

THE NEW OREGON TRAIL



An Official Publication of
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators
Oregon State Organization



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

Vision: *Leading women educators, impacting education worldwide.*

Vol. 48, No. 1

Fall 2019

OREGON FALL CONFERENCES

Following the pattern from International, Oregon is trying a new approach to conferences. Fall conferences will be held by districts around the state. Attend the one for your district, meet nearby chapter members, renew old friendships, and have fun.

District 1

September 16 (Monday) -- 5 – 7 p.m.

Meet at Urban Vine, 10101 W First St., Island City (part of La Grande). Catered Meal -- \$10
Reserve your place by September 12: . **RSVP** to Charlene Counsell at circlec1905@gmail.com

Theme: What's Happening in DKG?

Presentations by President Darlene Cook and Vice President Brenda Jensen on upcoming goals for the state, updates from International Regional Conferences, and more.

Districts 2 & 3

October 12 ----- 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hidden Valley HS Library, 651 Murphy Ck. Rd, Grants Pass

Theme: Meeting Students Where They Are

Trauma-Informed Staff -- Positive Discipline -- Restorative Justice (RESOLVE)
International and State Updates

Districts 4, 5 & 6

October 19

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard

Theme: Getting in the Know!: State and International Updates -- Chapter Doings
-- Bylaws & Standing Rules

SPECIAL REMINDERS FROM STATE TREASURER VICKIE JACKSON

2020 Spring Conference
April 24 - 26, 2020
The Oregon Garden Resort
Silverton, Oregon

Details to follow in the next
New Oregon Trail.

**Remember that dues for 2019 - 20 can still be paid by October 30.
If you have not yet paid your dues, please send them to your
chapter treasurer immediately to avoid being dropped.**

Chapter Treasurers: Be sure to file your Form 990 with the IRS.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Darlene Cook
Alpha /2

2019 - 21 President
Oregon State Organization

Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving as President of our Oregon State Organization!

We are a Society rich in tradition. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of Delta Kappa Gamma! Our founders believed that there was need for an organization in which women educators, both urban and rural, representing the teaching of all ages and disciplines, administrators and supervisors, would be united in working toward better professional preparation, recognition of women's work in the teaching profession, and scholarships for those needing help to improve their professional skills. That vision is still true today as shown by our Mission Statement: "To promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education."

We are also a Society of change and renewal. DKG has extended far beyond its beginnings to now include members from 17 countries found in North America, Central America, Europe, and Asia. With our International Schools for Africa Project and our United Nations /Non-Governmental Organization connection, we truly are "Leading Women Educators Impact-

ing Education Worldwide."

Members attending the 2018 International Convention knew that change was in the air when over 100 proposed amendments to the Constitution were presented. Global awareness seminars, international-theme-based conferences, geographic names for state organizations, and collegiate membership are only a few of the recent changes. DKG is on the move.

We are on the move to make our Society more professional, more education-related, and more relevant for our membership.

Change is happening at the state level as well. Recently our Oregon State Organization (OSO) members were asked what was important at the state level and what issues they would like to address during this biennium. The votes are in. Our OSO members, YOU, answered that (1) legislative/educational excellence issues, (2) communication at all levels, (3) fellowship and networking, and (4) leadership development are major areas of importance. Your leadership team is working hard to meet your needs in all these areas.

This year, instead of one fall conference, we will have three across the state. District 1 will meet in La Grande; Districts 2 and 3 in Grants Pass; and Districts 4, 5, and 6 in Tigard. Please plan to attend one of the conferences or maybe even two. Come, visit with members from other chapters, and learn about projects throughout the district. Information about each of the conferences can be found in our newsletter and on our website, www.dkgoregon.weebly.com

Together we can make a difference. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our chapters and our state organization.

My best wishes for a successful and rewarding year!

Darlene

2019 -21 ALPHA RHO STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ideas? Questions? Contact us!

President Darlene Cook

11803 N.E. 124th Ave., #C22
Vancouver, WA 98682
(541) 331-3282
dcook.dkg@gmail.com

Vice President Brenda Jensen

16000 S. Poe Valley Rd.
Klamath Falls, OR 97603-2634
541-892-5243
bcjdkg@gmail.com

Secretary Kate Kelleher

1100 N. Meridian St., Apt. 20
Newberg, OR 97132-1186
503-913-8970
katekelleher4@gmail.com

Treasurer Vickie Jackson

235 S.E. C St.
Madras, OR 97741=1732
dandvjackson@gmail.com
541-475-7252

Immediate Past President

Kelly McIntyre
174 NE Danbury Ave,
Hillsboro, OR 97124
(808) 927-1856
kellymci@hotmail.com

