

MARYLOU GREGORY
2020 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT



MaryLou Gregory, the WSO 2020 Achievement Award recipient has been recognized in her professional life as a “literarian”...a lover of books. She is a retired educator who has been an active member of DKG for 43 years. This outstanding educator has made a difference in her community through her many volunteer activities and associations.

We are not alone in our praise of MaryLou. Over the years, she has

provided notable service to education and her community by serving in a variety of leadership roles such as: the President of the Washington Library Media Association; Councilor-at-Large for the American Library Association; AASL Director of Region VII Board of Directors; Program Chair of the 1986 American Association of School Librarians National Convention and planning committee member for the Washington Governor’s Conference on Libraries.

A firm believer in the joys of life-long learning, MaryLou is an accomplished watercolorist, a self-publisher of four books, a Founder of the Salmonberry Ukulele Band and a “webmaster” guru.

MaryLou Gregory’s service extends from the DKG chapter to the state level. She has served her chapter as president for four terms, as vice-president and webmaster. At the state level, she has been recording secretary, area liaison and workshop presenter. We recognize her more for her technological talents, as she currently serves as our WSO webmaster. She is a wonderful listener and caring DKG sister.

Congratulations, MaryLou!

TERRI DIEHM
2021 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT



Terri Diehm, the 2021 WSO Achievement Award recipient is a retired educator who has been an active and contributing member of DKG for 27 years. Notably, she has attended 22 international conventions and regional conferences, and has taken active leadership roles. Her positive and energetic attitude about her service to others and the DKG Society is “I do what needs to get done.”

Terri has an extensive portfolio of DKG chapter and state level service. At the chapter level, she applied for a DKG Educational Foundation grant for Beta Delta’s Birthday Dreams service project, and coordinated donations from members and community businesses to raise funds for this heartwarming endeavor. At the state level, over the years she has chaired many state committees; has served as an area liaison; has held several state officer positions including recording secretary, First and Second Vice President and President.

Because of her love of music, earning a BA in music, a MEd in Creative Arts and Orff Level 1 certification, Terri has presented numerous workshops on topics of music education, teaching strategies, the arts and technology. As a member of her school community, not only did she teach music, she also volunteered as a reading tutor for at-risk students, conducted most in-district trainings and served on her district hiring committee.

Her nominating member described Terri as the “Heart and soul of our chapter and the engine that gets things done by sharing her exhaustive knowledge!”

Congratulations Terri!

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Embracing Possibilities: Reflecting

By Washington State President Susan Fritts

The end of my biennium as your Washington State President for 2019-2021 is nearing and so I reflect on events, DKG sisters, professional and personal presentations and the possibilities that were achieved during this period. YOU have certainly embraced moving DKG forward and making a HUGE difference in so many lives. Be very proud of your ongoing support as educators!

I am grateful for YOU, as outstanding educators for your inspiration in your communities by creating literacy Projects with children and adults. Our EEC member Joanne Vining has highlighted these projects in *Alpha Sigma News* editions all of which can be seen on our webpage www.dkgwa.org. Providing Spanish written literature for the children of immigrant parents seeking citizenship (Alpha Sigma Kitsap), supporting the Pediatric Interim Care Center in Kent with books and an inspiration written on bookmarks for mothers and their newborn babies with drug exposure (Kappa Kent), the funding of children's books sent to the Seattle Children's Clinic in Lacey (Alpha Pi Olympia), and supporting community Little Free Libraries in Mason and Thurston counties (Iota) are examples of our community support of books. I chose this Literacy Project because of who we are, educators encouraging lifelong learning!

Our Washington State members have shown leadership and hard work: Co-chairs Barbara Clausen (Chi Cowlitz) and Janet LeBeau (Theta Yakima), with a committee representing chapters across the state, created and presented the Strategic Action Plans for 2021-2026. Parliamentarian Barbara Clausen (Chi Cowlitz) and Bylaws and Rules Chair Nancy Sauer (Psi Kennewick) updated and presented amendments. Two members, Pat Bennett-Forman (Alpha Sigma Kitsap) and Mindy Hoffman (Psi Kennewick), have researched, presented workshops and written an article on Early-career Educators which reveal the critical need for DKG support. Of course, a HUGE thank you to the State Officers who have met regularly and made decisions never made before such as cancelations and preparing our week-

long state convention. Thank you to members who have presented workshops focusing on your expertise at Fall Board and the state convention.

We have so enjoyed the support from International. DKG International Parliamentarian Dr. Helen Popovich was our guest during the Virtual Fall Board 2020 and DKG International Member-at-Large Connie Rensink was our guest during the virtual State Convention 2021. They both not only presented an update from International, and led workshops and the Round Table, but they were our keynote speakers at the final event. What dedication and flexibility! We so appreciate them!

