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Winter 2021

The **Alpha Sigma News**

Welcome International Guest Connie Rensink

Washington DKG members are very fortunate to have International Guest Connie Rensink join us at our Washington State Convention, whether it be virtual or in-person. Ms. Rensink will be our keynote speaker at the banquet, moderator at a round table discussion, present a workshop and provide updates from DKG International. We are delighted to have Ms. Rensink share her wisdom and passion with us.

Connie Rensink has been a member of Theta Chi, Texas since 2006. She is a graduate of the Leadership Management Seminar and has held leadership positions at the chapter and state organization levels. At the international level, Ms. Rensink has served on the Membership Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and then chaired the Membership Committee. She currently serves DKG as Webmaster for Theta Chi, Texas State Parliamentarian, International Member-at-Large, DKG Strategic Plan Committee Chair, International Revitalization Committee Chair, International Task Force Member, and DKG/NGO representative to the United Nations. Her favorite part of the Society is meeting other members and learning about their DKG journey.

Ms. Rensink is the Director of Global Education and Outreach for iEARN-USA. As a global education specialist



with twelve years of experience in the classroom, she is dedicated to helping teachers and schools integrate global competency into existing curriculum and engaging students in global learning opportunities through iEARN projects.

Ms. Rensink believes that teaching children to be globally minded requires the teacher to pursue personal global experiences. She has completed graduate course work in China, a Fulbright – Hays Project Abroad to India, and the Global Competence Certificate (GCC) through World Savvy, Columbia University, and Asia Society. She has a M.Ed. in Reading and ESL. You can follow her on Twitter @rensink_connie.

Inside this Issue:

President’s Message.....	page 2	Important Dates.....	page 9
Educational Excellence	page 4	Proposed Budget	pages 10-11
Chapter Literacy Projects.....	page 6	Rachel Royston Scholarship Foundation	page 12
Strategic Action Plan.....	page 7	Convention	pages 14-15
Candidates	page 8	Bylaw/Standing Rule Proposals	pages 16-17

What Might a Virtual WSO State Convention Offer?

By Washington State President Susan Fritts



With no decision having been made at this time by Governor Inslee to keep the lockdown in place through April, and with the Executive Board input to Executive Secretary Paula Nichols regarding decisions not to attend the Red Lion Olympia (See note below*) for safety reasons, the Executive Committee must prepare for both.

Here is a glimpse of what a **Virtual State Convention** may look like: one week filled with fun activities, dozens of workshops (clock hours will be available) including Zoom lessons at three levels, elections and installation of state officers, art show, marketplace, slide presentation of Literacy Projects, Achievement Awards for 2020 and 2021, Scholarships, Birthday Celebration of our state's 80th birthday, "Celebration of Life" and a gathering of first timers. Daily breaks may include arts, exercise, dance, music, singing, "chatter", and even a scavenger hunt. We've included break-out rooms to engage with sisters across the state. Our International Guest Connie Rensink, Intl. Member-at-Large, will moderate a Round Table to discuss the future of DKG, update us on International information, present a workshop, and will be our keynote speaker on Saturday afternoon.

Get ready for a wonderful, eclectic and fun state convention during the week of April 26. We have attempted to keep times the same from day to day for your convenience, and consideration for those educators actively teaching. Therefore, we plan to block sessions during the week beginning at 5 pm. There will

be an Executive Board meeting on Thursday from 5-7 pm with a question and answer period afterwards for Strategic Action Plans, by Co-Chairs Barbara

Clausen and Janet LeBeau. The General Session will take place Friday evening when members can vote on Amendments and SAPs, after which International Guest Rensink will moderate the Round Table. We will end with our 80th Birthday Celebration. Who can create the fanciest cupcake ever? Saturday, a series of workshops will be offered in the morning. A lengthy break will follow before convening for the Keynote Speaker Connie Rensink, Installation of State Officers, and presentation of Scholarship and Achievement Awards. You won't want to miss any of these events!

Our goal is to create an environment of learning and celebration, ways to connect with each other and find a sense of light heartedness and laughter during this pandemic. Please plan on joining as many events as you can.

"Embracing Possibilities: Leading with Wisdom and Passion"
"Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide"

***Note**—Washington State Organization has a contract with the Red Lion Olympia Hotel for our state convention April 30-May 2, 2021, which cannot be canceled without potential loss of a large amount of money. This occurred last year, but was waived since Governor Inslee decreed that no large groups could convene.



Book your room now - no penalty to cancel

Hotel rooms for the DKG Portland International Conference are now available. [Click here to get to hotel registration and see a preliminary program for the conference.](#) If the conference has to go virtual due to the pandemic, your hotel booking can be cancelled with no penalty. Registration for the conference is \$160, whether it is in person or virtual.



Leadership Opportunity

Encouragement by State Pres. Susan Fritts

YOUR **Leadership** is needed! All members have the ability to become effective DKG leaders! Take advantage of opportunities to lead at the state level. The newly installed president at our state convention will be filling positions. Let her know that YOU are willing to take on one of those positions. During these times of change, help Washington State to make our Society stronger with your commitment, passions and **leadership**. As my theme reminds us, "embrace possibilities by leading with wisdom and passion".

Once every 10 years,
Washington State voting-district maps
can change. Let's make sure they are fair.

Find out why these maps matter.

The League of Women Voters
WSO DKG & Fix Democracy First
invite you to learn:



- About district maps
- How you can provide input
- How to make sure your voice and vote count

Register for **Speak Up School Sessions!**

Redistricting 101

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:00 – 8:00p.m.

Testimony Writing & Testifying

Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:00 am - 12:30

Data Lenses

March 11, 2021 6:00 - 7:30 pm



Learn more & Register at www.dkg.org

District lines drawn in 2021 will determine how strong a voice each voter has in coming elections for the next 10 years.

