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.

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DATES TO WORK WITH—Mark your calendars.

Now: Click on OLIS (Oregon Legislature Information System). Find your representative or senator, then write in support of the Dolly Parton Oregon Imagination Library or the other bills that support literacy for early childhood learning. www.olis.oregonlegislture.gov The Ways and Means Committee is in charge of funding, so put some pressure on them.

June TBA: OSO Leadership Training

June 20: Learn about the Alpha Rho Foundation (ARF) on Zoom. As an Oregon DKG member, you are automatically also a member of ARF. Contact Vickie Jackson dandvjackson@gmail.com to request a Zoom link.

June 22: Wine Social 5 to 7 p.m. Women and Wine at Mary's Woods in Lake Oswego. Sponsored by the Beta Beta Educational Foundation, tickets are \$50 per person, with \$20 of that being tax deductible. For tickets, contact Eloise Gibson: elog16@comcast.net or elogibson@gmail.com
Caution: Tickets sell out fast!!

July: International Conferences in Phoenix, AZ (18-22); Detroit, MI (11-16); and Tampere, Finland (26-29). Lots of fun and learning are guaranteed.

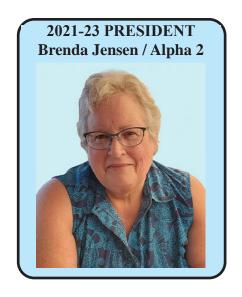
FELLOWSHIP, FUN, AND FRIENDSHIP--The essence of our Independence, Oregon, state convention. They are all in this photo or Sandy Watts (red) and Vickie Jackson (facing us).



Oregon State Organization Officers 2023-2025
L: Dr. Wendy Hacke C: Darlene Cook R: Judy Brimmer
Vice President President Secretary



Thank you, ladies, for volunteering to serve Oregon for the next two years. We appreciate your willingness to share your skills to lead our state.





Hello Sisters!

As I sit here staring at a blank page, I'm wondering how I can express my appreciation to the many sisters that have helped with the success of my biennium. There are not enough words to express my love and admiration for the members of DKG Oregon State Organization. I appreciate your dedication, your desire to make OSO and DKG better, and your help to keep us moving forward. Our accomplishments during the past two years have been many, and I know we are dedicated to continuing to produce even more accomplishments in the future.

I would like to thank each one of my sisters, as I know that you are the ones that are responsible allowing me to leave my state presidency proud to have represented so many caring and beautiful women educators. You all held me up in some difficult times during the past two years. I was touched by the thoughts and prayers that you sent my way.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I will represent you to my best ability with future committees and assignments. Thank you for your support!

Best wishes to the newly elected officers. I know you will do a great job, and I appreciate your decision to help lead Oregon DKG forward to future success.

Love to all,

Brenda

2021-2023 OREGON STATE ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ideas? Questions? Contact us!

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INSTALLING 2023-2025 OFFICERS



L > R: Brenda Jensen, Outgoing President; Darlene Cook, Incoming President; Dr. Wendy Hacke, Incoming Vice President; Judy Brimmer, Incoming Secretary; Debbie Wells, Continuing Nominating Committee.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee, Oregon has newly elected state officers:

New OSO Officers

- President Darlene Cook
- Vice President Dr. Wendy Hacke
- Treasurer Vickie Jackson
- Secretary Judy Brimmer—who consented to be nominated from the floor

New Elected OSO Committees

Nominating Committee

- Dst. 4: Debbie Wells
- Dst. 5: Eloise Gibson
- Dst. 6: Ardeth Woods

Finance Committee

- Dst. 4: Nancy Lessard
- Dst. 5: Donalene Biller
- Dst. 6: Alice Hartness-Reichle—who consented to be nominated from the floor.

Be sure to congratulate these women who have agreed to take on leadership roles to make Oregon an active, strong state within DKG.



APPOINTED OFFICERS (so far--more to come)



Grace Pitzer: Webmaster (L)
Beta Beta
Marie Mueller: Editor (R)
Alpha Epsilon



Vickie Jackson, Treasurer Sigma



Bonita Fillmore, Alpha Administrative Secretary



Nancy Lewis, Parliamentarian Beta Beta

YOU ARE INVITED!

