

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. 46, No. 1

Fall 2021



WELCOME TO THE 2021-23 BIENNIUM IN OREGON DKG!



We attended the conference at the Marriott in Portland on July 7 - 10, 2021.

Wishing YOU could have come!



OREGON STATE ORGANIZATION



**2021-23 PRESIDENT
Brenda Jensen / Alpha 2**

Welcome to a new DKG biennium! The next two years in Oregon DKG offer many challenges and opportunities. It may well be a roller coaster, but those are exciting and fun, so come along for the ride.

Immediate Past President **Darlene Cook** has been instrumental in assisting me as to learn my new role in the state, and both of us returned in mid-July from attending the recent and very successful international conference in Portland.

I am proud of the Oregon State Organization's member involvement during the planning and conducting of the conference. Oregon's attendance and volunteer hours served were impressive. Our own **Jean Fairbairn**, Chi/6, spearheaded the steering committee made up of sisters across the country. Barbara Clausen, NW Regional Director, and Janis Barr, SW Regional Director, represented DKG International and collaborated with Jean and the committee to make the conference an amazing experience.

Sisters were able to attend informative speakers and workshops throughout the five days. They could relax with a bite of food and taste various types of wine in the hospitality room (thanks to donations of wine from members from Washington state and Oregon). Excellent meals were available with informative speakers. We had an opportunity to meet DKG International President Becky Sadowski throughout the conference. It truly was a special event and the Oregon State Organization shined throughout the days.

As I welcome this biennium, my focus will be **involvement and leadership**. Just remember this phrase: **"Involvement creates leadership which empowers you and DKG!"** So, sisters, I would like you to think about what talents and knowledge you can lend to empowering your chapter, our state organization, and DKG International. I have an "open door" policy. Please email, text, or call me if you have ideas, suggestions, or the desire to share your talents.

I will be traveling throughout the state visiting your in-person meetings/ activities or will be in front of my computer during your Zoom meetings. I look forward to getting to know you throughout the state.

Hoping you have had an enjoyable and restful summer with your loved ones—and that you are ready and willing for our year of activities. Welcome to 2021 – 2022 Oregon DKG!

Brenda



Brenda's new logo!

2021 - 2023

OREGON STATE ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ideas? Questions? Contact us!

President Brenda Jensen

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

Vice President Bonita Fillmore

bfillmore55@q.com

Secretary Kate Kelleher

katekelleher4@gmail.com

Treasurer Vickie Jackson

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

Immediate Past President

Darlene Cook

dcook.dkg@gmail.com

Parliamentarian Nancy Lewis

nancyjolewis@gmail.com

Editor Marie Mueller

503-990-7645
cwmueller33@gmail.com

Webmaster Grace Pitzer

(503) 908-0069--home
gcpitzer@comcast.net

Administrative Secretary : **OPEN**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REVIEW

What fun we had! Those of you who missed the International Conference in Portland on July 7-10, 2021, should have been there. It was a great display of organization, willingness to help, fellowship, laughter, and activities every day. Truly, there was never a dull moment.

Oregon sisters (66 of us!), 3 seamstresses who made the arm bands, the 2 steering committee coordinators from Washington and California—all worked side-by-side. We smiled until people smiled with us, and we found much to laugh about. I was so proud that I belong to an organization that displayed the kind of sisterhood that we saw at the Marriott.

The conference went well with very few glitches. We never lost a beat, even when challenged: In the midst of the Portland Rosarian's presentation to International President Becky Sadowski, 250 DKG members and spouses lined up properly and quietly to exit the banquet room during a fire alarm. Hotel staff remarked that they had never seen such a quiet, orderly fire exit in their careers. Although I was quickly accused of providing this "memorable event," I swear that I had nothing to do with the propane stove that over-heated in the kitchen.

