

THE NEW OREGON TRAIL



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. 3

March 2024



CONFERENCE COVERAGE -- CHECK OUT WHAT'S PLANNED FOR YOU IN KLAMATH FALLS!

INTERNATIONAL GUEST AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lyn Babb Schmid, Ed.D.

Lyn Schmid is an educator with a passion for people. She started out in her freshman year at Auburn University to be an architect, but her freshman advisor pointed out that her small, rural high school in Roanoke, Alabama, only allowed the girls to take home economics, not the requisite mechanical drawing that the boys were directed to study. That glass ceiling experience led the way for Lyn to embark upon a career in education. She agrees that developing her passion for people, rather than buildings, has been a rewarding choice.



After receiving her bachelor's degree at Auburn, Lyn earned a master's degree at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Her Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies was conferred at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

Lyn has taught secondary English, been a secondary and elementary reading specialist, a reading supervisor, and retired as an elementary principal. After 35 years of service in public education, her most recent position was serving as a National Assessment of Educational Progress assessor for the US Department of Education. In 2014-16, Lyn was the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International President; she received the International Achievement Award in 2017.

Lyn loves to watch college football and basketball. She has been widowed since 2004 and loves spending time with her friends and her two big brothers. Discussing books, movies, and women in leadership over a fabulous meal with a glass of wine is her idea of a great time.

Lyn is positive, reflective, and an enthusiastic leader. She loves humor and its power to change attitudes. As a DKG Past International President and Executive Board member, she believes that the Society is truly moving forward and will emerge as a stronger organization in its current technological evolution. Lyn tells members: Hold fast to our heritage, be creative with our future to realize our purposes and launch Delta Kappa Gamma as a pre-eminent professional education organization.

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Scan the QR code below for a direct route to conference information.



Watch the DKG Oregon website for updates and changes to the 2024 Spring Conference in Klamath Falls.
<https://dkgoregonconvention.weebly.com/>

2023-2025
Oregon President
Darlene Cook



We have set our clocks forward. The days are getting longer, and spring is officially here! I am certainly enjoying the sun and warmer weather.

I just returned to the Northwest last week after spending nine days preparing for and attending the National Legislative Seminar in the Washington, DC, area. The speakers were great and the discussions lively. The wreath laying ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was awe-inspiring and the visits with our legislators on Capitol Hill were motivating. I was so pleased to be able to share the four-day seminar with Kate Kelleher, Beta Beta, and Tara Heikila, Alpha Epsilon.

After the excitement of last week, sharing experiences with DKG members from across the country, I am looking forward to sharing two events this spring with you, our Oregon members. The first is a Prez 2 Prez Zoom meeting on Saturday, April 6th from 9 to 11 a.m. International First Vice President Connie Rensink will join us in a discussion of the recommendations from the Avenue M report, what we are doing as a Society to implement those recommendations, and how we as chapters and members can play a role in the implementation process. Thank you for the support that you have already given to the Avenue M project. I was pleased to hear that 73 of our Oregon members completed the survey last month! Connie will also

share a few of the major amendments to be discussed at the International Convention this summer and what effects they might have on state organizations and chapters.

Our state conference, scheduled for May 17-19 at the beautiful Running Y Resort near Klamath Falls, is only a few weeks away. Remember to complete your registration and make room reservations if you have not already done so. Check out this issue of *The New Oregon Trail* for all the details.

Kudos to our Conference Steering Committee under the leadership of Brenda Jensen for planning the many activities! Thanks to members and friends who have stepped up to deliver a keynote address or present a workshop. Everyone has worked hard to plan an outstanding event for you to enjoy. We have a full schedule with 2 major workshops on Friday and a choice of 12 great workshops on Saturday. Our International Guest, Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid (International President 2014-2016) will join us from Pennsylvania. Plan to visit the local museums and tour downtown Klamath Falls by trolley on Friday morning. Submit your works of art and masterpieces to the Art Gallery and remember to buy tickets for the great baskets. Money earned from the baskets will support members attending state and International events.