2019-2021

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DKG service includes International component



Pat Bennett-Forman
First Vice President
Educational Excellence Chair

Note: *this is the sixth in a series on the pillars of DKG Educational Excellence as described in the November 2019 edition of the Alpha Sigma News to include Advocacy, Professional Development, Personal Well-being and Service.*

DKG is committed to educational excellence worldwide which is why the second line of service in our chapters, paralleling the work done within the local community, is participation in international service projects. DKG members devote time and resources

to support educators around the world both through the partnership between DKG and the United Nations, and through chapter partnerships with distinct schools and organizations abroad. These global service projects are less well-known to DKG members than activities around our communities or scholarships which explains two International DKG EEC goals for this biennium: to increase support for Schools for Africa and to promote DKG/U.N. activities.

DKG has partnered with UNICEF since 1996, focusing on building schools and promoting opportunities for education, especially for girls. Since 2010, when it became an official DKG International program, the emphasis has been on the Schools for Africa Project. DKG has contributed over \$450,000 to the Project to build and equip schools in more remote corners of sub-Saharan countries, helping impact the education of 30 million children.

In 1995, DKG was recognized as an official Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations. Because of its “sustained and substantial contributions,” DKG was granted “consultative status” by the U.N. Economic and Social Council in 2003. In consequence of that recognition, DKG has eight NGO representatives who, along with other similar organizations, receive weekly briefings from the U.N. Those individuals report back to the Society and work with the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) to provide various training opportunities and

conferences for educators. The CTAUN Conferences bring together world leaders and experts to discuss a variety of critical topics, including such issues as refugees, global warming, and treatment of indigenous peoples. CTAUN also provides curricular materials related to the U.N. and its mission to educators.

Chapters are encouraged to learn more about DKG’s involvement with the U.N. and Schools for Africa by referring to the International website. A weekly newsletter, DKG@UN, can keep members informed of international concerns and work. Details of the CTAUN conferences, past and future, are available. See the “About Us” tab and scroll down to “DKG/UN Relationship.” Updates, videos, and Power Point presentations about Schools for Africa may be found under the “Programs/Projects” tab on the International website. The potential use of these materials for chapter programs is evident once the sites are explored.

Washington State is fortunate to welcome Connie Rensink as our International Guest for the Spring 2021 Convention. Connie serves as one of the DKG NGO representatives to the U.N. and has extensive involvement with educational organizations that promote global competency for students. Connie has agreed to offer a workshop on these topics at Fall Board 2021.

As chapter representatives learn about DKG’s international service work, they are encouraged to consider offering a program at a chapter meeting to share this information and to discuss how the chapter might become more engaged with DKG international service work, particularly Schools for Africa donations and participation in DKG/U.N. activities. At the same time, Joanne Vining, the WSO EEC Service Projects Coordinator, invites chapters to share the special projects they have taken on to support schools and/or students in other countries.

WSO offers *Redistricting Speak-Up School*

by Pat Bennett-Forman, 1st VP/ EEC Chair

The Washington State Organization DKG is presenting a workshop series in March 2021 to inform members about redistricting concepts and issues and to provide training in giving testimony before the Washington Redistricting Commission this spring. The Speak Up School workshops were developed by the Washington State League of Women Voters and will be given by a combination of redistricting experts and a team of DKG members trained in the workshops.

A Redistricting 101 workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Alison McCaffree who chairs the League's redistricting committee and is a nationally recognized speaker on the topic. The workshop will provide information on why and how redistricting takes place, the issues that frequently occur with redistricting, and why YOU should attend the Commission's work and testify before them.

On Saturday, March 6, 2021, the DKG team that has been trained in the Speak Up School modules will present units on how to write and deliver testimony with practice exercises and plenty of resources to assist members in preparing testimony. An advantage of these sessions is that the skills taught are transferrable to any situation in which a member might advocate before a decision maker: school boards, county or city councils, and state or national legislatures. Workshop facilitators are Keitha Bryson, Marge Lofstrom, Nancy Sheng and Pat Bennett-Forman. The session will run from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. with follow-up opportunities with coaches later in the month.

On March 11, 2021 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Alison McCaffree will present another workshop for those interested in learning about the impact of different perspectives on where to draw district lines. Called the Data Lenses Project, it helps participants to understand how race, poverty, tribal affiliation, environment and industry can suggest new ways of drawing lines.

Why redistricting?

Members may wonder why offer workshops on redistricting? Did you realize that the U.S. Constitution requires a census every ten years for the purpose of

reapportioning the number of Congressional representatives from each state and that the states use that census data to also reapportion State Legislative districts? Once the number of representatives is known, the Redistricting Commission is charged with trying to ensure that each district's boundaries reflect changes in population and ensure that they are approximately equal in size. The requirements are that the boundary lines be drawn so as not to favor one party or class and that, if possible, communities are within the same district.

The results of redistricting define the political power for the next ten years. They are also used to determine the annual distribution of approximately \$900 billion of federal funds. The way redistricting decision makers divide the population can protect incumbents or increase the likelihood of more competitive races. Redistricting can improve the chances that all communities are represented and have a voice in government and increase the accountability of elected officials to their constituents. Issues like gerrymandering need to be understood and testimony given to discourage such practices.

Are there problems with the Washington State boundaries that we need to address before the Redistricting Commission? You bet! Six Washington Tribes, including the Colville and the Yakima, are divided between legislative districts. Cities, such as Kelso, Bremerton and Spokane are divided between districts. Districts have been drawn that effectively disenfranchise populations. All of our Congressional districts are either too big or too small in terms of population distribution and will need to be adjusted by the next Redistricting Commissioners who begin their work this spring.

There is much to learn about this essential feature of our democracy and the important role to be played by ordinary citizens. Policy makers and the community need to hear from us to improve circumstances around issues we care about. Yes, even education issues are determined by the way in which Legislative and Congressional boundaries are drawn. Look for details about the Speak Up School on the DKG web site and sign up for those sessions that most tweak your interests.

State Literacy Project Update

By Joanne Vining, State EEC Service Projects Coordinator

What have you been doing to celebrate a new year with a new beginning? Have you been lifted up, ready to begin a new adventure? Do you feel like maybe with the vaccine, there will be a light at the end of the tunnel? Are you ready for new challenges and new hope that this pandemic is coming to a close? I know I am getting excited about not wearing a mask and keeping socially distanced and being able to see some family and friends. But don't get too carried away yet, because we still need to mask up and keep our distance for a while more as we make sure that the virus is gone. Hang in there. Maybe by the end of the year.