Washington State Organization also joined with the League of Women voters and Fix Democracy First to educate members and communities about redistricting. This opportunity gave us a chance to let our voices be heard. Workshops and presentations were circulated to members from U.S. Forum as well. Increasing our knowledge and promoting DKG is important.

Due to the pandemic, we have had to educate ourselves using *Zoom*. Jannette Manuel (Beta Sigma Seattle) has helped chapters to reconnect with their members and run meetings. I have printed and mailed documents to 34 members without technology and encouraged them to meet with a member to get online for the state convention. BLASTs have been mailed out by Webmaster MaryLou Gregory to keep members updated and Area Liaisons have been meeting monthly. COVID-19 has created situations whereby our communication has changed formats from in-person to "Zooming". Thank you to *Alpha Sigma News* Editor Barbara McPherson for your expertise and dedication to imparting the articles while teaching.

I am GRATEFUL for all of you. Thank you for embracing possibilities!





THANK YOU to all chapters who have continued to be flexible and to communicate with members. Chapter speakers and programs have been extremely inspiring and your invitations to reach out to other chapters is admirable.

THANK YOU to our Area Liaisons for connecting with chapters. You are the glue between chapters and the state:

- Area I Isabel Castro Alpha Lambda Lower Yakima Valley
- Area II Lydia Elsom (Eta Spokane)
- Area III Cathey Erickson (Alpha Psi Pasco)
- Area IV Linda Elliott (Beta Delta Auburn)
- Area V Jane Gerdon (Chi Cowlitz)
- Area VI Nancy Sheng (Lambda Bellingham)
- Area VII Garrel Lindberg (Alpha Nu Seattle)
- Area VIII Rosa Ellert (Zeta Wenatchee)
- Area IX Jan Morgan (Phi Grays Harbor/Pacific)
- Area X Jackie Finckler (Alpha Sigma Kitsap)

Gratefully, Susan Fritts, President Washington State Organization



Wanted: WSO Parliamentarian

WSO is looking for a new state parliamentarian for the 2021-2023 biennium. No prior experience is required. You need not be familiar with Robert's Rules, etc. as training will be provided at the Portland Conference July 7, 2021 (at state expense).

Don't worry about being a new "Barb." We are looking for someone interested in expanding her horizons and open to new adventures. State reimbursement for attendance at WSO DKG state conferences and meetings is provided. Contact Pat Bennett-Forman p.bennettformandkgwa@gmail.com with questions and to discuss possibilities.

Wanted: Zoom/Technology Liaison

WSO experimented with having a Zoom account that was available to all chapters and committees to use for meeting during the pandemic. What a success! We now need a person with Zoom meeting/hosting skills to serve as the Technology Liaison for the State in the 2021-23 biennium. Duties will be to work with chapters and committee chairs to schedule and send out invitations to Zoom meetings, serve as a technical assistant for questions regarding hosting the meetings, and if interested, provide workshops on hosting Zoom meetings. At WSO conferences, liaison would work with Executive Secretary Sherri Wagemann to arrange technical equipment, Zoom hosting and recording activities, and troubleshoot as needed. State reimbursement for attendance at WSO DKG State conferences is provided. Contact: Monique Harrison monique.dkgwa@outlook.com with questions and interest.

2019-2021

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Educational Excellence beyond the Pandemic

Note: this is the seventh in a series on the pillars of WSO DKG Educational Excellence as described in the November 2019 edition of *the Alpha Sigma News* to include **A**dvocacy, **P**rofessional Development, **P**ersonal Well-being and **S**ervice (**APPS**).



Pat Bennett-Forman
First Vice President
Educational Excellence Chair

Congratulations to all the presenters at the virtual Washington State Organization DKG Spring Convention. Fifteen workshops were presented over the course of the six day event, ten of which qualified for clock hours. The evaluation feedback on the

courses paints a very positive outlook for workshops at future DKG events but, even more importantly, a positive picture of the excellent education teachers are providing during and after the pandemic to students. Your WSO Educational Excellence Committee looks forward to providing follow-up sessions on many of the spring offerings.

Participants requested continued work on social justice and mental health topics. Consideration is being given to scheduling a series of workshops available for clock hours between Fall Board and Spring Convention 2022. The workshop on *Belonging and Racial Identity* began an important conversation in our organization that members expressed interest in continuing. Likewise, participants asked that more workshops be provided on suicide prevention, mental health among senior citizens, and similar well-being topics.

In the changes made to the WSO By-Laws, the Executive Board approved formation of a new committee to focus on education legislation and advocacy. This committee will expand upon the work begun in the 2020-21 year by the EEC, including offering workshops at area and chapter levels on how to be effective advocates. Members are encouraged to see the [Advocacy Tool Kit](#) now listed on the state website.