Our Awards Committee will announce the recipients of our State Achievement Awards, present longevity certificates, and reward chapters who have completed requirements for the Order of the Rose and Rosette Awards. We will also celebrate the success of our chapter SMART goals designed to increase membership recruitment, retention, and revitalization. Under the direction of Vice President Dr. Wendy Hacke, our strategic membership plan has led to the induction and reinstatement of 12 new members since our convention last year. **A special welcome to our new and returning**

members, and congratulations to the following chapters who have welcomed at least one new member this school year: Lambda, Alpha Epsilon, Omega, Psi, Alpha Omicron, and Sigma. Way to go, ladies! Will that number increase further before our celebration at the conference? We hope so. Members who passed since our 2023 convention will be recognized and honored at the White Rose Ceremony.

An important part of our state conference is welcoming our new Chapter Presidents for the 2024-2026 biennium. **Thank you all for stepping up to serve your chapter!** You and the work that you do at the chapter level are the backbone of our Society! If you have been hesitating, please consider saying “yes” to a position of leadership in your chapter. Working together at the chapter level is rewarding and a lot of fun. You can join a state committee or consider becoming a state officer, too.

As you read this issue of our state newsletter, check out the wonderful chapter events planned for this spring. I am always amazed by and deeply appreciate the creativity, resiliency, and ability of Oregon members to develop chapter projects and to continually support each other. On May 23rd we will celebrate our 83rd birthday as a state organization, and on May 11th DKG will celebrate its 95th birthday as a Society. Yes, we can certainly say that we are **Sisters Building Sustainability**, both at the state and international levels. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your state president!

With warm regards, *Darlene*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WHAT'S UP AT INTERNATIONAL? JOIN IN!

First, log in. Locate the upcoming International virtual events you may be interested in joining. Links are located under the Event tab on the www.dkg.org home page.

Inside International: Join in an open discussion or ask questions of officers at these Zoom sessions. Join on Zoom—Click on Events >>> Related Events on the www.dkg.org home page.

- April 2 - 10:30 a.m.
- May 7 - 3:30 p.m.
- June 4 - 10:30 a.m.

Town Hall on Proposed Amendments: At the International Convention in July, time will be dedicated to proposed changes in the *International Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules*. Before you go to the convention, discover what is being proposed and why. Join these Zooms. Click on Events >>> Related Events on the www.dkg.org home page.

- April 2 - 10:30 a.m.
- April 17 - 8:00 a.m.>>Amendments Q & A
- May 1 - 8:00 a.m.

To access any open applications, you first will need to log in to your account. Once logged in, go to MYDKG>Apply/Submit. Find your topic.

Calling All Artists: **April 15** is the deadline for submitting your work to the Member **Art Gallery at the International Convention.**

Finishing your doctoral degree? Will you be receiving a doctorate this year? Get some well-earned recognition. Submissions are due by **April 30.**

Cornet Individual Professional Development Award applications are due **May 1.**

Want to be a published author? Send your article to these two juried journals for consideration.

1. *The Bulletin: Journal* by **April 30**
2. *The Bulletin: Collegial Exchange* by **August 1**

UPCOMING OREGON EVENTS

1. **April 6: Prez 2 Prez** **9 a.m., via Zoom**

Meet our guest from International HQ

Connie Rensink, International First Vice President is passionately dedicated to working with other leaders toward the vision of a vibrant DKG that provides innovative programs and personal connections for every member.



Connie has served as DKGIEF Director, International Member at Large, and on numerous international committees.

During her six years on the Administrative Board, Connie chaired the Strategic Plan committee, International Issues Task Force, International Speakers Fund committee, and has presented professional development at all levels. She has held a myriad of leadership roles in Texas and received the Texas State Achievement Award.

Join Connie for a discussion of the recommendations from the Avenue M report, what we are doing as a Society to implement the recommendations, and how we as chapters and members can play a role in the implementation process.

Connie will also share information on some of the amendments to be discussed at the International Convention; and if passed, what effect these amendments might have on our chapters and state organization.