Parliamentarian Nancy Lewis

16730 SW Jordan Way
Tigard, OR 97224
(503) 639-7050
nancyjolewis@gmail.com

Editor Marie Mueller

6156 Rolletti Dr., S.E.
Salem, OR 97306-2890
503-990-7645
cwmueller33@gmail.com

Administrative Secretary

Bonita Fillmore
1803 Lancaster Ave.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
(541) 884-2374
bfillmore55@q.com

Webmaster Grace Pitzer

P.O. Box 19113
Portland, OR 97280-0113
(503) 709-2689--cell
gcpitzer@comcast.net

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

International Convention July 7 - 11, 2020

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
Philadelphia, PA



Oregon State Organization FALL CONFERENCES

Each area has set its own agenda for these events with State President Darlene Cook bringing state agenda items. District Coordinators planned training events for each area. **We hope many members will be able to attend these local events.**

District 1
September 16 -- 5 - 7 p.m.
LaGrande

Districts 2 & 3
October 12 -- 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Grants Pass

Districts 4, 5 & 6
Oct. 19 -- 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Tigard

Oregon State Organization Spring 2020 Conference

April 24 - 26, 2020
The Oregon Garden Resort
Silverton, Oregon

Details for spring will be in the January *Trail*. Check the Oregon DKG website for the latest information.

FALL FUN AT THE PAC BRUNCH

The annual fall PAC Brunch will be held in Portland on

**Saturday, October 26
9:30 to 12 noon
Multnomah Athletic Club**

Our featured speaker will be Carrie Beth Langham from Nike. Carrie speaks on her life's adventure with body positivity, holistic wellness, and female empowerment. Her message is sincere, humorous and factual.

Again this year PAC will host the \$25 farm breakfast and the silent auction, plus an inspiring female-oriented message. Put all of those factors together with the traditional DKG fellowship and your morning will be well spent. **Tickets or reservations can be secured from Jean Fairbairn, Area 6 Coordinator jj7fair@msn.com**

SPRING CONFERENCE 2020 MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

The Spring Conference Steering Committee met on Friday, August 16, at the lovely home of Sandy Bartnik. It was a wonderful experience to discuss and plan the Spring Conference which will be held April 24-26, 2020.

The contract has been signed at the Oregon Garden Resort. It's a beautiful setting for a conference where you will have free access to the garden and tram when you stay at the resort. During this conference we will be ***Cultivating Resiliency*** with current workshops and, of course, catching up with our sisters from other chapters.

Please mark your calendar for this memorable experience at the Oregon Garden Resort.

Those members in attendance were Darlene Cook, Brenda Jensen, Bonita Fillmore, Sandy Bartnik, Eloise Gibson, Mary Bell, Donna Rhinevault, Barbara Mills, Connie Gillespie, Pam Kenyon, and Peggy Cowens. Special thanks go to these women for the work they are doing for Oregon.

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Oregon State Organization
Marie Mueller, Editor
6156 Rolletti Dr., S.E.
Salem, OR 97306-2890
cwmueller33@gmail.com
503-990-7645

Change Your Address Online at "My DKG"

or
Send ADDRESS CHANGES to
DKG International Headquarters
416 W 12th St.
Austin, TX 78701-1817
lindad@dkg.org

Copy Bonita Fillmore:
bfillmore55@q.com
Be sure that your chapter has your newest
information, too.

CHAPTER CHATTER

District 1

Beta Epsilon (Baker County): In an e-vote from June 9 to 23, voting members of Oregon State Organization Executive Committee accepted the request for dissolution of Beta Epsilon Chapter.

District 2

Alpha (Klamath Co.):

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

~~Author Unknown
(from www.irelandcalling.)

With sadness, Alpha reports the passing of **Judy Smith-Clifton**, a sister in



Alpha for 27 years. She was treasurer for 22 years. She was always willing to aid in way. Judy taught English for over

30 years at Henley Middle School with humor and commitment to her students. She will be missed. Judy's service will be October 12, 2019, at 11 a.m., at Henley Middle School in Klamath Falls.

Alpha chapter has some changes and fun things planned this year. Co-President **Jennifer Cole** has taken the lead in the planning for 2019/20. She is enthusiastic and has great ideas for meetings and activities. We planned regular meetings; however, we are also planning fun things! How about a pickle ball lesson, fun pizza party, or a Bunco game on a cold winter day/night? Remember our usual Applebee's fundraiser. Early Educator Grants will be offered to teachers in our districts with ten or fewer years of experience. A new member induction can accompany almost any meeting if our

members invite talented new teachers.

