

# THE NEW OREGON TRAIL

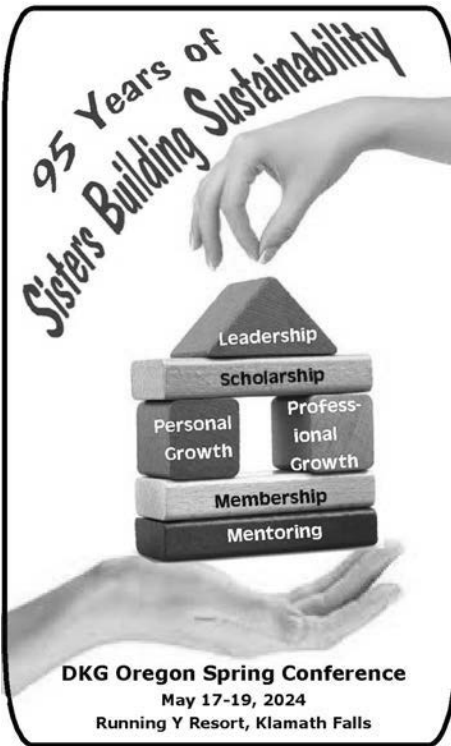


**Mission:** *The Society promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

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

Vol. 48, No. 2

Winter 2024



**The Oregon DKG Spring Conference is coming in May!** Are you ready? Mark your calendars. Start saving your pennies. Find a friend to bring. Buy something pretty to wear—it will be spring in south-central Oregon.

**When?** May 17-19, 2024

**Where?** Klamath Falls, Oregon  
Running Y Resort and Golf (Arnold Palmer Course)  
5500 Running Y Rd.

**Who?** You, your family, colleagues, friends

**What?** Workshops galore—11 in place today. News from Int'l. A gorgeous venue. Baskets to entice you. Unique Boutique goodies to purchase. Introduction of new chapter presidents. Friends to greet or meet.

**Why?** To inspire, learn, laugh, dine, remember, share, enjoy

**How?** By car, by train, or by plane. You'll be welcomed by Alpha Chapter members no matter how you decide to travel. Bring chapter friends or colleagues along and plan your 2024-25 year as you travel.

**Details?** Tidbits and tastes in this issue. **Details: March 20 Trail.**



## RESERVE YOUR ROOM AT THE RUNNING Y TODAY!

It's time! You can reserve your room for the 2024 Oregon State Organization 2024 Conference at the Running Y Resort in Klamath Falls today. **Here's how:**

**May 17-19, 2024**

**First:** Go to the following website and select which room you would like:

<https://www.runningy.com/accommodations/the-lodge>

OR

<https://be.synxis.com/?&hotel=67897&Rate=DKG>

**Second:** Call the following number: **541-550-5500**. Use the code

**DKG.**

**Cost:** Rooms will be \$179 / night. Let's fill our block of rooms!

2023-2025  
Oregon President  
Darlene Cook



Happy New Year!

As I write to you, the ice, snow and cold have kept me apartment-bound for this past week! Although it has been warm and cozy inside: it is time to step outside, to welcome a new year, to spend time with and enjoy the bright, shining faces of my DKG sisters; and to celebrate the wonderful programs and activities our chapters provide to their members, schools, and communities.

Exciting adventures are happening in DKG: Avenue M; DKGIEF Women Honoring Women; Chapter-to-Chapter Exchange Community; Discovery Learning Centre; Membership Revival, Strategic Plan, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, to name a few. If you are not aware of these programs, search this issue of *The Trail* and stay tuned for information.

**What is Avenue M?** Join us on Zoom: Saturday, February 3, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., to learn more about this International project and how the results can benefit our members and chapters in Oregon. Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughn, International Second Vice President and member of the Avenue M Task Force, will join us.

In March, the US Forum's **National Legislative Seminar** gives members an opportunity to discuss important issues and to practice advocacy skills in our nation's capital. Join our

Oregon delegation at Arlington Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and on Capitol Hill to meet with our elected federal legislators. Guest speakers and member panels will discuss topics such as advocacy, artificial intelligence, mental health, retirement security, education and the arts, and issues affecting educators working in our classrooms. Register by February 23 and reserve your hotel room by February 6. Visit [www.dkgusforum.org](http://www.dkgusforum.org) for registration information.