I have received word that two more chapters have been doing their literacy projects despite the pandemic and they are absolutely wonderful. Ruth Wolberg of Alpha Psi Pasco reports that her chapter has been buying and delivering books to their local Domestic Violence Service and Shelter. Kati Wilson, a chapter member, volunteered to order 80 Scholastic books of different grade levels after members sent her donations to pay for them. These books were then delivered to the center for children whose parents are victims of domestic violence. This happened in December and I have a feeling that they were a welcome Christmas present. This chapter has adopted this organization and supported them for many years. Isn't this a wonderful way to "get books into the hands of children"? Way to go Alpha Psi!

Kappa Kent reports another fantastic literacy project. Co-Presidents Lynn Thompson and Kenda Chambers shared that their First Vice President, Sue Perez, organized a speaker from Vine Maple Place for a virtual chapter meeting centered around literacy. The speaker spoke about the need for books at VMP with the end goal being to break the generational cycle of homelessness. Counselors work with the families and one thing they provide is books to help the parents make positive changes in their lives and the lives of their children. The books give concrete ways for parents and children to develop empathy and encourage children to become emotionally strong during stressful situations. Homelessness is a real problem, and growing, and these



Ruth Wolberg, President of Alpha Psi Pasco delivering books for the shelter to Diana Izaguirre of the Domestic Violence Service.

children may feel neglected. What a great idea to reach out to them and help them through parental involvement. There is also a way for you to make a direct donation: <http://bit.ly/DeltaKappaGamma>. Addressing homelessness is a must for a literacy project. Susan Fritts writes, "what a wonderful way to support your parents and students in literacy by providing educational resources. Thank you for stepping forward with your leadership to promote our Literacy Project. You are a role model for other chapters across the state. Congratulations!" I couldn't have said it better.

Just think of what a difference you are making to "put books into the hands of children." It is inspiring. Don't forget to also put articles in your local newspapers sharing what DKG is doing to make this world a better place for women and children. Thank you for all of your work in making this a very successful project!

WE HEARD YOU!

Barbara Clausen, WSO SAP Co-Chair & Parliamentarian

Thank you to the many DKG WSO members who responded to the member survey, the chapter presidents' survey, and to all of the leaders who have supported the Strategic Action Planning efforts for the 2021-2026 plan. Having a long, steady vision for the future with some flexibility each year, to adjust the plans as times change, is needed—as we see in these times!

We have provided a summary of survey results, and a link to the complete draft of the action plans.

We used the state demographic data, the program survey, as well as other feedback. To this effort the SAP committee has established SMART Goals to hold us accountable for progress and communications back to the Executive Board to close the feedback loop. The goals are:

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

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

Program (EEC): Implement and measure the impact/effectiveness of four programs that provide professional and personal development, advance social justice/equity, and encourage service/global awareness.

Please look over the proposals carefully to see if it is a match to the needs. If you have any suggestions, please respond to [Janet Le Beau](#) and [Barbara Clausen](#).

Our special thanks to the very hard working, brilliant committee to whom we are deeply indebted: Teri King, Rayna Charles, Mary Rennie, Rosa Eilert, Joanne Vining, Nancy Guthrie, Mary Lou Gregory, Debra Tarplay, and fabulous data-cruncher, and Co-chair Janet LeBeau!

Follow the link below to view the complete text of the proposed Strategic Action Plan. The proposal is divided into three goals, Membership, Program/EEC and Leadership. Each proposal guides expectations for the state and chapters to be successful.



[Strategic Action Plan](#)
[2021-2026](#)

2020 Strategic Plan DKG Member Survey Highlights

Responses

Members-274/680=40%; Chapters-27/29=93%;

Member Profile Majority Answers: The typical respondents were Caucasian, retired, aged 61 to 70 and DKG members for 1-5 years.

Chapter Profile Feedback

Membership: Chapters reported success with being able to attract women from diverse demographics and educational roles, and with using technology, scholarships, and/or community to promote DKG.

Programs: Members reported that their programs and community promote involvement in social and political issues involving children and education, and their chapter was involved in meaningful service projects.

Leadership: Members agreed that their chapter provided opportunities for all members to grow, and mentored members to become leaders.

What Interests You the Most?

Members rated their interest in various program and workshop descriptions. The topics deemed most interesting fell into the following categories:

- * **Legislative / Education Issues:** Technology inequality and how it impacts students
- * **Leadership Program:** Mentoring new leadership
- * **Technology Program:** Computer, software, internet and Zoom assistance
- * **Social Justice Issue:** Racial Equality
- * **Creative Presentation:** All the Arts (arts, music photography, etc.) and Crafts are needed
- * **Other:** Wellness

For the complete survey summary, visit the Strategic Action Plan 2021-2026 page at www.DKGWA.org

Candidates for leadership positions

by Jane Carden, Nominations Chair

The following candidates are presented for your consideration. Elections will occur at Spring Convention, April 26—May 2, 2021.



Pat Bennett-Forman, Alpha Sigma, Kitsap, is the **candidate for President**. She has served as Washington State Organization's First Vice President for the last biennium. Pat received her B.A. from Randolph Macon Women's College and her M.Ed. from UW in Special Education. She served in various administrative capacities from 1971 to 2000. From 2000-2013, Pat coordinated Title I and Learning Support Services. She also supervised building ELL and Native American staff. Pat has been Chapter President, and has served on Professional Affairs and Communications State Committees. She was a participant of the 2012 Golden Gift Seminar and attended the National Legislative Seminar in 2018. Pat has presented workshops at all levels of the Society. She is active in Kiwanis, Kingston Cares, and League of Women Voters. Pat has enthusiasm, vision, and a commitment to promoting DKG as a professional organization.