All members are invited to join this meeting. A Zoom link will be sent to all members of the State Leadership Team. **Chapter Presidents**, please pass this link on to your members.

2. **April 22: Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. Zoom**
3. **May 17-19: Oregon State Conference**
Running Y Resort, Klamath Falls.

VERY SPECIAL GUESTS

Daphne Cagle

International Membership and Expansion Committee

Daphne was inducted into Alpha Eta Chapter in Sacramento in 1993. She served twice as Chapter President and has had many other roles, including Membership Chair.

At the state level, Daphne has served nearly two decades, taking many roles on the Area Board, including Area Director and Area Membership Chair, a position she still holds. She has served on the DKG California Leadership Team for the past 18 years with two biennia on the Executive Committee.



While serving as First Vice-President in 2017, she led the committee which chartered the first new chapter in California in 22 years. Since then, she has led the efforts to charter seven more chapters. She currently chairs the Expansion Committee for the California State Organization and serves on the International Membership and Expansion Committee.

Daphne attended the 2012 Leadership Management Seminar and has been helping state organizations with membership and expansion. She is excited to join her Oregon sisters at this conference.

Barbara (Barb) Clausen

Leadership Development Centre International Leadership Development & Golden Gift Fund

Many of you know Ms. Clausen from her many visits, but if you don't, Barb Clausen recently served as Northwest Regional Director.



She is a member of Chi Chapter in Cowlitz County, WA. Barb served as a chapter president and held many state offices including state president, leadership development chair, and parliamentarian. She received the Washington State Achievement Award in 2006 and led the state strategic planning process.

At the international level, Barbara was on and chaired the Int'l World Fellowship Committee; she was on the Int'l Revision Team and the Int'l Constitution Committee. Barb has a passion for all things DKG, to its forward movement, and enjoyment of the wonderful fellowship with others as she meets members.

Ms. Clausen taught high school English for 13 years and served as a building principal, curriculum director, and assistant superintendent in Washington districts for 18 years. She coordinated a second-level teacher certification program at Washington State University Vancouver.

After 41 years in education, Barbara has found a full life (besides DKG) in her love of quilting, growing flowers, traveling, and writing grants to feed hungry children in Kelso-Longview. She looks forward to meeting you!

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

SATURDAY, May 18

MORNING: Dr. Lyn Schmid, our International guest and Past International President, will provide a general update from DKG International Office in Austin, Texas. (Photo below)

LUNCH: Todd Kepple, Early Education in the Klamath Basin

Todd Kepple, Klamath County Museum Manager, has been a Klamath Basin resident since 1990. He was a reporter and editor for the *Herald*



and *News* from 1990 to 2005 and has been manager of the Klamath County Museum since 2005. He enjoys volunteering at Crater Lake National Park, the OC&E Woods Line State Trail, and the Pacific Crest Trail. He is also a founding member of the Klamath Tree League.

DINNER: Dr. Lyn Schmid, International Past President (see her brief



biography on p. 1), will discuss: ***DKG: Relevant -- Then and Now!*** This speech ties early DKG members and traditions to today's active educators and

what the Society is doing now, then gives a challenge to move forward to our DKG Centennial in 2029.

Dear DKG Sisters,

Wonderful news! Our WWII Rosies, as a group, will be honored in a ceremony in Washington, DC, on April 10, 2024, to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal!!

If you remember, Yvonne brought two Rosies to our Independence, OR, Convention last year. It costs a lot to fly to DC, so some of us are sending a few dollars to assist Oregon's Rosie, Clarice Lefreniere, who is now 102, to attend with her granddaughter as an escort. Clarice worked as a welder and burner at Kaiser Shipyard on Swan Island in Portland, OR.

If you wish to support this proposal, any size donation made out to American Rosie the Riveter Assc. Please put "DC Ceremony" on the memo line. Then mail it to: Stephanie Davis, ARRA Treasurer, 8336 Valley Oaks Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76102.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States. The medal is being awarded to recognize the Homefront service of these women during World War II. I am so thrilled for our Rosies! And YES...I plan to attend the ceremony!!