Beta Beta Education Foundation invites you to a Wine Social

Women Who Wine for Education – Men invited too!

June 22, 2023, 5-7 PM at the lovely Nathman Building at Mary's Woods in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Act fast – Tickets are limited!

Contact Eloise Gibson at <u>elog16@comcast.net</u> or 503-442-1710 to reserve yours today!

Your \$50 ticket (\$20 is tax-deductible) includes two pours of premium Oregon wine, a generous array of appetizers and sweet bites, and a chance at very nice door prizes.

Also available are:

Raffle tickets for luxury gift baskets, many sponsored by local businesses

A blind wine pull

A few high-ticket items in a live auction.

Additional wine pours

Please join us to help with the Beta Beta Education Foundation's work in supporting teachers with grants, arts, and literacy projects in schools, as well as providing scholarships for future educators.



BONAMICI SPONSORS MENTAL HEALTH FOR EDUCATORS BILL

Darlene Cook & Kate Kelleher

In February 2023, Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Penn., and Susan wild, D-Penn., introduced *HR 744 - Supporting the Mental Health of Educators and Staff Act of 2023*. The bill is now in the Subcommittee on Health.

With bipartisan support, the bill calls for improved mental health support as educators continue to struggle with depression, burnout, and stress. "The pandemic was particularly hard," Bonamici said. "We're experiencing teacher shortages in many places and community-wide trauma . . . between racial conflict and gun violence. The concern I have is that educators are leaving the teaching profession because of burnout, stress, low pay, and limited resources." The bill would authorize funding and establish more resources to help teachers, principals, and other school staff members with mental health challenges like stress, anxiety, and depression.

Specifically, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must award grants or contracts to educational agencies, higher education, or consortia for programs to promote mental health and resiliency among education professionals and other school staff.

HHS must conduct a campaign to (1) encourage education professionals and school staff to seek support and treatment for mental and behavioral health concerns and (2) disseminate best practices to prevent suicide and (3) improve mental health and resiliency among education professionals and other school staff, (4) establish guideline for removing barriers to accessing care and treatment, and identifying strategies to promote resiliency.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the extent to which relevant <u>federal</u> grant programs address the prevalence and severity of mental health conditions and substance use disorders among education professionals and other school staff.

For more information on H.R. 744 go to <u>congress.gov</u> where you sign up, can ask to be notified of actions on this bill, and are able to track its progress.

At the 2022 US Forum Session at the International Convention in New Orleans, members passed a resolution "On Recognizing Mental Health Issues for Educational Staff and Promoting Support Services." H.R.744 meets many of the provisions covered in the resolution.

Meanwhile, if you need help, contact your Human Resources Department and speak with your doctor. Help is available. Ask for it!



MEET THE NEWEST OREGON MEMBERS (THE RED ROSES!)



Edna "Susie" Nicoli--Beta Beta



Kathleen Kay Taylor--Beta Beta



No names provided for which is which--Zeta Chapter



Katie Rico, Omega Collegiate



Julie Zetterberg-Beta Beta



Michelle Lacaden-Beta Beta



Kristen Jones, Kappa: She teaches dance.

2023 AWARD LIST

Kathy Martell and Sandy Watts, Co-Chairs

LONGEVITY AWARDS (Certificates)

25 Years, Inducted 1998

- Lise Van Brunt Omega
- Catie Thurber Brown Beta Beta
- Carol Ann Stanfield Beta Gamma
- Ann Aiken State Member

50 Years, Inducted 1973

- Jean Fairbairn Chi
- Rosealie Johnson Alpha Phi

55 Years, Inducted 1968

- Edith Orner Kappa
- Joyce Givens Sigma

60 Years, Inducted 1963

• Elia Li Harmon – Chi

CHAPTER AWARDS (Certificates)

Rosette

- Psi Chapter
- Alpha Omicron Chapter

Order of the Rose

- Lambda Chapter
- Omega Chapter
- Alpha Epsilon Chapter
- Beta Beta Chapter



STATE AWARDS: (Engraved Medallions)

Details on the previous page.