Monique Harrison, Beta Sigma, Seattle is nominated for the **position of First Vice President**. Founding Principal of Ashe Preparatory Academy, doctoral candidate, Monique is currently Washington State Organization's Second Vice President and Membership Committee Chair. Monique Harrison, an inspiring leader and recipient of the RRPSF, has held leadership positions at the chapter and state levels. She served and attended state and international meetings. Currently she serves on the International Communications and Marketing Committee. Monique is a leader with a solid understanding of cultural responsiveness, an outstanding educator and is enthusiastic about equity in education. She is a people person, inspiring all with a great sense of humor.



Teri King, Iota, Mason and Thurston, **Second Vice President candidate**, received her Bachelor and Master's degrees from the University of Washington with a focus on Fisheries/Food Science. She is a Washington Sea Grant Aquaculture and Water Quality Specialist. She has served her chapter as communications secretary and is currently president. For Washington State Organization, Teri is currently serving on the Membership Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. For 25 years, Teri has served as treasurer for Pacific Rim Shellfish Sanitation and for six years has been the president of Pacific Coast National Shellfisheries Society. In addition, she is an active member of Shelton Skookum Rotary Foundation. Teri is an organized, inclusive, team player and looks forward to serving DKG.



Dr. Laurynn Evans, Alpha Sigma, Kitsap Chapter, **candidate for Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation**, was the 2008 scholarship recipient and the Margaret L. Harvin Award winner. Laurynn is currently Superintendent of North Kitsap School District. Dr. Laurynn began her teaching career in Plano, Texas. She received her doctorate from Seattle Pacific University. Her educational journey includes principal in the Lake Washington Schools and Executive Director of HR at the Singapore American School. She served on the Outstanding Educator Committee in her chapter. Laurynn’s positive, helpful attitude is infectious. She strives to bring quality education to her community in which her staff and students may thrive.



Anne Kristin Bishop, Beta Kappa, Oak Harbor, **candidate for the Nominations Committee**, received her B.A. and M.A. from Mount Saint University, majoring in Diversified Education, Special Education and English. She is currently a Fifth Grade Resource teacher but also has teaching experience as a special education teacher and general education instructor. Kris has experienced an International teaching fellowship as a teacher exchange in Australia for a year. Her service to Delta Kappa Gamma includes organizing and facilitating her chapter’s annual fundraiser, chapter president, and area liaison. In her community, she volunteers for the American Red Cross. Kris is a listener, an organized team player, and willing to go the extra mile.



Deirdre Curtis Catlin, Eta Chapter, Spokane, is the **nominee for Recording Secretary**. She received a Bachelor of Science in Geography at the United States Air Force Academy and a Master’s in Business Administration and Management from Embry -Riddle Aeronautical University. Dierdre has been an instructor and evaluator of multiple aircraft from initial military pilot to seasoned aviators. In addition, she was Operations Group Chief of Training, where she ensured the quality of training and instruction. She is the founder of Image Creations which empowers people to move beyond their past, beyond their coping strategies and step into their authentic self. Deirdre is innovative, positive, capable, and organized.

Important Dates

February 24, 2021	DKG US Forum www.usforumdkg.org	April 26-May 2, 2021	DKG WA State Org. Spring Convention Olympia Red Lion , see www.dkgwa.org
March 2, 6, 11, 2021	Speak Up School register online at www.dkgwa.org	May 1, 2021	Application deadline for Cornetet Grants www.dkg.org
March 15, 2021	Annual Reports due to Jessica Tufts and Susan Fritts jessica.tufts.dkg@gmail.com sdfritts@comcast.net	June 29-July 1, 2021	Creative Arts Retreat, Dumas Bay www.dkgwa.org
April 15, 2021	Deadline for articles, Alpha Sigma News dkgwanews@gmail.com	July 7-10, 2021	DKG International Conference, Portland, OR www.dkg.org

**THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
WASHINGTON STATE ORGANIZATION
PROPOSED WORKING BUDGET 2021-2022**

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

1. 675 Active Members (Currently 650 Members + 25 New Members) @ \$40	\$ 27,000.00
2. 61 Reserve Members @ \$15	915.00
3. 25 New Members @ \$2.50	62.50
4. Clock Hours	50.00
5. Convention	15,000.00
6. Directories	220.00
7. Rainbow Lodge	7,090.00
8. Fall Board	7,200.00
9. Interest on Available Fund Reserve	8.50
10. Rachel Royston Returns	20.00
11. Travel Fund	<u>75.00</u>
12. Estimate of Total Income	\$57,641.00
13. From 2020-2021 Carryover	\$ 4,219.00
14. PROJECTED INCOME NEEDED FOR 2020-2021	\$61,860.00

Grant-in-Aid, Scholarship, Stipend Fund only (Not a part of the total budget)

15. 711 Members @ \$1 each for Grant-In-Aid Fund	\$ 711.00
16. Edward Jones (Grant-in-Aid Fund)	-
17. Chapter Donations	<u>850.00</u>
18. Estimated Grant-in-Aid, Scholarship, Stipend Fund	\$ 1,561.00

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES

STATE BUSINESS

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
19. Achievement Award	\$ 50.00	50.00
20. Alpha Sigma News/Website/Zoom	200.00	500.00
21. Clock Hours	25.00	25.00
22. Directory	50.00	50.00
23. Executive Council/Transition Meeting	1000.00	1000.00
24. Fall Executive Board Meeting	6000.00	6000.00
25. Insurance, Liability (AIM)	450.00	450.00
26. Insurance, Travel (Boon-Chapman)	250.00	250.00
27. International Convention/Conference	5,000.00	5000.00
28. International Dues and Fees	140.00	180.00
29. International Representative/gifts	50.00	50.00
30. Leadership/Creative Arts Dumas Bay	7200.00	7200.00
31. Leadership/Personal Growth Rainbow Lodge	1200.00	1200.00
32. Legal Bond	220.00	220.00
33. Liaisons	3500.00	3500.00

