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Fall 2020

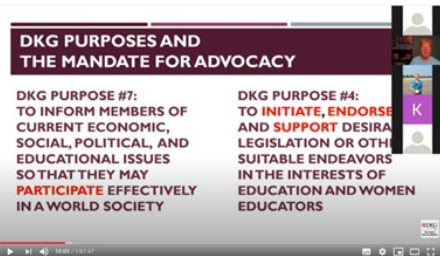
The Alpha Sigma News

Fall Board points way to future conferences

By Pat Bennett-Forman, First Vice-president

Evaluation results and comments from Fall Board 2020 clearly indicate that an on-line conference format is not only possible but desirable for future conferences – as a stand alone or in combination with in-person meetings. Participants gave the Fall Board Zoom conference held September 25-26, 2020 an overall rating of 4.8 out of 5.0. Comments indicated that participants enjoyed the format and welcomed it for future events.

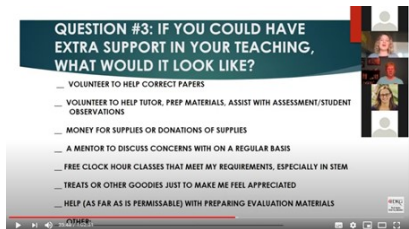
Comments also have provided direction for improvements, including spreading the sessions over more days, accommodating those with phone only connections, expanding technology workshops to cover less ground but afford more practice, and adding opportunities for more social activities. Other comments reveal that while the registration and Zoom link process went well, some



improvements can be made to facilitate connections for those less experienced with the technology.

As planning goes forward for Spring Convention, April 30 – May 2, 2021, consideration is being given to these recommendations. For example, plans are under way to have some

pre-convention workshops on various Zoom topics from basics (how to mute, using the gallery and other viewing options, and using chat features) to more sophisticated tasks, such as screen sharing. A special workshop on hosting Zoom meetings is also in the works.



Using Zoom invitation and reminder features will help improve the registration and sign-in process for attendees. Plus, having a variety of break-out and hospitality “rooms” will facilitate fellowship opportunities members so enjoy. Another recommendation is to record sessions and offer them more than once. Several Fall Board sessions were recorded and have been made available through links on the state website: <https://www.dkgwa.org/fall-board-2020.html>.

Finally, copies of power point presentations and handouts have been placed on the State web site under the Resources page. There is a new section under resources for Advocacy which includes the Advocacy Toolkit, with samples for creating letters and testimony as well as an extensive list of resources for keeping up-to-date on legislative issues.

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It is an honor . . .

by Washington State President Susan Fritts

It is an honor to be recognized as Key Women Educators by their peers. This is how our Founders felt from the beginning of DKG Washington. The sense of love and belonging is one of our most powerful needs according to William Glasser. In Dr. Elizabeth Turner's (DKG VA) research presented at International, eight elements can be identified in an inclusive organization. The first is having a sense of identity. Our Seven Purposes and Mission Statement identify who we are and what we stand for. I have been pleased to see chapter directories including both. They help us articulate our purpose and often drive chapter programs presented at our meetings.

Recently, I met Nu Chapter President Pam Rowland in a parking lot in Silverdale. Since Nu members had voted to dissolve, I was picking up a box of Nu paraphernalia including their charter and history. It was a sad occasion for all members, one they didn't make easily. As I read through Nu Chapter's history, I became profoundly sad that we had lost another chapter.

I would like to give a shout out to our dissolved chapters who we have lost during this biennium and share some goals of Founders from these chapters:*

Epsilon Chapter: Epsilon King was founded on December 6, 1941 with fifteen Charter Members. One distinction from other chapters was that each member wrote a song which was later published under the title "Epsilon Sings". As part of the Pioneer Teacher Research Project, members of Epsilon researched the life of teacher Alzina Dimmick Bonney, 1832-1897, with her ten children living in Woodburn, OR. Epsilon wrote Ms. Bonney's history and made a figurine model which members presented to National (International) Headquarters. Epsilon was the co-host for Washington State's first convention held in 1943, which many members felt was a "delightful honor". Their members included the first WA State President and 2nd VP of National.

