THE OREGON TRAIL

An official publication of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG), Oregon State Organization

Marie Mueller, Editor

Oregon State Organization

Vol 50, Number 2
January 2026

Mission
The Society promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Vision
Leading women educators, impacting education worldwide.

TRUE OR FALSE? Do you know?

1. You have to buy a key pin.
2. You do not have to, but you may buy (or be given) a key pin.

OREGON'S SPRING CONFERENCE 2026
Are you ready?

When? May 1 - 2- 3, 2026 (Friday thru Sunday)
Where? Chinook Winds Casino Resort
Lincoln City, Oregon
What: This is a conference, so the focus is on learning, fellowship, and personal and professional growth.
Theme: Navigating Our Future
(We'll be near the ocean, so need to "navigate.")

p. 3 Lodging information /room reservations
p. 4 Conference Registration form
p. 6 Workshop Application
p. 7 Workshop topics (confirmed and possibilities)
p. 8 Getting those bountiful baskets ready
p. 9 Ideas for your conference trip and visit
p. 10 Committees! LOTS of great info here.

For the info above, go online at www.dkg.org and read the long color Trail posted these. To do a printed copy, conference info was removed, along with some international messages.

BREAKING NEWS!
January 27, 8 a.m. Pacific Time

International Honorary Member Marion Blumenthal Lazan will speak at the United Nations on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time, in observance of the United Nations International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Ms. Lazan, a Holocaust survivor and internationally recognized author and speaker, will share her powerful testimony as part of this solemn and significant observance.
The event will be live streamed on UN Web TV, allowing viewers around the world to participate in this meaningful commemoration: https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1x/k1xip44jo7

2025-2027
Dr. Wendy Hacke, President
Oregon State Organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a proud member of the DKG Society, you are part of a dynamic network of educators shaping the future of learning in Oregon and beyond. Join us this May for the Oregon State Organization's 2026 Conference at Chinook Winds in Lincoln City. We invite all members to attend at least one day and enjoy the special events planned by the steering committee.

State conferences are an opportunity to unlock your DKG potential. They provide opportunities for you to expand your network, strengthen your advocacy, and celebrate successes. They are also designed to foster personal growth and advance education together.

This year's theme is **"Navigating Our Future,"** so the focus is on promoting membership in and leadership for the future of our organization. To do so, we are promoting personal well-being, enrichment, and intellectual growth of women educators, including you and me!

Join us for inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, and connections with state leaders. Whether you are new or returning, the conference offers valuable opportunities to support DKG's mission and enhance your professional and personal journeys. And remember, the lovely beaches of our Pacific Ocean await your footsteps.

Join fellow educators at the DKG Oregon 2026 Conference, May 1-3, at Chinook Winds in Lincoln City for professional growth, networking, and shaping education›s future. Register online at dkgoregon.com and ask your chapter president about first-timer support from the state.

Wendy

ON THE ROAD WITH WENDY & KATE

Dr. Wendy Hacke, DKG Oregon State President, and Kate Kelleher, Oregon State Vice President, visited a chapter meeting or event of Alpha, Psi, Omega, and Alpha Omicron in 2025 as part of our goal to visit all 12 state chapters. Some visits were social events, like the chapter meeting where Wendy met our Filipino members. Others were socials or projects, like the Christmas Market at a high school that Wendy was invited to in Grants Pass. The candy sale there is a BIG hit and helps to fund local scholarships offered by Omega Chapter. 'Way to go ladies! Thanks for making me feel so welcome.

Kate shared a lovely dinner with Chi Chapter at Jean Fairbairn's home. The food was delicious and the conversation engaging at their holiday party. After dinner, Liz Simmons read aloud a hysterical story about Santa as we passed wrapped gifts around to the "right/left." Laughter filled the air! Each member left with gift(s). Mine were a beautiful teal dove (now on my mantle) and a DKG shield wood block (such a treasure).