I will welcome you to our **Oregon State Conference** on May 17-19 at the beautiful and relaxing Running Y Resort in Klamath Falls. Please plan to attend. The conference schedule changed this year: All activities will take place on Friday and Saturday. This allows members to travel to Klamath Falls by Amtrak and enjoy the beautiful scenery on this train route! Besides great workshops on Saturday, two longer sessions and tours of Klamath Falls will be offered on Friday. Join us for the White Rose Ceremony, informative speakers, and a round table discussion with our Society guest, Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid, DKG International President 2014-2016. Check the conference schedule (p. 5) and making hotel reservations (p. 1).

At the conference, we will be recognition of our outgoing 2022-24 and incoming 2024-26 Chapter Presidents. Volunteer to take a leadership position in your chapter or *ment "her"* a future leader to follow in your footsteps. Working together on the chapter level is rewarding and fun!

Together we can make a difference. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our chapters and our Oregon organization. My best wishes for a successful, productive, and rewarding year!

*Darlene*

**2023-2025**  
**OREGON STATE**  
**ORGANIZATION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Ideas? Questions? Contact us!*

**President Darlene Cook, Chi/6**  
dcook.dkg@gmail.com  
(541) 331-3282

**Vice President Dr. Wendy Hacke, BB/5**  
wdhacke57dkg@gmail.com  
408-421-9860

**Secretary Judy Brimmer, Alpha/2**  
jbrimmer51@icloud.com  
541-891-3991

**Administrative Secretary**  
**Bonita Fillmore, Alpha/2**  
bfillmore55@gmail.com  
541-884-2374

**Treasurer Vickie Jackson, Sigma/3**  
dandvjackson@gmail.com  
541-475-7252

**Immediate Past-President**  
**Brenda Jensen, Alpha/2**  
bcjldkg@gmail.com  
541-892-5243

**Parliamentarian Nancy Lewis, BB/5**  
nancyjolewis@gmail.com  
(503) 639-7050

**Editor Marie Mueller, Alpha Eps/5**  
cwmueller33@gmail.com  
503-990-7645

**Webmaster Grace Pitzer, BB 5**  
gcpitzer@comcast.net  
(503) 709-2689

---

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid is our Society conference guest, Roundtable Speaker, and Saturday evening keynote speaker. Dr. Schmid is from Pennsylvania and was International President from 2014-16!

# FALL 2023 DISTRICT MEETING REPORTS

**DISTRICT 1:** Iota and Zeta: Cancelled/postponed to a later date.

## DISTRICTS 2 and 3: October 21, Grants Pass

**Present:** 14--Alpha, Chi, Omega, Sigma, Lambda, Guests, Speakers

**Lunch:** Babe's Bakery (Comments were "Delicious." "An enormous salad—enough for one the next day." And similar compliments were frequent.)

### **Presenters:**

**Robert Young**, educator and author, conducts writers' workshops through the Lane ESD. His workshops for upper elementary students are well known in the Eugene-Springfield area. Robert recently moved to Medford where he has been collaborating with a musician partner. (from Priscilla Ing's introduction.)

Attendees experienced a sampling of his "Wordships for Kids" when participating in the activities. For DKG members not able to attend, information about Wordship and Robert's books are on his website. [www.realwriting.us](http://www.realwriting.us)

*"There is no better way to develop and enhance students' writing skills than through the mindful use of Wordship." ~~Robert Young*

**Michelle Gallas**, owner and executive director of Imagine That...Creative Children's Center--"Where Children Are Inspired" ([www.imaginethatcenters.com](http://www.imaginethatcenters.com)) shared her experiences in South Korea and presented slides of the Korean preschools and other sites which the group visited. Michelle received a Commemorative Award from DKG Oregon State Organization to travel with a group of Early Childhood Education Southern Oregon University students.

## DISTRICTS 4, 5, and 6: October 7, Lake Oswego

**Present:** 26--Alpha Phi, Chi, Beta Beta, Psi, Alpha Omicron, Alpha Epsilon, Guests, Speakers.

Grace Pitzer and Jean Fairbairn had posted signs to guide us. Sandy Watts and Kathy Martell arranged snacks, Kathy registered guests and provided basic information.

### **Welcomes!**

**Jean** thanked those who had made this possible and had prepared for us, especially Grace and Eloise for the use of the Nathman Building at Mary's Woods.

**Darlene** noted that our districts have 8 of the 15 Oregon chapters, and she reminded us that we are welcome to attend the District 2 & 3 meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Grants Pass.

Remember to invite friends and colleagues to the next chapter meeting so that new members can enjoy the privilege of membership, friendship, and DKG support as we all have. This was a lovely meeting—good company, excellent information, and a great venue.

