



# NEWSETTE

Volume 73, Number 1

Fall 2022

## 2022 International Convention

Joanne Gregory, WVSO President

Where did DKG members from across the world gather this summer? If you know the home of the Saints, Café Beignet, Mardi Gras, and friendly, welcoming people, then you know that the 2022 Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana! Women were united in ***genuine spiritual fellowship*** after not seeing each other in four years. Members were honored for their ***distinctive service*** to education and DKG through election to offices, the International Achievement Award, and recognition of leadership. ***Professional interests*** and ***personal and professional growth*** were enhanced through workshops. The United States and Latin America Forums enlightened the membership about ***current economic, social, political, and educational issues***. ***Scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study*** were awarded. The purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma originally created by the founders were touched upon throughout the convention.

West Virginia State Organization (WVSO) members attending the festivities from July 12 – 19 were Joanne Gregory, 2021 -2023 President; Vickie Skavenski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Susan Marra, Executive Secretary; Deloris Lipps, Treasurer; and Dr. Glenda Wait, Immediate Past President. Throughout the convention, pictures were posted on the WVSO Facebook page to keep members updated on what was happening.

During the opening session, members were welcomed to New Orleans and flags of member countries were brought to the stage by citizens of those countries.



WVSO members attending 2022 International Convention  
L to R – Susan Marra, Dr, Glenda Wait, Joanne Gregory,  
Vickie Skavenski, and Deloris Lipps

Becky Sadowski, 2020 – 2022 International President announced that there was a unique conclusion to our session. It was a ***Second Line Parade*** where members followed a jazz band strutting around several blocks in the French Quarter. Spectators were extremely curious about the joyful celebration of key women educators in New Orleans.

During the five general sessions, business was conducted. There were committee reports, keynote speakers, previews of the DKG Website redesign, votes on amendments to the DKG International Constitution and International Standing Rules, and election of officers. Congratulations to Dr. Debra LeBlanc, the 2022 – 2024 International President, who along with the Administrative Board and the Executive Board, will continue to ***Promote Professional and Personal Growth of Women Educators and Excellence in Education***. For further insight into the new biennium, visit the international website at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). Joanne Gregory was elected to a four-year position on the International Nominating Committee. This will be an opportunity to support leaders in the Society.

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# Perceptions from your President

Joanne Gregory, WVSO President

Students and teachers are back in school; new freshmen are beginning their college and university journeys; retirees are engaging in personal growth, community service, and a little relaxation; and Autumn is around the corner. Wherever you fall into this spectrum of activity, may it bring you satisfaction and joy.

As we move into the first year of the biennium for the 2022 – 2024 chapter presidents, I look forward to working with each of you. During the first Zoom with West Virginia State Organization (WVSO) chapter presidents, Vickie Skavensky, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, introduced the **Gold Rose Award**, a new program designed to recognize presidents for their leadership efforts. For detailed information about the **Gold Rose Award**, be sure to read Vickie's article that explains how the Revitalization Team is working with the Membership Committee and the Leadership Development Committee to encourage growth and participation of WVSO members.

The **Local Leading Lady** state project continues to recognize members who are impacting students, peers, and members in their communities. A chapter member may recommend any WVSO member for the honor. Recommendations are due by November 1. Who do you know who is busy volunteering or is taking on those extra responsibilities in her school? Make sure she gets the recognition she is worthy of receiving.

Leadership is vital to our organization and each of you is a leader. During the 2022 DKG International Convention, I attended a breakout session presented by Pat Bennet-Forman, president of Washington State Organization. The title was **Connecting to the Leader in YOU**. Members in Washington had looked at "barriers to leading and strategies for mitigating issues from the state, chapter, and individual levels."

From the presentation ~ some food for thought:

## FACE the Challenge

Focus on potential instead of limitations.

Avoid comparing your beginning to someone else's middle.

Celebrate your uniqueness! No one can shine exactly like you.