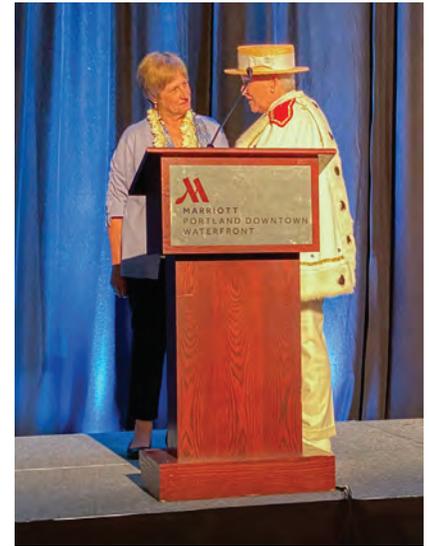
The most fun was putting 39 bouquets together in 90 minutes and getting them on the banquet room tables. In a spur-of-the-minute change, about 16 of us gathered and set up a production line that not even Amazon could duplicate. At 9:50, those tables were decorated, and the flowers looked great. What teamwork!

We worked hard and played hard, as only Oregon sisters can. We ate well, and the Hospitality Room became the hub of laughter, good food, and excellent fellowship. The student program at our Oregon Welcomes You night was excellent, and the sing-along that followed was a hit with lively, singable (is that a word?) music.

Oregon sisters and new friends from California and Washington, I cannot express the sense of pride, honor, and humility that I felt in being one of your leaders throughout this adventure.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Jean Fairbairn, Steering Committee Chair



Int'l President Becky Sadowski (L) with the Rosarians after the fire alarm.

Rosarians welcoming DKG before the fire alarm.



REFLECTING on the Conference

Warm evening river
Salads, sandwiches, ice cream
DKG friendships

City of Roses
Willamette River bridges
Inspiring Sisters

Yvonne Fasold, Lambda



Wednesday Registration Crew
Yvonne Fasold, Marie Mueller,
Grace Pitzer



Steering Committee
Janis, Jean, and Barb

Tears of joy and thanks.
Sister chapters.



Unique Boutique Sales
Catie and Pam



US Forum Folks--center, blue
blouse: Hanna Vaandring, Keynote



Judy, Bonita, Sandy, Brenda--
Three Alphas, one Alpha Omicron



Happy to see you again!!



All smiles
Sherrie, Wendy, Nancy!



Workshop note-takers
Elaine, Kate, Dana

MEET THE LAMBDA GRANT RECIPIENTS

The women of Lambda Chapter are excited to announce the two recipients of their grants-in-aid for this year. Both students are part of the U of O Teach program and began work this summer on their credentials.



Gabrielle (Gabie) Mbenza-Nyoman is the child of two Congolese immigrants who instilled the value of education in their children. With the constraints that COVID put financially on her parents, Gabie has helped her mom, who is unable to work, with rent and other basic needs. Gabie is living with two undergraduate roommates.

She was recruited to teach right out of her undergraduate degree program and has been teaching 4th grade for three years. She will be teaching 5th grade at Malabon Elementary in the Bethel District this fall. Gabie is part of her school and district equity teams, attending conferences and taking graduate-level courses. In addition, she began an anti-racist book club at her school and wants to help her district move forward with an equity lens that will help all children succeed.

She says, “I can see the effects of living in a society where biases have become normal. Although I know that I cannot fix a system that has been tainted by bias since its founding, this is my passion, and I am dedicated to help make change one step at a time.”

As a result, Gabie has taken leadership in helping develop curriculum that increases understanding between races

within her school and hopes to do more.



Lauren Flick graduated from college because of the financial help left to her by her great-grandmother. For graduate school, she must fund herself. She is living now with four roommates. To earn money, she has tutored students in elementary, middle, high school, and college level in math. She has also been a music teacher with the Youth Music Project.



Lauren is hoping to combine her love for math and music in her teaching. She wants to “empower students through math” and empower female math students. She wants to become the kind of teacher who changes the world and empowers the next generation “to be who they are called to be.”

Past Oregon President Bobbie Holsberry (1937-2021)



Bobbie Ruth Holsberry passed on May 29, 2021. She will be missed by family, Kappa Chapter,

and DKG. Born in New Mexico, Bobbie graduated high school in Colorado, married, raised her family, and earned a bachelor’s from Texas Tech (Education), and a master’s from OCE—now WOU (Music Ed). She taught in Texas and Oregon, including at OSU. Bobbie served in many DKG leadership roles: president (Kappa) and Oregon president. She was president of the Oregon Music Educators Association and Corvallis Education Association., was active in church, supported symphony groups, and continued her own musical performances and accompaniments.