**Trifold Displays:** Three chapters brought attractive trifolds: Alpha Phi, Beta Beta, and Alpha Epsilon. Each one chose a speaker to tell the audience which activities were represented by the pictures and paragraphs on the boards—and how much each project had contributed to their communities. Nice work, ladies!

**Program:** The District 4-5-6 Steering Committee chose to provide information that supports the US Forum project, which is focusing on better mental health for educators. The US Forum Mental Health Subcommittee presented information at the three International conferences in 2023. They discussed HR 744: the federal *Mental Health for Educators and Staff Act of 2023*. The subcommittee also sponsored a webinar: *Improving the Wellness of Educators Through Advocacy*. That one is available to chapters. To access it, contact Darlene.

The steering committee chose **Healthy Minds for All** as a topic, then identified a speaker who could provide current statistics, accurate information, and resources for families and educators in Oregon.

**Keynote Speaker, Gary Marschke**  
**Clackamas County NAMI**  
**(National Alliance on Mental Illness)**

Following a brief discussion on the basics about mental health, Gary presented myths, truths, and facts. According to NAMI, as many as one in five people may have a mental health problem, with one in six having two to eight conditions. Major among those are ADHD, depression, and anxiety. Not all people with mental health issues are violent, and causes vary widely. Among frequent causes are finances, housing, and childhood trauma. Gary noted that most mass shooters are seeking “fame.” NAMI is in high schools and community colleges, where it is often student-run.

**Suicide** needs to be addressed if it is suspected. Parents and educators should learn the signs that a person may be considering suicide, as the condition is a cascading trauma that strengthens over time. Gary provided recommended actions, tactics, and resources to use if you suspect someone is considering suicide. Among the best tactics are: (1) Recognize, validate their feelings, guide them to a solution, help build a relationship, use “reflective listening”—restating in your own words what they say and your reaction to it. (2) Validate feelings, get more information as you go, try to change their approaches—usually children’s mental illnesses are caused by a trauma they experienced.

- **Call 988** for crisis help anytime, from anywhere.
- In Oregon: **Contact Alliance for Life**, which is fully funded and staffed, with many resources, and is accessible.
- Call NAMI for advice or go to [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)
- Clackamas: 503-344-5050 or [www.namicc.org](http://www.namicc.org)

Statistics show that of 988 calls in a year, 96% are managed by just talking and, in those cases, only 1% (yes, one percent!) required police presence.

### SOLUTIONS

1. **Change the conversation.**
2. **Change the language.**
3. **Change the perception.**
4. **Change the Outcome.**

### RESOURCES:

- There is a list of programs, both online and in person, on the NAMI website. There are support groups for peers and for families—online
- An LBGQTQIA2+ group begins 11/2 at [www.namicc.org](http://www.namicc.org) and check out the following:

- Check out “The Living Room” for LBGQTQ services.
- Check out “Youth Area.”
- Check out “R U OK” from Australia.

**Reality:** You cannot help those who are not willing to accept help, those who won’t seek or join in when help is offered, and those who won’t follow through.

Following lunch—eaten on the covered patio on a sunny day with a delightful breeze--we had time to ask questions.

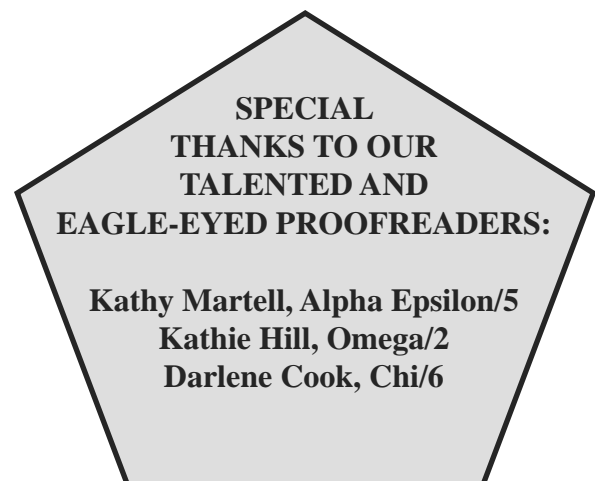
After lunch, discussions included a US Forum Update from Darlene, who serves on the International US Forum Committee. Upcoming webinars of interest were noted--all relating to mental wellness. For more information about such events, contact Bev Johns, NE Representative to the US Forum. ([beverleyjohns@gmail.com](mailto:beverleyjohns@gmail.com))

Legislative issues, such as HR 744, sponsored by Representative Suzanne Bonamici, OR, has a companion bill in the Senate: SB 2530, sponsored by Senator Robert Casey, PA. Contact your representative or senator to support those efforts if you agree that the topic is of value.