Later, Wendy and I attended a breakfast in Gaston with Psi Chapter. What a spread! It was special to enjoy this time together as plans for the 'Holidaze' were on everyone's mind. It's so nice to get to know each member a bit better as we visit.

The Yamhill County Imagination Library celebration was held on Sunday, January 18. It was delightful. Kathy Martell made the drive to join me and my friend, April. State Representative Anna Scharf was there, as was Kaylee Chrystal, Oregon's Imagination Library coordinator who was a keynote speaker for DKG last May. Kate plans to attend the Imagination Library celebration on January 24 with Alpha Omicron.

We still have a few chapters to visit. **Keep those invitations coming**. We will do our very best to visit.

Wendy and Kate

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CATCHING UP WITH COMMITTEES

RED ROSES
To be listed here, inductees must be listed on the latest Oregon roster from International.

Ivy Jean Cabarles Eslao, Alpha
11/29/25
Maria Rosa Fabian Alviso, Lambda
6/30/25
Carol Yahner, Lambda
6/30/25
Randi Robertson, Alpha
5/28/25

WHITE ROSES
(No one new to add! Nice.)

Margaret "Peggy" Joanne Jean
Beta Beta
January 1, 1940 - September 4, 2025

Sally Eva McBride, Kappa
August 30, 1930 - July 17, 2025

STATE SNAPSHOT FOR OREGON
January 15, 2026

Total Chapters	Total Members	Active	Reserve	Collegiate	Life	Honorary
14	282	231	40	1	1	9

MEMBERSHIP & EXPANSION COMMITTEE

See the Rose boxes, above, for the list of membership changes since May 2, 2025. **Report changes in your chapter.**

New/Reinstated: **1**

Deceased: **0**

SOMETHING NEW:
Kate Kelleher, Oregon VP
Membership/Expansion Chair
Darlene Cook, Past Oregon President
EEC/Leadership Dev. Chair

Membership and **Educational Excellence Committees** plan to combine meetings for the rest of 2026. We have selected the last Wednesday of each month- ON ZOOM- at 4:00 p.m., directly before the President-to-President or Leadership meetings. Presidents: Please plan to have a member from your Chapter attend!

MEMBERSHIP RECAP

Kate Kelleher, Oregon VP
Membership/Expansion Chair

I held a couple Zoom meetings this fall. It has been wonderful to hear what has been going on in our chapters, especially as we look at our theme "Each One Reach One." Chapters are reaching out and growing their membership! We all play a part in the "3R's" of Membership: Reinstate, Recruit and Retain. Let's keep DKG Oregon alive and growing!

December was a busy month for chapters. Many engaged in service projects to support local educational programs

or were raising funds to support their scholarship and grant opportunities. Along with those projects, experiencing the camaraderie of membership--our sister connections--keeps our chapters going.

Meaningful educational programs partner well with the 3R's of membership. Your chapter can connect with a local school district to share an overview of their literacy programs or special education challenges. Attending district music or art programs can create a connection. Of course, we can all continue to spread the word about the Imagination Library around the state.

- Does your chapter use an elevator speech to talk about DKG?
- Have you printed and shared the postcard or flyer with your local district leaders?
- Do you have a member who would like to present at the 2026 Conference at Chinook Winds om May 1-3?
- Do you know someone who could inform our membership on an educational topic?

There are some wonderful links on the International website DKG Virtual Events. This year, I attended quite a few virtual events and found them to be interesting and informative. I feel more connected to the larger group as a result. Give it a try!

Mark your calendar to attend **the next Membership/EEC Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 28. at 4:00 on Zoom**. See you there!

THE OREGON LEGISLATURE 2026

Kate Kelleher, Legislative Liaison, EEC Committee

The Short Session of the Legislature will begin on February 2—yes, on Ground Hogs Day! It is a five-week session, wrapping up on March 8. This happens every two years in the Oregon Legislature. In the past, this short session was used to tweak bills for reconsideration during the long session. This year, according to Speaker Julie Fahey and Representative Ben Bowman, prioritizing solutions to the crisis caused by the Federal government's cuts as a part of the Big Beautiful Bill (HR1), passed in July, is top of mind.