Several of the Spring Convention workshops highlighted educational trends expected to be advanced even after the pandemic ends. It is unlikely schools will return to the model used pre-COVID. Some degree of on-line learning, so called hybrid models, will continue even after all schools return to in-person learning. It will continue to be important for DKG members to enhance their Zoom skills to be able to fully participate. To help our

members with minimal computer access, it will be important for chapters to establish buddies to help everyone access offerings.

It will also be important for members to become familiar with and assist educators who are taking students outside, partnering with industries, and allowing students to be empowered in taking actions now for the world they want to live in as adults. The excellent programs shared by Jason Lee Middle School teacher, Kathy Hall, and the Shelton High School STEAM team enable us to see the potential of school post-pandemic – future programs that will also be part of WSO DKG professional development efforts and, hopefully, chapter volunteer services.

Finally, a note about mentoring. Mindy Hoffman, Psi Kennewick, presented an engaging workshop on Saturday of Spring Convention discussing ways in which DKG members can connect with early career educators, both within and outside the chapter. Mentoring can be a valuable assist in keeping these young educators in the field, to supporting them in ways they most need. You will hear more on this topic in coming editions of the state newsletter, but for now, all members are encouraged to think about ways in which they can help mentor current educators. For some, that might mean writing notes of encouragement; for others, it might mean volunteering in the classroom; for others still, it might mean offering training opportunities and support groups. Each member has something to contribute, each chapter service they can provide. What will yours be?

It has been a pleasure to chair the work of the Educational Excellence Committee this past biennium. The actions completed by committee members have added value to our state organization. (For a complete look at the Committee's accomplishments, see the annual report on the state web site.) A huge debt of gratitude to the 2019-2021 Committee members: Joanne Vining (Alpha Lambda, Lower Yakima Valley), Keitha Bryson (Beta Beta, Seattle), Mindy Hoffman (Psi, Kennewick), Carla Carnegie (Eta, Spokane), and Mary Rennie (Theta, Yakima). You have made a difference!

State Literacy Project Wrap-up

Joanne Vining , Alpha Lambda, Lower Yakima Valley

As I think about this State Unity Project over the past two years, I am filled with a sense of pride in what we can accomplish when we work together with a goal in mind. The chapters have really done an outstanding job of coming up with unique ideas about how they can meet a need that is special for their particular area. I feel like you have really reached out to your communities and met a need that was important and what needs are more important than women, children, and education. These are combinations that always need extra help and attention and will reap huge rewards in the future. You never know how you have touched a life by providing a book for them to keep and read over and over. This is the last report from me as we wind down this project.

Alpha Delta (Seattle) has raised over \$1,400 in donations in support of their “adopted” school program. Two of their members teach in the Dual Language Program at Denny International Middle School in Seattle and this chapter provides ongoing support for it. They also support neighborhood Little Free Libraries with book donations and volunteer as reading tutors with 5th and

6th graders. I must say this chapter is busy doing good deeds for their community. Theta (Yakima) is on phase two of this project and they have really gone all out to make the Little Free Libraries a high priority. There are five little libraries in Yakima which their members help to keep full and move the books around to various locations. The Theta ladies are a wonder to behold. Thank you, Theta, for all of your dedication and hard work.

This wraps up this State Unity Project for President Susan’s biennium and I want to thank all of the chapters for your efforts “to put books into the hands of children.” What is even more remarkable about this project is that we had to deal with a dreaded coronavirus pandemic for the last year which was devastating for all of us. Susan Fritts has a quote which I would like to share, “Reading a good book can help us to make changes in our attitudes, improving health, lowering stress, focusing on simple pleasures, and learning wisdom and courage from characters we read about. Consider passing titles of books to your family and friends that may focus on these attributes, and find books that will inspire you.”

Passing of the Gavel



The passing of our gavel reflects the rite of passage. That is, when outgoing Susan Fritts, 2019-2021 Washington State President passed the gavel to incoming Pat Bennett-Forman 2021-2023 Washington State President at the State Convention on May 1, 2021, the transfer of leadership became a physical and symbolic event.

This wooden mallet has a copper wrapping around the head with the inscription, “Helen Haller WA State President 1955-1957.” Just who was Helen Haller? Helen was a Chapter President of Upsilon and Charter Member of Beta Nu Sequim, and our eighth Washington State President. As International Parliamentarian, Chairman of the International Committee on Insurance which set up our DKG program, as well as NW Regional Director, Helen

was active in many events including as a participant on the steering committee of the 1974 International Convention in Seattle. She was a dignified, gracious and strong leader and left an imprint of accomplishments on all levels.

We honor the symbolism of leadership that this Washington State gavel presents, and look forward to this rite of passage for many decades to come.