Encourage others by helping them attain their personal goals.

Pat's PowerPoint is available on the Washington State website. (Google Washington State DKG, click on Resources, Educational Excellence, and finally on the red box that says, "**Connecting to the Leader in YOU**." This would be a wonderful program for your chapter.

At least three WVSO chapters, Xi, Alpha Iota, and Beta, have joined the statewide effort to support **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, a program that supplies quality books to children. From birth to five, children who are enrolled receive a book each month.

The State Department of Education makes activities available for parents to use to supplement the books. Read more about the **Imagination Library** further along in this edition of the Newsette. If you have questions or would like to send a donation, feel free to contact members of the chapters that are already involved.

Please know that I remain dedicated to the purposes of our society and to every WVSO member. My responsibility is to serve you and to "**Care, Share, and Listen**" to your needs and concerns.



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When amendments to the International DKG Constitution and International Standing Rules were voted on by the 850+ attendees, the use of electronic voting devices allowed members to view instantaneous results projected in the front of the meeting room. The passage of these amendments dictates that WVSO Bylaws and Standing Rules, as well as individual Chapter Rules, will need to be updated to be in compliance with the International Constitution and International Standing Rules.

With 55 Breakout Sessions and 9 Takeaways, participants could find topics that spoke to their interests. The capability to learn about proposed amendments prior to voting was beneficial for a clear understanding of what the changes would imply. Sessions on communication, technology, diversity, leadership, and DKG provided learning opportunities for everyone.

There was time for fun too. The DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF) financially supports the Cornet Award, Educational Projects, the Educators Award, Scholarships, the Emergency Fund, and more. An evening at the Mardi Gras Museum was available to members who wanted to support a fundraiser for DKGIEF. The museum houses many of the parade floats and a workshop where other floats will be built. Lots of pictures were taken with the characters from parades. There was food and a jazz band for entertainment. The first 150 ladies to register for the event were able to make Mardi Gras masks. The food, fellowship, and dancing proved to be entertaining

Meals featured some Cajun and Creole foods as well as traditional delicacies. Walks through the French Quarter led to delicious beignets and pralines to

satisfy one’s sweet tooth. There were bus tours, walking tours, and ghost tours at your fingertips. Seeing the sites in New Orleans was eye-opening and enjoyable.

The 2022 DKG International Convention was a success. Hopefully, WVSO will have a large representation at the 2024 International Convention at National Harbor, Maryland.



**Dates to Remember**

September 30, 2022	Members last day to pay dues (May be reinstated)
September - November	Review Chapter Rules - send to the Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee – <a href="mailto:larbogast53@gmail.com">larbogast53@gmail.com</a>
November 1, 2022	Deadline for Local Leading Lady recommendations
December 1, 2022	Deadline for winter Newsette articles
January 5, 2023	Amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules due
February 1, 2023	Deadline for Local Leading Lady recommendations
February 1, 2023	Nominations for WVSO officers due
February 1, 2023	Submit WVSO State Achievement Award recommendations
February 1, 2023	Submit WVSO Scholarship applications
February 1, 2023	Submit requests from state committees to fund ongoing projects
March 1, 2023	Deadline for spring Newsette articles
April 7, 2023	Deadline for \$15 convention registration fee
April 21 – 23, 2023	WVSO Convention – Flatwoods Days Inn Conference Center
May 1, 2023	Deadline for Local Leading Lady recommendations
June 1, 2023	Deadline for summer Newsette articles
July 1, 2023	2023 – 2025 WVSO Officers start their biennium

## Gold Rose Award to Recognize Chapter Presidents

Vickie Skavenski, Second Vice-President



One of the best things about attending an International Convention or Conference with a being able to spread out to attend a multitude of workshops. The workshop I attended on Building Sustainable Membership: New Mexico State Organization Membership Initiative has given rise to a way that we can recognize the work done by chapter presidents as well as contribute to the WVSO revitalization plan.

