July 26, at 9 a.m.

We updated the Action Grant Committee Goals for 2023-2024, the *Action Grant Writing Handbook*, the *Action Grant Application for Projects for 2024-2025*, and the *Rubric for Action Grant Evaluation*.

The Action Grant Committee sent a questionnaire to all chapter presidents asking for feedback regarding the Action Grant Process. The response was very low. Any chapter president who didn't return the questionnaire but has some feedback for the Action Grant Committee, please feel free to email bobbimomchilovich@hotmail.com with any questions or comments. We will record your comments in our report.

The Action Grant Committee has compiled a historical summary of the Action Grants from 2005 to 2022. If you wish to view this document, contact bobbimomchilovich@hotmail.com for an emailed copy.

All members are reminded that the application deadline for an Action Grant is December 1, 2023. The Action Grant Application for Projects in 2024-2025 can be found on the website (dkgwsoweebly.com) as in the past as a Word Fillable Document. Action Grant applications should be emailed to Bobbi Momchilovich at bobbimomchilovich@hotmail.com by December 1, 2023.

To clarify the expectations for the Action Grants, the Committee has listed the following criteria on the application. Each Action Grant Project must:

1. incorporate a literacy element.
2. relate to the Strategic Action Plan of Wisconsin State Organization and/or the general purposes of DKG. (dkgwsoweebly.com)
3. use grant monies as supplemental monies for chapter projects.
4. prioritize new and innovative literacy projects that enhance membership.
5. follow the *Rubric for WSO Action Grant Evaluation* when composing the project proposal. (dkgwsoweebly.com)

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The *Rubric for Action Grant Evaluation* has been revised to reflect these criteria. Another revision in the *Rubric for Action Grant Evaluation* can be found in criteria "I ." This criterion reads as follows:

"The budget is accurate, clearly lists a minimum of 30% of supplemental monies from the chapter and community sources and directly links expenses to literacy activities."

As a reminder, chapters receiving Action Grants must:

1. send a voucher with receipts and the *Action Grant Self-Evaluation Form* to the Action Grant Chair after July 1, 2024, but before May 1, 2025. Checks will be written at that time.
2. write a short summary for the Wisconsin State Organization newsletter within the 2024-2025 year and present a display of the project at the Spring Conference/Convention

We will again be offering an informational meeting regarding applying for an Action Grant on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 9 a.m. via Zoom. Chapter presidents are asked to watch their email for reminders of this optional meeting with the purpose of finding out more about applying for an Action Grant, asking questions, or making comments about the Action Grant Writing Process.

Please contact any of the following members of the Action Grant Committee with any questions or concerns:

Bobbi Momchilovich, Chair
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Cumberland, WI 54829
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Lambda-Richland Center
Chapter

Kathy Clouthier, WSO President
Ex-Officio
3422 McArthur Place
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262-554-7678 home
262-497-1301 cell
dkgwsoprez23@gmail.com
2023, Pi-Racine Chapter

We encourage all chapters to apply for an Action Grant for projects in 2024-2025! The Action Grant Committee is here to help any and all chapters plan meaningful projects as we move forward with our mission to promote literacy. Let us continue our tradition of being "Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide."

Please read the Alpha Xi and Alpha Iota Action Grant reports on page 15.

Communications and Marketing Committee by Carole Henning, Chair

On a scale of 1-10, how well does your chapter "communicate"? How well does your chapter inform each member, active or not, about chapter news as well as state and international happenings?

Beyond this, how well does your chapter "market" DKG's goals and benefits to women educators in your community?

Good communication makes existing members feel valued and involved. It draws in those who are under-involved and reinforces those who are highly engaged.

Good marketing helps your chapter involve new faces and hopefully add them to our membership roster.

This year, make a renewed commitment to have a vibrant, growing chapter and to spread the word, inviting others to join us.

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Don't be overwhelmed by this challenge to take your chapter's communication and marketing efforts to a higher level; many strategies are outlined on both the state and international websites, and throughout the upcoming year, we'll be highlighting some of the best techniques in our state publications.