Past President Oregon State Organization (2001-2003) Barbara (Bobbie) Nelson Middaugh

On July 27, we heard the sad news that Bobbie Middaugh had passed away from pneumonia in Santa Maria, California. Bobbie was a member of Omega Chapter, OR, and past president of Epsilon Chapter, OR. An educator for 34 years, she retired as a superintendent of schools. Bobbie attended the first Leadership Management Seminar at Baylor in 1980 and received scholarships from International and from Chi State. Bobbie served on several Int’l committees. She earned her PhD in Educational Administration from Claremont Graduate University.



OREGON ANNOUNCES SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Service to Education
Bertha Haas
(Psi Chapter)



Since establishing the Huruma School for special needs children in Tanzania in 2004, Bertha Haas has worked tirelessly to raise money for the school's operations, supplies, and improvements. Her programs have helped the students to grow and to become contributors to their society. Bertha has raised the Tanzania government's awareness of the worth of their special needs children. Bertha has dedicated her retirement years to the goals of the school she had founded. The Oregon State Organization is proud to recognize Bertha Haas and thank her for her service to education.



Service to Community –
Dana Murphy
(Beta Beta Chapter)



Dana Murphy has served DKG at the chapter and state levels; she is currently contributing at the international level with the U.S. Forum. She is a member of Tigard's Rotary Club and of Tigard's Community Response Team. She volunteers at Portland's Grace Episcopal Church and has prepared meals for the past six years at Just Compassion Resource Center in Tigard. For the past eight years, she has volunteered in many capacities at the Bethlehem House of Bread food pantry in Metzger. The Oregon State Organization is proud to recognize Dana Murphy and thank her for her service to Community.



*At left: Service Award
 Co-chairs
 Kathy Martell (L) and
 Sandy Watt (R) present her
 award to Bertha Haas (C), Psi/5*

Service to Society
Priscilla Ing
(Lambda Chapter)



Priscilla Ing has been active in the society since she became a member 19 years ago. She works tirelessly on chapter projects, has served on chapter committees, chairing two, and has been Lambda's co-president for the past three biennia. At the state level, Priscilla is one of our "go-to" leaders. She has organized panels and events for conferences and conventions and has been a District Coordinator and chair of the State Awards Committee for three biennia. Priscilla has been serving on the board for the Alpha Rho Foundation since 2020. She has been described as a planner, organizer, and quiet leader. She is a master at encouraging, mentoring, and involving others. The Oregon State Organization is proud to recognize Priscilla Ing and thank her for her service to the Society.





Darlene Cook, after the last piece of the conference



Darlene (L) and International President Becky Sadowski

Kathy Martell & Darlene Cook in the choir



Choir director June Bowers (below)



NW Director Barb, Clausen Executive Director Nita Scott, Comm. Chair Yvonne Fasold International President Becky Sadowski, SW Director Janis Barr-- Tuesday, July 6, before the first meeting.



Full choir (below); Janice Moen, accompanying



Ellen Owens, CA Finance Coordinator



CHAPTER CHATTER



District 1

Zeta (Union County): Zeta Chapter's summer highlight was our family picnic on July 8. **Mary West** and her husband hosted the event, with about 30 members and their families attending. Mary's family provided the meat, while others brought salads, side dishes, and desserts. It just so happened also to be **Betty Hyde's** 84th birthday, so President Mary Jo arranged a birthday celebration for her. The Oregon State FFA officers were special guests for the evening.

It was such a treat this summer to be able to enjoy gatherings of family and friends and do some traveling. **Mary West** and **Lynn Duncan** went to Wisconsin for a wedding. Many members have spent lots of time camping. Our garden is in the middle of a bumper crop of zucchini. Soon we will be planning programs, projects, and fall activities, although that probably will be on Zoom.



Happy Birthday, Betty!

District 2

Alpha (Klamath Co.): A CHALLENGE TO OTHER CHAPTERS: Even though Alpha Chapter in Klamath Falls, was 304 miles from the

International Conference in Portland, four of our members attended and helped on various committees. That's 23.5 % of our membership.