Thank you so much for considering this request!

Yvonne Fasold (Yvonne is a Rosebud—the daughter of a Rosie!)

Donations to ARRA are tax deductible. ARRA is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. Questions? Please contact ARRA Past President Yvonne at fasold@uoregon.edu.

DKGIEF: Women Honoring Women

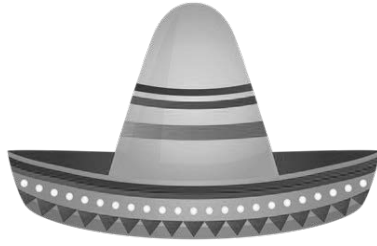
Honor a woman who has had a significant impact on your life or career.

For each \$25 donation made in honor of that special woman, DKGIEF will send you a specially designed card and pin to present her. **Your donation must be postmarked or received between March 1, 2024, through April 15, 2024,**

DKGIEF will offer a different pin each year in celebration of International Women's Day. The initial 2024 pin features the blue hydrangea which symbolizes gratitude and heartfelt emotion. Parts of the flower and stems will be raised to give a 3D effect.



For further details on how to make your donation, visit the DKGIEF website or scan this QR Code with your mobile device.



Join Us For
Bunco de Mayo
 Friday, May 3, at 6 p.m.
 Hosted by Alpha Omicron Chapter
 of Delta Kappa Gamma
 Columbia City Community Hall
 1850 2nd St.
 Columbia City, OR
Cost \$20

Includes a light dinner, raffle tickets, and **BUNCO!**

Extra raffle tickets will be available for \$1 each.

Proceeds benefit our local teachers and students.

CHECK OUT THIS DKGIEF CONVENTION EVENT

Looking for a fun night out? Well, if you are going to the International Convention in July, remember to toss in your dancing shoes and tune up your vocal cords for an evening spent at Bobby McKey's **Dueling Piano Bar on Wednesday, July 10**, from 6 to 11 pm, sponsored by DKGIEF. World-class musicians will play your requests and favorites while weaving in improvisational humor.

Heavy appetizers, desserts, and soda/water are included with your ticket. The venue is steps away from the convention center. Some of the \$150 ticket will be a tax deductible contribution to DKGIEF. Only 300 tickets!! so join your DKG sisters to sing and laugh the night away while making incredible memories.

Where will Darlene be visiting next? Have you invited her to visit YOUR chapter?			
Date	Time	Chapter/Event	Place
Apr. 6	9 a.m.	Prez 2 Prez—with a guest from International HQ	Zoom
Apr. 18	5:00 p.m.	Beta Gamma chapter meeting	Canby, OR
Apr. 27	11:30 a.m.	Alpha Chapter Educational Excellence Awards Ceremony	Klamath Falls, OR
May 3	6 p.m.	Bunco de Mayo	Columbia City, OR
May 11	2 p.m.	Beta Beta's Spring Tea	Tualatin, OR
May 17-19		DKG Oregon State Conference	Klamath Falls, OR
July 8-13		International Convention	National Harbor, MD
TBD		Executive Board: Adopt New Budget	Zoom
TBD		Officer / Leadership Training	TBD

**You are invited to
BETA BETA'S SPRING TEA
May 11, 2024, 2 p.m.**



Beta Beta Chapter's biennial BBEF Spring Tea is May 11 at 2 p.m. Since this is the Saturday before Mothers' Day, it's a great opportunity for grandmas, mothers, daughters, and great granddaughters to celebrate. The BEST part is you don't have to do the work! Come enjoy a lovely high tea at Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8740 SW Sagert St., Tualatin.

Tickets for the tea are \$40 per person (\$15 is tax deductible). To purchase tickets, please contact Eloise Gibson at 503-442-1710 or elog16@comcast.net. Tables are personally set and decorated by Beta Beta members. You'll enjoy a wonderful afternoon of tea, treats, entertainment, and beautiful flowers. You will enjoy three teas (one herbal), two kinds of scones with clotted cream and lemon curd, three savories, three sandwiches, and three desserts. All these tasty treats are made fresh for you by BB sisters.