If your chapter wants specific assistance with your communications or marketing efforts, don't hesitate to reach out by emailing dkgwsocandm@gmail.com. I am available to meet with your chapter at your convenience.

Educational Excellence Committee ***by Heather Thomas-Flores, Chair***

Introducing EEC SMART Goals for 2023-2025

As we look toward the start of another school year, it seems fitting that we take a few minutes to share the newly crafted goals that will guide our efforts over the next two years.

Our first goal is to work toward members' professional growth, development, and in turn, membership growth by introducing relevant content related to educational excellence.

We can accomplish this by sharing peer-reviewed literature and other current and relevant publications and resources on the changing climate of schooling and ideas about how DKG can support early/middle career educators. We hope you will join us in this effort by collecting relevant resources and filling out the [resources form](#) on our state website (dkgwso.weebly.com under the EE tab) so we can link the articles to our online library.

The second goal we put into place is to build relationships between chapters and share ideas to support our educational communities.

This goal is so important! This is how we will inspire our fellow chapters, attract new members to join, and stay relevant over the long term. Programs and projects are relevant to the communities we live and work in; this sharing and support begins with your chapter. By providing updates, through the web form, on any projects, programs, and/or activities that you have accomplished or will be facilitating as a chapter this year, we can promote your creative and impactful work in education. Each month, [EE will spotlight](#) one program or activity with pictures and a brief description of that project and whom you can contact for more information. Check often to get inspired!

It takes all of us working together to achieve our personal growth goals and build a strong and sustainable organization. Onward!

Membership Committee

by Roberta Gale, Chair

Membership Minute

I've been debating whether to send you the song lyrics for "Eve of Destruction" or "You are My Sunshine." DKG International has predicted a negative outcome for DKG over the next ten years. Wisconsin has had a 36% membership loss since 2010. We have to STOP that downward direction. I listened to an old song by Ben Harper, "My Own Two Hands," and realized that everyone has two hands to help bring about change in Wisconsin by doubling our effort to double our membership in the next three years. Are you up to it? Plan how you can help your chapter president as she learns about the new approach from the team developing a new plan just for Wisconsin. Stay tuned and check out your Monday Membership Minutes. YOU are the heart of the organization, and the team is counting on you.

John Legend's song "If You're Out There" has this line that fits our current status: "The future started yesterday, and we're already late." Looking forward to working with you on turning around the downward trend and making our membership grow and **gROW** and **gROW**.

Precept: Change brings opportunity

Rules Committee

by Leslie Bakkum, Chair

The Wisconsin State Organization Rules Committee is reviewing the Wisconsin State Organization Standing Rules, Amended 2023 in preparation for the 2024 WSO State Conference next year. Proposed amendments to the STANDING RULES may be submitted to the Rules Committee by a member or group of members, a chapter, or a committee **by October 1, 2023**. The document explaining the process to make proposals to the WSO Standing Rules and the Amendment Proposal Form are available for download at this link: [WSO RULES COMMITTEE](#)

The WSO Rules Committee will review your proposals and compile them for publication on the Wisconsin State Organization website and in the February 2024 *Wisconsin State News*. Thank you for your interest in the guiding documents of our state organization. Please contact me with any questions.

Dear Chapter President,

Welcome to the first year of the 2023-2025 Wisconsin State Organization biennium! The WSO Rules Committee is preparing to work with you to review and update your local chapter rules. Each local chapter of DKG is required to have chapter rules which are consistent with the DKG *Constitution and International Standing Rules* and its state organization bylaws (*Constitution, Article V Section B. 3*). The last review of local chapter rules took place in 2019.

The DKG *Constitution and International Standing Rules* were revised in July 2022. The *Bylaws and Standing Rules of Wisconsin State Organization* were revised in May 2023 to reflect those changes. *Constitution, Article V Section B3*. Revisions to local chapter rules are necessary at this time to provide the consistency required by the DKG.

In the next few weeks, a member of the WSO Rules Committee will contact you to explain the review process and timeline. That person will be your contact during the entire review process. They are ready to answer questions, clarify the meaning of specific language, and assist you as needed.