34. Miscellaneous	50.00	50.00
35. National Legislative Seminar/U.S. Forum	2000.00	2000.00
36. Officers' Meals, Travel, Lodging	4,500.00	4500.00
37. Officers' Postage	200.00	250.00
38. Officers' Printing	250.00	250.00
39. Secretary of State	10.00	10.00
40. Speakers' Fund/Honorarium	100.00	100.00
41. State Convention	17000.00	17000.00
42. State Store Manager	350.00	350.00
43. State Store Merchandise	650.00	650.00
44. Storage Unit	1400.00	1650.00
45. Supplies	125.00	125.00
46. Tax Prep	500.00	500.00
47. Tech Support	200.00	200.00
48. Travel Fund	2000.00	2000.00
49. TOTAL STATE BUSINESS EXPENSES	\$ 54,670.00	\$ 55,310.00

COMMITTEES

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
50. Bylaws and Rules	\$ 500.00	500.00
51. Communications	1200.00	1200.00
52. Expansion/Dissolution	200.00	200.00
53. Finance	800.00	800.00
54. Leadership Development	600.00	600.00
55. Membership/Necrology	750.00	750.00
56. Nominations	500.00	500.00

SOCIETY MISSION & PURPOSES

57. Educational Excellence	1600.00	1600.00
58. State Grants-in-Aid/Scholarships/Stipends	400.00	400.00
59. TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 6,550.00

60. TOTAL BUSINESS EXPENSES	\$ 54,670.00	\$ 55,310.00
61. TOTAL WORKING BUDGET	\$ 61,220.00	\$ 61,860.00
62. ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		\$ 57,641.00
63. NEEDED FROM 2020-2021 CARRYOVER		\$ 4,219.00
64. TOTAL COMPLETE BUDGET	\$ 61,220.00	\$ 61,860.00

Rationale:

- 20. Increased: Increase due to addition of zoom for virtual meetings
- 28. Increased: Increase due to addition of one new state member
- 37. Increased: Increase due to post office increase
- 44. Increased: Increase due to storage company's increase

Reflections of scholarship recipients

Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation



One of the first things I heard as I began my doctoral studies, was that the process would be transformative.

Learning new things does change us, and the journey through my program definitely made me more

aware of my own growth over time as a teacher, and it pushed me to be a greater advocate of teaching specifically for democratic participation. Also, I have become more cognizant of the need for public education to be a model of just and equitable practices.

The combination of completing my dissertation and attempting to promote learning during the pandemic has been the greatest professional challenge of my thirty-two year career. However, the protests of 2020 and

the insurrection of January 6 2021 have proven that critical literacy—the ability to identify verifiable information and misinformation and to use knowledge to support a just and equitable society—must be the focus of social studies education, and it can be an inspiring component of language arts education too.

I am proud to have been supported in my studies by generous scholarship funds from DKG. I am also encouraged that organizations exist, in addition to public education, to improve learning and citizenship. My new goal as an educator is to work with pre-service and early service teachers to expand curriculum and teaching strategies that develop civic mindedness across grade levels, while building critical literacy skills.

Creativity, inquiry, joy in learning, and kindness are the traits I find essential as an educator and a person. I look forward to continuing my career-journey with a new appreciation of living the American experience while contributing to a more just and peaceful world.

--Dr. Tavia Quaid



At the heart of every educator is a firmly held belief and deep commitment to the joy and power of learning. Our journey as learners in this respect is never ending, though the paths we take vary at different

points in our life. While learning can take many forms, we often associate it with our own professional growth. Often the decision to go back to graduate school and resume the role as “student” is not undertaken lightly nor without some degree of trepidation.

As an educator who is grounded in servant leadership, a couple of years ago I found myself in the position

of being excited and intrigued at the prospect of serving students, staff and our community through a district level leadership position. However, I was challenged as to how to balance the costs associated with my own coursework (superintendent certification and doctoral program) while also supporting a child engaged in undergraduate studies with another to start a few years following. In addition, I was honestly nervous about going back to school, and found myself asking questions such as...will I be able to write and research at the level required, ...will there be enough time in the day to balance school, work, and our family, ...will what I learn truly be applicable to my position and supporting the communities in which I serve? While complexities and questions such as the ones I outlined above can halt forward progress on a journey, I am pleased to share that this was not the case in my story and that in large part

Continued on page 13 see *Reflections*



DKG US Forum Presents on Zoom

Legislative Issues for Our 117th Congress

February 24, 2021 7p.m. ET

Dr. Sylvia Johnson

Lobbyist for the National Education
Association (NEA)

Registration Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqfuivqTMiGtAvLmMTS5X7_vY_v_oSVa7l

For more information:

Daphne Cagle

usforumswrep@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Reflections continued from page 12

this is due to the support of the Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Board and the generosity of DKG members. Having received this scholarship over multiple years has provided me with the opportunity to both pursue my degree and also support the educational journey of my children. Without this support like I imagine many parents, I would have put my coursework on hold to ensure that my children could go to college. While the financial support has been significant, so too has the personal support that I have received from members of the Board and my fellow DKG members. Touching base with others on similar paths, or hearing reassurances and tips from those who have walked the path before has helped me to persevere through the tough times and to know that every journey is made easier when we walk it together.

—Erin Murphy

***The Island of the Sea Women* by Lisa See**

Recommended by Beth Schneidler, Alpha Sigma, Kitsap

A fictional story of the women who dive for sea life without scuba gear in all seasons, taking place on Jeju Island in Korea from 1930s to 2008. This is about friendship, forgiveness and loyalty.

***Astoria* by Peter Stark**

Recommended by Jan Blanchard, Alpha Tau, Tacoma/Puyallup

A well documented history of the exploration of the PNW and the establishment of the community of Astoria and the memoir of John Jacob Astor. Read and then take a road trip!