A benefit to eating well is doing good. All proceeds go to our Beta Beta Education Foundation. This funds our philanthropic activities: dictionaries for third graders, sets for Oregon Battle of the Books for middle schools, music and arts grants for elementary schools, mini-grants for high school teachers and, of course, scholarships for women completing their preparations to teach.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE 2023-24 BUDGET

We have 16 chapters, and all their dues are paid. We have 320 members counting our honorary members. (Honorary members do not pay dues.)

Our budget is \$15,675 with a contingency of 10% built into the budget. Our membership dues cover only 45% of our budget. The money leftover--because it was not requested from last year's budget--is 18% of this year's budget. That means if we use our total budget, we will need to request money from the permanent fund to fill in the gap and we will need to reduce our operating budget for next year.

- If you have new members, use Form 81;
- Use Form 82 for reinstated members.
- For dropped member(s), fill out an 18A Form telling International and Vickie why the member(s) dropped
- For deceased members, complete Form 6..
- If you have a new treasurer, complete Form 87 and send it to Vickie and International. You can use email or postal mail it to:
 - DKG International 1801 E. 51st St., Ste. 365-163, Austin, TX 78723.
 - Send a copy to me, Vickie Jackson, 235 SE C St., Madras, OR 97741
 - Send a copy to Membership VP Dr. Wendy Hacke at wdhacke57dkg@gmail.com

Any questions? Call Vickie at 541-475-7252.



**ALPHA RHO FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

The 8-member Foundation board consists of:

- Darlene Cook, OSO President
- Wendy Hacke, OSO Vice President
- Judy Brimmer, OSO Secretary
- Members-at-Large:
 - Bonita Fillmore
 - Mary Jo Lemon
 - Karren Timmermans
- Past president of OSO – Brenda Jensen
- OSO Treasurer, Vickie Jackson (*ex-officio* member)

During 2022-23, the Foundation established investments to fund our grants. We are compliant as a 501(c)(3) organization.

The Foundation Committee reviews all requests quarterly – on the third Tuesday of January, March, June, and October. Meeting times are in the evenings, usually by Zoom.

Inquiries and contributions should be sent to Vickie Jackson, OSO Treasurer, 235 S.E. C St., Madras, OR 97741, Call 541-475-7252, dandv-jackson@gmail.com



THE US FORUM'S NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

March 10-13, 2024, Washington, DC



Tara Heikila, Kate Kelleher, Darlene Cook in front of the US Capitol Building



Oregon: Tara Heikila, Darlene Cook, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01); Washington: Pat Bennett-Forman, and Nancy Sheng

Sixty-seven members from 23 states attended the US Forum 2024 National Legislative Seminar held March 10-13 in Arlington, VA. Three members represented Oregon: Kate Kelleher, Beta Beta; Tara Heikila, Alpha Epsilon; and US Forum Steering Committee Chair Darlene Cook, Chi.

Issues and speakers featured at this year's seminar included the following: "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Today's Classroom" (Rob Weil, AFT); mental health topics and concerns (Dr. Anita Everett, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration); issues from the US Department of Ed (Gwen Graham); and "Social Security - The Program, Solvency and WEP/GPO" (Tom Nicholls, AARP). Advocacy Consultant Lisa Maatz opened the session, speaking on "Women and Education: Issues in the Upcoming Legislative Landscape" and Blake Kelly, AARP, discussed the "Ins and Outs of Meeting on the Hill with Members of Congress." DKG members presented table talks on "Taking

Advocacy to the Next Level," a panel on "Improving Working Conditions for Teachers," conversations on "Navigating the Healthcare System, Facts About African American Women, and Famous Women Sites in Washington, D.C.," and a creative presentation "Artful Tools - An Evening with the Arts."

A special event was laying of the DKG US Forum wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. International President Debbie LeBlanc placed the wreath representing our Society and the US Forum. In addition, members had an opportunity to witness the changing of the guard and an Army Full Honors Wreath Ceremony recognizing dignitaries from Australia and the United Kingdom.