Leslie Riese Bakkum, Theta
023-2025 WSO Rules Chair
clbakkum@gmail.com



Scholarship Committee

by Johanna Dvorak, Chair

WSO Offers Scholarships

Now that COVID has subsided, many people are traveling again. How about you? If you, as a DKG WSO member, are interested in international travel with an educational purpose, consider applying for the *WSO Dr. Ernella Hunziker International Studies Scholarship Award*. WSO offers a one-time award of up to \$1,500 to our Wisconsin DKG members to pursue travel with a specific educational goal. It is also possible to be funded with an award in the United States for an international education experience.

Faith Webster of Nu chapter is our latest recipient of the Hunziker Award. She traveled to Provence, France, to participate in a watercolor workshop in late May. Faith wrote, "During my time in Provence, France, we visited L'Isle Serla Sorgue, Senanque Abbey, Gordes, Roussillon, Bonnieux, and Lourmarin. Each location offers its own unique charm and attractions that contribute to the overall experience of exploring the region. The small villages we visited included an abbey with lavender fields not yet in bloom, a castle, poppy fields, a large outdoor market, yellow ochre hills where paint pigment was once made, and beautiful stone buildings and churches. Each day we would observe a lesson



By Faith Webster

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from our instructor, on location, and then we had time to sketch, paint, and explore each village/destination. Sketching and watercolor painting "plein air" is very enjoyable, allowing one to observe colors, shadows, depth, and highlights more clearly while outdoors." We think Faith's experience would be exactly what Ernella Hunziker, an art professor, wanted to support.

What are the Hunziker Award requirements? You must apply and be approved at least two months prior to your travel. Once approved, you will receive your stipend after your trip. Once you have returned, the committee requires proof of your trip with receipts to equal the amount awarded. You will also need to write a summary report of your trip. You may also be asked to share your experiences with your chapter or at a WSO event.

Ready to apply? The requirement guidelines and application form are located on the WSO website under the *Scholarship* tab and should be emailed to dkgwso@scholarship@gmail.com, where you can also email me with any questions. Bon voyage!

Chapter News

Alpha Beta held their Annual Brat fry at Piggly Wiggly in Hartford on June 3rd to support a \$750 scholarship for a graduating senior in Washington County who plans to pursue a career in education. This year Chris Shewczyk, Chi Chapter joined us. We had a great time getting to know each other—we thank Chris for her support. Pictured are Pat Moore, Erika Guth-Degner, Donna Dinco, and Mary Holten; Jillian Ilg and Sharon Burow are not pictured.



Alpha Omega had a fun time at our June joint meeting with Theta chapter! Positive quotes for the little tags of kindness were passed out to our Theta guests: Leslie Bakkum, Peggy Green, Shari Eberhardt, Mary Saphner, Lynette Wilhelm, and Pat Wizenburg.

Our guest speaker for the June meeting was from the Family and Children's Center. President and CEO Tita Yutuc gave an overview of services that are provided by this regional, private, not-for-profit agency that provides services designed to strengthen families and promote individual well-being. At our meeting we were able to raise \$865 for the Family and Children's Center.

The Program and Charity/Service committees met this summer and created a wonderful program for the 2023-2024 calendar year. August 21st we will have a welcome-back social event. In October, Zoe De Boer (Ms. La Crosse/Oktoberfest) will be speaking about breaking free of body shame. Our Christmas gathering and white elephant will take place during the first part of December. In February, Jennifer Barney, owner of



Program Committee – Lois Holper, Mary Wetterling, Jan Marson, Terri Daley-Mack, and Carol Egge

Meringue Bakery and three-time Food Network Champion will talk about her passion. Initiation of officers and new members will take place in April. We are looking forward to getting together with Alpha Upsilon twice during the year. Our charities for this year will be: Random Acts of Kindness through the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, Abilities in Harmony (Local Adaptive Show Choir), Mississippi River Conservancy, and our yearly teacher scholarship.