Oregon went from a budget surplus to a deficit overnight as a result of the passage of this Federal legislation. Besides that, tariffs have created slow job growth. Figuring out how to rebalance the budget is key as we seek solutions. Why?

- Maintaining health care is imperative in our state. Part of the provisions of HR 1 directly targeted Planned Parenthood (PP). PP is a working partner to health care in our state for rural and low-income families.
- Oregon needs to become more affordable, and the housing market plays a big role. Statistically, more people are moving here than are leaving and that is a strong sign for future growth opportunities. Private equity firms need legislation to be reined in. We want real homeowners to purchase Oregon properties, not firms that inflate the rent/lease prices beyond what regular families can afford.
- Strong educational practices are always linked to economic development. The legislature has passed bills in the past to support early childhood learning (2023), summer learning (2025 Bethel School District) as well as the Student Success Act (2019). Click the link to learn more about the Student Success Act. Accountability and oversight is key in establishing programs that work and that the public can support.

Transportation spending was a hot topic for the 2025 Legislative session. A compromise was not reached. Subsequently, signatures were gathered so that this measure will go to a vote of all Oregonians in fall 2026. Here is some history: Oregon's major transportation bill for 2025 was House Bill 3991, a $4.3 billion package signed by Governor Kotek in late 2025. HB 3991, the primary transportation funding bill, passed in a special session.

The goal was to fund ODOT road maintenance, operations, and transit by raising gas taxes, registration fees, and temporarily increasing the payroll tax for transit. It faced significant debate and opposition before the signature effort even though it replaced HB2025 which had requested even broader funding—and had failed. HB 3991**,** the primary transportation funding bill, passed in a special session.By January 2026, Governor Kotek was calling for its repeal due to political backlash, making its future uncertain.

Visit OLIS at Oregon Legislature to stay informed and connect with your local representatives. Your opinions as educators matter as much as your opinions as Oregonians! Our representatives want to hear from us. Stay in touch with them as we move through this short session.

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EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

US FORUM'S

National Legislative Seminar

Kate Kelleher, Beta Beta/5

I am excited to be attending the US Forum's National Legislative Seminar for the fourth time! Elaine Harris from Beta Beta Chapter and Darlene Cook from Chi Cahpter. will be attending with me. Click here DKG NLS to learn more about this valuable benefit of being a DKG member. If you are interested in attending, more information is right here: Prospective attendee.

In the past, the group spent a few days listening to professionals as they shared their insights on topics that affect women, children, and education at the National level. I am intrigued to hear those speakers this year, after such a dismantling of public education by the current administration. Here is a link to the Watch List.

Legislation that NLS has participated in over the years include the Social Security Fairness Act, the Equal Rights Amendment, and Mental Health.

Celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, 2026

In 1977, the United Nations established this special day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The pins allow you to honor a woman who has made a significant impact on your life. This is a fundraiser of DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF) to support our mission with a **$25 donation per pin** going to the *DKGIEF Area of Greatest Need*.

Want one? Go to dkg.org, On the Award Concepts home page in the "Featured Item" column on the left, click on the pin, and the order form will open.

#DKGIMPACT OREGON

YOUR EEC/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AT WORK!

Darlene Cook, Chi/6

The work of the Educational Excellence/Leadership Development Committee supports the *Seven Purposes* of our Society and Excellence in Education through many programs of action. These programs encourage leadership, personal and professional growth, global involvement, community engagement, chapter projects, and the arts. Many opportunities are available to Oregon members: Check out these upcoming programs and events!

Advocacy/Educational Law/Policy

The National Legislative Seminar, sponsored by the U.S. Forum, will be held March 8–11, 2026, in Old Town Alexandria, VA. Register now at https://www.dkgusforum.org/event-list Registration prices increase on February 1.