Monique Harrison
Second Vice President
Membership Chair

Greetings to all

I would like to begin with a sincere apology to Garrel Linberg and the members of Alpha Nu Seattle for not officially recognizing Dorothy Jean Swanson during the Celebration of Life at the WSO Spring Convention.

Due to this oversight, the Membership Committee is reviewing and revising the process of reporting the death of a member ([Form 6 Report of Death of a Member](#)) and submitting information to the WSO Membership Committee. The information needed for the Celebration of Life Ceremony is more detailed than the information given on Form 6. We are in the process of creating a Google Form to assist in submission of information for the ceremony to honor these lost members.

[Form 6 Report of Death of a Member](#): needs to be submitted to International mem@dkg.org, State Treasurer p.russell@comcast.net, and State Membership Committee Chair: until June 30, 2021, Monique Harrison, monique.dkgwa@outlook.com; beginning July 1, 2021, Teri King, msoyster@gmail.com

The Celebration of Life Google Form will go directly to the State Membership Committee. This form will ask for a statement about the deceased member, the person who will speak for them at the Celebration of Life, and a photo.

Congratulations to newly elected Teri King, Second Vice President. She will serve as Membership Chair for the next biennium beginning July 1, 2021.

It has been an immense pleasure serving as your state membership chair, and I look forward to serving as your new First Vice President and EEC Chair.

Live Your Dreams! Be grateful. Give love. Take chances. Don't wait for the perfect moment. Take the moment and make it perfect. — "Affirmations", verse by Nicholas Vale

Welcome New Members



Congratulations and welcome to the following members newly inducted or reinstated into DKG.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Virginia Powers | Eta Spokane |
| Katelyn Berry | Psi Kennewick |
| Rosie M. Ogren | Psi Kennewick |
| Crystal R. Ramos | Psi Kennewick |

White Roses of Remembrance



The list below shows our members we have lost this past year. They were honored in the Celebration of Life, April 26, 2021 at the WSO State Convention.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alpha Nu Seattle | Dorothy Jean Swanson
11/9/2020 |
| Alpha Psi Pasco | Geraldine Walters
10/1/2020 |
| Alpha Psi Pasco | Helen Bakshas
2/28/2020 |
| Alpha Psi Pasco | Kathryn Carlson
11/19/2019 |
| Alpha Sigma Kitsap | Judy Miller
11/30/2020 |
| Alpha Tacoma | Maria Jensen
3/3/2021 |
| Alpha Tau Tacoma/Puyallup | Sharon Westman
1/23/2021 |
| Alpha Zeta Goldendale | Arlene Dolan
9/14/2020 |
| Alpha Zeta Goldendale | Kay Kimmel
11/18/2020 |
| Beta Seattle | Miriam Puffert
9/26/2020 |
| Beta Seattle | Nancy Minard
12/6/2020 |
| Phi Grays Harbor/Pacific | Jeri Bell
6/12/2020 |
| Phi Grays Harbor/Pacific | Nancy Neisinger
11/28/2020 |
| Phi Grays Harbor/Pacific | Sharon Stolen
1/7/2021 |

And What Do All of the WSO Amendments Mean for My Chapter?

by Nancy Sauer, Bylaws and Standing Rules Chair

Numerous Bylaw and Standing Rules amendments were adopted at Spring Convention April 30, 2021. The complete text of those Bylaw and Standing Rules amendments is available on the website. **The vast majority of the adopted amendments do not require any needed chapter rules updates at this time.** After the International Convention next year, there may be needed updates to Bylaws! Please note the following:

- The 50% dues option is good for new members to join DKG beginning on Jan. 1 each year. (Check the dues portal deadline for the closing date)
- Chapters are encouraged to contribute to the World Fellowship Fund AND support all World Fellowship recipients with encouraging notes or cards.
- Amendments to both the Bylaws and Standing Rules can be submitted annually by members, boards or committees by November 1.
- Our state newsletter will have a new name and header. A few members may request 'printed versions' of the newsletters for a small annual fee (details to follow).
- The new Education Policy/Legislation committee will be sharing timely information and workshops. This committee shall support advocacy for women, children, and educational issues as well as collaborate with the EEC. The committee shall also promote

involvement in non-partisan legislation about women, children, and educational topics.

- Chapters can continue to meet in person, electronically or virtually as long as the communication provides a valid receipt of each member's vote.

GUIDE FOR ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

(Please insert this in the back of your chapter rules)

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th Edition)

Electronic Meetings pp. 635-649.

Visual:

- Meetings must provide log in information
- Roll calls or list for online quorum with departure noted to keep the quorum.
- State how assignment of the floor will be done (raised hands, voice notation, etc.)
- Motions must be submitted in writing and displayed for all.
- Voting may be done anonymously with provided feature

Phone:

Same as above except:

- Motions made orally must be given electronically to the secretary
- Votes must be submitted orally with roll call



Catch the Spirit of the Pacific Northwest!