We welcome guests, so if any member in another chapter would like to join us, just email me and I'll let you know our schedule: bcjdkg@gmail.com Everyone have a GREAT YEAR!

Omega (Josephine & Jackson Cos.):

September and October will be busy months for Omega. We have a fundraiser scheduled; a baby shower for **Sara Kinstler**, one of our talented new members, and are helping host the Districts 2 and 3 Fall Conference in Grants Pass. In addition, Omega gals are working at the Valley Girls Quilt Show in Cave Junction. We applied for a grant from them and won, but the amount we won depends upon our assistance at and after the show.

District 3

Lambda (Lane Co.): Lambda awarded two \$1000 grants to women pursuing their teaching credentials: (1) Jaznery Valenzuela started her U of O Teach program this summer. She has relied on scholarships to finance her education program. She says, "I have spent intentional field hours learning about and participating in Indigenous and LGBTQ educational perspectives that will inform my future teaching career. " She has tutored student athletes, been involved in Spanish immersion programs. She wants to go into bilingual education because she believes valuing multilingualism allows us to engage with other people as they are and opens doors for opportunities.

(2) Tara Sloan, from Pacific University, has taken every opportunity that has come her way to be involved in schools and education as her children grew. Her dad is a former teacher and administrator and his wife is a retired elementary teacher. She has many friends in education. Her goal is to be an elementary school teacher that helps kids feel valued and to believe in their potential. "I want them to feel excited about learning and open doors to new

things."

The annual yard sale brought in close to \$700, which will be added to our grant fund.

Several members shared in a small celebration of charter member **Julie Crume's** 100th birthday in June. She was surprised and thrilled to have received more than 125 cards from all over the country. They came from former students, colleagues, and DKG sisters (some of whom she had not ever met).

Sigma (Bend, Redmond, Central Oregon):

Sigma gave two \$1,000 scholarships to college-bound women from Central Oregon. The story of the scholarship is worth reading: **Waltman Harmon Scholarship --Nadine Harmon** created this scholarship to honor her daughter Rebecca Hyland, a Renaissance artist who worked in batik, mixed media and watercolor. Nadine led a remarkable life, with a childhood spent in the rich bottom lands of the Casey River and on the tallgrass prairies of Oklahoma. At the age of 17, barely in the second semester of her second year at Tahlequah, she was asked to return home to teach in a "one-room" school. There she not only taught 20 students ranging in age from 6 to 13, but also served as the school's janitor and cook. From there, Nadine taught in a variety of small schools in Oklahoma, including Circle Mountain, where she kept a hoe near the schoolhouse door, which "older boy" students used to kill poisonous copperhead snakes.

In 1960 the Harmons moved to Bend where Nadine taught second grade at Marshall School and seventh grade at Pilot Butte Junior High, initiating a new program of Humanities incorporating art, music, history, English and social studies. In 1966 she was chosen to "help upgrade teachers in Tanzania." Nadine spent two years there. Altogether she spent 42 years teaching, along with publishing poetry, articles

and stories.

Nadine was an honored member of Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and chose to honor students with this scholarship.

The young women who received our scholarships this year are (1) Sophie Gemelas who graduated this spring from the University of Oregon and will be attending the Loyola Marymount University, Graduate School of Film and Television Production and (2) Aurora Gerhardt. She will be attending Portland State University this fall.

District 5

Alpha Epsilon (Salem & Polk Co.):

Alpha Epsilon just finished our summer project of helping the Marion and Polk County Early Learning Hub label children's books which they give out each month to Preschool Promise students. Chapter members and some friends spent two days accomplishing this goal. (Photo below)



Psi (Hillsboro, Beaverton & Washington Co.): In March of each year, Psi Chapter recognizes and celebrates a member(s) of the community for his or her outstanding work in education. Psi's Excellence in Action program has honored more than 40 recipients over the years. The 2019 Excellence in Action honorees are Sharon Zeil and Cindy Uecker for their ten years of work organizing and running the Hillsboro Community Youth Choir. With their leadership, they promoted a lifelong love of music for the students through the choir. (Photo to the right)

School in Tanzania, Psi members collected socks and shoelaces for the students. These supplies were taken to Tanzania by chapter member **Bertha Hass** during her yearly visit to the school. Psi members will again be sewing items made from material brought back from Tanzania to be sold to offset teacher's salaries at the school.

Our first 2019 – 20 meeting is at the home of **Anne Beeson**. Members will enjoy fun, fellowship, and good food in exchange for school supplies to be donated to Vernonia School District students.