The US Forum will sponsor two webinars in preparation for the Seminar:

1. U.S. Forum **Written Testimony** on February 11, 2026, at 2:30 PM https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Eo-2n1rvpTsSS_5cPCXq-cg
2. U.S. Forum **Pack Your Packs** on February 25, 2026, at 4:30 PM https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_MhM6QR2uZY1g0xXNqJg

The Oregon Legislative Session begins February 2 and ends on March 8. Read more on page 10 about this short session. Stay in touch with the important issues and voice your opinions!

Global Involvement

CTAUN (**C**ommittee for **T**eaching **A**bout the **U**nited **N**ations) is sponsoring a webinar: *AI in the Classroom* this coming Saturday, January 24, from 8:00-9:30 a.m., PST. Register at teachun.org. Also check out the speech on the Holocaust on January 27 by international honorary member Marion Blumenthal Lazan. See page 1 for more details.

World Fellowship Recipients are listed in the current issue of the DKG News. Although we do not have a recipient studying in our area, check out the nations represented, areas of study, and universities in the US and Canada hosting these students. Grants are awarded through DKGIEF.

Community Engagement

What community service programs does your chapter support? Please let us know so that we can highlight your work! For project ideas, review the International Educational Excellence Committee's **Impact Spotlight** program on the international website. Congratulations to Alpha Epsilon and Lambda for having their projects featured in the Impact Spotlight! Your chapter could be next!

Personal/Professional Growth and Leadership

Join a Visionary Network! Several affinity groups are accepting new members. See the international website for a Zoom group that interests you.

State Conferences and Meetings

Register soon for our **Oregon 2026 State Conference** on May 1-3 at Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City. Come to enjoy the excellent speakers and inspiring workshops. Earn PDU's and have fun at the beach. Sign up to present a workshop on an area of interest to you!

Join Kate and me at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, for the combined **Membership/EEC meeting**. We look forward to seeing you!

STRETCH YOUR LEADERSHIP MUSCLES
Do you know about this essential work?

BEING A PARLIAMENTARIAN

Jean Fairbairn, Past Oregon President
Certified Parliamentarian

A parliamentarian should be knowledgeable and quiet. Sounds odd, but the parliamentarian works in an advising capacity only when asked by the chair for assistance. A parliamentarian may write a note to the chair with a suggestion. The chair may or may not follow that suggestion, so it is helpful if the chair in the organization has some basic parliamentary skills. For example: How to manage a motion, what steps help to move business forward in a proper way, and so on.

That's important. If a motion is not handled in the proper way and recorded accurately, it could result in group conflict and might not even be legal.

Who are parliamentarians? They can be self-taught by using the numerous resources available. A certified parliamentarian has either had specific training or has studied and taken a required test sponsored by a private company or university. Many states, including Oregon, have a "parliamentarian board or club" which meets regularly for more training and updates. Some organizations do not appoint their own parliamentarian, but hire a certified one for a meeting, event, or conference/convention. Parliamentarian training is one of the transferable skills that many groups value highly.

If you have questions, several Oregon DKG women have answers. Please contact me for information:

Jean Fairbairn, Chair
Bylaw/Standing Rules
503-656-368
jeanf3777@gmail.com

Call Jean if you are interested in this position. Nancy Lewis is ready to have an assistant or "co" and is willing to train you.

GOVERNANCE & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Jean Fairbairn, Chair
Oregon Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee
Past Oregon President

Organizations can design their governance in many ways. Those differ by state and by the purpose or mission/goals of the organization. Content can depend on the purpose for fees or dues collection and expenditures. The governance processes can be fairly simple or very complex.

DKG: DKG International has chosen to have a Constitution, T***he Seven Purposes, International Standing Rules, and Guidelines.*** States have chosen to have Bylaws and Standing Rules, as do other nations.

Bylaws: Our Bylaws are the "children" of the Constitution and can deviate from it to a certain degree; however, if we expect to have the benefits of the Constitution, then we need to mirror much of its philosophy and actions.