Darlene urged us to sign up for Forum newsletters and to follow what they are doing as it is posted on the website. She recommended the National Legislative Seminar in March as a stimulating experience. More info is in later articles.

**International Convention:**  
**July 9-13, 2024, National Harbor, Maryland**

Start saving \$\$\$\$ now so that you can attend. The conventions and seminars are informative professional experiences. Watch the International website for registrations and details.



# CATCH UP TO COMMITTEES

## WHAT DO COMMITTEES DO?

From *The Standing Rules (2023) of the Oregon State Organization of DKG.*

### IV. DUTIES OF STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND SPECIAL SERVICES PERSONNEL

State committee chairmen and special services personnel shall:

- Prepare brief oral and/or written reports for state meetings as directed by the President.
- Send communiqués to chapter chairmen with copies to the state president.
- Respond promptly to all correspondence relating to committee or special services personnel.
- Maintain a current list of chairmen in the chapters having comparable committees.
- Keep an accurate accounting of all expenditures.
- Send a copy of the minutes of all committee meetings to the state president.
- Attend, or send a representative, to state conventions / conferences and, when possible, attend International conferences / conventions.
- Prepare and submit a budget request to the Finance Committee.
- Prepare and update committee and special personnel duties and activities for the *Oregon State Organization Guidelines for Standing Committees and Special Services Personnel* by February 15 of odd-numbered years as directed by the president.

## EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*Brenda Jensen, Chair*

### 1. UNESCO STATISTICS!

*Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General*

Some interesting information regarding the cost of educating students in our schools. However, teaching a person to read is priceless!

The illiterate adult population has been reduced by more than 100 million people between 1990 and 2012.

However, 775 million adults, including 122 million youth between the ages of 15 and 24, remain illiterate.

The average cost of back-to-school supplies for elementary students around the world in 2023 is \$341.

In 2023, K-12 schools in the U.S. spent about \$612.7 billion annually, approximately \$12,612 per pupil.

The average cost to build a school is \$89 per square foot.

The actual cost to teach a kid how to read is zero.

**Literacy not only changes lives: it saves them!**

## 2. WORLD FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION: From Mongolia to Seattle

*Brenda Kirk, Educational Excellence Committee*

From Mongolia to Seattle, across nine time zones and over 5,000 miles, Bulgan Tsolmonbaatar is at the University of Washington, earning a Master's in Educational Leadership and Policy. Bulgan is the third Fulbright/DKG World Fellowship recipient I have had the privilege of meeting. What is different this time is that Bulgan has her family with her: husband Nandin, son Erkh (14) and daughter Sissi (6).

One weekend last August the family drove to my home in College Place, WA, for a weekend visit. Unfortunately, the Walla Walla Valley was filled with smoke from Canadian wildfires, hiding our beautiful Blue Mountains. We still enjoyed a walk around Whitman Mission National Historic Site and compared our Native American genealogy as related to Mongolian roots.

Under Genghis Khan, Mongol tribes united to form the world's biggest land empire. Nandin explained an old Mongol saying of how their horses could drink from Pacific flowing rivers in the morning and then Atlantic flowing rivers that same night, as the empire spanned the continent of Asia.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, 1990 saw the first free multiparty elections to be held in Mongolia. Today, sandwiched between Russia and China from which virtually all manufactured goods come, Mongolia stands firm in remaining a democracy.

About the size of Alaska, Mongolia has a population of around three million, 40% of whom live in the capital



*Sisi, Nandin, Brenda Kirk, Bulgan, Erkh*

city, Ulaanabatar or “UB” for short. The average temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit, making UB the coldest capital city in the world; however, 250 sunny days a year have earned Mongolia the nickname “Land of the Blue Skies.” Sheep, goats, cattle, horses, and camels number 56 million. Nomadic living is still a tradition in Mongolia, and they are famous for their cashmere and copper mines. Seventy percent of the population is under the age of 35. Wrestling, horse racing, and archery are very popular. Mutton is a dietary staple, along with fermented mare’s milk as a drink.

I am always curious as to how we Americans are perceived by international visitors. Nandin told me he was amazed at how much sugar we eat and that we put condiments on our meat.

