

Patricia Russell honored with the 2023 Washington State Achievement Award

By Susan Fritts, Immediate Past President

Patricia Russell, our 2023 WSO Achievement Award recipient, has certainly shown dedication, skills and support for members in Delta Kappa Gamma at the chapter, state and international levels over the past twenty-one years.

Pat joined Beta Sigma Chapter Seattle in 2002. As an active member in all chapter activities, she was appointed chapter treasurer in 2010. As chapter treasurer, she attended state conventions and Fall Boards. Having familiarized herself with chapter treasurer responsibilities, Pat was soon appointed as Area VII's Treasurer assisting the Area VII Liaison with valuable information to make the area a solvent and fiscally responsible entity. Pat continues to be Beta Sigma's Treasurer as well as Area VII's Treasurer. You can always find her at the table collecting money, checking names off of attendees, or answering questions at the King County Breakfast.

At the state level, Pat has been invaluable! She was appointed as DKG WSO's State Treasurer in 2016 and has supported all members through yearly workshops at Fall Boards and state conventions. She keeps up on current



responsibilities from International having attended six conventions/conferences. She trains new chapter treasurers and educates everyone about new regulations and forms using clear and concise language for better understanding. As many treasurers statewide report, Pat is always available to help work out problems with individual chapters and if she doesn't know the answer to a question, she finds the answer and reports back ASAP. Pat is a state officer who participates at Executive Committee meetings, Executive Board meetings

and Finance Committee meetings reporting on our budget and engages everyone with her added wisdom and knowledgeable voice about the health of our state organization and other issues. She has "kept an eye on the State Budget" keeping our assets strong. To help hostess chapters at Fall Boards and state conventions, she volunteered to act as Registrar at state functions. Pat has competently fulfilled all duties of the State Treasurer with confidence and joy!

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In retrospect: a Commitment to Growing our Organization

Pat Bennett-Forman, WA State Org. President 2021-2023

Two years ago, as I accepted the position of Washington State Organization president, I challenged myself and all our members (despite COVID) to come together to build community and advance our DKG purposes. As I read over reports, visit area meetings and listen to chapter presidents share their most current work, I am proud of the many accomplishments of our members in that time.

Chapters have made extraordinary efforts to connect with members, adopting virtual technology to hold meetings but also to creatively devise alternative, often outdoor, venues to have safe meetings. As in-person options have become more viable, they have reached out to members to re-engage them with the work of the chapter and begun to welcome new members again. I have heard hopefulness coming from all parts of the state that our organization will survive and thrive.

Our work in promoting services to enhance mental health for educators has been beneficial and exciting. Chapters have had programs to examine issues related to mental health and to learn strategies for breaking through barriers to good mental health. They have implemented a variety of activities to support educators, including posting billboards, handing out care packages, providing seminars, and offering mentoring. At the state level, our Educational Policy and Legislation Committee members have testified to congressional and state representatives about the need to fund mental health support for educators. We proposed a resolution to the U.S. Forum in 2022 that passed unanimously. Recently, federal legislation HB744 was introduced that contains exact language from our request.

Having acknowledged the need to reverse membership attrition, the State Communications Committee produced a new state brochure. Chapters have designed recruitment posters, distributed business cards with

QR codes, and partnered with other agencies to create better awareness of DKG. One chapter has provided practice interview sessions for seniors in college; another put up a display in the public library; several have provided clock hour programs open to all educators. The Membership Committee has provided training and support in seeking members from non-traditional education fields. Training workshops from the Educational Excellence Committee have helped us learn to be more inclusive and supportive of diverse members and prospective members.

Of course, our work isn't finished. We can't sit back on our laurels, but we can pat ourselves on the back for being willing to take on difficult tasks related to revitalizing our state and chapters. And we can look forward to the seeds we have planted blossoming in future years. Our organization has much to offer educators and education. I am confident with a focus on our values and goals, we will renew our commitment to DKG and see it thrive under the 2023 – 2025 leadership team. Thank you all for the support you have given me over the past two years. I look forward to continuing our journey in my new role as immediate past president, U.S. Forum representative, and member of both the Membership and Educational Policy committees.