Standing Rules are the "potatoes and gravy" of the Bylaws, the step-by-step details for those performing the actual work. Standing Rules often represent guidelines in some organizations or job descriptions. In Oregon, we also ask for Chapter Rules. Those usually reflect some of the Oregon Standing Rules, but are personalized to reflect the goals of individual chapters.

A Constitution is a legal document in case of litigation. DKG is a member-run organization. I once asked for a definition of "may" and "shall" in such documents. This is what I was told: "May" gives you the choice of doing it or not doing it. "Shall" means that it will be done. While this is often not the way we use or interpret these words in our speech, in the writing of parliamentary terminology, their usage has a definitive meaning. Just as for other areas of special or distinctive knowledge, parliamentary law has a language peculiar to itself: the language is precise and distinct. Its purpose it to provide clarity.

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GENERAL AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Due to Sandy Watts by March 15.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Sandy Watts & Kathy Martell, Co-Chairs

The Awards Committee of DKG Oregon oversees the state's official award programs. People feel valued when they are recognized. In DKG Oregon, recognition says, "We see you – not just for what you do, but for who you are and how you contribute. You're making a difference!" Knowing someone sees you and recognizes you may be the message that encourages members to become truly invested in DKG. Look for ways to recognize the efforts of members for the work they have done and are continuing to do.

- There are members in your chapter who show outstanding service to DKG, to Education, or to the Community. Honor these women by nominating them for a DKG Oregon State Service Award. Forms for nominating are on the DKG Oregon State website (www.dkgoregon.com). At the top of the home page, click on Resources, then Forms, then on State Awards.
- **AND** You will also see forms for Chapter Awards (Rosette and Order of the Rose.) Your Chapter deserves recognition for what it has achieved too!
- **AND** Does a chapter member meet the criteria for a longevity award? Let Sandy know.
- **AND** A person or a business in your area might qualify for a recognition award--but only if you recommend them.

Be the person who gives a deserving member the encouragement and gratitude she needs to feel seen, recognized, and appreciated. Forms are due by March 15. As there are no longer District Coordinators, send the forms directly to **Sandy Watts,** address below. Awards will be distributed at the state conference in Lincoln City. Be there to receive yours!

Kathy Martell
1115 Chestnut St. NW
Salem, OR 97304
kkm4dkg@gmail.com

Sandy Watts
33815 E Columbia Ave
Scappoose, OR 97056
sandywatts369@comcast.net

SAY "HELLO" TO YOUR DKG OREGON NOMINATING COMMITTEE!

Debbie Wells & Sandy Rysdam, Co-Chairs

Meet your team members for 2025-2027

- Sandy Rysdam Zeta/1, Co-Chair
  sjrysdam@gmail.com
- Debbie Wells, Alpha Omicron/4, Co-Chair
  wdjwells@aol.com
- Bonita Fillmore Alpha/2
  bfillmore55@gmail.com
- Rebecca Marti Kappa/3
  rebecca.marti65@gmail.com
- Eloise Gibson, Beta Beta/5
  lo.gibson@gmail.com
- Ardeth Woods, Beta Gamma/6
  da37woodsx@gmail.com

What the Nominating Committee Does

We're here to help you discover all kinds of leadership opportunities—whether that's at the state level or right in your own chapter or area. We believe your experience and skills are valuable and urge you to contribute your skills and energy to your chapter and to Oregon DKG.

Lead with DKG

DKG members are dedicated professionals with valuable experience to contribute to the organization's goals and purpose. If you're feeling the spark to take on a new role or expand your leadership journey, this is your moment. The committee is here to support you and help you, making leadership accessible and rewarding.

Reach Out to Your Committee Representative

Want to learn more? Let's get started! Learn about specific opportunities by reaching out to your area contact. They can help you turn leadership dreams into reality. **Listed above** are the six areas in Oregon with the name and email address of the person who represents you.

FINANCIAL AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Scholarships & Grants: Next deadlines: March 1 & August 1, 2026.

Now is the time to plan your application for a scholarship (members) or grant (nonmembers). Updated forms are on the Oregon and International websites.