***My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman**

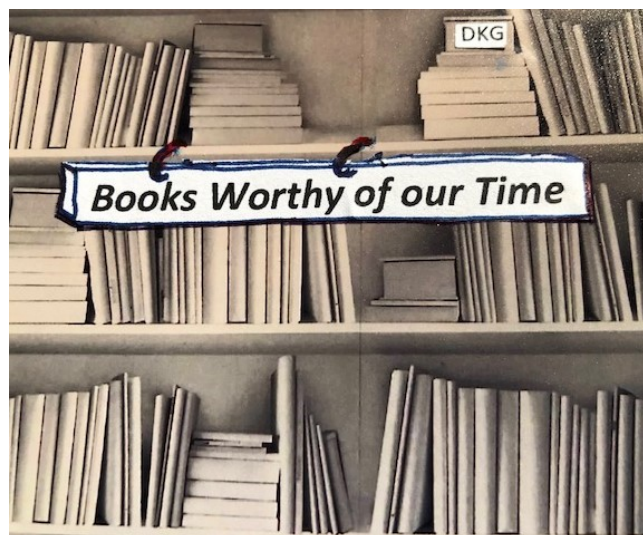
Recommended by Alpha Sigma, Kitsap member

Told from the perspective of a seven-year-old challenged by her dying grandmother and only friend to deliver a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged and thus begins an adventure combining fairy tales and mythical kingdoms with misfits, danger, and the discovery of family.

***Black Book* by James Patterson & David Ellis**

Recommended by Patty Swanson, Alpha Tau, Tacoma/Puyallup

An ingenious thriller about power, corruption and the power of secrets to scandalize a city and possibly destroy a family.



WA State Convention 2021 Spring Convention

April 26, 2021—May 2, 2021

“Embracing Possibilities: Leading with Wisdom and Passion”

Conference Schedule at a Glance

As explained in the President’s column, while the State Executive Committee awaits Governor Inslee’s decision regarding limitations on large group activity, the Spring Convention may be completely online or it may be a hybrid model (partly online and partly in-person). Below is a glimpse of the proposed schedule for the Convention if it is completely online. A more detailed schedule will be posted on the state DKG website and sent in an email blast to all members once questions have been answered regarding the exact configuration of the event.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Opening: Welcome, Orientation, Workshop Overview, First Timers 5:00—6:30	Workshop Sessions: 5:00—6:30	Workshop Sessions: 5:00—6:30	5:00—7:00 Executive Board Meeting (elections)	5:00—7:00 General Session (voting on Bylaws, Standing Rules, SAP, etc.)	AM Workshop Sessions : 8:30—12:30 Chapter Chats	Executive Committee
Celebration of Life 7:00—7:30 Social	Workshop Sessions: 7:00—8:30	Workshop Sessions: 7:00—8:30	SAP Q&A 7:00—7:30 Workshop Sessions: 7:00—8:30	Round Table Discussion 7:15—8:15 Birthday Celebration Social	Celebrations and Awards “Banquet” 3:00—6:00 Installation of officers Social	Workshop Sessions 4:00—5:30
	Fast Break: art	Fast Break: dance	Fast Break: travel	Fast Break: music	Fast Break: yoga	

Special Conference Workshop Sessions

Chapter Leaders Workshop: Creating a Chapter Strategic Action Plan

Participants will discuss adapting the new WSO SAP to their chapters, including creating SMART goals and accountability timelines. Recommended for presidents, membership chairs and EEC/program chairs and other chapter leaders. **Presenters: Janet LeBeau** (Theta Yakima), and **Barb Clausen** (Chi Kelso), State SAP Committee Chair

Round Table Discussion: Moving DKG Forward: Let Your Voices Be Heard

Join International guest speaker Connie Rensink and chapter representatives to discuss organizational issues, what is working and what challenges need support from International. Audience members are encouraged to “make their voices heard” with ideas and concerns. **Facilitator: Connie Rensink**, International Member-at-Large

Conference Workshop Sessions

Clock hour offerings noted by *

- 1. Zoom 101*** Provides a basic introduction for new Zoom users on how to use Zoom features such as signing on, muting audio, camera options, raising your hand, responses and chat options, locating the speaker/gallery view options, changing your name, etc.
 - 2. Hosting a Zoom meeting*** Learn how to schedule a Zoom meeting, send out invitations, regulate chat, turn audio and cameras off/on, share screen, transfer hosts, co-hosts, let folks into the meeting, etc.
 - 3. Hi-tech Zoom*** For more advanced Zoom users, learn the more technical aspects of Zoom meetings, such as creating polls, recording and editing, making copies of chat, sending out reminders, and other control functions for the host.
 - 4. Making Connections with Early Educators*** Explore strategies and activities for chapters to support early career educators in ways that they have expressed interest in and need for: mentoring and building relationships, volunteering, and in-depth work with special needs populations.
 - 5. STEM 1*** Environmental Education and Global Warming
Learn about Green Schools Washington goals and curriculum and share the success stories as they have implemented the Next Generation Science Standards in their schools.
 - 6. STEM 2*** Environmental Education/Marine Science
See and experience examples of the activities and curriculum used to engage students in marine science in a small rural district as a vehicle for environmental education.
 - 7. Mental Health*** Learn about factors and warning signs for mental health concerns, particularly suicide, strategies for helping someone in crisis or non-crisis situation, and resources to get help.
 - 8. Redistricting 101*** Every 10 years, the state redraws its Congressional and Legislative boundaries with impact on politics and legislation for the next decade. That once a decade time is now – spring and summer 2021. What is redistricting all about and why should you become involved in the process?
 - 9. Effective Advocacy*** Learn how to write and deliver effective testimony for any decision-making body: school boards, county commissioners, or state and national legislative entities, for in-person or written comments on issues impacting excellence in education, retirement concerns, and others.
 - 10. Social Justice*** Build a more equitable public school program by looking at racism, poverty, and language barriers and strategies for making a difference.
 - 11. DKG Top 10 Chapter Strategies for a Post-Pandemic World** Hear about and share ideas and inspirations for COVID and post-COVID chapter engagement. International guest speaker Connie Rensink.
 - 12. Treasurer training** Work with State Treasurer to ensure chapter compliance with fiscal accountability requirements and use of the International dues processing program.
 - 13. Strategic Action Plan Q & A** Use this opportunity to ask questions of SAP Committee members about the proposed WSO Strategic Action Plan for 2021—2026.
- Plus Fast Breaks** Enjoy 15-30 minute fun action sessions with other DKG members on a variety of topics: art, music, dance, travel, yoga, and other fun activities (like a scavenger hunt), plus chapter chats or sharing sessions, all within the confines of online learning.