Psi members will again present dictionaries to approximately 175 third graders at three different schools in Hillsboro, Cornelius and Vernonia in September.

District 6

Eta (Portland): Eta chapter takes a break from general meetings for the summer. At our last meeting in May, we decided that our charitable donation for last year would go to SMART: Start Making a Reader Today. **Carol Cushman** chaired the budget committee this year. It met at Carol's home for planning and lunch on July 9. The budget will be presented to the chapter at our September 16 meeting. We are looking forward to catching up with each other then and to attending the fall brunch at the Multnomah Athletic Club.



Psi Excellence in Action Awards

Beta Gamma (Canby/Molalla): Beta Gamma offers a Teacher Grant of \$150 to teachers in our three school districts to "enhance learning in their classroom." This year, through fundraising efforts and dipping into our pocketbooks, we decided to award three Teacher Grants. (1) Kelly Blackman from the Molalla River School District asked for APPS for her classroom I-Pads. (2) Brianna Epstein-Snodgrass from Canby School District asked for a class set of double-sided white boards. (3) Danielle Tebon from the Oregon City School District asked for specific books for her 8th grade literacy circles. We were impressed that all of our winners had requests that would continue to be used year after year.

All three of the Teacher Grant winners were our guests at our end-of-year dinner and shared with us how the items they purchased have been used in their classrooms. We are so inspired to hear from the teachers we have helped and wish we could afford to support every request.

Did we miss your chapter? Be sure you are represented in the next issue. Just send a sentence or two of "chatter" to Marie Mueller, editor, at cwmueller33@gmail.com

Continuing to help support Huruma

A PLEDGE TO EVERY OREGONIAN

The message of this legislative session was a “Pledge to EVERY Oregonian,” which many members of our state believe was achieved. These pieces of passing legislation support that claim: The Student Success Act, Stable Medicaid Funding, Affordable Housing Reforms, Paid Family & Medical Leave, and Youth Sentencing Reform.

Despite a 9-day walkout by Senate Republicans, 92% of the bills were passed with bipartisan support, and 51% of the bills that were passed had unanimous support, although divisiveness in politics makes the news. HB2512 adds a member to the State Board of Education who must be a licensed teacher. HB 3213 established safety corridors around the state, and HB 320 will establish permanent Daylight-Saving Time (if approved by Congress). Senate bills that created support for our environment and natural resources are SB 90, 256, 1044. Some of us who knew Alter Weiner are thankful to see that SB 664 passed, which requires genocide education statewide.

- To read more about the 2019 legislative session, click on this link: [2019 Legislative Session](#)
- To review a recap from the Legislature about the session, click on: [Legislative Recap](#)
- To connect with your Legislator and see how he or she voted, click on this link, then look to the right column of page for these words: [Find Your Legislator](#) That way, you can read his or her opinion on the Session and learn more about present and future endeavors.

The recent legislative session passed bills in the Oregon House and Senate that show support for DKG’s four International Goals:

- (1) Improving Women’s Healthcare,
- (2) Law Enforcement to End Human Trafficking,
- (3) Medical Support for Opioid Addiction, and
- (4) Affordable Housing Reform to Combat Homelessness.



Kate Kelleher, Legislative Liaison

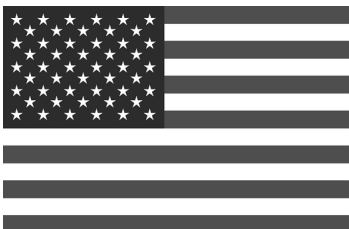
US FORUM Facebook Page Link

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR / GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUALS

- If you wish to contact your senator to express your opinion, you can call the [Congressional Switchboard](#) at 1-202-224-3121. [This is not a toll free number].
- Another way of contacting your senator is via email or a telephone number which is not toll free, both of which are available at https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- Email access and addresses: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives
<http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate
- White House 1-202-456-1111: Five (YES, 5) constituent contacts will cause a legislator to pay serious attention to a given issue.



U.S. Forum Connection #187, July 2019

DES MOINES CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE

Vickie Jackson, Oregon Treasurer

Susan Leahy was our keynote speaker for the Leadership International Conference in

Iowa on July 10 and 11. She has been motivating and inspiring audiences for 20+

years. She encouraged us to deal with life's situations "Right here. Right now!" Don't shy away from a challenge. Her two-part "Boot camp" pushed the group to be more confident women!



Susan's research shows that women wrestle with worry, doubt, anxiety, and fear when taking on a leadership position. Women need to elevate their confidence, both personally and professionally, to make changes. She explains that women have choices to be in "Power/over or Power/with." Do you want to be dominated or work as a team to create a win/win situation? Women leaders should be authentic and strong in their leadership conviction!