Chi Vice President Terry Schoessow is quite an active volunteer. This summer she served her 18th year as Superintendent for the Open Class 4-H Exhibits at the Ozaukee County Fair. These include the exhibits open for anyone to submit for photography, baking, canning, flowers, vegetables, maple syrup, honey, wine, special needs, cultural arts, home furnishings, woodworking, and fiber arts. She leads the effort to check in all the entries, sort them into classes, set up the judging, and award and distribute the winning ribbons. Thank you, Terry, for your efforts!



Delta has had a busy spring. Eight members attended the 2023 WSO State Convention. We had fun mingling with other chapters and two Milwaukee members presented. Alethea E. Sumbry-Cetnarowski presented a Google slideshow to celebrate Juneteenth Day, and Lucy Vue gave her presentation titled "Among the Hmong."

In late May, several members gathered at St. John's on the lake to enjoy the beautiful views and a delicious lunch provided by Taylor's restaurant, hosted by Sue Grosse.

In June, members gathered in the Mount Mary University Alumni Conference Room to participate in a Zentangle drawings workshop to promote self-care, hosted by Alethea E. Sumbry-Cetnarowski.

Members Heather Thomas-Flores and Beverly (Bev) Mantey-VanCronkhite attended the Detroit International Conference in July. Heather gave a presentation about honoring language diversity in the classroom, and Bev helped organize the Conference. Bev was also able to attend the International Conference in Tampere, Finland!

A few weeks ago, member Isabel Piana hosted the International Women's Day and Women's History Month Celebration at Mount Mary University. Many key women leaders in the community came to inspire and uplift us as we reflected upon how women positively impact the world.

We look forward to more fun together as we create our fall, winter, and spring event schedule!

Lambda held our annual summer picnic in July. In addition to enjoying delicious box lunches from Christy's Sunny Side, we spent time visiting and catching up on each others' summer activities.



Front row: Jan Nowlen, Harriet Hendricks. Back row: Kay Ziegahn, Sue Tatar, Carole Troxel, Sharon Storms, Rachel Corey, Rachel Schultz, Sue Sadler, Alice Retrum, Barb Cody, Jean Birkett, Nancy Clausius

Pi shared memories of Mae Ellis at their May meeting. A \$200 check was presented to Pi chapter by Mae's family to help new members pay their dues. Anne Herman and Sandy Helmin-Clazer shared memories of Mae. The \$1,600 funds from a Give Back Grant written by Val Conner and Lou Killberg to fund Camper Scholarships at the Eco-Justice Center was presented to MaryLynn Conter Strack, a Pi member, who is the Executive Director of the Eco-Justice Center. Pi also presented three high school seniors planning to attend college and major in education with a \$1,000 scholarship each. Crosby Spaulding, the chapter's local Literary Competition winner, was recognized.



Scholarship recipients Gabriela Cruz, Grace Betker, Summer Messer

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In July, Pi chapter visited the Eco-Justice Center. They learned about the alpacas kept at the Center and the chickens that lay eggs that are sold outside the gift shop. Following the tour, members enjoyed a needle felting class.



Literary Competition: Teacher Gerald McCarthy II, Mom Sarah, Crosby Spaulding, Dad Ken, Chapter Literary Chair Ellie Boldus.



Front row: Kathy Clouthier, Lou Killberg, Nancy Holmlund. Back row: Barb VanderLeest, Val Conner

Theta sends a huge thank you to Alpha Omega chapter for the invitation to attend your June 2023 meeting! We enjoyed touching base with La Crosse chapter members, sharing information about chapter activities, and hearing about the work of Family and Children’s Center from President and CEO Tita Yutuc. Dinner and fellowship at the Freighthouse in La Crosse was a perfect way to bring our 2022-23 to a close.

Theta members also enjoyed a “pop-up gathering” at the Wenger Grotto near Cataract. Once again, Hannah Scholze amazed us with her knowledge of the history of the Grotto and of Paul and Matilda Wenger who created the original sculptures out of concrete, broken glass, and other “found” objects in the 1930’s. After the tour, we had lunch at Ginny’s Cupboard in Sparta. Thanks Hannah, for facilitating a fun and educational “pop-up gathering.”