Have you thought about how you can make a difference in DKG? President Becky Sadowski has encouraged us to consider how we can find meaningful opportunities to contribute and

to make a difference for a positive impact on women and children in our world.

Join us in Portland, Oregon for **“DKG: A World of Opportunities, Contributions, Impact”** for the International Conference on July 7-10, 2021. The Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront Hotel adjacent to a waterfront park on the Willamette River will provide for your comfort. [Go to the International website to register.](#)

* There is still time and space to sign up chapter members to attend the preconference on July 7th entitled, “Rejuvenating Your DKG Chapter”.

Strategic Action Plan adopted

A new Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021-2026 was adopted by the Executive Board at the Spring 2021 Convention. The SAP was developed over a year-long process of gathering data, seeking input and revision that involved many Washington State DKG members. Kudos to the committee led by Barb Clausen (Chi Cowlitz) and Janet LeBeau (Theta Yakima) for their outstanding and forward thinking work: Teri King (Iota Mason/Thurston), Rayna Charles (Tau Paulouse), Mary Rennie (Theta Yakima), Rosa Eilert (Zeta Wenatchee), JoAnne Vining (Alpha Lambda- Lower Yakima Valley), Nancy Guthrie (Alpha Tacoma), Mary Lou Gregory (Beta Chi Grays Harbor), and Debra Tarpley (Alpha Delta Seattle).

The SAP has three SMART goal areas: membership, leadership development, and program (Educational Excellence) with actions laid out for each of the five years of the plan, including timelines, accountability measures, persons responsible and costs. Full copies of the plan, along with forms, PowerPoint presentations, and the data that drove the plan may be found on the WSO web site. ([Strategic Action Plan 2021-2026](#)) Chapters are encouraged to download copies of the plans and forms to assist in the development of their own SAP aligned to the State Plan. Chapters are asked to develop plan in at least one area (or combine activities from all three goals) by this fall. Chapter plans are to be submitted to Past President Susan Fritts by the end of October 2021.

Membership actions are directed at supporting chapters and members as they come out of the pandemic and focus on strengthening/growing. The goal is for a 7% increase in membership, but especially in the first year, chapters are encouraged to think about strategies for reconnecting and reengaging current members with the aim of a recommitted membership and revitalized chapter. Teri King, second vice president and membership chair, will work with chapters on

retention and recruitment strategies. The Communications Committee will assist chapters to develop brochures and other marketing tools over the coming biennium.

Leadership development is critical for chapters to carry out activities and to pass the torch of leadership to new members. State SAP activities will focus on providing potential leaders with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take on chapter leadership roles. This will be accomplished through state meetings and conferences, but also at quadrant and area level trainings. Support will be provided at the chapter level to include such strategies as mentoring, co-positions, and support for attending leadership training both in-person and virtually.

The program (EEC) goal for the next five years presents opportunities for increased relevancy and service. The State EEC will be developing programs that chapters can use in such areas as social justice/equity, advocacy/legislative action, technology, wellness, and service, including support to early educators and literacy. Taped presentations will be made available to chapters and webinars offered throughout the year. Chapters are being asked to have four programs per year that focus on these areas. Chapters wishing to offer clock hours may submit proposals through the WSO program, Monique Harrison coordinator.

The State Strategic Plan is a blueprint for the Washington State Organization and for individual chapters to move DKG forward for the next five years. With relevant programs that provide value to members and prospective members, training for the next generation of leaders, and support to members, current and future, the WSO can fulfill its mission and become a greater force in promoting excellence in education and personal/professional development. What an exciting opportunity has been presented by the adoption of this plan.



Mindy Hoffman (Psi Kennewick) and Pat Bennett-Forman (Alpha Sigma Kitsap) had their article, "Early-Career Educators Reveal Critical Needs for DKG Support," published in the most recent volume (2021 Volume 87-3) of The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin *International Journal for Professional Educators*. They will be presenting their research at the Portland Conference in July.

Top 10 Chapter Strategies for a Post-pandemic World

Connie Rensink, International Member-at-large and the International guest speaker at the 2021 Washington State DKG Spring Convention, provided two workshops for chapter members that spoke to the need for chapters to make members their #1 priority, especially in this post-pandemic period. Noting that members are the heart of DKG – what would we be without them? – Rensink identified the “Top 10 Chapter Strategies” that successful chapters are adopting for the coming year (plus).

#10: Use technology to connect in ways that are natural to the members. What’s App is popular in Latin America and with younger members, but hand written notes may be best for others. The most successful chapters have surveyed members to find out what works for each member and then utilized multiple approaches to stay connected.