- Did any other Oregon chapter members travel farther?
- Did any other chapter have a higher percentage of their membership attending the convention?

Omega (Josephine Co.): Three of us attended the International Conference in Portland on July 7-10: **Lise VanBrunt, Lynn Hughes, and Carrie Hinesly.** What fun we had in-person and unmasked! Just like the "good old days." Carrie accepted the award for the Omega/Epsilon Omicron (CA)



post-forest fire project on Thursday, and Lise added her comments at lunch on Friday. Following some very successful fundraising, Epsilon Omicron of California donated another \$1,000 for Omega to use! We talked, we listened, we enjoyed seeing friends and making new ones. We networked, and we learned. Omega will be a stronger chapter from what we experienced.

District 3

Lambda (Lane Co.): Three Lambda members attended the International Conference in Portland. **Yvonne Fasold** chaired the Communications Committee, and **Priscilla Ing** and **Mary Jo Huisman** helped at the registration table. Priscilla also participated in the Parliamentary Procedure workshop prior to the official opening of the conference. After the conference, they shared their experience with **Chris Luehring** and **Darby Tracy** over lunch and will report to the chap-

ter in September.

Another successful yard sale resulted in \$1,138.06 being added to the Jule Crume Memorial Grant fund in June.

Under the leadership of vice-president **Julie Volker-Morris**, several members are reading *This is My America*, a novel by Kimberly Johnson, local author and UO Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and Student Success, in preparation for a book talk later in August. The book was one featured selection of the UO Common Reading program last year and is being used in middle and high school classrooms in the 4J and Bethel districts, at Springfield High, and at Central Oregon Community College, among others. It's "a timely testimony of the social realities behind #BlackLivesMatter 2020." "Personal courage and deep commitment from family are required to address racial profiling and gain freedom."

Julie asks that those who read the book return their copies to offer a rotating class set for Lambda members to use with their students. She says, "Educators from middle, high school, and college levels should absolutely consider using this book in their courses. It is easily read, (Kimberly says it is, in part, written in a style based on her love of Nancy Drew stories)."

The book is also being turned into a new television series, and some local educators are working with a UO College of Education faculty member to develop curriculum around the book.

Sigma (Bend, Redmond, Central Oregon): Sigma is pleased to recognize Annette Lange Hildebrand for volunteering to join the Finance Committee. (see next page)

District 4

Alpha Omicron (St. Helens): As Alpha Omicron gears up for 2021-22, we are disappointed by the COVID-19

surge. We have been looking forward to chapter indoor and in-person gatherings, but we are again limited to gatherings on Zoom or outside—and distanced. We are hopeful that the pandemic will soon diminish and are cautiously planning for a more open springtime.

Three Alpha Omicron members attend the International Conference in Portland. They are eager to share their experiences with the chapter at the September meeting. Their hope is to inspire many more chapter participants to attend the State Conference next April 29-May 1. . . . and perhaps the International Convention in New Orleans next summer!

District 5

Alpha Epsilon (Salem & Polk

Cos.): Altho' it wasn't far to Portland, only two of us attended the International Conference: **Kathy Martell &**



Marie Mueller. We wished you could all have come, as it went well and provided many opportunities for fun and learning. The International visitors were friendly and accessible, chatting and listening to members and guests. Both Kathy and Marie were “worker bees,” with Kathy greeting attendees and urging them to volunteer to do a bit of work. Marie wrote the conference blogs and did this and that to help Jean Fairbairn, the steering committee chair. It was fun!

Alpha Nu (Hillsboro, Beaverton & Washington Co.):

Grace Pitzer and her trusty cameras were everywhere, recording the conference fun. Did you notice the lovely

Oregon photos on page 1? They are



Grace's work. Grace also loaned her laptop to Marie Mueller for the blogs posted to the conference app. That was a good rescue! Thanks, Grace! (at right, above with Yvonne and Barbara Beardsly, CA)

Psi (Hillsboro, Beaverton & Washington Co.):

Kathy Martell and Sandy Watts presented Psi member **Bertha Haas** with the DKG Service to Education Award at our June 5 meeting at **Freda Boyle's** house. We had a wonderful time outside visiting and enjoyed seeing each other in person. In early July eight of us met and visited with prospective member transfer from Texas, **Erin Sands**, at a coffee shop in Forest Grove. She will be joining us this fall.