Did You Know?

by Nancy Sauer, Bylaws Chair

Did you know that our *Bylaws* provide the basic rules of our Washington State Organization while the *Standing Rules* relate to the administrative details of our governing documents? Therefore, when reviewing these proposed amendments, you'll see suggested amendments in both our *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules*. The line number reflects the location of the proposed amendment topic in our *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* documents located on the WSO website under the *About Us* tab.

Did you know the Alpha Sigma newsletter is referenced over a dozen times in our *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules*?

Did you know the state newsletter now comes out four times a year? However, this has created a domino effect on when various tasks are now due. Several amendments address those deadline changes.

Did you know our current governing documents interchange the words Scholarships, Grants-in-Aid and Stipends? The International DKG Parliamentarian reviewed our state's *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules*; in her summary she explained the difference between scholarships and grants-in-aid/stipends. She suggested that our Grants-in-Aid Committee be renamed (Scholarship Committee or Stipend and Scholarship Committee) and that consistent language be used to describe the committee and the two types of funds that the committee is responsible for. She helped to clarify how the \$1 Scholarship fee can be used. WSO organization members can also apply for stipends that are funded from donations.

Did you know most chapters raise funds to support chapter grants-in-aid sometimes called scholarships for chapter members or non-members? Chapters may refer to it as a scholarship; however, the funds come from donations/fundraisers at the chapter level. Amendment proposals have been submitted to help clarify the difference between scholarships and grants-in-aid/stipends.

Did you know our Executive Committee has submitted numerous amendment proposals as they suggest combining two committees into one since they have similar goals and tasks? (Membership, Expansion/Dissolution; similar to the international proposed

amendment) Look for more information in the proposed amendments below.

Did you know our Executive Committee has also suggested that a separate Education Policy/Legislation committee be created thus dividing up and focusing the tasks of the Educational Excellence Committee (EEC)?

Did you know there are some 'housekeeping' tasks to address along with a few other ideas to present to our members at the state convention? Look for these amendment proposals, too.

"Cliffs Notes" of the Proposed WSO Bylaws and Standing Rules Amendments

Proposed Bylaw Amendments :

- Change of date when potential members can join for reduced dues. (Jan. 1 - March 14 International)
- Guideline clarification for Scholarships and Stipends; also renaming Grants-in-Aid Committee to Stipend and Scholarship committee and addition of required stipend for parliamentarian training
- Explanation for combining the Expansion/Dissolution committee with the Membership committee (similar to proposed amendment for international) and other details about duties
- Clarification of tasks for the Executive Secretary, Immediate Past President and WSO President
- Proposals for renaming the state newsletter and the name of issues
- State Committee tasks, reduction/reorganization of the EEC committee and the suggested creation of a separate Education Policy/Legislation committee
- Art/Music and Technology liaisons added to the Liaison cadre (can't have a one-member committee)
- Additional information/guidelines on conducting state and chapter meetings virtually
- Changes in timelines for proposing *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules* amendments; adding Emergency/Field
- Test Authority allowing WSO to respond to emergencies/new efforts mid-fiscal year

Continued on page 17 see *Bylaws/Standing Rules*

Proposed Standing Rules Amendment topics include:

Most of the topics introduced in the Bylaws are addressed again in the Standing Rules as a requirement of parliamentary procedure, but the SR has more details when necessary.

- Suggested name change for the state newsletter and the quarterly issues
- Renaming Grants-in Aid to Stipend and Scholarship committee and clarifying scholarships/stipends and grants-in aid.
- Art/Music and Technology Liaisons and clarification of committee tasks
- Membership, Expansion/Dissolution details, additional committee tasks
- Changes of deadlines for the Nominations committee to align with publications; more EEC committee details and Education Policy/Leadership committee details
- Added information on procedures for conducting Electronic meetings and Emergency/Field Test Authority details.

Bylaw and Standing Rules amendments will be formally proposed to the membership for adoption at the Spring Convention April 26-May 2, 2021. The complete text of all Bylaw and Standing Rules amendments is available on the website.



[Proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules Amendments](#)



DKG International Austin headquarters up for sale

Our DKG Headquarters located in Austin, Texas is up for sale. International President Becky Sadowski writes, "This process is lengthy, is complicated by a variety of external factors, and includes several phases. Charged to be fiscally responsible stewards of the organization, DKG leaders have carefully considered over the past biennia the increasing costs of maintenance, rising property taxes in downtown Austin, and aging wiring that impacts technological improvements. While respectful of the place the building holds in our history as the fifth location for our headquarters, it has become evident that it is finally time to consider seriously the many recent offers presented by potential buyers in the area."

For further information on the sale, demolition permit, rezoning approval and consideration of potential future sites, please visit our DKG International webpage www.DKG.org. As meetings continue and decisions are made, feedback from members and staff will become critical.



Regroup, Relax and Renew at the **Dumas Bay Art Retreat**

June 29 - July 1, 2021

Watch your email for updates on upcoming registration and details for this event.

Around the State . . .

Area VII News— Garrel Lindberg, Area VII Liaison

All our Chapters have had opportunities to share books in our communities. Over 200 were collected for new homes. With Zoom veterans, like Jannette Manuel, to coach us we have accomplished meetings, celebrations, sing-a-longs and fundraisers with no problems. At this posting we will not, once again, have a King County Workshop in March.

In February, Paige Wilson, **Beta, Seattle** Co-President, shared experiences in Guatemala and South Africa with her students. Meetings: October – December, including Fall Board, were all Zoom Virtual meetings. Beta initiated three new members; are reading *Educated* by Tara Westover; donated \$50 to Woodland Park Zoo and \$150 to help teachers at South Shore K-8 School.

Alpha Delta, Seattle members have stayed connected through Zoom, email, and greeting cards. We enjoyed our annual October election presentation by League of Women Voters. Our chapter raised over \$1,400 in donations for emergency support of eight Dual Language Program families at Denny MS, Seattle. We have supported literacy through book donations, and one of our members is a reading tutor via Zoom. We shared old and new traditions at our 'Zoom for the Holidays!'