#9: Valuing members in a variety of ways helps each to feel connected to the group. Strategies might include ice breakers, spotlighting individual members, having a travelling award, little honoring celebrations, story sharing, planning time in meetings for sharing, using strategies like “dating games” to help members get to know each other.

#8: Getting out of the program “rut” by expanding the use of prospective members and young teachers as speakers, using taped programs or Zooming with another chapter (even an international one), having former scholarship recipients speak, and presenting topics of interest to prospective members, such as on a social justice topic.

#7: Reframe the conversation to revitalize member interest. Rather than seeing the problems in the chapter, discuss what you are proud of, what would excite members, how the chapter can be vibrant, responsive, relevant. Consider working with another chapter who shares your interests and characteristics (needn’t be geographically near you).

#6: Make wellness a focus. One chapter has a monthly wellness challenge for members (such as drinking more water, decluttering space, adding one exercise); another

sends member care packages. Starting meetings with a little dance or movement can be energizing and fun.

#5: Connect with International Committee members. Inviting a committee member to be a speaker for the chapter expands member understanding of the big picture of DKG and engages them in the bigger organization. It might even interest them in looking at state or international committee positions.

#4: Every member is a connected member. Do your members know about the DKG chat rooms and blogs? There are many special interest chat groups that members could join to enhance their growth and connectedness. Don’t have many younger members in your chapter? Do they leave after a few years because there is no one like them in the chapter? These chat connections and blogs could help. Do members know how to access the services and benefits at International? Apply for grants?

#3: Technology. Technology. Technology. While we might all be a little Zoom fatigued, technology is not going away. Successful chapters are thinking about how to capitalize on its use: hybrid meetings, mentoring early educators through virtual connections, creating a chapter You Tube site, partnering with other organizations for webinars, etc. And successful chapters are trying to include members without technology or limited experience with computer buddies and short “how to” lessons.

#2: Expanding use of Teacher Resources. Many chapters are discovering that they can add value to DKG membership by participating in webinars such as provided by the U.S. Forum or the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). Study sessions around articles in the DKG publications and submitting articles for publication, subscribing to DKG Blogs, and using the many resources for programming, and membership and grant opportunities provided by DKG Committees are potential ways for teachers to get more value from DKG.

Continued on page 10, see *Strategies*

Strategies for a Post-pandemic World

#1: Relationship building. Members cite their relationships with other DKG members as one of the reasons they remain in DKG. Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment at meetings is essential for retaining members. Calling absentees to determine why they aren't attending and what can the chapter do for them is another successful strategy used by growing chapters. Having sessions outside the normal meeting, such as a coffee or social time can help build relationships.

Connie also addressed strategies for expanding membership in her Round Table discussion "Moving DKG Forward." Recruiting in groups so that the new member already knows someone when they join is helpful, particularly for enhancing diversity in membership. Some chapters have had success following their partnership with local colleges and other agencies.

Leadership challenges might be met by mentoring, shadowing positions for a year, chunking out some to the duties to others and supporting the leadership in the room.

Thinking outside the box, staying focused on the goal and the individual member, and, ultimately, recognizing and supporting what members value about DKG are the best strategies chapters can adopt to meet the challenges of a post-pandemic DKG. Promoting the best of what we offer and showing our pride in membership is still essential to growth just as it was before COVID, though perhaps with a different perspective and greater appreciation having survived the pandemic. Thank you Connie for your wisdom in sharing these thoughts and reminding us to be the best of who we are.

FICTION

BALDACCI, DAVID. *A Minute to Midnight*, Atlee Series, Detective searches for her missing twin sister and mother.

CHILD, LEE. *Blue Moon*, Jack Reacher Series, Ex-military Jack is on another adventure with a new girlfriend.

CURTIS, RYE. *Kingdomtide* 72 yr. old woman survives a plane crash and travels for 40+ days to find help.

ERDRICH, LOUISE. *The Last Watchman* Native Americans seeking better lifestyle get representation in Congress.

MASON, TIM. *Darwin Affair* Victorian England and threat to Prince Albert's life.

PENNY, LOUISE. *Still Life* (2005) *All the Devils Are Here* (2020) Chief Inspector Gamache Series, Canadian author's Inspector fights corruption and solves crimes in big cities and backwoods' villages.

NON FICTION

BRYSON, BILL. *At Home: A Short History of Private Life*, Author living in England tells what different rooms in a house were used for; styles of clothing; property management and influence on American culture.

The Body: A Guide for Occupants, A big book but very interesting. Author guides you from your brain to your toes with many incidental stories illustrating the factual knowledge acquired by scientists to understand the function of body parts.