Service to the Society

Vickie Jackson - Sigma

Service to Education

Kate Kelleher – Beta Beta

Service to Community

Bonita Fillmore - Alpha

WHITE ROSE CEREMONY

Inducted into Chapter Eternal were the following Oregon women:

- Nancy Ann Garrett, Zeta/1
- Karen Less (Kerr) Spencer, Zeta/1
- Patricia "Pat" E. Cole, Iota/1
- Barbara Jean (Yoder) Hutton, Kappa/3
- Ruth Ann Young, Kappa/3
- Goldwyn (Goldie) Kulbel, Alpha Epsilon/5
- Kathryn Ann Force, Beta Gamma/6

Each honored sister was introduced with an on-screen photo while her district director read a brief life story for each wonderful teacher, noting her work and her contributions to DKG. A white rose for each was added to the cenral bouquet by the district director. These women will live on in our memory.

Music was provided by Annette Lange Hildebrand, Sigma/3











CLARICE LAFRENIERE – WAR MEMORIES

Good afternoon and welcome to our little town of Independence. Yvonne has asked me to speak to you about my experience as a Rosie during World War 2.

I was born in Colorado and finished my schooling there. Married in 1939, and my son was born in 1940. Soon after that we drove to Oregon in a well-used car with very little money. We eventually landed on our feet after my husband found a job paying \$1.00 per hour, and we rented a little house for \$15.00.

I first heard of the war as I was listening to our radio and the announcer burst in with "Pearl Harbor has been bombed and we are at war with Japan!" My daughter was born that very night. I remember the windows at the Portland Good Samaritan hospital were covered with blackout curtains as they feared further attacks on the West Coast.

Within weeks, Kaiser opened shipyards at Swan Island and they began building Liberty Ships. My husband went to work there on the graveyard shift 10pm to 6am. I resisted all the "We Need You" signs until my daughter was two and my Mom volunteered to care for her and her older brother.

My introduction to work was my new wardrobe of Cow leather, overalls, jacket, long gloves, steel-toed shoes, and a helmut with a safety glass shield. The welding machine would produce electricity for the lead, which was about a 20 foot rubber-coated wire. At the end of the wire was grip for holding the lead rods. My training was "Here's the equipment. The machine that carries the electricity – you plug in the lead, the grip goes on the end of the lead, and the rod goes in the grip." The trainer then showed how to use the rod to make the weld. He then said, "Go to it." Down on my knees I would work for eight hours doing this.

Crew were made up of four women and a lead man. The bays where we worked were open on both ends and the sheets of steel were brought in overhead then cut to size by the burner – which I also did in addition to welding.

I only worked on a ship one time, and that was enough as I'm claustrophobic. Hearing that we were no longer needed in 1945 was a joyful time for all of us!

I spent the following years working at Meier & Frank department store selling silverware, then at Dunn & Bradstreet as a teletype operator, then twenty years at DMV, eventually retiring as office manager and driver examiner.

Over the years I lost my parents, my brothers, both of my children, my sister, and my husband. Thankfully I have a loving and caring granddaughter, Barb, who just bought us a new home here in Independence. I spend most of my time reading, tending flowers, traveling. Barb and I just took a cruise down to the Panama Canal and continue to plan more adventures.

Clarice Lafreienere (age 101) and granddaughter Barbara Roberetson



SHORT BIO OF NITA EGGERS—A ROSIE

(as told to Dr. Yvonne Fasold—a "Rosebud")

I grew up on a ranch in eastern Oregon with four brothers, so I learned how to stick up for myself and do hard work of every kind. When I graduated from high school in 1944, our government was advertising for women to come help win the war. I knew I could learn any type of work, so I took the bus from my town of Ontario to the big city of Portland.

I started working as a welder at the Portland Shipyards. My boss said I was a natural. Maybe that's because girls were taught to sew and knit, so we had practice using our hands...and welding requires a light, steady touch.