Achievement honoree—Continued from page 1

Pat was a teacher for several years in Seattle Public Schools. She was team leader at South Shore Middle School beginning 1978 and made a lasting impression on her students, recently invited to a 50th year birthday party for a past student. Pat became a Consulting Teacher for Seattle Public Schools and was known to deal with families in a fair and clear manner. She was known for her presentation of the “riser” process where she made a very complicated process as concise as possible for all concerned. Pat was definitely a team player, always looking to improve systems and services for students and families. She now looks forward to attending the DKG Conference in Finland with hopes of following her family ancestry when not attending workshops.

It is a great honor to present Patricia Russell with the 2023 Achievement Award from our Washington State Organization. You are well deserving of this prestigious award and we are most grateful for your dedication and service. **Congratulations Pat!**



Dear WSO members,

Dumas Bay Retreat Centre recently notified our organization of changes in their staffing which caused an additional 18% increase in their food pricing structure. After much deliberation, the State Executive Committee did not feel our contract terms were being honored and that the increase should not be passed to members. As a result, the Committee **VOTED TO CANCEL** the 2023 Creative ARTS Retreat. Alternatives for future retreats will be discussed. We look forward to your continued involvement.

Sherri Wagemann

**2021-2023
Washington State Organization
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All Washington State Organization officers and committees may be contacted using the WSO Directory or through DKGWA.org.



Celebrating You

Teri King, 2nd Vice-president, Membership Chair

What an amazing and great Spring Convention. The smiles on everyone's faces as we gathered, in 3-D was awesome. The Friday evening membership social event was fun and created new connections and friendships to launch the convention. On Saturday morning, we honored members that had passed since Spring of 2022 in our Celebration of Life ceremony. Thank you to all of the chapters for honoring their members and a special nod to Monique Harrison, Beta Sigma Seattle and First VP, for the accompaniment. Each chapter was provided a program for the event, if your chapter did not receive one, please contact me and I will get one out to your chapter.

Following the Celebration of Life, the membership committee hosted a Saturday morning workshop on all of the amazing things that membership in DKG has to offer. The hour long event focused on opportunities for advocacy, leadership, travel and networking, financial assistance, recognition, publishing and discounts. Although we all have access to the International website and check it regularly, we walked participants through the new Leadership Discovery Center, membership pages, publications and scholarship opportunities. Do you know how to log into your International DKG membership portal? You will need your membership number and password – your Chapter President, Membership chair or Treasurer should be able to provide that for you. If that doesn't work, please reach out to me and I can get you the needed information to log on. The newly refreshed International website is a treasure of information hiding in plain sight, well actually behind a password protected wall. Thank you to all that participated in our workshop and provided great insights and questions. Together is how we learn, and I have learned a lot from all of you these past two years.

The membership committee wasn't done yet! Of course, two events on one day were not enough! We held a lunch scramble, where we assigned each person

to a table where they had the opportunity to meet or renew friendships and have great conversations over lunch. We also celebrated WSO DKG members with membership milestones of 60, 50, 40, 30, 20 and 10 years. See the separate article about membership milestones. Thank you all for playing along during lunch with our 'seating chart' to help new attendees feel welcome and connect with others that perhaps you had never shared a meal with at a DKG event before.

None of the last two years could have been possible without the amazing membership committee members that I served with, Sarah McKeever, Eta Spokane and Susan Fritts, Alpha Sigma Kitsap. These ladies were fun-loving, energetic, hardworking, serious, smart, and incredibly patient with me as I chaired my first WSO DKG committee. We had a lot of fun, we helped to create new and stronger friendships for members beyond their chapters, inspired new approaches, provided tools and support for trying new things and reviving old traditions. Thank you, ladies, for being incredible, it was an honor to work with you these past two years.