Nu Chapter: Nu, Port Orchard, founded on October 24, 1942, began with fifteen Charter Members and five members who transferred from Kappa



Chapter. The original goals of Nu focused on programs of childcare for children whose mothers were employed in defense work, social adjustments of a community actually engaged in war work and the teaching of toleration for the peace following war. In 1944, members of Nu Chapter worked with Beta Chapter to have the word "white" removed from the Constitution of Delta Kappa Gamma concerning the membership of white women only. What a legacy! On a more personal note, Nu Chapter was instrumental in organizing my chapter, Alpha Sigma Kitsap.

Alpha Pi Chapter: Alpha Pi Olympia embraced diversity in their newly founded chapter organized on November 15, 1958. They not only focused and inducted members ranging from elementary to secondary teachers, but also administrators, OSPI supervisors, assistant superintendents and Dean of Students. Their goals in 1964 were to "develop our chapter and make its presence and worth known to the community" in Olympia.

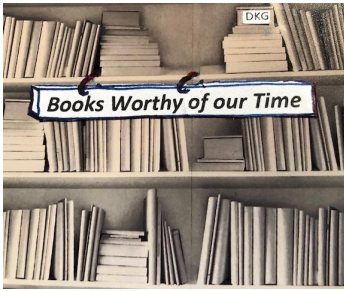
Alpha Upsilon: Alpha Upsilon Port Townsend was founded on April 7, 1962 with thirteen Charter Members by Upsilon Port Angeles. They granted scholarships to the "Summer School of the Arts", held every summer in Port Townsend. Several members wrote about the history of schools of Jefferson County which was then published in the historical chronicle entitled "With Pride and Heritage, a History of Jefferson County."

Congratulations to these chapters who made a difference when they were active. I challenge each chapter to rediscover your roots, who your Founders were and their goals. Having a Founders Day Presentation at one of your chapter meetings is possible as we continue to provide meaningful presentations. How have times changed in education and thus, how have goals changed?

To reiterate what we all know, **it is an honor to be recognized as a Key Woman Educator in Delta Kappa Gamma!**

**Research found in Golden Anniversary of Alpha Sigma State, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, 1941-1991, Copyright May, 1991 In celebration of 50 years since the founding of Alpha Sigma State, this book was dedicated to the Founders. Annie Webb Blanton installed Alpha Sigma State on May 24, 1941 at the New Washington Hotel in Seattle. Washington State was the 42nd state to be organized!*





***The Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabelle Allende**

Recommended by Mary Lou Gregory, Beta Chi Aberdeen

From the Spanish Civil War to the fascist revolution in Chile, a couple, in a marriage of convenience, finds ways to survive.

***Beneath a Scarlett Sky* by Mark Sullivan**

Recommended by Lynn Thompson, Kappa Kent

This is a novel based on the true story of Pino Lella, an Italian teenager who performed acts of courage during WWII.

Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

A historical fiction novel about one of America's most notorious real-life scandals in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.

Tender Roses* by Lisa Wingate

How do the estranged family members convince their 90 year old grandma to move off the family farm into a care center?

Becoming* by Michelle Obama

We all think we know Mrs. Obama as the President's wife, but we know nothing about her childhood, her goals, her schooling, her achievements as a black woman or her circle of strong women who lifted her up until we read this book.

*All three Recommended by Linda Johnson, Alpha Zeta Goldendale

Washington State Organization Scholarships and Stipends

Washington State Organization's Applications for Scholarships and Stipends are posted on the website www.dkgwa.org. The bulk of the scholarship funds are generated by chapter membership fees of \$1.00 per member. Individuals and chapters also donate funds to WSO's Scholarships and Stipends. Raffles and table donations at Fall Board and Convention also add to the coffer.

State Scholarships are awarded for advanced studies, graduate degrees, certifications and endorsements, and graduate studies. State Stipends are awarded for specialized studies, workshops, conferences, other educational events like retreats and conferences and professional and personal growth activities. One of the requirements is that applicants must be a WSO Chapter member for two years. See the posted Guidelines and Applications to complete application process.