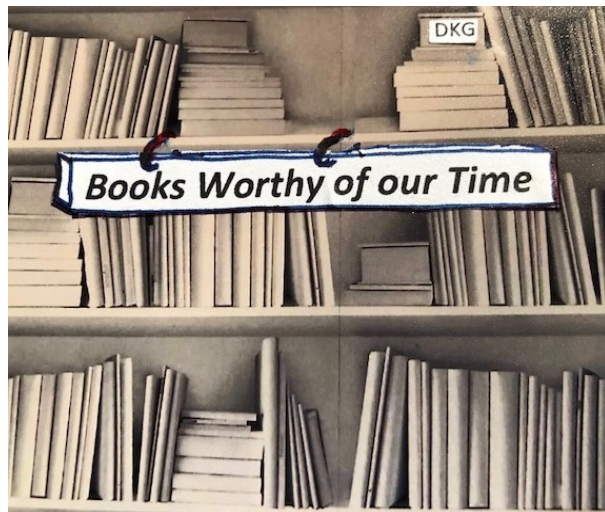
CLINTON, HILLARY. *Book of Gutsy Women*, Hillary and daughter write about women who were leaders of their time.

GATES, MELINDA. *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*, Money from Gates Foundation is used in several parts of the world to change women's lives and sometimes cultural beliefs.

NOAH, TREVOR. *Born a Crime*, "Light Skin" boy growing up in South Africa tells how apartheid influenced the lives of all people and still today.

STEARNS, TREVOR. *Edgar Cayce-The Sleeping Prophet*, Author researches Cayce's prediction of two world wars; a cure for cancer; the destruction in New York, California and Alaska and much more knowing that Cayce was a sixth grade dropout.

TRUMP, MARY N. *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created The World's Most Dangerous Man*, Donald's niece tells how his "toxic" family shaped and excused his motives and actions.



Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation

The Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of awards for fiscal year 2021 to 2022 (July 1 to June 30).



Amy McLaughlin from Kennewick, WA is working on her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at WSU.



Erin Murphy from Poulsbo, WA is working on her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at WSU.



Amii Pratt from Bainbridge Island, WA is working on her Superintendent credentials at WSU.

Since 1967 the Foundation has awarded a total of \$954,995.00 supporting 445 awards. It is your support and generosity that keeps this fund alive and working. As a 501(c)(3) Charitable Trust your donations are fully tax deductible. Please send your donation, memorial, honorarium, or "just because" made out to RRPSF to:

Carol Linscott, Treasurer
2508 19th Ave S
Seattle, WA 98144-5148

The impact of scholarship-RRPSF



This past year has been unforgettable for many reasons. As all of us educators know, the Covid-19 crisis found the weak spots in our educational systems and made our jobs incredibly difficult. Our mental health was at jeopardy and some of us lost students or family members in the worst way. Nobody knew how to teach during a pandemic, but here we are a year later, adapted and pushing forward. Many things have been hard this past year, but I will say there has been one silver lining for me and that has been the opportunity

and time to pursue a Master's Degree in Physics Education. I still have student loan debt from my undergraduate degree that I started over twelve years ago, so when I decided to pursue higher education my goal was to be sure I was not accruing more debt. With the help of the RRPSF I was able to secure funds I needed to pay off a semester of school and I am proud to say I collected no new debts. I am extremely grateful for what this Foundation represents and has done for so many other talented educators. Enjoy your summer, you have SO earned it!

Stay Healthy & Well!
Amber Stvartak

WSO Achievement Awards presented virtually

Sherri Wagemann, Immediate Past President

Congratulations to our Washington State Organization Achievement Award winners MaryLou Gregory, Beta Chi Grays Harbor and Terri Diehm, Beta Delta Auburn. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we celebrated both the 2020 and 2021 recipients' achievements during the May 1 "virtual" spring convention banquet. Awards were forwarded to their chapters for a personal presentation.



Beta Chi Grays Harbor Chapter hosted the Founders' Dinner at the home of Joan Watters. Catered box dinners were served. Dorothy Crow presented MaryLou Gregory with 2020 State Achievement Award certificate, pin, and yard sign. All in the picture are Beta Chi members, as is the photographer, unless otherwise noted.

Left to right front row: Joan Watters, Dorothy Crow, MaryLou Gregory, Cyndie Braden, Barbara Peters; second row: Merrily Stewart (Phi Chapter), Vicki Lentz, Eileen Schermer, Cheryl Hancock (Phi Chapter), Doris Tieder. Photo by Kimberly Wells.

Beta Delta Auburn had a Zoom chapter meeting and celebrated Terri's Achievement Award. They put a photo of the yard sign on a PowerPoint for the event.