We gathered at member **Roberta Hutton's** house in Lincoln City on Aug. 12 for lunch, a short meeting, where we donated school supplies for Vernonia Schools. In September dictionaries will be presented to third graders at Echo Shaw School in Cornelius and Vernonia Elementary School. Guests were **Kathy Martell**, Dist. 5 Coordinator, and member **Janice Anderson's** daughter Hillary, who is an international teacher in Egypt. We plan to hear more from Hillary about her teaching experience via Zoom.

Beta Beta (Tigard/Tualatin/Sherwood): See also the BB articles, p.p 17. Beta Beta held its first face-to-face event on June 21 in Cook Park in Tigard, a pot-luck picnic! Members who are currently teaching were guests of the chapter. All other

members were asked to bring either a salad or an appetizer, and the drink of their choosing. Dessert was provided by the planning committee. New members were introduced prior to lunch being served. When members arrived and picked up name tags, they also selected the committees on which they would like to serve for the next two years.

An ice breaker was played by placing a famous woman's name on each member's back, then they had to go around to others and ask questions, trying to guess whose name they wore. For the book sale, members brought books to sell and money to purchase more books.

The highlight was presentation of an award to **Dana Murphy** for Service to Community, and a 25-year membership award to **Sandra Bartnik** (right).



District 6

Eta (Portland): On July 1, 2021, Eta Chapter members enjoyed visiting together for our first chapter outing since the COVID restrictions began! Twelve Eta members, plus honored guest, **Darlene Cook**, state president, met for lunch at the historic Filberts Farmhouse Kitchen in the historic district of Aurora.

The restaurant was constructed in 2019 as an addition to the original Mohler Farmhouse built in 1865 and is registered as an Historic Landmark. We were seated in the original Mohler Farmhouse, which is now used for groups. The new addition was designed to emulate the historical colonial architecture of the original house, and antiques from the area are part of the decor.

After lunch, we had many options to

explore the area: the Aurora antique shops, the Aurora Colony Museum, several wonderful garden centers driving south from Aurora on 99E, including Al's Garden Center, Bauman's Farm, and Seabright's Hosta Nursery, to name a few. Our gathering was so successful we are returning in October for our fall meeting.

Eta's Lunch Group



ALOHA FROM MT. SHASTA! *Bonita Fillmore, Alpha/2*

At International Conference, members of **Gamma Nu, Mt. Shasta City, CA**, connected with **Alpha in Klamath Falls, OR**, and proposed developing a sister relationship since Alpha is physically the closest DKG chapter to Gamma Nu. Alpha enthusiastically accepted!



Luau Fun & Games at Mt. Shasta City

Gamma Nu invited me, Bonita Fillmore, as Alpha's President, to attend their summer meeting: a luau on July 17. I made it to the luau and was warmly greeted with leis and cool drinks, then an ice breaker, followed with fabulous food, a sing-along with "Tiny Bubbles," and Hawaiian dancing (more or less on my part). Awards were presented and plans for 2021-22 were unveiled. Door prizes were distributed.

Everyone had a wonderful afternoon. I left knowing that I had made new friends. I look forward to including

our southern sisters in Alpha events and making a strong friendship between our chapter members. **It's DKG sisterhood at its finest!**



SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS-IN-AID, & STIPENDS

Purpose Five of DKG International is "To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators."

Despite the 2020-21 pandemic, our members worked to improve themselves. The Oregon State Organization gave away a total of \$17,647 in scholarship and grants-in-aid. Our investment interest also allowed us to give out 35 stipends of \$100 each to members who registered for the Portland International Conference. Your purchases at the Unique Boutique allowed nine additional members to receive \$100 stipends for the International Conference. Thank you for your generosity!

Please apply for a scholarship in the 2021-22 year! Our investments have created substantial interest (\$33,000) that we can award to qualified applicants! You can apply for an Oregon scholarship, and your lifetime limit is three scholarships or grants-in-aid.

