

Information on the 2024 Conference Sessions and Biographies

DKG International Update: Lorna Berlinguette, Area Representative Canada

Systemic Racism as Portrayed in Literature



Lorna Berlinguette is a long-serving and very active member of DKG at all levels. As a charter member of Gamma in Alberta, Canada, Lorna has held almost every executive position in her local chapter. She has also acted as president at the provincial level and has served on the provincial Executive Board in various capacities since 1995. In 2002, Lorna was a Golden Gift recipient. She represented the NW Region on the World Fellowship Committee. She is a DKG Achievement Award winner for Alberta. Lorna was elected Area Representative for Canada for the 2022-2024 biennium and, in that capacity, sits on the International

Issues Task Force and the International Speakers Fund committees. Since taking on this position, she has attended three Admin Board meetings in Austin and numerous online meetings. She has attended the Leadership Training Event in Dallas and the International Conferences in Detroit and Finland, meeting countless outstanding members. Twice now, she has initiated a cross-cultural Zoom meeting with the eight European DKG presidents and the seven provincial state presidents as well as Alaska, each giving a short history of their country/province. There were 89 in attendance at the Zoom meeting in January.

Other than DKG, Lorna is an enthusiastic member of her church, attends the YMCA several times a week, downhill skis, gardens, travels (more than 100 countries!), and attends book clubs and several cultural events.

Breakout Sessions 10:30-11:15

Parliamentary Basics: Bev Hess (Chi) and Sharon Storms (Lambda)

Learn how to effectively use Parliamentary Procedure in your chapter meetings. We will look at creating agendas; taking minutes; making, debating, and amending motions; and facilitating decision-making.

Treasurer Training: Sandra Ruesink (Delta)

We will review the practices of using the DKG Portal for paying dues for International and the practices for paying dues to the state. In addition, we will discuss how chapters should budget for their fiscal year.

Refresh Your Chapter Newsletter and Yearbook: Carole Henning (Beta Alpha)

Maximize your chapter's communication and marketing efforts by doing an intense review of your publications. Participants in this workshop will have opportunities to receive detailed feedback on their specific publications. (Bring copies to our session.) This will be an interactive workshop, so plan to ask questions and share information. We will discuss formats, design, content, and writing/editing techniques.

DKG is Listening: Be the Sister Who Makes the Difference

Keynote Speaker Sandra Stallings (Phi)

Moving our Society forward requires each of us to use the skills our teaching experience has given us. One of the gifts from our time in the classroom is our ability to listen to what others are saying and then go further to communicate our understanding of what we've just been told. Our use of Empathic Listening strategies reinforce for the person who is speaking that they have the "floor" and we want to listen to them as they explain their position. Purposefully using Empathic strategies can demonstrate to others that they and their ideas matter. Join me at our Conference as we "Renew, Revitalize, and Refresh" our Empathic Listening skills to make a "Difference" for DKG.

Sandy Stallings is a retired Lecturer Emerita from North Carolina State University where she was an administrator who also taught and advised in the Department of Communication and the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. She received numerous College and University awards for her advising as well as a Certificate of Merit from NACADA (National Academic Advising Association). Currently, Sandy is an Adjunct Lecturer at UW-GB teaching at Oakhill Correctional Institution in the AAS degree in collaboration with the Prison Education Initiative at UW-Madison.

Breakout Sessions 1:40-2:25

Nettesheim Literary Competition Award Recipients Reading of Books

Listen as our creative young authors read their award-winning books.

Systemic Racism as Portrayed in Literature: Lorna Berlinguette, International Representative

Literature is able to communicate, not only by action, but also by mind, heart, and emotion. It has the value of not preaching, which turns many off, but of letting readers feel and experience the effects of racism.

Raise Your Voice Clubs Tracy Johnson, Executive Director of NAMI Northwoods

This presentation will focus on The Raise Your Voice Club which is a new youth movement launched by NAMI Wisconsin that empowers teens to create a new conversation about mental health through education, leadership development and civic advocacy.