DOES YOUR CHAPTER HAVE A DEDICATED EMAIL FOR CHAPTER BUSINESS?

Check out this slide show from the Com/ Tech Committee about the advantages of having a Chapter email,

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kf6UJrvlfLh7OGJmzKE9_fHHs4NyflcRSobPFho75qY/present?slide=id.g9e3a5a4f5a_0_133

From your Oregon Communications & Technology Committee

Check it out for a modern approach to email communications--and to add a useful level of security for your dedicated officers.

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- Website: https://www.dkgoregon.com/ Webmaster Grace Pitzer. Check out our new Calendar of events on the home page! See what happens when you click on an event.
- Social Media: Check and post on DKG of Oregon's social media: FaceBook, Instagram.
- ***The Oregon Trail:*** Chapters, send good news about honors and awards that your members have received. Tell us about exciting projects and programs. Share your copy of the Trail with colleagues.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

Proposals for change due October 15, 2026. New interactive forms are available on the Oregon website.

And we completed our liaison work for the International Committee

WE DID IT!

Good Morning! Thank you for submitting the governing documents of Oregon. The review is complete and the documents were found to be COMPLIANT.

Donnis Poe, Chair
DKG Constitution Committee

CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS COMMITTEE

Stay tuned!! Watch the website for the latest posts.

The March Trail will have all the detiils about the 2026 Conference, but be sure to read the "teaser" on pp. 3-6 of this edition.

BYLAWS INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE: See page 3--This is the job of the Executive Committee when needed. If you have a question, please address that to President Wendy Hacke.

FINANCE COMMITTEE--See page 14 for Finance Report.

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OREGON'S UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

Stipends for everyone to attend meetings, conferences & conventions

Eloise Gibson, Beta Beta /5

If you are a long-time DKG member, you know about Oregon's Unique Boutique - a special place, chock full of DKG items especially for our members. Currently, Beta Beta member Catie Thurber-Brown and her committee run the boutique. This includes ordering items to sell, packing up "the store" to take it to State and International meetings, packing it up again afterward, and starting all over again - not an easy task!

Since 2007, the funds raised by the boutique were used to give "first-time-attender" stipends to encourage Oregon members to attend State, Regional, and International conventions, conferences, and meetings. Personally, I used this stipend to attend my first Alpha Rho State Convention, the Western Regional Conference in Portland years ago, and an International Convention in Spokane, Washington.

Now, the Unique Boutique Stipends are no longer just to help you attend a meeting or convention or conference for the first time! **This stipend is now open for everyone for all conferences/conventions.** Click this link to see info on the stipend: https://www.dkgoregon.com/scholarships-grants.html.

If you are new to DKG, check with Catie Thurber-Brown about ordering your name badge and ribbon to wear to meetings and to display your membership pin and other pins you may acquire. When I joined DKG, I purchased my name badge with a red ribbon, on which I display pins from conventions, conferences, and officer badges as well as my DKG pin.

What does the Boutique sell? Over the years, I purchased red DKG shirts, pens, pencils, a cell phone stylus, several "rose" aprons (which Beta Beta members wear for special occasions), various pins for my name badge ribbon, cross-body purses, and **numerous** teacher sticky-note sets. (My daughter loves these also, so one always appears in her Christmas stocking.) The more we shop at the Unique Boutique, the more funds we raise for stipends for Oregon members.

Watch for an updated Boutique website sometime this year! You might find new, tempting treasures to buy!

BETA BETA SPRING TEA: TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Eloise Gibson, Beta Beta/5

Beta Beta Chapter's popular Spring Tea benefits our Beta Beta Education Foundation projects in our schools and grants to young women finishing their education to become teachers.

When? Saturday, May 9 (the day before Mother's Day)
Time? 2 p.m.
Cost? Tickets are $50 each, with $25 being tax-deductible. Tickets are available from Beta Beta members or by contacting Eloise Gibson at 503-442-1710 or elog16@icloud. Get your ticket soon as we always sell out.