I started welding in 1944. By 1945 they didn't need as many shipyard workers, but Boeing in Seattle was still making planes. I moved to Seattle, lived in a big boardinghouse with other girls, and learned how to rivet. I was thin, so I often had the task of working inside the wings. That was such a tight space that my crew members had to pull me out by my feet.

I worked graveyard shift, so during the day other women workers and I had fun going to picnics, the beach, and dances. Once someone asked, "When do you sleep?" I replied, "Sleep?? I can sleep when I'm old!"

I have been active my whole life by working, raising a family, volunteering in the community and Volks Walking in every U.S. State and many European countries.

During the war we all wanted to do the best work we could, to help bring our troops home. We weren't thinking about being role models for future women workers. Now we know how important our work was. The production of the Home Front helped the Allies win World War II. Our work in every job you can imagine shows that women can do almost any job that a man can do—and sometimes do it better. I think we inspire people with our "We Can Do It!" spirit.



Dr. Yvonne Fasold and Nita Eggers, age 98, from Albany

CHAPTER CHATTER



District 1

Zeta (Union County): With longer days, many are planning for summer activities: gardening, traveling, camping, spending time with family, or enjoying a good book. Whatever we do, the warmth and sunshine will be welcome.

Zeta ended the year with some great programs, two of which highlighted talented students.

- One was an extremely successful after-school music class where young people chose to participate in learning musical skills, mostly playing string instruments.
- 2. The other program directly involving students was three local FFA 8th grade students who shared their projects. One was an engineering experimental question, one an animal science experiment, and the last was public speaking. Her topic was the Evolution of Women in Agriculture.
- 3. Vice President Kate presented a program on wellness that's currently being used in the Elgin School District. It was partially funded by the OEA Trust Fund. The program supports physical fitness, as well as emotional, financial, and social wellness.

Members enjoyed all three programs and took something away from each.

We honored new teachers by sending each a personal, handwritten note expressing our appreciation for their dedication and service. New Zeta Chapter members were inducted: Samantha Blake and Karli Bedard.

Zeta members look forward to the annual family picnic when we have a chance to not only eat great food but also have time to visit.

District 2

Alpha (Klamath Co.): Alpha Chapter is proud of our members' accomplishments!

Alpha met May 20 in Klamath Falls to honor two local ladies with our Excellence in Education award: (1) **Sylvia Cox** for her outstanding work in Early Childhood Education and (2) **Oma Laura Brasses** for her exemplary work as a volunteer in Ferguson Elementary. We recognized the longevity of our Alpha members.

Heather Crowder, a new member from last year and a second-year teacher started an FBLA chapter at Brixner, took them to regionals and state and had five qualify for Nationals! The administration denied them travel funding for the national competition, but that doesn't negate Heather's work with junior high students to prepare them for this type of competition. She is now working on a plan for a business class at Brixner.

Joanne Skinner, a long-time member, is being recognized by TOPS for weight loss. She is the international runner-up in the weight loss surgery division. She has lost over 100 pounds and, even with the surgery, it hasn't been easy. But her health is so much better that she is inspired to stay slim.

Bridget Honan is still enthusiastically showing her dog and winning awards and accolades.

Omega (Josephine Co.): Lise Van Brunt, Lynn Hughes, and Cari Hinesly attended the Independence Convention. Omega had volunteered to be in charge of baskets and received kudos for the variety and number of lovely baskets. (There were 40+ the last time I looked!) It helped that this year, they remembered to bring the raffle tickets! Baskets raised \$1,072 for the Gamma Fund to help long-time members afford to attend International and state events. Everyone was thrilled to have so many wonderful choices.

District 3

Lambda (Lane Co.): Six Lambda members attended the State Convention, participating in a variety of

ways. Marj Maxwell presented a workshop about the League of Women Voters and how we can be active in legislative actions. Yvonne Fasold was the keynote speaker at the Birthday Luncheon. She told of "Rosie the Riveter" women who worked in World War II. Two of those women were special guests who shared what their jobs had been. Yvonne is a past president of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (ARRA), being a Rosebud (daughter of a Rosie) herself. **Chris Luehring** presented the State Scholarship Committee report, recognizing the five women who have been awarded scholarships this year. Priscilla Ing was the District 3 representative and was joined by **Darby Tracy** and Linda Mooney, a first-timer at convention.