Tuesday was spent on Capitol Hill, beginning with briefings on education legislation from staff members from the House of Representatives and Senate. After the briefings, DKG members were encouraged to meet with their members of Congress to advocate

for key issues. Oregon members met with staff members from the offices of Senator Jeff Merkley and Congressional Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01) and Andrea Salinas (OR-06). To quote Tara, "This (NLS) is a MUST attend event! I felt so moved just listening to the itinerary. There is just something about hanging with women educators - it's the best!"

US Forum Sessions are held at International conferences and conventions. The National Legislative Seminar is held every other year in the Washington, DC, area. Every DKG member living in the United States is a member of the US Forum. Since you are already a member, why not get involved? We are "**Women Poised for Legislative Action!**"

Attend the US Forum Session at Convention on July 12, 2024, in National Harbor, MD!

Darlene Cook, US Forum Steering Committee Chair

COMMITTEE CORNER

COMMITTEE REMINDERS

Remember: Committee Reports are due **April 1** to Webmaster Grace Pitzer for inclusion in the Annual Report. These summaries list what was accomplished by your committee since the April 2023 Convention. Please identify what you did, what is left to be done, and recommendations for change in the next year. Send your report as a Word document via email to President Darlene Cook dcook.dkg@gmail.com and to Grace Pitzer gpitzer@comcast.net Grace will post these to the website when she returns from a visit.

AND Each committee is to prepare a board, trifold, or exhibit illustrating the work of your committee for display at the Klamath Falls conference.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Mentoring Moments

Brenda Jensen, Chair

News from your DKG International Educational Excellence Committee

Encourage adaptability: Teach students to be flexible and open-minded when facing new challenges and changes in the world around them.

Foster critical thinking skills: Help students develop the ability to analyze information, think creatively, and make informed decisions.

Promote empathy and teamwork: Teach students the importance of understanding and collaborating with others, especially in diverse and rapidly changing environments.

BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

Jean Fairbairn, Chair

International is hosting Town Hall Zooms on Proposed Amendments: (1) April 2 - 10:30 a.m. (2) April 17 - 8:00 a.m., and (3) May 1 - 8:00 a.m. Meanwhile, review what it says in current Oregon documents at www.dkg-oregon.com/about The links are under the graphic. Or click on Resources--Other. The links are in the center of the left column.

Changes will be due to Jean by October 15, 2024.

ROSES REPORT

February was the perfect month for Red Roses this year! The Membership & Expansion Committee reports no White Roses this time.

Red Roses

Name, Chapter, District, Date

Zandra Jansma—Omega/2--2/7/2024

Leslie Henriques—Omega/2-- 2/7/2024

Tina Deamon—Sigma/3--2/7/2024

Bea DeFoe—Omega/2--12/14/2002

(Bea was reinstated 2/07/24)

MEMBERSHIP & EXPANSION

Recruitment, Retention, & Revitalization Conference Session

Daphne Cagel and Wendy Hacke

The wrap up of our last Membership & Expansion Committee session included sharing SMART goals that each chapter has been working on to increase recruitment, retention, and revitalization. This session will be a follow-up to that meeting, will cover progress toward achieving SMART Goals, and will discuss next steps for the rest of the biennium. Daphne and Wendy will share resources from International and DKG sister states to help support chapters in this work.

The following is reprinted from the International Website with the permission of the DKG International Membership and Expansion Committee. It is being shared because inviting members to the Conference in May is the perfect opportunity to connect and bond.

ENGAGING AND RETAINING MEMBERS: THE IMPORTANCE OF BONDING

Think back to science classes and discussions on chemical bonding. We learned that a chemical bond is a lasting attraction between atoms or ions that holds them together. A lasting attraction and bonding together is something we want for all of our members. We need to do all we can to get members to have a strong relationship with one another and with the Society as a whole. Why? Because member bonding:

- Fosters a sense of belonging. For new members, it helps

them feel more connected and included. We tend to retain those that feel connected.