Welcome New Members

Congratulations and welcome to our newly inducted member,

Cassidy Gray - Beta Upsilon Grand Coulee.



White Roses of Remembrance



We have lost six members since February 2023. They were honored in the Celebration of Life at the 2023 State Convention.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Carol DeJardine | Alpha Tau Tacoma/Puyallup |
| Marilyn Hueffed | Beta Sigma Seattle |
| Arlene Jones | Zeta Wenatchee |
| Phyllis Jones | Beta Chi Grays Harbor |
| Marjorie Leggett | Phi Grays Harbor/Pacific |
| Shirley Sainsbury | Iota Mason Thurston |

DKG membership milestone recognitions



Members are the heart of DKG and we are pleased to celebrate and honor the following members for their 60, 50, 40, 30, 20 and 10 year anniversary milestones with Delta Kappa Gamma. These ladies were recognized at the spring 2023 convention luncheon.

60 year members

ALPHA LAMBDA	Barbara Quigley	April 1963
KAPPA	Velma Sime	April 1963

50 year members

IOTA	Barbara Raymond	April 1973
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40 year members

ALPHA TAU	Jan Blankers	October 1982
PSI	Nancy Sauer	October 1982
BETA DELTA	Carolyn Olson	December 1982
RHO	Marcia Knudson	December 1982
ZETA	Julia Hoon	February 1983
KAPPA	Andrea Riniker	April 1983
PHI	Marjorie Leggett	April 1983
CHI	Kathleen Williamson	May 1983
MU	Susan Ochs	May 1983
MU	Ann Varkados	May 1983
RHO	Rowena Wedemeyer	May 1983

30 year members

BETA	Marianne Livingstone	Sept. 1992
BETA DELTA	Janet Berthon	October 1992
BETA DELTA	Margot Hightower	October 1992
PHI	Ruth Stamper	October 1992
ETA	Rosemary Shockley	Nov. 1992
BETA DELTA	Jan Millgard	May 1993

20 year members

BETA	Patsy Ethridge-Neal	Sept. 2002
PSI	Caryn Mears	September 2002
PSI	Teresa Selph	September 2002
PSI	Gail Gilbertson	October 2002

20 year members (continued)

PHI	Annette Pinckney	February 2003
BETA CHI	Cynda Braden	April 2003
BETA CHI	Denise Cox	April 2003
BETA CHI	Vicki Lentz	April 2003
ALPHA LAMBDA	Robin Smith	May 2003

10 year members

KAPPA	Raelene Wilson	September 2012
LAMBDA	Maria Kroll	September 2012
LAMBDA	Nancy Sheng	September 2012
ZETA	Kriss Crilly	October 2012
ZETA	Arlene Jones	October 2012
BETA SIGMA	Kathleen Jones	November 2012
ALPHA SIGMA	Jacqueline Finckler	December 2012
THETA	Lisa Holyfield	December 2012
BETA CHI	Barbara Chenault	January 2013
BETA SIGMA	Kelley Clevenger	April 2013
BETA SIGMA	Kathy Cokelet	April 2013
BETA SIGMA	Sally Telzrow	April 2013
ALPHA ZETA	Karen Conroy	May 2013
ALPHA ZETA	Esther Siegel	May 2013
PSI	Mindy Hoffman	May 2013
PSI	Leslie Joseph	May 2013
THETA	Janel Berger	May 2013
THETA	Leslie Mahony	May 2013
BETA SIGMA	Katy Haigh	June 2013
BETA SIGMA	Monique Harrison	June 2013
BETA SIGMA	Jannette Manuel	June 2013
CHI	Jeanne Foster	June 2013
KAPPA	Mary Aman	June 2013
KAPPA	Nadene Lana	June 2013
KAPPA	Laura Lopata	June 2013



Congratulations!

Barb Clausen authored an article "Leadership Discovery Center: A World of Opportunity" which was selected for inclusion in the 2023, Volume 89-4 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*. To read her article follow the link to the [DKG website](#).