The completed application packet must be submitted by February 1, 2021 to [Myrna Muto](mailto:Myrna.Muto), Chair of the Grants-in-Aid Committee. The committee, including Patty Swanson and Charlene Shea will review the completed applications and select recipients. Recipients will be notified by March 1, 2021. We encourage all who could use a scholarship or stipend to help achieve their goals, to submit an application!

2019-2021

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Pat Bennett-Forman
First Vice President
Educational Excellence Chair

DKG Service still a priority

Note: This is the fifth of a five part 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.**

As the Literacy Slide Show presented at Fall Board 2020 demonstrates, service is a central focus for DKG chapters throughout the state. Chapters donated thousands of books in the 2019-2020 year to a variety of organizations serving children: schools, doc-

tors' offices and health departments, immigrant service centers, boys' and girls' clubs, and mental health facilities. Parents of new born infants received books in a welcome pack as did foster children in birthday gifts. Children going to laundromats with parents found shelves of books. Little libraries across the state were supplied multiple times with books.

But that work all happened pre-pandemic. What can chapters do this year, especially as many members remain at high risk for COVID, at least until a vaccine is widely distributed? Can chapters still provide service and keep their members safe in the coming year?

Several workshops presented at Fall Board provide inspiration and ideas for possible socially distanced service work. Below are listed a few opportunities chapters may want to consider.

- Continue your chapter Literacy Projects. Designate a place to gather books and be creative in distribution strategies.
- Early-career educators want help in supplying their

classrooms with libraries, materials and special projects. Consider a classroom grant project.

- Learn about the hot issues in education for the upcoming Legislative session, determine a position, and write, e-mail and/or give on-line testimony to your legislators about the stand you want them to make.
- Find out what is needed by agencies serving children, including abuse shelters, and devise a safe way to gather and disseminate supplies.
- If your chapter likes to sew, make masks for your local schools for when teachers return to in-person learning.

One of the best services DKG members can provide at this time is the care and honoring of each chapter member. Some are living alone and need contact and friendship. Some are exhausting themselves every day teaching remotely and need support. How about providing a meal to a give a working teacher a break? Or make a phone call and just listen. Showing kindness and caring can go a long way to ease pandemic fatigue.

Each chapter is challenged to look at the seven purposes of DKG and identify the specific strategies and service activities they are doing to engage in each purpose. Those services may have to look different from the past, but are still feasible. And as the Fall Board Literacy slide show demonstrated, when DKG chapters commit to service, they make a significant difference. Thank you for your service.

Funding WSO Scholarships and Stipends

Myrna Muto, Grants-in-Aid Chair

WSO Scholarships and Stipends are funded three ways, by Chapter Membership Fees of \$1.00 per member (Chapters who sponsor their own scholarships contribute twenty cents per member.), donations by individuals and chapters, and at Fall Board and State Convention, through raffles and table giving. At Fall Board 2019, with your generosity, a competition between breakfast and lunch attendees, and a patron who matched contributions, \$562.26 was raised.

COVID-19 has dashed our in-person fundraising plans for the time being. WSO Scholarships and Stipends for 2020-2021 will be awarded in March. Your donations for scholarships and stipends would be greatly appreciated. This the link to the WSO Contribution Form. Thank you for your support!

https://www.dkgwa.org/uploads/1/7/3/8/17381491/wso_contribution_form.pdf



Educational Excellence Committee

October, 2020—State Literacy Project Update

By Joanne Vining, EEC Committee Service Project Coordinator

As the pandemic continues to be the most important “thing” on my mind, I hope that we are continuing to mask up, practice social distancing, and washing our hands frequently. With this being the main focus, there are few reports coming in for our state literacy project but I am happy to share what I have received.