- Nurtures strong relationships that make people feel respected, valued, heard, and seen.
- Builds trust and a sense of community. Understanding more about each other's backgrounds and experiences helps create an environment of inclusivity.
- Strengthens the engagement of members in chapter activities.
- Creates a more comfortable atmosphere.
- Leads to collaboration and cohesion.

We can help members create strong bonds through activities that have them getting to know each other on a more personal level. Activities such as:

1. Fun get-to-know you exercises (such as ice breakers).
2. Programs such as "Our Talented Friends" where skills and talents of members are shared or a "Nibble and Network" event where over appetizers, members teach each other about something or share information on topics of interest.
3. Shake-it-up seating at meetings (where members sit together based on month of birthday or favorite food or favorite movie/book genre or favorite area of the world to travel, etc.).
4. Rose Buddies or mentors.
5. Acts of appreciation (recognizing birthdays, DKG anniversaries, accomplishments, etc.).
6. Carpool conversations.
7. Community volunteering projects.
8. Coffee chats.
9. Book clubs.
10. Board game gatherings.
11. Potlucks where members share the recipe of the item they brought. (Or just a picnic!).

The importance of creating lasting relationships and connections between our members cannot be overstated. The more comfortable members feel, the more likely they are to be engaged in chapter activities. And, when members are comfortable and engaged, we are more likely to retain them.

Bonding activities are numerous. Consider this list to be a start. Please send Wendy (wdhackle57dkg@gmail.com) a description of the fun, creative activities your chapter is doing that make connections or bond members.

Looking forward to seeing you at the conference. Remember to bring a guest and have a shared bonding experience!

CALLING ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

REPORTING THE DEATH OF A MEMBER:

Chapter presidents, please report the death of a member as soon as possible to Oregon DKG and DKG International.

Here's how to do it:

1. Sign in to DKG International at <https://www.dkg.org/>
2. Click on MYDKG. That allows you to access the Forms site as a chapter president.
3. Click on FORMS (on the left of your screen), then select MEMBERSHIP (top right).
4. Download and complete Form 6. It's interactive, so fill it out as it appears on your screen.

Then send copies to the following:

- Mem@dkg.org -- DKG International Membership Office
- OSO DKG Treasurer Vickie Jackson: dandvjackson@gmail.com
- OSO DKG Membership Chair Wendy Hacke: wdhackle57dkg@gmail.com
- OSO DKG President Darlene Cook: dcook.dkg@gmail.com

If you have problems, try the Oregon DKG website:

1. Open your browser, then go to (or copy in) <https://www.dkgoregon.com>
2. The top line shows RESOURCES at the far right. Click on that.
3. Under Resources, a drop-down menu will show FORMS. Select that.
4. In the right column, scroll down to "Forms You Get From International." Under that heading, you'll find "Member Form 6 Report of Death of a Member."
5. Click on that, fill it out (it's interactive), and send it to the four people on the bulleted list above.

CHAPTER CHATTER

District 2

Alpha (Klamath Co.): Alpha members have been working on the Oregon State Conference. We are delighted that it will be at the Running Y and that we get to host it. Brenda Jensen has rounded up some amazing speakers and workshop presenters. We will have local entertainment, including the Kitchen Band from Unit 5 of Oregon Retired Educators Association. We hope to get local teachers to come for the opportunity to earn PDU's inexpensively and close to home. So, mark your calendars and get your registration forms sent in.

Alpha is working to attract new members (and we hope the Conference helps with that!) and to choose recipients of our Educational Excellence Awards. We have given these out for years and have honored many local teachers. The awards have attracted some new members for Alpha, and they provide chances to spread the word about the good things DKG does!

Omega (Josephine Co.):

At the table from left front to right front going clockwise beginning at 7: Katie Ricco, Zandra Jansma, Leslie Henriques, Marlo Zeller, Tanya Ward, Bea DeFoe, Lise Van Brunt, Cari Hinesly, Lynn Hughes, Kathie Hill (via Zoom).