Advocating for Legislation

Education Policy/Legislation Committee

Marge Lofstrom, Chair

January through April was the Washington State 2022-2023 legislative session, and it was a busy time for our elected officials and our chapter legislative contacts of the WSO Education Policy/Legislation committee. Through our Zoom meetings, and some chapter visits, members were encouraged to speak to their legislators about bills related to women, children, and education. Our informational meetings focused on at least three topics: Mental Health Support for Educators and Staff; Gun Safety; and Plan 1 COLA.

Mental health support for educators and staff is a focus of the US forum/WSO resolution. Before the legislative session started some of our WSO members spoke to their legislators about providing funds to HB 1363, 2021-2022, addressing secondary trauma in the K-12 workforce. At that time, no sponsor was found. HB 1363 is now Policy 5515 of the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Schools (OSPI). The policy and mental health resources can be viewed at <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/workforce-secondary-traumatic-stress>. In early February 2023, the Congressional House of Representatives introduced HR 744. At this initial stage the bill asks for funding to support mental wellness support for educators and staff. At the time of this writing, the bill has only been introduced. Updates are available by visiting congress.gov and entering the bill number.

With a concern for gun violence, particularly in our schools, members received an email asking them to contact legislators to vote yes for restricting access to assault weapons (HB1240), concerning requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms (HB 1143), and protecting public safety by establishing duties of firearm industry members (SB 5078). At the time of this writing, HB1143 and SB 5078 concurred on the Senate and House amendments respectively and reached final passage. The next step is a vote by the legislature. The House bill (HB 1240) was sent back to the Senate to ask them to recede from amendments.

Our retired teachers, particularly those who chose the Plan 1 COLA option, were interested in learning what legislation would help them receive fair COLA compensations. Some members of the Washington School Retirees' Association, a non-partisan group, provided our members with legislative bills information and voting updates. As of April 14, the Senate did not concur in House Amendments to ESSB 5294 and asked House to recede from amendments. Chapter legislative contacts were given other bills to follow for those interested.

Readers can find out what bills mentioned did pass also with the voting roll call by visiting leg.wa.gov and entering the bill number. Please be sure to contact your chapter legislation contact with any issues you believe the Education Policy/Legislation committee can address.

Thank You from the Stipend and Scholarship Committee



Committee would like to thank all WSO members who participated in our Books for Bucks challenge over these past two years. We appreciate each of you. Don't forget to send your list of Book Titles and donation to Patricia Russell, 21038 102nd Ave. SE, Kent, WA 98031 by June 1, 2023.

Linda, Cindy, and Paula

Highlights of One World Fellowship Recipient

by Susan Fritts, International World Fellowship Committee Member



Meet Bulgan, Bulgan Tsolmonbaatar from Mongolia! As one of our 2022-2023 World Fellowship recipients, Bulgan's life has changed in many ways.

After applying for a Fellowship through the Fulbright Commission/Foundation which was

then forwarded to the Institute of International Education (IIE), Bulgan's application was assessed resulting in the award presented to Bulgan from the DKG World Fellowship Committee. Bulgan is now earning her Master's degree at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

This began her journey to America. Bulgan and her husband relocated with their two children, ages 14 and 6 years of age, to married student housing near campus. Living in another culture enables children to broaden their outlook of the world and become more accepting of others who are different from themselves. Bulgan reports that her children are doing well.

In Mongolia, Bulgan studied business administration at the University of Finance Economics. She was offered a teaching position where she taught for over a decade and became an advisor to the Student Service Center supporting students from rural areas.

Studies in the College of Education will enable Bulgan to earn her Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. She intends to lead the change in higher education institutions in Mongolia in order to improve accessibility of higher education for youth living in rural areas.