DKG around the state

Area IX Area Liaison Jan Morgan Phi Grays Harbor/Pacific

IOTA Mason & Thurston Counties

What a crazy chaotic year. IOTA members are resilient and continued where we left off last spring with chapter meetings via Zoom using both phone and video access options. Space, grace, and kindness are the themes we have focused around this year. We had a special chapter meeting with a panel discussion by our active teachers who shared what they were going through with virtual school and retired members asking how to support them during this difficult time. It was a moment where true understanding and sisterhood took over. We have also hosted excellent speakers such as Carolyn Maddux of Hypatia in the Woods and will soon be hosting Billie Howard, Mason County historian. We are also continuing to support our Little Free Libraries throughout Mason and Thurston counties to help keep people reading and exploring. A potential new member has been visiting our meetings throughout the year and we have a potential transfer into our chapter as well. We are blessed to have such amazing, caring women in our chapter.

Beta Chi Grays Harbor

Beta Chi Grays Harbor chapter has stayed in touch with each other during this pandemic year thanks to Zoom. Usually there are no meetings during the summer but they held get-togethers virtually each month just to catch up with each other. Programs for the regular meetings (on Zoom) were from the international website's collection of videos from last summer's virtual convention and also from sessions held at other national conventions.

Usually, the chapter puts together literacy packets to be distributed to new babies born at Grays Harbor Community Hospital. This was curtailed during the past year.

Instead literacy packets went to the Clothing Bank to be given with the layettes they prepare for newborns. In 2020 and 2021, Beta Chi donated a scholarship of \$750 to a woman in the education program at Grays Harbor College and also a \$500 scholarship for child care there.

Beta Chi postponed holding the 2020 Area IX Workshop and plans to do one in November 2021. Also, it was Beta Chi's turn to host Phi chapter for a Founders' Day dinner last spring and this too was postponed. This spring Beta Chi is planning to host this dinner as a bring your own brown bag picnic in the yard at the home of one of our members. They hope for good weather and a pleasant evening.

Phi Chapter Grays Harbor/Pacific

The 20/21 year has certainly been a challenge for all of us. In September, we welcomed our new member Lynette Reime, retired principal from North Beach Elementary. Our first ZOOM meeting was such great fun connecting with some of our members. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to participate. In October, member Vicki Clingen presented an overview of virtual school with her Kindergarten class. Virtual teaching was a real eye-opener. In January, we had Doris Reed an acupuncturist and in March we had Shawna Moody from Sweet Leaf Cannabis. They provided us with ways to cope with the past Covid year. And in February, we had Alan Rammer-Marine Outreach Educator for Fish and Wildlife in western Washington. He always has a light-hearted, up-lifting informative program. This time it began with his special "Angel Story" followed by cool stuff you can find along our coastline. We ended our year by raising \$2735 for our Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all our members for their donations, since we could not do our usual fund raisers.

Important Dates

June 8, 2021	DKG Int'l Conference—last day for Early Registration www.dkg.org
July 1, 2021	DKG Dues for 2021-2022 are due.
July 7-10, 2021	DKG International Conference, Portland, OR www.dkg.org
July 15, 2021	WA State Org. News deadline dkgwanews@gmail.com
October 2-3, 2021	Fall Board, Yakima Red Lion NOTE: This is a Saturday-Sunday conference.

The Alpha Sigma News is published online four times per year: August 15, November 15, February 15, and May 15.

Washington Website:

www.dkgwa.org

Send articles to:

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Kent, WA 98042-0842

(253) 630-5048

Email: dkgwanews@gmail.com

(please e-mail pictures in .jpg format)

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

Strategic Action Plan 2021 - 2026

Membership

GOAL: Strengthen chapters, support members, and recruit new members, yielding an increase of 7% each year.

- Assess chapters' demographics for potential leaders: ethnicity, age, career status, etc. to be aware of leadership.
- Implement a plan to retain, recruit, and support new members. Example: Rose Trio: for each new member—one recruits, one interacts, one involves; and retain current members.

Leadership

GOAL: Recruit, train, and support new leaders at the chapter/state level with at least 15 new leaders each biennium.

- Promote programs made easy, interactive activities to raise engagement, leadership scenarios, technology, leadership styles, encouraging attendance, motivational programs, mentorship, etc.
- Market leadership opportunities available through International and State: Leadership Management Seminar, Holden Fund, Cornet, WSO scholarships/stipends, etc. on a personal one-on-one basis in chapters.

Program

GOAL: Annually implement and measure the impact/effectiveness of four programs that advance educational excellence and social justice/equity, personal & professional development, and service and global awareness.

- Assist chapters in developing goals and plans to incorporate programs that include personal growth (wellness and technology), professional development, social justice, political education issues, and service.
- Promote programs at the state and chapter level to support early-career educators and other active teachers, including clock hour offerings, mentorships and volunteer opportunities.