The Mongolian diet consists of a lot of meat which they enjoy sans ketchup, BBQ sauce, etc.

The family speaks English very well. Nandin said he began learning English in 1990 once American television programs were allowed to broadcast in Mongolia. He also attended a language school in Malaysia and received a scholarship to study in Australia. Bulgan also learned English from American television.

I contacted Bulgan last week, and she said they had wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations. She is back in class at the University of Washington. She’ll graduate in June, then she and her family will return to Mongolia where she will teach at the college level. Bulgan is grateful for DKG’s part in making her US education possible.

### 3. OREGON LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Kate Kelleher  
OSO Legislative Liaison*

As our Legislature gathers for a short session this year, 35 days from February 5 to March 10, priorities have already emerged. Since our DKG focus is on women’s issues and education, you may wish to also check League of Women’s Voters priorities list: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)

Measure 110, which decriminalized the use of hard drugs, is high on the list for change. A joint committee has been meeting since October to look at Oregon’s addiction problem and responses. The Governor has already stated that she will ask the legislature to spend \$600 million on housing and homelessness. As a response to the Portland teachers strike, revisiting the funding formula is a priority for her, especially how funding flows from the state to school districts.

Some new laws from the 2023 Session have taken effect in 2024. Tax breaks for kids, called the Oregon Kids Credit, is HB 3235. It returns \$1,000 for every child under six, if the family income is under \$25,000. HB2984 gave a green light to conversions of commercial buildings for housing in cities with a population of at least 10,000. A couple of safety bills were passed regarding the ability to enforce prosecution of those with extremist/terrorist tendencies: HB 2572/ HB 2772. These bills were in reaction to the issues in Portland with the well-publicized riots.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP & EXPANSION COMMITTEE

### *Recruitment, Retention, & Revitalization*

#### Members & Goals

*Dr. Wendy Hacke, Chair, Beta Beta/5  
Audrey Cant, Zeta/1  
Heidi Gorke, Beta Beta/5  
Mariann Jones, Kappa/3W  
Sandy Rysdam, Zeta /1  
Liz Simmons, Chi/6*

This committee serves as liaison between the International Membership & Expansion Committee and Oregon chapters. We support chapters as they work to strengthen their sustainability through recruitment, revitalization, and retention.

2023-24 meetings on the importance of increasing and retaining membership:

1. The first meeting featured **Debbi Le Blanc, International President**, speaking of the urgency for looking at our chapter critically and considering the future. Chapter leaders then worked on a Logic Model and thought about discussions their members needed to have regarding maintaining the sustainability of their chapter.
2. A January meeting featured **Barb Clausen**, speaking about what her chapter has done in Washington that has resulted in increased membership. The remainder of that meeting focused specifically on creating chapter Smart Goals to meet membership needs.
3. The final meeting of this year will occur at the Oregon spring conference, where we will review the progress chapters have made toward achieving their goals and discuss next steps for the second half of the biennium.

**Goals for the 2023-2025 Biennium:** mentor a chapter membership chair/president to help with recruitment,

revitalization, and retention.

- To communicate with chapter membership chairs/presidents to offer support, guidance, resources and build connections.
- To research ways to increase the number of chapters by exploring opportunities to establish virtual chapters and collegiate chapters to ensure the sustainability of the Oregon State Organization of DKG.

**MEMBERSHIP--Leadership Smart Goals:** *Daphne Cagle, CA & Dr. Wendy Hacke, OR*

Chapter Name: OSO Membership

**SPECIFIC:** Oregon chapters will increase membership so chapters will be sustainable.

**MEASURABLE:** Monitor progress. Check regularly; e.g., every two months from January to July.

**ATTAINABLE:** Choose actions to achieve your goal: 2 workshops done; 3 planned for conference. Membership leaders will check with chapters and assist as needed.

**RELEVANT:** Workshops will support membership chairs in helping chapters gain members.

**TIME BOUND:** By May 17, 2024, all chapters will be implementing SMART plan goals.

- **SMART GOAL:** By May 17, Oregon chapters will implement their SMART goal plans to increase membership, resulting in more sustainable chapters.
- **Members Present/Positions:** Chair: Wendy and Mentor: Daphne
- **Email Form** as an attachment to [wdhacke57dkg@gmail.com](mailto:wdhacke57dkg@gmail.com)

Other resources are available from the committee and Int'l [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org).

Membership & Expansion committee members have many answers, so contact us with questions or requests for support.