Bulgan states that the education system in the United States is extremely different from that of the Mongolian educational system. It motivates students to learn and encourages active participation as reflections and experiences are discussed with students. Bulgan

has continued to focus on leadership skills, management and policy studies. She reports that she is excited to learn more about best practices and wants to have a broad knowledge of case studies for a better understanding of how to implement decisions and policies. Bulgan is determined to learn how she can implement educational justice for a marginalized group, specifically youth living in rural areas who are mostly from low-income families.

When asked about highlights of her experiences so far in the United States, Bulgan shared these words: "First, the professors at University of Washington are friendly and willing to help students to get a good education. For example, they have office hours and are very approachable whenever help is needed. Second, the academic environment in the US is safe, with free speech which I find fascinating. It encourages students with different opinions that I have yet to experience much in my home country. Third, instructors create an environment to improve engagement with students. In Mongolia, professors mostly give lectures and tell what is right and wrong. However, in the US, instructors stimulate us. Students have distinct opinions and open minds and guide us to seek the answers on our own."

In the short term, Bulgan wants to implement changes: update the current curriculum and syllabus of the course that she teaches at UFE, develop a tailored-design course that focuses on the unique culture in Mongolia, improve her teaching approach to better motivate students to learn more and become actively engaged in discussions. **In the medium term**, she will improve the Student Service Center at UFE to create a network and mentorship creating internships and career opportunities for students from rural areas. **In the long run**, she hopes to develop a new postgraduate program with support from donor organizations to support youth. Since half of Mongolia's population is spread over twenty-one provincial areas, she is focusing on affecting a large population.

Continued on page 8, see "World Fellowship Recipient."

Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation

Dr. Claire Smith, Chair

The Rachel Royston Trustees met and have selected four recipients for the 2023 scholarships. All are outstanding educators and the Trustees are proud to be able to help them further their education.



Kristyn Gintz from Republic is working on a Master's in School Counseling from Walden University.



Alia Eraky hails from Vancouver and is working on Administrative credentials through the LEAD program at Washington State University Vancouver.



Mary Colón is from Bellevue and is working on a Doctoral program in Educational Leadership, with a focus on second language pedagogy, from the American College of Education.



Trish Corsetti is from Bainbridge Island and recently started her doctoral program in Educational Leadership/ Superintendent Certification at Western Washington University.

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World Fellowship Recipient

Bulgan made a promise to herself to keep up with the changes in education and use her knowledge to better her country; "We cannot leave young people behind." I have no qualms that Bulgan will return to her country and enhance the lives of everyone she touches especially children in rural communities. We are so grateful for students such as Bulgan who will use their World Fellowship Award to enrich lives around the world.

Delta Kappa Gamma members were able to meet Bulgan at Area VII King County Breakfast and at Spring Convention, where she spoke to the membership about her experiences and goals.



Bulgan is wearing her lovely native dress called a Deel.

DKG Spring Convention 2023 Workshops



Washington State Organization 2023 Spring Convention







WSO Studies Area/Quadrant Reconfiguration

Discussions by area liaisons with WSO President Pat Bennett-Forman revealed a significant discrepancy in the distribution of chapters across areas. Primarily a function of declining enrollments and chapter dissolutions over the past decade, these inequities are creating a burden for chapters remaining in many of the areas. Four of ten areas have only two chapters, two areas are down to one chapter. Hosting area workshops either every year or every other year is taxing on these chapters. Hosting a state convention with so few chapters is draining of both chapter resources and members' time. The time seems appropriate to consider a reconfiguration of areas and quadrants.

Area 5 Liaison Kay Stern, Area 8 Liaison Rose Eilert and Mu Chapter Clark County Co-president Charlene Shae were appointed as an ad hoc committee to study this issue. They sent a brief survey to chapter presidents and the State Executive Committee in late February asking four short questions: (1) Does your chapter/committee support exploration of moving from yearly area workshops to yearly quadrant or regional workshops? (2) Which format for change do you support: (a) hold two quadrant workshops in the fall and two in the spring; (b) hold quadrant workshops only in those quadrants with low numbers of members/chapters and allow other quadrants to continue to hold area workshops; (c) merge areas with low numbers to the closest geographical chapter for area workshops; (d) open to all proposals? (3) Do the current quadrant configurations work for your chapter? and (4) Should WSO move to rotating hosting of state meetings to quadrants/regions rather than areas?