On Thursday afternoon Susan gave a workshop to chapter leaders. She discussed effective leadership and how a meeting should be run. "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go but ought to be!" said former U. S. First Lady, Rosalynn Carter. Susan was straightforward and serious but made us laugh. All participants were empowered by her words and energy.



Wednesday Night: "A Taste of Iowa"

Iowa devotes 90% of its land to growing food. It is the country's largest producer of corn, eggs, and pork. Iowa State University is the oldest land grant college in the United States. This is where hybrid corn and Rice Krispy treats were created. There are more hogs in Iowa (21 mil.) than people (3 mil.) The "Taste of Iowa" was pulled pork sandwiches, corn on the cob, Rice Krispy treat and a Russell-Stover candy, all made in Iowa. After dinner, participants followed along the Des Moines River to see the downtown area.

TREASURER'S TRAINING at Des Moines Conference

Vickie Jackson, Oregon Treasurer

As your new state treasurer, Vickie Jackson went to the International training for state treasurers. July 10 was an all-day meeting to update and teach treasurers about the changes at International. Phyllis Hickey and the International Finance team were the instructors.

Our new fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. All paperwork and forms are computerized. Dues start to be collected in April, with automatic reminders sent out by email from International in August to non-paid members. The dues form has an automatic calculation mode imbedded. Other forms are online to save on printing and mailing costs.

Your membership card is on online, so you can print it and add your picture to use as ID to receive teacher discounts. E-mail corrections are requested by International to each chapter treasurer to ensure the list is updated. All emails and forms are kept on a secure server for the Society's use only.

Our state's finance committee will be reviewing our investments to see how

we can expand our interest payments for state use. We are considered a 501(c)(6) organization. Our contributions are not tax-deductible because we give to our members and contributions are not disclosed to the government. A 501(c)(3) organization operates for one purpose – for example, the DKG Emergency Fund is a tax-deductible fund because all the money taken in goes out to members who sustained damage by a natural disaster. No money is used for business purposes, only as grant money. (This program started because of the 1948 Vanport flood in Oregon.)

If you have any questions for me just call 541-475-7252 or e-mail me at dandvjackson@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP TRAINING at Des Moines Conference

Ardeth Woods

First we looked at the "Big Picture": Chapter, State, and International membership. The role of the Membership Chair was defined as Researcher, Learner, Record Keeper, Problem Solver, Coach, Listener, Facilitator and Mentor/Encourager.

Next came discussion of membership changes. We now "induct" rather than "initiate." A person becomes a member when she pays dues. Induction ceremonies may be modified to fit the culture of the chapter or not used at all. A member who lives far from a chapter or whose chapter has dissolved may become a state member.

Collegiate is a new membership classification for women in education who have completed two years of college or are in graduate school majoring in education. Student teachers are in this category. More information is in the *International Constitution, Standing Rules, in the Guidelines for Chapter Leaders.*

A DKG Membership Survey, Building Connections, Growing Membership with the Recruitment Plan, Building Vital Chapters, and Getting Resources were discussed. Staying connected is very important. Texting, Twitter, and other forms of social media are good ways to stay connected with younger members.

Keep accurate records! Think outside the box when looking for members. Any woman who is paid to teach, whether one person or a large group, is eligible. She doesn't have to be in K-12. An orientation program is now on the website.

Go to My DKG on the website for a

- State Connect for State Membership Chairs or a
- Chapter Connect for Chapter Membership Chairs.

There is much helpful information available on the website—we just need to use it.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

*Dana Murphy, Beta Beta
US Forum/NGO/U.N. Liaison*

The Seventh Purpose of DKG International is to *inform the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.* So, here are two excellent newsletters available and created for our members.

The U.S. Forum Connection comes out monthly in a brief and concise format with many links for more information. Members wishing to subscribe to this **FREE** newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

In a recent issue (#186), these topics were included:

- Medicare and Prescription Drugs
- Rape Survivor Custody Act
- Specific Education Legislation
- Arsenic In Bottled Water
- Contacting Your Legislator
- Forum Facebook Page Link
- Forum Web Site
- Calling Your Legislator

You may also be interested in the **DKG@UN Newsletter**.

This is a quarterly newsletter of the representatives of DKG to the United Nations Department of Public Education and Economic and Social Council. Since 1996 our Society has partnered with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF on a number of projects that have supported education in developing countries.