Wendy can be reached at 408-421-9860 or [wdhacke57dkg@gmail.com](mailto:wdhacke57dkg@gmail.com); and Daphne Cagle from the International Membership and Expansion committee (who is mentoring Wendy) can be contacted at 916-207-4041.

### **RECRUITING MEMBERS THROUGH REINSTATEMENT: "Annie Calling"**

The International website ([dkg.org](http://dkg.org)) offers a fun idea to reach out to former members. Developed by the Texas State Organization, it has been successfully used for over ten years, resulting in reinstatement of many members who had dropped. It's is affectionately named **Annie Calling** after beloved founder, Annie Web Blanton. **Annie Calling** is listed under "Membership Resources" and is an easy way to talk to former members of DKG who may be just waiting for an invitation to return to membership.

Chapters start by compiling a list of former members with current contact info. They then assign current members a group from the list for each to telephone. Chatting with DKG friends is easy, and it is made even easier by an Annie Calling Map of reasonable responses offers a conversation aid to various excuses offered by former members. It's on the Int'l website.

The map includes a script of how to start the conversation. Next, invite them to attend upcoming meetings or events. Make sure to welcome them and make them feel valued by assigning a buddy sister to them (their "rose bud").

## RECOGNIZING OUR SISTERS



### RED ROSES

Inducted Since April 30, 2023

*Honoring Our Newest*

*DKG Sisters*

#### *New Members*

**Tanya Ward--12/2/23 Omega/2**

**Arvella Kokkeler--12/7/23 Lambda/3**

**Vicki L. Swanson--10/22/23 Lambda/3**

**Tara Heikila -- 9/18/23 Alpha Espilon/5**

**Melanie Mobley--1/5/24 Psi/5**

**Heidi Green -- 11/2/23 Alpha Omicron/4**

**Amy Corris --11/2/23 Alpha Omicron/4**

**Erika Kunders --12/7/23 Alpha Omicron/4**

#### *Collegiate Member*

**Jordyn A. Krake--7/13/2023 Psi/5**

#### *Reinstated Member*

**Karreen A. Ghena--12/1/18 Omega/2  
Reinstated 7/10/23**

More complete introductions and photos of our new members will be published in a special *Membership Edition Trail* next spring and will be featured at state conference in May 2024.

### WHITE ROSES

Joined Chapter Eternal

After April 30, 2023

*Remembering Our Sisters Who Have Passed*

#### **Patricia Gibson, Chi/6**

Mar. 29, 1847 - Sept. 19, 2023

MEd, Oregon State Univ.

Librarian, Lake Oswego

#### **Dr. Edythe Leupp, Beta Beta/5**

Nov. 27, 1921 - Oct. 26, 2023

DKG Oregon President 1985 - 87

Principal, Duniway Elementary

George Fox University

#### **Dr. Janice Anderson, Psi/5/**

(11/20/23)

Graduated OSU. Taught in West Linn and Forest Grove.

Title I Reading. Bilingual English. Psi Secretary.

#### **Sheila Kleinheinz, Beta Beta /5**

(6/22/23) --See Fall 23 Trail for details

#### **Judith Kieser, Beta Beta/5**

(7/22/23)-- See Fall 23 Trail for details

#### **Beverly Emmons, Lambda/3**

(7/3/23)--See Fall 23 Trail for details

#### **Patricia Howard, Chi/6**

(8/24/2023) --See Fall 23 Trail for details

Complete obituaries and photos will be published in the White Rose Ceremony --and in a special *Membership Edition Trail* next spring.



## CHAPTER CHATTER

### District 1

**Zeta (Union County):** Zeta started the year with a visit from State President, Darlene Cook. She shared her vision and concerns for the OSO with us. Recruiting new members is essential for the continuation of DKG. Darlene announced that Sharon Hohstadt has been appointed District One Coordinator.

Pictured below: *Sandy Rysdam (L) and Darlene Cook (R).*



In October we welcomed Union County's first-year teachers by giving them a "Carmel Apple" gift Pack.



Above: *far left: Marta Naughton and Sandy Rysdam. Standing: Judy Martin. Sitting: Charlene Cousell and Mary Jo Lemon's arm (red).* Packing apples!

Zeta, along with the Eastern Oregon University Foundation, created The DKG Education Scholarship Fund. This will allow the university to offer Zeta's scholarships to a wider pool of applicants.