Results were quite clear in some areas and require further study in others. There was a 97% response rate to the survey. 91% of respondents agreed that hosting responsibilities for state meetings needed to move from areas to quadrants or regions (question #3). Equalizing the workload seemed paramount to members. Further, they commented on the difficulties presented to an area when hosting a state meeting on the opposite side of the state.

88% of respondents thought that moving to quadrant or regional workshops was preferable to the current annual area workshop model. Only 30% of respondents felt the current area/quadrant configurations worked for them (question #4). Another 57% responded that the current configuration "worked somewhat" and 13%

responded that it did not work for them.

Responses on question #2 indicated no clear preference for how to reconfigure the areas/quadrants. 62 % were open to proposals; 18% thought areas low in numbers should merge with other areas; 15% favored quadrant meetings in areas with low numbers/area meetings in more populated areas; 6% favored two fall and two spring quadrants. The ad-hoc committee recommended further study of question #2.

The ad-hoc committee also recommended that the WSO state meeting hosting responsibilities be moved from areas to quadrant (or another regional configuration). The final recommendation was to promote quadrant workshops, especially in areas with few and/or small chapters.

Pursuant to the recommendation to further study possible ways to reconfigure areas and quadrants, the ad-hoc committee has developed a follow-up survey which is going out to all chapters and the Executive Committee mid-May, due back by June 1. Results will be considered by the Executive Committee in order to allow adequate time for planning for the 2023-2024 workshops and the 2024 state convention.

The follow-up survey asks chapters to consider a three-region configuration which evenly spreads the chapters in terms of number and size across three regions (East, Northwest, Southwest). It also asks whether regional workshops should be virtual only, in-person only or hybrid. It asks whether there should only be regional workshops or whether areas may choose to continue to have area workshops, or if merging areas is a reasonable alternative.

The follow-up survey is interested in the types of workshops that would encourage members to travel distances within their regions. It also asks if three regions are established, should hosting state meetings be assigned to the East region when the convention is scheduled for the eastside and to the NW or SW when the convention is on the west side of the state.

While the timeline is short for this survey, which will be conducted by phone call from liaisons to chapter presidents, feedback from the chapters is critical. These configurations are not cast in concrete or even defined in our state by-laws. As we (hopefully) add chapters in the future, the need to reconfigure may occur again. But for now, it seems that our chapters and areas would benefit from some flexibility over the current model.



President Monique Harrison, Exec. Secretary Sherri Wagemann, Secretary Dr. Claire Smith, 2nd VP Jessica Tufts, Parliamentarian Linda Elliott, Treasurer Patricia Russell, Immediate Past President Pat Bennett-Forman, and 1st VP Teri King

Washington State Organization Executive Board, 2023-2025



The Washington State Organization Membership Brochure is available to print from the [DKGWA website](http://www.dkgwa.org). For published copies please contact your WSO Area Liaison.

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Washington Website:

www.dkgwa.org

Send articles to:

Barbara McPherson, Editor

Deadlines: July 15, October 15,
 January 15, April 15

Important Dates

Dumas Bay Creative Arts Retreat.....	Cancelled
WSO Transition Meeting, 9 am—3 pm	June 10
DKG State Officers Training,	June 23-25
Membership Dues due to Chapter Treasurer	June 30
DKG Int'l Conference, Detroit, MI	July 12-15
DKG Int'l Conference, Phoenix, AZ.....	July 19-22
DKG Int'l Conference, Finland.....	July 26-29
<i>DKG Bulletin</i> : Collegial Exchange Submissions due	August 1
Arts & Humanities Gallery Submissions for Fall Gallery	August 15-September 15