Vice President Julie Voelker-Morris received \$3,000 as an Isabelle Huston scholarship. Julie will use the money toward expenses for the tiered coaching certification class she is currently taking.

Lambda members are becoming flexible and industrious when obstacles get in the way. In February meeting, when the program was to be about Scams, ID Theft, and Fraud, our scheduled speaker had a family emergency, so co-president **Yvonne Fasold** shared ideas with members and 16 residents of Camelot Village (where Yvonne lives) who had joined us for the program. It was an informative session with a lively discussion among those present.

In March, our scheduled program on Flower Arranging was cancelled: the presenter had back surgery. Instead, we were visited by Brad Bills, from Hosea Youth Services, the recipient of donations made at our December meeting. He shared a video showing the facility that assists homeless youth and explained their various services.

Additional donations of useful items were given to him.

Our May meeting will focus on programs for 2023-24. Members make suggestions and then vote to decide which will best fit their needs and interests. Inevitably, there are always more suggestions than can be used, but a good variety is always chosen.

Sigma (Bend, Redmond, Central Oregon): The ladies in our Central Oregon Chapter enjoyed the creative project set up by our Oregon State Organization. We bravely added two torsos and one base to the blank canvases. The final outcomes unveiled at the Spring Convention were unique and colorful indeed!

Laurie Sensibaugh invited us to paint rocks for her Community-Eas-



ter-Thunderegg- and Rock Hunt along the trails of Madras East Hills.

We are also proud of our President, Vickie Jackson who was awarded Service to DKG Society. She is an energetic leader and, although we are small, we enjoy the hearts and mindset of our membership.

District 4

Alpha Omicron (St. Helens):



Sandy Watts, Linda McCoy, Linda Dipietro and Debbie Wells

Alpha Omicron Chapter has been busy having productive fun. Four members actively attended the OSO State Convention, hosting in the Hospitality Room, presenting nominations that were voted on and presenting awards. They proudly posed with the two Art Trifecta canvases their chapter had contributed to and posed with Dolly Parton too. They attended interesting workshops, enjoyed the warm, beautiful weather along the venue's river walkway, and reconnected with DKG sisters from around Oregon.

On May 5, the chapter held their main fundraiser – Bunco de Mayo. The event was very successful! A Taco Bar was available for a light dinner before the games began. More than 35 prizes were awarded for Bunco and for

Shirley Mann and Kelly Wood



drawings. A chapter trifold exhibit was on display to help inform community members about DKG and Alpha Omicron's purposes and activities.

District 5

Alpha Epsilon (Salem & Polk Cos.)



Shirley House, Dr. Cindy Ryan, Marie Mueller, Kathy Martell

Since you may have met our special convention guest—Miss Dolly Parton—in her traveling form (a fold-up poster), you might guess that our chapter has been heavily involved in the effort to make the Dolly Parton Imagination Library into a state-fund-

ed program for Oregon. DKG members have visited the Capitol, talked to legislators, written testimony, and more. Several bills, all aimed at improving literacy, are before the Oregon legislators this spring.

The chapter continues to support the Salem Health NICU with books for parents to read to their children, and we added contributions of necessary home supplies to Salem for Refugees.

Four members were at Independence, and we all had fun! Kathy Martell and Sandy Watts did a great job with awards. Our guest from January's Zoom, Ms. Erin Clubb from Salem Health, helped convention goers to address stress. Marie Mueller is continuing as state editor.

Our June meeting will feature some planning for 2023-2024 and induction of a new member—Tara Heikkla—plus welcoming back Florence Carter, a former member of our chapter.

Psi (Hillsboro, Beaverton & Washington Co.): Four Psi members attended the Conference in Jefferson last fall. They found it was very informative, and we are hoping to have Donalene Biller share highlights at our June meeting. We plan to learn ways to get organized for retirement and what papers one needs to have.