We are calling this the Gold Rose Award and it will be presented to chapter presidents who complete 14 of 20 items from the list below. The award was discussed and explained to chapter presidents at the last Zoom meeting and has been sent to each of them by Barbara Tabaretti. Some of the items can be done twice for credit—such as articles to the Newsette. These will be monitored by President Joanne Gregory, Treasurer Deloris Lipps, and myself and hopefully, Connie Boggs will be able to get a chart up on Google Docs for us to keep track. Right now, if you were a chapter president and you came to the conference with an exhibit, then you already have 2 points.

I bought a t-shirt at the convention that says, “*The Heart of the Society is Its Members.*” The heart of the members is the president of each chapter who is seeing that everything is being completed and done in a timely manner. And as for revitalization—if every chapter adds one new member, then WVSO will grow by 24 and that’s a good start!

To earn the Gold Rose Award, president may begin with the WVSO Leadership Conference on April 30, 2022 and continue attaining goals through April 1, 2023. A chapter president must complete 14 of the 20 items listed below to earn a Golden Rose Award pin at the 2023 WVSO Convention in April. A few items can qualify for recognition twice if they are completed a second time. Those are marked with an \*.

1. Attended the State Conference (April 30, 2022).
2. Entered an exhibit for Publications Awards at the 2022 WVSO Conference (scrapbook – non-digital or digital, single display, newspaper clippings, or chapter bulletin/newsletters)\*
3. Have a chapter member serving on a state committee or as a state officer.
4. Attended at least two chapter presidents’ Zoom meetings hosted by WVSO DKG President. (A representative may serve in the absence of the president)
5. Chapter showed membership growth of at least one new member or a reinstated member.
6. Created an opportunity for a “Rising Star” in the chapter to take on a leadership role such as serving as a committee chairwoman or a project facilitator, etc. \*
7. Provided chapter communications through a chapter yearbook (copy sent to DKG Communications Chair) and/or published three chapter newsletters (copies sent to WVSO DKG President).
8. Submitted an article/photo to WVSO DKG Newsette about chapter activities.\*
9. Nominated at least one individual for Local Leading Lady recognition.\*
10. Ensured that the chapter treasurer submitted the IRS Form 990 on or before the November 15 deadline. (WVSO Treasurer Deloris Lipps receives a copy and will verify.)
11. Conducted a community service project as a chapter. (Report this in the Newsette.)
12. Offered a program or book study on the Educator Book Award, *Generation Mixed Goes to School: Radically Listening to Multiracial Kids* by Ralina L. Joseph and Allison Briscoe-Smith or *Trauma Doesn’t Stop at the School Door* by Karen Gross. \*
13. Provided information to chapter members about WVSO and DKG International opportunities (Scholarships, World Fellowship, Emergency Fund, DKG Ignite, Conferences, etc.)
14. Provided an outreach activity to promote DKG to educators in settings other than the traditional classroom such as: business world, medical field, libraries, pre-schools, college education students, etc.
15. Helped the chapter plan a program that fits into one of the areas of DKG’s Educational Excellence categories including: arts, advocacy, support for early career educators, leadership, and/or international work.\*
16. Reported chapter deaths using Form 6 to International, WVSO 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president and WVSO treasurer.
17. Invited the WVSO President to attend a chapter meeting.
18. Collaborated with another DKG chapter on a project, topic, or issue of interest to members. (This collaboration may happen within the state chapters or with a chapter from another state.)
19. Developed a chapter website.
20. Posted at least one chapter activity, spotlight on a member, or special project on the WVSO Facebook page.

## WV Local Leading Lady Recipients

Vicki Jenkins, WVSO 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

The Educational Excellence Committee of WVSO DKG is pleased to announce the Local Leading Lady award winners for the period ending August 7, 2022. The following women have been nominated by their peers to be recognized for their volunteer efforts within their communities. Take time to read about each lady who is receiving the award and visualize the impact they are making in their schools, churches, and communities.