Beta Beta, SeaTac awarded Josie Austin a \$3000 scholarship and honored Judy Neumann for 35 years of dedicated service to DKG. The program "How Covid-19 Changed Education" enlightened us. Our Zoom Christmas social featured early Christmas memories and Bev Loeffler created a lovely song lyrics Power Point. Julie Hall and Astha Tada led us in Christmas songs. Members donated \$450 to local food banks.

At **Rho, Seattle** Chapter's September Zoom meeting, we heard League of Women Voters on Transportation. November's Zoom dispensed funds from Children's scholarship to Treehouse Foster Care, African woman's tuition to Ashesi College, and Guatemalan Open Door School. December, we sang carols and shared books. January, we will read and discuss Melinda Gates' book *Moment of Lift*.

Ruth Bacha led **Alpha Nu, Seattle** through a variety of Zoom meetings. After a Holiday sale we were able to use some of our profits by sharing with food banks, community shelters, and DKG sponsored venues. Zoa Shumway with her ukulele led us in a holiday sing-a-long. In February we will discuss our favorite books read during the Coronavirus.

Beta Sigma, Seattle welcomed four new members and awarded ten \$1000 scholarships to women pursuing degrees in educational related fields. We conducted three Zoom Chapter/business meetings and two Chapter board meetings. We expanded the role of the Communication Committee to ensure contact with all 53 members. Our newly developed Chapter Newsletter goes to all chapter members. We recently had our Holiday Auction meeting where we raised nearly \$7000. for our Grants-in-Aid fund.

Area VI News—Nancy Sheng, Area VI Liaison

President Nancy Sheng conveyed **Lambda Chapter Bellingham** adapted to the pandemic by purchasing a Zoom account for our chapter meetings until life goes back to normal. Our plans and activities for the year have been significantly altered but we have continued our support of community projects. Instead of our annual winter drive to collect items for the local women's shelter, we donated \$350 to the Bellingham YWCA. We continued to fund Books for Babies for the Sea Mar Clinics to send home a read-aloud book with parents of newborns in English or Spanish. We established closer relations with the Financial Aid office of Western Washington University and funded Grants-in-Aid of \$750 each to two women students, one in music and one in math. Both are completing their final quarter of student teaching and were thrilled to receive this financial support. We are currently working on a guest speaker/author for a February meeting. This spring we will again take orders for tulip bulbs, fresh from the farms of Skagit Valley, which we can deliver to you (and your friends) who garden at Fall Board. If necessary, we can also ship by mail. Finally, we hope to send one or two members to the DKG International conference in Portland this July. We all look forward to the day when we can meet again in person!

Beta Kappa, Whidbey & Fidalgo Island area: Kris Bishop, President, reported that the members of Beta Kappa Chapter continue to keep active with a food drive for the local Help House and to support girls at the intermediate and middle school level with hygiene products along with a handmade fabric bag to accompany the items. Although our annual tea has been postponed until next year, the chapter will continue to support a local graduating senior pursuing education with a scholarship. Another program included a glance into the use of Google in the Classroom and new technology used in the virtual classroom. We wish everyone a healthy, and safe 2021!

"Hygge"

...pronounced "hoogah" is the Danish word for creating a feeling of contentment, calm or direction in one's life and gives us great satisfaction; thus, can help us cope with the pandemic. Nancy Sheng has written about her "hygge".
Why not follow the Danish example and thus, bring "hygge" into your daily life? Enjoy! - Susan Fritts

I am coping with the pandemic in several profound ways: I found satisfaction teaching myself to sew after probably 30 years, having never really gained many skills in my younger years. I wanted to make cloth face masks, first for family, then friends, and then as a small fundraiser for the Whatcom Democrats. I combined the best features I could find from YouTube tutorials to come up with my own design. They turned out to be fairly popular, especially my RBG design. I feel I am fighting Covid, one mask at a time. I think I've probably made more than 200 by now.

My other new passion is teaching my granddaughter piano lessons on FaceTime. What a joy that has been! She's the perfect age, nine years old, and practices daily before and after her lesson, without prompting by her parents. It helps them too in that interval between

3:30 and 5pm when online school is over but they are still at work (at home), and her brothers often check in too, to say "hi." As a retired music teacher, I'm enjoying her enthusiasm and self discipline. I arranged her first recital for the family and her other grandparents on Zoom. She dressed up and played all twelve Christmas carols she learned in December. She shared the spotlight with her brother who showed off his newly acquired juggling skills. We grandparents couldn't be prouder!

The technology has its limits, but I'm grateful for this long-distance contact with my children and grandchildren in California and Wisconsin. This pandemic would be so much worse if we didn't have it

That's my hygge!

Nancy Sheng, Lambda, Bellingham

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(please e-mail pictures in .jpg format)

Deadlines: July 15, October 15,

January 15, April 15

Our Seven Purposes

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has seven basic purposes that govern its program of work and study. The activities of each level of the Society implement the purposes of the Society. The seven purposes include:

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship,
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education,
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education,
4. To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators,
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators,
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action,
7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.



Advocacy handbook now on website

Members interested in learning how to become more comfortable with giving testimony to various levels of decision makers, including State legislators and Congressional representatives, may be interested in checking out a new resource on the Washington State Organization DKG web site. Called the Advocacy Toolkit 2020, this resource contains general information on advocacy as a DKG purpose, templates that can help members formulate their testimony in effective means, and tips for meeting with legislators. Samples of completed templates are also available in the Toolkit.

The Toolkit is the result of two presentations. The first was made at the 2020 Fall Board conference by Keitha Bryson and Pat Bennett-Forman on the topic of advocacy and why it is so important to DKG work

towards excellence in education. The second presentation was made by Pat to the U.S. Forum in a panel discussion on advocacy. Feedback from participants indicated they wanted copies of the materials and directions for their use. The Toolkit was created and put on the State website in November 2020.

To access the Toolkit, members can go to www.dkgwa.org/advocacy or click on the resources tab on the web site home page, and then click on "advocacy." A button will appear with the Toolkit label. Please explore the resources provided and provide feedback as directed on the last page. Next year's Legislation and Education Policy Committee will use the feedback to make modifications to better meet member needs.