This newsletter is on the DKG website at www.dkg.org. To subscribe, I suggest you contact Lochie Musso, NY, DKG@UN Newsletter Editor and Secretary of CTAUN lochie@optonline.net

In a recent issue topics included:

Highlights of the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations Conference (CTAUN). "Our Planet--Our Crisis--What's Next?" <https://teachun.org/>

- Giving Back to Create Inclusive and Sustainable Communities
- Peace Boat-Sailing for Change
- Summer Global Awareness events



DR. MERZ RECOGNIZED BY INTERNATIONAL

Congratulations to Dr. Judith Merz, recipient of the International Achievement Award which was presented at the International Leadership Conference in Des Moines. Dr. Merz was the International Guest at our 2018 Oregon State Conference where she led a workshop on developing chapter websites.

Dr. Merz is currently editor of the *Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin* and project

consultant to the 2018-2020 Administrative Board. She served as Society Interim Director and then Interim Membership Director in 2017-2018. Dr. Merz was appointed to the DKG Editorial Board in 2006, was named editor in 2010, and named communications and marketing consultant in 2015. She served as New Jersey State Organization President from 2001-2003.

A former English teacher, school administrator, and superintendent, Dr. Merz works as advisor to doctoral students in the Educational Leadership Program at Nova Southeastern University.

MENTAL ILLNESS TOPS U.S. FORUM CONCERNS

Representing all four regions, 138 members attended the US Forum Session at the International Leadership Conference in Des Moines. **Sally Nyhus** from Minnesota, US Forum NW Regional Representative, planned and facilitated the event. Guest speaker Mary Mascher, Iowa House District 86 Assembly Representative, spoke on the topic "Child Welfare from a Provider's Perspective." In her presentation, she addressed what the state and national governments are doing to improve child welfare, and what DKG, as an organization, can do to support those efforts.

Participants were asked to identify their major issues of concern. The highest-ranking topic was mental health support for youth, followed by human trafficking, youth suicide awareness and prevention, hunger, poverty, healthcare for women and children, violence against women and girls, and school funding. These issues will be combined with those from other US Forum Sessions to determine what concerns will be addressed at the National Legislative Seminar, March 15-18, 2020, in Arlington Virginia.

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND 2019 PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH AND PRACTICES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Kelly McIntyre, Past Oregon President/
Doctoral Candidate*

My son Andrew and I arrived a day early. We started our adventure being picked up by the Blue Lagoon bus. This is a luxurious resort with a massive lagoon heated by geothermal energy, like a massive hot spring. It was a wonderful way to relax and prepare for the conference. We enjoyed several hours in the lagoon, a face mask (pictured), a water massage, and



of course, drinks in the lagoon! When we did leave the water, we headed to the restaurant for dinner, then wandered through the gift shop to bring something home!

We were then taken to our hotel. The room was small and narrow with twin beds. It had been a while since I've slept in a twin, but I managed to not fall out. Our window overlooked a small airport, so my son was in heaven (he's a pilot)! I, however, wasn't too thrilled when in the early hours, the engines were fired up. I thought the plane was in the room. No alarm needed for a wake-up call!

The conference began Thursday evening with welcome messages from Iceland's outgoing **State President, Jona Benediktsdottir**; our **International President, Cathy Daugherty**; and **European Director, Ingibjorg Jonasdottir**. We had three speakers:

1. Maria Einarsdottir spoke of her

experiences as a student in Iceland and Sweden. She is a 2019 graduate from secondary school and spoke positively of the education she received.

2. Dr. Jon Torfi Jonasson, Professor Emeritus, spoke on the challenges the future holds for education, particularly on the reluctance to change.
3. Dr. Kolbrun Palsdottir, was the main keynote speaker for the evening. Her topic was educating and collaborating with educators. As Dean and Associate Professor, School of Education, University of Iceland, she believes strongly that the university can and should be a strong partner in enhancing the Learning Community with the education system, there should be collaboration in research and professional development, teachers should be involved in research, and one of the main roles of the university should be cultivating critical and innovative thinking, as well as building collaborative skills with educational systems.

After our speakers, we were bussed to a beautiful golf course for a night of Iceland. We fellowshipped with old friends and made some new ones. Since in Iceland in the summer months, the sun doesn't set until 11 p.m., it was still light out as we headed back to our hotel at 10:30 p.m. People were still golfing!

With sunrise at 4, it was a short night,



Kelly (second from left) and Golden Gift sisters

but much happened Friday, so an early start was good! My favorite guest speaker presented that morning.