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding Local Leading Ladies who are marvelous community volunteers! Our next round of applications will be accepted until November 1, 2022. Please email applications to me at [jenkinsvicki00@gmail.com](mailto:jenkinsvicki00@gmail.com) **AND** Joanne Gregory at [busyteach@gmail.com](mailto:busyteach@gmail.com). Remember **ANYONE** can nominate a Local Leading Lady!

**Brenda Knighton (Beta)** – Having retired after as a second grade teacher after thirty-five years in education , Brenda serves as an Academic Coach for new teachers in Kanawha County. She is active in the Charleston Baptist Temple where she is co-chair for the Diaconate Board, co-leader of the Prime Timers (a senior group), a member of the Executive Board, a member of the Business and Professional Women’s Circle, and a member of the Covenant Sunday School Class. Brenda’s nominator says she always volunteers and offers assistance in addition to being a great listener and is a great asset to Beta Chapter!

**Marcia Dunlap (Xi)** – Marcia is very active in the Raleigh community where she is involved in numerous projects including: “Make It Shine”, Beckley Gateway Project, Piney Creek Watershed Association, Glade Springs Village POA Communications Committee, and the Women’s Book Club. In addition, Marcia also tutors K-3 students in remedial reading and serves English as a second language adults as a tutor. She set up the Library Hut in Glade Springs where participants can borrow or lend library books. Marcia’s nominator says she cares, shares, and listens, in a creative way and always does more than is expected!

**Elizabeth Mitchell (Alpha Kappa)** – Elizabeth is quite involved with the Pendleton Senior and Family Services Board where she currently serves as treasurer. She is also the initiator of a Book Club at the Franklin Center. She is a member of the quilter’s guild and helps make quilts for veterans and then delivers them. Her sewing expertise has allowed her to make dresses for children in Africa and Ukraine and she is assisting Alpha Kappa with their fall project of making and sending the “Little Dresses”. She volunteers for many projects including helping to change lighting at the senior center and with CAN where she distributes food and clothing to the needy. Elizabeth’s nominator says she definitely shares, cares, and listens.

**Brenda Brown (Alpha Delta)** - As a thirty-three-year educator, Brenda has managed the Jackson County Junior Fair Office for over twenty years. As a public servant, Brenda attends monthly meetings, works 12 hours each day of the week-long fair, fields and responds to questions concerning the fair and represents the Jackson County Junior Fair at the WV Fairs and Festivals Convention in Charleston. In addition, she serves as the assistant director of the State Fairs and Festivals Pageant. Her nominator says she is a great listener and well respected within her community!



# News from the Chapters

## Alpha Iota

Our new executive board:

**Coleen Vannoy** (President), **Genene Gourley** (Vice-President), **Peggy Sias**, (Treasurer), **Yvonne Martin** (Secretary), and **Pat Schillings** (Parliamentarian) met on July 5<sup>th</sup>, excited to plan monthly chapter meetings based on our DKG purposes. Since Covid, members have needed more communication with each other. "SIS" trips with a greater participation in community events, luncheons at "discovery" spots, and short "get-aways" will again be returning to our busy year. Special-project meetings are a third way members share their expertise and allow AI to support the needs of our communities.

Our fun, opening event on Aug. 2nd was a picnic at Coonskin Park. President Vannoy gave an excellent presentation on how our chapter's needs are the same as a growing plant, a salad/dessert meal was enjoyed, and door prizes were drawn in honor of our perspective members. Because of a five-year commitment to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, our members were invited to her performance on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> at the Clay Center. Her dedication to children loving reading was so obvious and sincere, attendees were THRILLED! Alpha Iota and Beta members met on August 16 to provide binders "stuffed" with classroom supplies for Davis Child Shelter and the Rea of Hope. Our VP **Genene Gourley** assists the East End Resource Center for senior citizens and invited Yvonne Martin to help the seniors create a craft.