### District 2

**Omega (Josephine & Jackson Cos.):** Omega hosted a Meet and Greet at Taprock NW Grill on Sept. 19, with

11 Omega members and guests present. Thank you Rosie Clifton, Christina Fredriksen, Leslie Henriques, and Tanya Ward for joining us!

*Below: Lynn, Cari, Lise, Tanya*



Co-President Lise introduced DKG as beginning in 1929 with women leaders, evolving in the 1950s as formal, and today as practical, time-worthy, and important to us all. She emphasized that part of what we do is work for others, and invited educators and collegiate guests to join or present. She discussed the schedule, dues, and benefits of membership, including scholarships and travel. We discussed budget items and prepared for the October 21 Districts 2 & 3 conference, which we co-hosted with Alpha.

Our October program featured *Financial Peace*, by Katie Rico, Omega member. She discussed Dave Ramsey's tools to work for financial stability. Detailed information is available on his website.

She discussed his *Seven Easy Steps*, which include setting up an emergency fund—something that has been in the news lately after recent disasters. Since many Americans live paycheck-to-paycheck, planning and budgeting are vital to financial stability.

### District 3

**Lambda (Lane Co.):** Lambda welcomed two new members this fall, as **Vicki Swanson** and **Arvella Kokkeler** joined in September and October,

respectively. They will be formally inducted in April, at which time we install new officers.

Vicki works for the UofO program "Early Childhood Cares" and is an early childhood special educator and interventionist. Arvella opened a private preschool in 1969 and taught there for 14 years. She taught at O'Hara Elementary for 11 years and Marist High School for 2 years before retiring.

Lambda members gathered for a holiday event organized by **Cecelia Brands** on Dec. 16 in the Camelot Village clubhouse. We were joined by OSO Vice President **Dr. Wendy Hacke** for a potluck lunch and several interactive games. Cecelia challenged participants to "Name That (Christmas) Tune" when given scrambled titles with no vowels. She had come up with 17 song titles, ranging from fanciful to hymnal. Next, those present placed tags with monetary amounts for the Twelve Days of Christmas, indicating what the cost for each gift would be in today's market. A third activity gave each person a holiday movie title on a tag that was hung behind the back, with others then giving clues to the title. The person wearing the tag had to guess the title. A final game required a person to "sing" a given Christmas song, repeating only one or two words given to her in the tune of the song. Others guessed the name of the song.

In addition to food and fun, we donated items for Hosea Youth Services, a facility in Eugene that aids homeless youth by providing clothing, personal hygiene items, shelter materials, some

**Sigma (Bend, Redmond, Central Oregon):** Sigma has three projects, plus a related extra for Christmas:

1. We provided 50 free books to take home, staged at the Jefferson Health Office.



2. Members stuffed gift bags for new teachers in our school district.
3. Sigma catalogs elementary books into reading levels for Warm Springs Academy's library.
4. We ordered Christmas bilingual books to give to the district's bilingual program.

The picture above shows Sigma's work party at the Jefferson County Library in Madras. A potential transfer member from Tennessee joined us at the table to help with our project,

We are small, but we recognize the need for reading materials for students.

#### District 4

##### **Alpha Omicron: Columbia Co.**

Alpha Omicron recently inducted three new members. In October, Heidi Green (below left), an educator at McBride Elementary in St. Helens, and Amy Corris (above right), a teacher in the Beaverton School District



who lives locally, were inducted. In the center is Linda McCoy, our Membership Chair) In December, Erika Kunders (below), a teacher at McBride Elementary, was also in-

ducted. We are excited for their fresh perspective and positive enthusiasm!



grades in the St. Helens and Scappoose districts created wish lists for which we granted up to \$100/classroom. That \$1,300 was spent to purchase sets of novels, bussing for a field trip, an in-house OMSI field trip, and supplemental packs for science programs.

One of our new members, Heidi Green, was presented the Staff Community Impact Award by her district at the December board meeting. She was recognized for her "commitment to the well-being and success of all McBride students." We are proud of you, Heidi!

#### District 5

##### **Alpha Epsilon (Salem & Polk Co.):**

Five of us had a wonderful time at the Districts 4, 5, and 6 Fall Meeting at Mary's Woods in Lake Oswego. We had perfect weather, a nice ride up and back, and plenty of time to enjoy with our sisters as we learned about ways to address and deal with mental health in ourselves and in our families.

In November, we hosted a guest speaker—Ame (*Ahhh-mee*) Manon

representing Parrott Creek Child and Family Services in Oregon City. Ame,



from a multi-tribal family, discussed changes in education from pre-colonization to the present. Her coverage included the disastrous effect of "Indian" schools established between 1800 and 1980, including discussion of Chemawa School in Salem. She provided resources for future study and research.