On Feb. 7, Omega met at 4:30. Lynn Hughes presided. Co-President Lise began with SMART Goals and Membership, asking us to invite others to join our chapter. Lynn discussed the approval of bylaws, the emailed survey, grants, and scholarship due dates.

Omega has 28 applicants for mini grants! We inducted Zandra and Leslie and welcomed back Bea DeFoe for reinstatement



In front of the window: Bea DeFoe, Zandra Jansma, Leslie Henriques and Tanya Ward. All our newest members.

Next, fellowship was strengthened with Valentine crafts as we Zoomed with Epsilon Omega (CA).

District 3

Lambda (Lane Co.): A message from Chris Luehring: "I am feeling good and gaining strength after my stroke. My vision was impacted by an occlusion in my eye, so reading is difficult. My legs and arms still feel a bit like wet noodles, but physical therapy is helping. Thank you so much to everyone who has sent a card, a note, a prayer, or visited. My DKG family is much appreciated."

Lambda welcomed new member Nina McCoy in March. Nina has had a long,

varied career as an educator in the US, Samoa, Thailand, Sweden, and Vietnam. She started as a middle school language arts teacher, then taught English as a second language, did teacher training and created intercultural training courses. For the last 26 years, Nina

has created and taught in public health programs in Vietnam.

Lambda member Camille Ronzio, museum volunteer educator, gave us a tour of "Feminist Futures" and other special exhibits at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon as our February program. Member Sheila Sundahl wrote, "What fun we had looking closely at the numerous art works and engaging in discussion of how those exhibits related to us." In partnership with UO Common Reading, one powerful exhibit we saw, "My Body, My Choice? Art and Reproductive Justice" will be on view until August 25, 2024.

Our March program was presented by four remarkable young women who are officers of Pleasant Hill High School FFA. They explained that FFA has grown far beyond the traditional "Future Farmers" name. The organization is part of a comprehensive CTE program of study that includes agriculture, forestry, wood shop, welding, horticulture, floriculture, ag and natural resources science, ag mechanics, business management, public speaking, and career development. Students develop a budget for their projects, keep track of their expenses, and write grant proposals. FFA also includes community service. After the presentation, the students and their teacher/advisor showed us their greenhouse and the plants they have already started in anticipation of their May plant sale fundraiser.

District 4

Alpha Omicron (St. Helens): Alpha Omicron is busy preparing for our main fundraiser, Bunco DeMayo, taking place on May 3. See our yellow sombrero advertisement in this issue of the Trail. We welcome DKG sisters from other chapters to venture into Columbia County for this fun event. On March 7, we held a baby shower for one of our members who is expecting twins in June.

We are so proud to also shower this member, Kellee Malnasi, with recognition for the impact she has on the students in her school. St. Helens



RETURN ADDRESS

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

c/o

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School District presented her with a Staff Community Impact Award on March 13.



On March 10, we participated in a Shamrock Cruise aboard The Portland Spirit. Green was the color of the day as we enjoyed a 3-hour journey on the Willamette River. There was Irish folk music played by musicians on two decks of the ship; many on board had a great time folk dancing. Food and drink were available too; Irish Coffee and Irish Stew seemed very popular!

District 5

Alpha Epsilon (Salem & Polk Co.):

Four members joined Psi Chapter's legislative event on Jan. 27, featuring Oregon Representative Susan McClain in Cornelius. Psi provided a great meeting with an informative speaker (and scrumptious desserts).

On Feb. 12, retired and duty-free lunch members met to construct Valentine's bags for our active members to present to the library staff at their schools and colleges. We had enough goodies donated to add bags for prospective members and included brochures. Fellowship, fun, and a fine lunch made a great day

In March, we celebrated Women's History Month by each writing a paragraph about a woman who had influenced our own lives. Wonderful women!



Jill Snyder, holding her bouquet and gift bag. She had other bags to deliver to the librarians at her school in Salem, as did the other active Alpha Epsilon members.

Kathy Martell and Marie Mueller delivered the bags to schools where our members do not teach. We surprised and delighted them.