DUE DATES

Scholarship applications are due:

- August 1
- December 1
- March 1

Grants-in-Aid applications are due March 1.

Applications for **Unique Boutique stipends** are due after you have registered for the state event you wish to attend.

Vickie Jackson, Treasurer

TECH TIPS POPULAR

Barbara Beardsley, California, set up a series of Google "how to" sessions on Friday and Saturday. They included:

1. Google Docs
2. Google Sheets
3. Google Slides
4. Google Meets
5. Google Forms
6. Google Drive
7. An open forum

These were in addition to providing a Tech Station for help with the DKG app on your cellphone. All proved to be very popular.

Beta Beta Selects Four for Nielson Awards

From many worthy applicants, committee chose four amazing young ladies who are completing their education degrees. Each received awards that total \$9,000.

The first winner, **Alia Burck**, was

accepted to EOU's Master of Teaching Graduate School Program that begins this month. Alia was awarded \$3,000 for tuition. She is pursuing a secondary education master's



degree with a focus in language arts. Alia graduated from the University of Oregon in 2017 with a double major in Journalism and Chinese, then boarded a plane for Turkey to support refugees from Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan in their resettlement process working alongside an International NGO. During the past year, Alia worked for a non-profit in Portland known as *The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization*. As a result of these experiences, Alia became committed to education, "believing that classrooms are powerful because they create a neutral ground of diverse cultures, belief systems and ideas."

Her desire is to teach ESOL to refugee and immigrant students in the Portland area. She was raised by two generations of female educators. "Both women before me have shown me the power of education to bridge cultural and socioeconomic gaps." As a result of her experiences, she has a keen "understanding of the world . . . and strategies for working with children who have faced extreme poverty and trauma."

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The second winner, **Sahara Wright**, finished her master's degree at PSU with a license to teach secondary and with an endorsement in English language arts. She will apply the \$2,500 award to student debt. Since graduating from OSU (2015), her work has been most recently at Mountainside HS, Beaverton. Sahara shared that the compassion she feels for students is a centerpiece in her teaching. Her goal is to work with students in rural communities and "be an advocate for students to think about their career or personal goals that may break the confines of their town."

The third award went to **Katerina Veliz** who has just completed her degree from the University of Portland and



has one of the top three GPA's in her class. Katerina lives at home to keep her costs down

and received \$2,500 that she will use to repay student debt. She was inspired by her parents, both educators, who value education as a life changer. Katerina plans to pursue a master's degree while teaching, and she will work as a Dual Language 1st grade teacher for Canby Schools, A references said, "Ms. Veliz continues to be one of the most humble yet courageous leaders I have come to know in my 34-year career in K-12 education and 5 years at the university." Katerina feels that

"in working with marginalized student populations . . . it is crucial to provide real-world, hands-on learning . . . projects, group work and collaboration."

The last award of \$1,000 went to **Anna Wanner**. She has graduated from the University of Portland with an ele-



mentary degree and accepted a position at Holy Cross Catholic School in North Portland, teaching 1st grade. In college, she real-

ized that she "wanted to nurture young students and spark their curiosity of knowledge and learning." Anna believes in providing an "equitable education by being a warm demander." Her background instilled a value for hard work and a desire to "maintain high expectations for students, based on their individual needs." She will use her award to cover some costs of being a new teacher.

We look forward to the opportunity to bring our recipients stories to a future Beta Beta meeting and hear about their new teaching jobs.

Very special thank yous to the crew of proofreaders:

**Christine Luehring
Kathie Hill
Brenda Jensen
Darlene Cook
Kim Brown**

RETURN ADDRESS

The New Oregon Trail is a publication of the
Oregon State Organization of
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

c/o

Vickie Jackson, OSO Treasurer
235 S.E. C St.
Madras, OR 97741-1732



**Oregon
State Organization**

BRENDA'S JOURNEYS		
6/29	Transition Meeting	Zoom
7/7-10	Int'l Conference	Portland
8/25	Exec. Committee	Zoom
9/2	Presidents/President/ Leadership	Zoom 5 - 7 p.m.
9/2	Executive Comm	5 p.m.
10/7	Alpha Omicron	TBA
11/6	PAC Brunch	Portland