Ingvi Hrannar Omarsson was a teacher and Chief Innovation Officer at a school district. I say was, because he is now on leave to study at Stanford this year. He spoke on preparing students for their future, not our past. Think about what we are doing with our students and why we are doing it. We are excited to be using one-on-one iPads/Chromebooks with students, but are we really using them as we should or, are they just a different form of a piece of paper? What more can be done? He shared the TTWWADI excuse: "That's the Way We've Always Done It." He stressed the knowing of the WHY in order to make the HOW manageable when making change. Ingvi then shared with us the importance of the right brain and the jobs that will be safe in the future. Those creative and social skills from the right brain are the ones that will not be pushed out by robots, a plus for writers and artists!

Our second speaker of the morning, Ingileif Astvaldsdottir, shared the outdoor education program at her school. Her students are required to have a specific number of minutes every day of classroom instruction, outside, rain or shine. The students are taught to ski as part of their P.E. program. Our third speaker, Dr. Rannveig Bjork Borkelsdottir, uses art as in instruction. Students are given a topic and create drama as a way of expressing what they learned as they researched. This tactic is used in all grade levels at her school.

The final speaker of the morning, Hakon Saeberg Bjornsson, also spoke on the use of play and drama as a form of instruction. He stressed the use of imaginary contexts to generate purposeful and engaging activities for learning. His "Mantle of the Expert" model gives students opportunities to exercise critical thinking and creativity through collaboration while allowing them to reflect on, and gain, a deep understanding of themselves, their peers, and society.

In the afternoon we had workshops. There were multiple choices for each of the four sessions. I chose *Dyslexia vs Dysgraphia*. I was hoping to learn even more than what I learned when visiting Omega chapter a few months ago. I was sadly disappointed. Omega was much better! Talk with the ladies of Grants Pass if you want to learn more on dyslexia.

My second workshop was *Torpedo or Fireworks? Which Type of Team Player Are You?* This talked about people involved in teams. There is Torpedo, the determined, act fast, decisive, object driven, assertive, dominant, direct, impatient person. There is Fireworks, the influent, interactive, inspiring, enthusiastic, persuasive, entertaining, motivating, too-much-talking person. Next we have Peace and Love, the supportive, listening, teamwork, friendly, thoughtful, sets limits, accepts criticism, loyal person. Last, there is Zoom, the conscientious, analytical, perfectionist, systemizing, logic-focused, questioning person. Not one is any better or worse than the other. All are needed to make a team productive, if you can accept each other's contribution to the team. I found myself to be a combination of Peace and Love with a bit of Zoom. How about you?

The third workshop was on *Using DKG Publications for Personal, Professional and Chapter Enrichment*. I plan to submit an article in the future and wanted details on the process. We examined differences between the *Bulletin* (more of an academic journal with research articles) and the *Collegial Exchange* (best practices, shorter articles, practical and creative ideas). What can you submit to the DKG publications? The last workshop I selected was *Quality of Work Life in Education*. Here I learned about the BATs (Bad Ass Teachers). These are teachers willing to fight for what is right for the health and safety of educators and students. You can check them out on

badassteacher.org.

Saturday was a half-day with a tour in the afternoon. Hjordid Borgeirsdottir, a sociologist and secondary teacher, spoke on research for professional development and shared the idea of having student interviews where the teacher and student discuss how the student should be assessed for the class, with the option of having no exams. This allows the students input into how they will be graded.

The next speaker was Fjola Maria Larusdottir, a specialist and project manager at the Education and Training Service Center. She shared the guidance and orientation for adult learners. She believed career counselors need more training in motivational interviews and in administering the Career Adapt Ability Scale (CAAS). She believes adult learners being selected for employment and education are often not qualified adults. This is the reason for many dropping out of school or losing their jobs. If the career counselors were better trained, they would be able to select the right candidates for the correct positions.

The third speaker was Anna Kristin Siguroardottir, a professor in leadership and school improvement in the School of Education, University of Iceland. She spoke on the importance of PLCs, open learning centers not a classroom, a breakout room, less one-way instruction and more project-based, more teacher collaboration. She shared a cute photo that made you think about the different perspectives people have. The photo was of a lion and a giraffe. The giraffe had its head above the clouds where it was beautiful. The lion was below the clouds and it was raining. The caption said, "How's the weather?" We all see things differently, from different perspectives, and that doesn't make one person wrong and another right. The final speaker of the conference was Borhildur Helga Borleifsdottir, a

consultant. She told us that *To Teach in a Team is Like to Play on a Band!* The fundamentals in team teaching are collaboration, structure, support, and discussion. Team teaching is only for those who want to be there. You need to trust other members of the team, have the same ideas, and praise your teammates. There needs to be space to work, everyone should talk, and everyone should listen. Honest conversations need to be made, even difficult ones. Most of all, you need to enjoy each other's company.