Where? Northwest Christian Church
13405 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard

Menu:

- 2 types of scones and jam, fruit curd, or clotted cream
- 3 types of tea sandwiches
- 3 different savories
- 3 desserts
- a fruit skewer
- 3 kinds of teas, with at least one herbal tea for those who don't want caffeine.
- If you have special dietary needs, let us know when you purchase your ticket, and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

Entertainment: Attend to find out what! Plans are underway.

CHAPTER CHATTER

District 1: Zeta (Union County):
Zeta has several goals that we are working toward. Our first one is to recruit new members. We may reinstate a previous member who recently returned to the area, as well as focusing on the collegiate population. Zeta also continues to add to the Zeta Scholarship with the Eastern Oregon University Foundation. Money which members contributed through our "Virtual Tea" was recently added to the scholarship fund.

The third goal is "have fun." Although we have known each other for a long time, parts of our lives may be unknown! President Audrey starts each meeting telling us what subject we are going to talk about later in the meeting. It's like the Dating Game: each person will talk about the subject with three people for say 5 minutes each. We have learned things that make us more appreciative of each other.

Our chapter has three members who are related: Lynn Duncan is the aunt, Mary West is the niece and mother-in-law, and President Audrey is the niece and daughter-in-law. They and other women members of their family recently traveled overseas. We are looking forward to hearing about their adventures.

District 2

Alpha (Klamath Co.): In November, Alpha sisters had a Bunco party at Judy Brimmer's home with goodies. We had a good time with some invited friends: Ivy from the Philippines and Darlene Cook joined us via Zoom, and we were able to play Bunco in person and on Zoom. Yes, we were thinking out of the box a bit. This year, Alpha gave members piggy banks for spare change. Since we lost one of our fundraisers, we hope this will help add to our treasury for Early Educator Grants next year.

Pictured holding our new piggy banks: L to R Nancy Gilder, Bonita Fillmore, Judy Brimmer, Laura Blair, and Brenda Jensen.

In December, Alpha met at Brenda Jensen's for the December Energizer where we enjoyed good conversation and great holiday snacks. We met Allison Willrett's mom, then Allison won the monthly prize! In January we met for pizza, again at Brenda Jensen's home, for our first 2026 meeting. We nominated officers for the next biennium: President Judy Brimmer, Vice President Ashley Doty, Secretary Bonita Fillmore, and Allison Willett, appointed Treasurer. So far, we have received one Early Educator Grant application. January 31 is the application due date. Leyieta Noland received the January door prize this time.

District 3: Lambda (Lane Co.): In November we used our Lambda Ladies newsletter to celebrate 50-year member Joan Hladky and to remember founding and early members, Jule Crume and Ethel Krauss. Below: Joan Hladky (L) and Chris Luehring (R).

In December, 18 members and 2 guests had a wonderful time sharing food, conversation and remarkable life stories at our Holiday Social. We brought gifts for teen shelter Hosea House that filled Cecelia Brands' car for delivery. Camille Ronzio thanked us for our generosity, giving over 80 sweatsuits to

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HeadStart children. We honored 25 and 40-year Lambda members: Darby Tracy, 41 yrs.; Karen Olsen, 40 yrs.; Dr. Yvonne Fasold, 40 yrs; Camille Ronzio, 25 yrs; Gigi Gremmell, 25 yrs.

Sigma (Bend, Redmond, Central Oregon): Four of our members met at a local brewery to participate in a "Trivia" game. They received third place. The brewery was decorated for the holidays and the fun was all around. We hope to take our talents to another "Trivia" game site.

District 4: Alpha Omicron (St. Helens) In October, our member Amy hosted a chapter bunco party in her home.

(Below L; ***Lauren Lovitte and Membership Chair, Linda McCoy***

In November, Alpha Omicron welcomed a new member, Lauren Lovitte, who commutes to Longview, WA, to teach at RA Long High School, but lives in Columbia County.