They were amazed how a jar, Elmer's glue-paint, and a small electric candle became beautiful night lights for their porches! Yvonne will visit again to play team-Scrabble in October. Our members have begun an exciting DKG year!



*Perspective members enjoyed our "Meet and Greet" Coonskin Park picnic! Deb Pauley, Krystal Lanham, Margie Turley, Ann Cox, Genene Gourley, Pat Schillings, and Coleen Vannoy picnicking!*

## Alpha Kappa

The Executive Board of Alpha Kappa and the County Coordinators met on August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Grove Street Bakery in Petersburg, WV, to plan the new biennium for the chapter. Members present were **Vickie Skavenski**, president; **Carolyn Harper**, first vice-president; **Ann Bennett**, second vice-president; **Amber Champ**, secretary; **Beverly Mathias**, treasurer; **Betty Inskip** and **Jo Ann Harman**, Grant County Coordinators, **Vickie Saville** Mineral County Coordinator and **Susan Garrett**, Hardy County Coordinator.

After setting meeting dates, discussing projects and programs, and revitalization ideas, the group decided that the first meeting will

be October 22 at the Forman Community Center with Grant County as the hostesses. We will be welcoming our new members—Judy Bowyer, Karen Davis, Shay Dove, Janice Heavner, Beth High, Carrie Nesselrdt, Amy Rexrode, Jessica Saville, and Taylor Yokum with a presentation of DKG's "The Big Picture."

Project-wise we will be collecting our "Little Dresses for Africa/Ukraine" and we will prepare nursing journals for the beginning students at Potomac State and Eastern WV Community and Technical College.

## Beta

Beta Chapter members attended the Imagination Library Kickoff at the Clay Center on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Our chapter is excited about pursuing this worthwhile endeavor this year as one of our projects. After the concert, a few members met for dinner at The Recovery Bar and Grill. Pictured are left to right, **Brenda Thacker, Elaine McClaugherty, Joanne Gregory, Barb Tabaretti** and **Sandra Harper**.



**More News from the Chapters**

**Mu**

Mu chapter met on September 10<sup>th</sup> to work on planning the WVSO Convention that they are co-hosting with Pi chapter. They also collected items to prepare gift bags for new teachers in Calhoun, Roane, and Wirt counties.

Their next meeting will be in November when they will have their Paper Bag Auction.

**Alpha Theta**

The Alpha Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met earlier this month at Twin Falls State Park for their 2022-2023 school year organizational meeting and social. Alpha Theta is the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma which is a society for women educators whose mission is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Delta Kappa Gamma membership is an honor and is offered by invitation to a local chapter—Alpha Theta. It is truly an honor to receive an invitation to join Alpha Theta—an honor that reflects a commitment to excellence in education and the highest level of professionalism in an educator’s career.

The next meeting of the Alpha Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma is scheduled for September 20, 2022, 5:30 p.m. for dinner and 6:00 p.m. for the business meeting, at Twin Falls State Park.



Front Row Left to Right: Robin Hall, Debbie Marsh, Donna Sue Dixon, Camy Crouse, and Pam Bailey  
 Back Row Left to Right: Rhonda Loving, Marsha Stevens, Sharon Norman, and Vicki Knight Clay

*White Roses*

Karen L. Winter (Beta)

May 11, 2022

Sharon Floyd (Alpha Kappa)

June 21, 2022

Diana Steed (Alpha Beta)

July 21, 2022



*Condolences*

Ann Bennett (Alpha Kappa) for the loss of her sister.

Beverly Mathias (Alpha Kappa) for the loss of her husband.

Beckie Parrish (Gamma) for the loss of her husband.

*The Newsette* is published four times a year: Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer by the West Virginia State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Deadlines are September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1, respectively.

Please send correspondence to Connie Boggs, Editor 50 Fire House Rd. Fairmont, WV 26554 Phone – 304-376-3197



**West Virginia State Organization**