Psi Chapter was delighted to hold a Meet and Greet event at Joseph Gale Elementary on March 16th. We plan a follow-up with an informal gathering in late May to answer any questions prospective members may have. Co-president Sue Pass will be hosting. The need for scholarships to further their education and open up new opportunities in education for teachers seems to be of primary interest.

We plan to invite candidates to our annual "pizza meeting" at Giovannis in Beaverton in June. In a casual setting, we can get to know each other better and can answer more questions about DKG.

Psi is proud to announce that Jordyn Krake is our first collegiate member. A scholarship has been established, and we are excited to welcome such a strong and deserving candidate as Jordyn to Psi and to DKG!

Everyone is happy! Psi Chapter just enrolled five kidnergarten classes in the OEA Retired Literacy Program. McKinney Elementary kinders were thrilled to choose their favorite book at their level from among 58 donated. Two classes of Joseph Gale kindergarteners received fabulous books.

Thank you for connecting us to such a great program that puts books in homes for families to enjoy. The benefits of attending conferences and conventions, being linked to resources, and fun are rewarding.

Beta Beta (Tigard/Tualatin/Sherwood): Our literacy committee has been very busy. They are getting ready to reveal our new Little Free Library, as the construction is just being completed. Our chapter continues to support local schools in the Oregon Battle of the Books through our literacy committee. We're happy to report our schools teams did very well!

Our April speaker, Lisa Gerlits, an author, was selected by our literacy committee. She lives in Silverton. Her

talk was entitled "Trusting the Process" about the ups and downs of the life of an author as well



as the journey of a book from idea to publication. Lisa's debut middle grade novel, *A Many Feathered Thing*, is an Oregon Spirit Book Award win-

ner. Lisa is also a haiku poet, muralist, and children's art teacher. She was a wonderful speaker and her talk was



enjoyed by all who attended, members and guests.

Second Vice President Jo Ann Brinkman presented a Music and Art Grant from Beta Beta to Sara Allen, a music teacher at Metzger Elementary School. The money is going toward the purchase of portable glockenspiels for her marimba band members.



District 6

Chi (**Clackamas**): Chi chapter celebrated the end of a good year and the accomplishments of busy members.



Chi Chapter Celebration Picnic

Alpha Pi (Multnomah Co.): Our final meeting of the year was on May 16 at Elaine Drakulich's home. We welcomed our special guest, Jean Fairbairn, District 6 Coordinator. Dinner delights were pizza, salad, and dessert!

Susan Carter presented a hands-on demonstration showing how to detect water that has dangerous pathogens and how to simply render water safe to drink. She and her husband are I founders of the Agua Pura Para El Pueblo program that has helped countless people in Central and South America have clean water.

Alice Hartness-Reichle, chapter president, attended the OSO Spring Convention in Independence. She commented on how this small town has been transformed since she last "sped" through it with college friends in the early '70s. This time around, Alice enjoyed the stellar view of the Willamette River from the hotel and the excellent venue and workshops.

Thanks to our DKG State Leaders and Convention Committee for their many hours of planning! One of the highlights was the appearance of "Dolly Parton," singer and founder of The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program that makes it possible to send more than 2 million books a month to children ages 0-5 in five different countries. Alice was fortunate to be photographed with "Dolly" at the OSO Spring Convention. 'Way to go Alice and Dolly!!

We celebrated one of our Reserve members this year on being both a Charter member of Alpha Phi Chapter as well as a 50-year member! Congratulations are in order for sure! We are celebrating the great meetings we had this year, and especially the opportunity to meet with our sisters in-person.

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



Special thanks to those who **proofread** this document:

- Christine Luehring, Lambda/3
- Darlene Cook, Chi/6
- Kathie Hill, Omega/2

Much appreciated **photos** came from

- Carl Hacke (Mr. Vice President-elect, Beta Beta/5)
- Catie Thurber-Brown, Beta Beta/5
- Vickie Jackson, Sigma/3
- Kathy Martell, Alpha Epsilon/5
- Yvonne Fasold, Lambda/3
- Bonita Fillmore, Alpha/2