We ended 2023 with a holiday social and gift exchange at The Yard Food Park, always a great opportunity to have fun and good food. January '24 brought a Zoom meeting on environmental issues, a most pertinent topic, and Darlene joined us, giving an update of state and Int'l events.

##### **Psi (Hillsboro, Beaverton & Washington Co.):**

Psi has planned a legislative visit for members and friends of local chapters on January 27 with Oregon Representative Susan McClain. Ms. McClain will update us on relevant topics and is prepared to address your concerns and questions.

#### District 6

**Chi (Clackamas):** Chi members celebrated the Christmas season with dinner at the home of Jean Fairbairn on Dec. 13.

Chi chose to honor the deaths of Pat Howard and Pat Gibson by reviewing the past three months and the ten charitable projects that received coats and clothing, food, fabric, home furnishings, bedding, Christmas décor and books as a result of the help Chi members gave the families while preparing their homes for sale This unique Celebration of Life has spread through

several communities. Chi included a Christmas collection of personal hygiene items (78.5 lbs.!), warm clothes, and \$45 in cash to assist the Wichita Family Center. *Liz Simmons*



*(pictured above)* is sorting and sacking. It has indeed been a season of sharing and caring for others!

## INDIVIDUAL STATE AWARD NOMINATIONS for SERVICE AWARDS (aka “Achievement Awards”)

The Oregon State Organization of DKG has many outstanding members who deserve to be recognized. **March 15, 2024, is the deadline** to have your nominations in for the individual awards of Service to Society, Service to Education, and Service to Community.

On the state website at <https://www.dkgoregon.com/forms.html>, the info you need is at the bottom of the left column.

Look at the list of past recipients, then find different members (ones who have not won an award in previous years) to nominate for these three awards. They do not have to be in your chapter, but the chapter is a good place to start looking. Please send your nomination forms to Sandy Watts, [sandywatts269@comcast.net](mailto:sandywatts269@comcast.net) or Kathy Martell, [kkm4dkg@gmail.com](mailto:kkm4dkg@gmail.com) before the deadline listed above.

## ROSETTE & ORDER OF THE ROSE CHAPTER AWARDS

Hopefully, your chapter has been filling out your form all year for the Rosette and Order of the Rose Chapter Awards as you accomplished certain tasks. If not, you can find the form and the requirements on the same website page where you find the Individual State Award Nominations Form.

1. Go to [dkgoregon.com/forms.html](https://www.dkgoregon.com/forms.html)
2. Look down the left column till you find State Awards and you will find the forms for the awards mentioned above plus a list of past recipients for the Individual Awards.
3. The Individual State Award Nominations go directly to Sandy or Kathy **by March 15.**
4. The Rosette and Order of the Rose Chapter Awards **forms should be sent to your District Coordinator** (see the list below) by March 15, and the District Coordinator will send the forms on to Sandy or Kathy by March 30.

### District Coordinators:

1. Sharon Hohstadt
2. Lynn Hughes
3. Priscilla Ing
4. Sandy Watts
5. Kathy Martell
6. Jean Fairbairn

**SEND YOUR  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
&  
APPLICATIONS NOW!**

Find the forms now and plan time to fill them out so you can send them to the right person by March 15. **It takes all of us working together to acknowledge and recognize all the hard work members are doing each year.**



**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**

## **AFTERNOON TEA, ANYONE?**

Beta Beta members are preparing to host their 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Spring Tea at **2 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin.** We have missed hosting only once—in 2021 due to COVID.

The tea is one of the essential fund raisers that enable the Beta Beta Educational Foundation to fund the Margaret Nielsen Financial Awards to prospective outstanding women educators and other educational projects in our community. A majority of our active members help with the tea, and we have a great time! Working diligently to honor the tradition of “afternoon tea,” we set the tables with our best china, offer delicious food, and provide a choice of teas, and create a lovely ambiance with fresh flowers, live music, and an opportunity for quality time with friends and family.

We chose Saturday, May 11, because it is the day before Mother’s Day and that seems the perfect occasion for tea. **Tickets are NOW on sale for \$40.00.** If you would like to join us, contact Eloise Gibson at (503) 442-1710 or [elog16@comcast.net](mailto:elog16@comcast.net).

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION PROMPTLY. THIS IS A POPULAR ACTIVITY.**