Theta Book Club highly recommends our July book selection, *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar! Marie Allen had just returned from a visit to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and shared pictures, additional information, and stories about Van Gogh with us. Everyone left the meeting thinking about ways we could develop a cross-curricular presentation about this book to share with our community, and DKG-Wisconsin members.

Red Roses of Welcome to Inductees

CHI Kathleen Nordberg 6/23



Death of a Member (Form 6) and New Members (Form 81) need to be promptly reported to State Treasurer Sandra Ruesink (sigmatreas15@gmail.com) and Membership Chair Roberta Gale (rjgale@gbonline.com). In addition, send an obituary for deaths to Roberta.

If these forms are not submitted, names will not be included in the newsletter.

White Roses in Memory of Those Who Have Gone Before Us . . .

Our Teachers ~ Our Mentors

Our Sisters ~ Our Friends

Forever in Our Hearts*

ALPHA BETA	Sister Janet Heder	8/8/2023
ALPHA IOTA	Mary Lind	3/20/2023
	Virginia Saltzman	4/3/2023
PI	Gail Snamiske	7/1/2023



*Taken by permission from Patricia DeWitt, Illinois State Newcaster Editor

Action Grants in Progress

2023-2024 Alpha Iota Chapter Action Grant Progress Graphic Novels for History

by Angela Denewellis, Chair

My teaching partner and I will be using graphic novels to teach some of the important historical events that shaped our country. Graphic novels are similar to comic books because they use sequential art to tell a story. Unlike comic books, graphic novels are generally stand-alone stories with more complex plots.

We are hoping to buy ten copies of four or more historical events. We are then going to work with small groups of five reading the graphic novels as the other students work on more traditional assignments. We will rotate the students each day.

We are very excited about this project and look forward to sharing the difference it makes in our teaching and the students' comprehension of US History.

So far, we have chosen: *A Story about Nathan Hale*, *Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*, and *The Battle of Gettysburg*. We are still doing some research so we haven't quite finished. We will keep you posted.

2023-2024 Alpha Xi Chapter Action Grant Progress Books for Babies

by Gerry Nelson, Community Service Chair

This project aims to provide parents at two area hospitals with a gift book for their new baby, an informational reading brochure for parents, and information about the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program available at the Beaver Dam Library. This material targets parents so they read to their children from an early age.

We have ordered the 480 colorful picture books from our supplier, Collective Goods. The supplier is awaiting the shipment of our books. We will be notified when they arrive in Appleton. I will print the parent brochures, and another member will print the special DKG Alpha Xi labels. The Beaver Dam Children's Librarian is printing the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten large bookmarks. We will be preparing the books at our September meeting in Beaver Dam. Each book will be labeled with our Alpha Xi logo along with the Portage Kiwanis or Beaver Dam Noon Kiwanis names. The parent brochure will be inserted into each book along with the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten large bookmark (the bookmark is only used in Beaver Dam, which has the 1,000 Books program).

We were happy to receive donations from the Portage Kiwanis and the Beaver Dam Noon Kiwanis toward our Books for Babies project.

International News

An Opportunity to Make a Difference

Want to learn more about International? Do you have questions or comments you wish to share with DKG Leadership? "Join us in a Zoom meeting for half an hour to enjoy conversation with International leaders and staff. Directors and elected leaders will be available to answer questions and welcome comments." You can join the conversation by logging on to the DKG International website (dkg.org) and scrolling to the bottom of the homepage. Click on *Inside International*.

Have you thought about taking an active leadership role on the International level? September 15 is the deadline to apply for: DKGIEF Director, Regional Director, Nominations Committee, Finance Committee, International Speakers Fund Speaker, and Art Gallery Submission. Click on *Application* on the DKG International homepage for more information.

For Future Reference



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**After opening the DKG International website (<https://dkg.org>) and logging in, you will find forms under the *MyDKG* tab.

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