There was great food and conversation, good information shared, and friendships created and strengthened. To end this trip, my son and I took a tour of Iceland. We saw sheep and horses and were able to stop to take pictures of the Mid-Atlantic Rif (pictured below).



This is where the North Atlantic tectonic plate and the Eurasian plate are visible

above ground. The plates are separating at 2.5 cm per year. We were also able to take pictures of the North Wall. (If you're a fan of *The Game of Thrones*, you know the North Wall. The show was filmed in Iceland!)

What a great adventure! I was thrilled to be able to share DKG with my son, and he wowed many members! The next international European conference will be in Finland in 2021. It would be great if more from Oregon attended. Until then, we have Philadelphia in 2020. I hope to see many of you there.

Kelly

THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Costa Mesa, California
Kaye Jones, Kappa / 3

Driving to Costa Mesa in July to attend the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) Technology International Conference at the Hilton Orange County, I picked up the Southwest Regional US Forum Representative **Daphne Cagle** in Elk Grove, CA. After the long drive, we settled into our room and then registered, collected programs, and checked out meeting areas. We met some of the other 257 DKG members from all DKG regions.

The Pre-conference Keynote speaker, Katie Salen Tekinbas, UC Irvine, bridged the gap between academia and industry to create a practical, real-world platform that will better educate and empower the next generation. Her favorite age group to interact with online is middle school age. She discussed a Connected Camp for 8- to 14-year-old campers who attend online through the platform of Mindcraft. The Connected Learning Alliance has information about the use of gaming to meet academic standards.

Following the keynote, there were hot topics on *Gmail Tips and Online Safety*, *Creating Eye-catching Ads and Newsletters*, and *Google Slides &/or Paper Slide Videos*. These great presentations and fellowship with DKG sisters continued throughout the day.

The Conference kicked off with the history of technology, followed by **Nita Scott, DKG Executive Director**, and the first third of an invitation to the 2020 International Convention in Philadelphia. We received goodie bags including wine, fruit, and lots of shopping opportunities.

At Thursday's general session, we used technology for surveys, membership, and notes. DKG staff presented the use of technology through the years at DKG, the Society, and headquarters. DKG members from Japan brought 11 flags, each made up of 1,000 origami cranes from 11 schools in Japan for 11 schools in California. Macy's supplied three makeovers for lucky DKG members. Workshops and hot topics were informative and well attended. The US Forum checked on concerns of members.

We heard from Opal Singleton, CEO of Million Kids, about anti-human trafficking. Very scary! She shared the story of one mom who attended a workshop. Mom heard about the flags and concerns of Social media exploitation. As the parent of an "A" senior student within weeks of graduation, Mom went home and talked to her daughter. The girl had bought a ticket for the next day to a third world country to join an online male friend. The mom was able to problem solve and keep her student from leaving.

At *Phantom of the Opera*, DKG members spent an entertaining evening just across the highway from the conference.

After several workshop options, our keynote speaker, Crystal Washington, CSP, asked if we were addicted to our technology- "Do you sleep with your phone? If yes, then you are a cyborg-part human part technology." She entertained us as she educated us about how to use technology and productivity.

On our final day, we heard about the First Robotic Competition Team. They shared about the parents' participation, student commitment and innovation, school advancement, and alumni, who benefitted from their time on the team. DKG's **International President Cathy Daugherty** shared the final two thirds of the invitation to International

Convention 2020. She finished with a presentation about saying "Yes!" to being part of DKG.



Kaye

Return Address

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COUNTING MY BLESSINGS

When I start to count my blessings, what am I thankful for?
For all the little things that make me love life so much more,
For the sky and grass and flowers,
For every star and tree,
For the golden sun that rises to light the path for me,
For the smiles on friendly faces,
For warm hellos that cheer,
For letters in the mailbox from those especially dear,
For the lazy day of summer, the wealth each harvest yields,
For the crisp and cozy winters,
For springtime's fragrant fields,
For the memories that give me sweet moments all day through
For the ones I love and care for, and
For those who love me too. ~~~Mary Loberg
(I found this on an old, yellowed, newspaper clipping that was
tucked into some of my mother's papers.—Marie)

Darlene's Travels 2019 - 20

Call to invite Darlene to attend one of your chapter events:
dcook.dkg@gmail.com or 541-331-3282

Sept. 16	Dst. 1 Fall Conference	La Grande
Oct. 12	Dst. 2 & 3 Fall Conference	Grants Pass
Oct. 15	Omicron Chapter	Roseburg
Oct. 18	Dst. 4, 5, 6 Fall Conference	Tigard
Oct. 26	PAC Brunch	Portland

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