At the bottom of the left column is the photo: L to R: ***Betsy Penziol, Debbie Wells, Sandy Watts, Kathie Hupp, Fonda Lawson, Lauren Lovitte, Linda diPietro, Amy Nalle, Nancy Lessard***

Our new member, Lauren, hosted a December potluck dinner and Christmas Cookie exchange. This chapter sure does enjoy fellowship and planning events!

District 5

Alpha Epsilon (Salem area): On Sunday evening, Nov. 2, we hosted the Sister Chapters Zoom with Alpha and Beta Chapters from Japan. Ten women were present. 3 from Japan, 4 from Alpha Epsilon, 1 from Alpha Omicron, and 1 from Beta Gamma, plus our speaker from the Early Learning Hub.

Lise Harnisch (Hub) and Cindy Ryan (WOU) discussed interesting details of current cooperative efforts to improve Early Childhood Education. Our Japanese sisters shared what their nation is doing for the same purpose.

We learned a lot! Both nations have dedicated teaching staff who are doing their best to provide excellent education at this early level when vital basic literacy skills are learned that help in all future educational efforts. Similarities emerged, too: Like the USA, Japanese chapters have problems caused by an older membership, deaths, funding challenges, and teachers who are too busy!

Our guest in January was former member Linda Craven, who provided a great discussion about educational systems in China. She taught in China for six years, working for a well-funded international early childhood education private school, some of the time during the COVID pandemic. It was a true adventure for an Oregon teacher and a treat for us to hear.

Beta Beta (on back cover, p. 24)

District 6

Chi (Clackamas): Members of Chi Chapter turned their annual bazaar table not only into a moment of joy this year, but into a community of laughter and fun.

A chapter volunteer who loves to create yarn items for the bazaar decided she would create her own versions of mini sea creatures and add a unique line of "crazy hats." They would sell for $1.00, and there would be no duplicates. The items were displayed, and it did not take long before two ladies became interested in the same hat. What to do? Chi member Jean Fairbairn took charge, and a bidding war evolved. Needless to say, the event caused much interest and great fun. However, the fun did not stop there.

L. June Spauer ***R: Liz Simmons***

Three Oregon City HS students became new hat owners, placed them on their heads, and began a great fashion parade through the bazaar. All agreed that the unplanned event brought much joy and laughter to the long-standing annual bazar. Many thanks to our hat creator and to the super youth models. A day's work will become a pleasant and joyful memory for Chi members. (Note: Chi members donate yarn all year to our volunteer.)

RETURN ADDRESS

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Beta Beta Chatter (Tigard/Tualatin)
Our Little Free Library added a children's book annex so that we can serve more readers. Beta Beta provided two sets of books required for Oregon's Battle of the Books to the middle schools we support.
November Silent Auction: Eighteen members and one friend of a member donated 53 items! The oral auction had 41 donated items: 14 group events, 4 from Women Who Wine, 2 by friends, 2 by businesses, and 19 by members. We had 54 members and 6 guests as buyers.

December Lasagna Dinner: Guests purchased a lasagna dinner and dessert. Funds earned contribute to the working expenses of our chapter, such as technology, church rental fees, insurance, etc. Entertainment included Christmas carols and grocery Bingo. Grocery Bingo provided 10 barrels of food and other essentials to St. Anthony's food drive.

Funds Distributed: Beta Beta distributed $16,000 in grant awards. Our chapter EEC committee selected recipients from Tualatin-Tigard Schools for the mini grants. The Music and Arts Committee chose recipients of the 2025 – 2026 Grant Application Awards. The Community Service Committee identified need and distributed gift cards for food and basic supplies to Colleen N., social services manager, at the Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center.

New Project: Elaine Harris initiated a group of Beta Beta members who support public education. We learned about benefits of joining the Oregon Public Education Network which advocates for evidence-based policies to empower students, teachers, and parents. Their mission is to "protect, preserve, promote, and improve public education for all Oregon students." Check out their website. If you or your chapter is interested in this, contact Elaine at 971-227-4525.