Tracy Johnson is the Executive Director of NAMI Northwoods which serves Marathon, Lincoln, and Langlade counties in Wisconsin. Based in Wausau and hailing from Marshfield, Tracy has always been a Wisconsin girl. After more than three decades in hospitality, Tracy changed her professional course and decided to pursue a career helping people differently. She received her B.A. in psychology from Silver Lake College in 2013 and has been employed in various roles in the mental health industry since. As Tracy lives with mental illness, advocating, educating, and supporting those who live with mental illness and their loved ones has been an excellent fit. When not immersed in the world of nonprofits or helping out at the family car dealership in Tomahawk, Tracy enjoys spending time with Daisy, a very sassy cocker spaniel, and Mark, the love of her life. Her presentation will focus on The Raise Your Voice Club which is a new youth movement launched by NAMI Wisconsin that empowers teens to create a new conversation about mental health through education, leadership development and civic advocacy.

Hunziker International Studies Scholarship Recipients: Denise Geiwitz (Alpha Upsilon Sigma) and Faith Webster (Nu)

Are you longing to participate in an international study experience but not working toward an advanced degree? That's OK! The Hunziker International Studies Scholarship may be perfect for you.

With the support of recently awarded Hunziker Scholarships, WSO members Faith Webster and Denise Geiwitz experienced diverse cultures, rich history, and beautiful scenery in Europe. Faith traveled to Provence, France, where she participated in water color painting, sketching, and a journaling workshop. Denise visited Italy, where she enjoyed the fine cuisine as she explored Venice, Florence, and Rome. Each one will share her unforgettable, individual travels and learning experiences with us.

In addition, they will provide the background of the Dr. Ernella Hunziker International Studies Scholarship, share what the scholarship meant to them individually, and explain how to apply.

Breakout Sessions 2:35-3:20

How Will You Make Your Mark? Inspired by The Dot by Peter Reynolds: Julie Trafton (Pi)

Have you ever been asked to create something and you just stare at your blank paper and can't even think about what to do? Well, that is the same problem Vashti, Peter Reynolds' character in *The Dot*, has but with some creative encouragement and praise from her art teacher, Vashti's imagination soars! Listen to *The Dot* and see where your imagination will take you as you create your own dot.

Ready, Set, Grow Your Chapter: Chris Shewczyk (Chi)

Are you meeting members' needs and growing your chapter? Attendees will understand the importance of methodically evaluating proposed chapter programs and projects through the use of a matrix that will help ensure meeting relevance and draw others to join their chapter. An awareness of the areas in their chapter which need strengthening will also be gained.

Chris Shewczyk is a retired educator with 20 years of experience teaching third grade for the Grafton School District in Wisconsin. She holds a Master's Degree in Reading and Learning Disabilities. Since retiring, Chris has become quite involved in DKG at the chapter and state level. In the summer of 2023, she presented at the Detroit International Conference in support of increasing chapter growth.

In her presentation, she asks, "Are you meeting members' needs and growing your chapters?" Attendees will understand the importance of methodically evaluating proposed chapter programs and projects through the use of a matrix that will help ensure meeting relevance and draw others to join their chapter. An awareness of the areas in your chapter which need strengthening will also be gained.

Chair Yoga for the Mind and Body: Pam Henkel, Retired Physical Education Teacher and Gymnastics Coach

Experience a series of yoga moves both sitting and standing to improve flexibility, balance, and strength. Restorative breathing and relaxation practice will conclude our session.

Pam is a retired physical education teacher and gymnastics coach having taught at 3 high schools and 3 colleges.

Pam also taught communications courses for businesses in the Wausau area.

Pam currently teaches yoga and chair yoga at the YMCA for participants 55 and over

We Are Empathic Listeners: Sandra Stallings (Phi)

Using possible scenarios when talking with current DKG members and potential members, we will explore the values of Empathic Listening and strengthen our own communication skills in this area.

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