Rosa Eilert of Zeta Chapter Wenatchee Valley reveals that she still has the books that they had collected for their project. These books, along with other books from the First United Methodist Church of Wenatchee, will be given to Columbia School. Columbia School is a school with high poverty, high numbers of second language students, and high movement of families. This turning over will happen when it is safe to do so. The chapter is also involved with providing materials for adults and children of the church’s ESL program. In addition to this, the chapter also collects money for birthdays and donates it to the literacy council to assist in their ESL program. What a great way to meet the needs of children in your area and partnering with a church is a win-win.

Beta Chapter Seattle has been putting books in laundromats through a program called “Books and

Bubbles” which include a label to let people know they can borrow the book and that the book has been donated by Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Furthermore, if the book is not returned, the worst result is that a child has a book to keep. Thanks, Barbara Cummins VP, for submitting your information.

The last one is from our own state president, Susan Fritts. She is doing her own little project at a laundromat in her community. Due to an appliance failure, she also needed the services of a laundromat and noticed that this particular laundromat didn’t have any reading materials to read while waiting other than a few dated magazines. So, she got permission from the owner to set up a display and is donating her own personal books such as children’s literature books, of course, plus other informational books for adults. She intends to continue to supply the gathering place with more books as needed. Way to go, Susan!

What a positive difference we are making in the lives of children and adults. We should be proud of what we are and do. Remember to send in your chapter project so we can all celebrate our organization. Don’t forget to mask up, practice social distancing, and wash your hands.

Proposals for Bylaws and Standing Rules amendments due

By Nancy Sauer, Bylaws and Standing Rules Chair

The deadline for submitting proposed amendments is December 1, 2020. Hopefully, you are putting the finishing touches on your amendment proposals. Send proposed amendments to Nancy Sauer, Bylaws and Standing Rules Chair.

Any member, committee, board, or chapter may propose an amendment to the Washington State Bylaws or Standing Rules. Each proposed amendment submitted must include a statement giving the rationale for the proposed change and fiscal impact on current and future budgets. Please refer to the online version of the Bylaws and Standing Rules as it includes the Line Number references needed on the form.

The proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules amendments will be studied and edited for correct form by the committee before sending them to the State Executive Committee in late December. The official amendment form is on the state website under the *About Us* tab. Scroll down to Bylaws and Rules. See <https://www.dkgwa.org/bylaws--standing-rules.html>

Note: Please open the amendment form, **SAVE IT** on your computer, then type on the form; save it with the proposed revision(s), and then e-mail it as an attachment by the **December 1** deadline to nsauer@charter.net

The Little Chapter That Could

Teri King, Membership Committee member, Iota Chapter, Mason and Thurston Co.

Last spring my Chapter came to a sudden stop due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of our membership was in an 'at risk' category so it just wasn't safe to continue in-person meetings. What to do, what to do? Our phone tree was working overtime as the COVID-19 pandemic emerged and the reality that life as normal wasn't possible. I had been using ZOOM daily for work since 2013 however, not all of our members had internet access. What to do, what to do? Our members wanted to meet in person. They missed everyone, and we had important work to do. Yet, the overriding concern for everyone's safety ruled. ZOOM has a telephone option – so some members could join by computer and see and hear everyone, and some could call in and hear everyone. Was this an option? How would it work? Could everyone hear clearly? Could we conduct business? Could we try to resume our schedule and support our members in their time of need? The membership concurred, we needed to try, and I am so pleased that we did.

Our first Iota Chapter ZOOM meeting was May 2, 2020. Four of our members, without computers, battled the long list of phone, meeting, and password numbers and called in. Six of our members, with computers, joined by the click of a link! Only two of our members were not able to join us. Let me tell you, as each person joined the meeting, I could see the smiles on their faces – those online and on the phone. There was a sparkle in their eyes and a huge smile on their faces. You can tell, even on the phone when people are smiling. The members had done it. We successfully used technology, our little rural group of teachers with desperate technology. Our first twenty minutes were spent checking in as a group making sure everyone was okay and sharing COVID-19 experiences, at work and in life. As soon as we checked in with everyone, we held our meeting, elected our officers, etc. and at the end discussed future meetings. What should we do, continue on ZOOM? Call it a year and let this pass over? What would be best? Well, the resounding cry again was "Let's do ZOOM again. We can do this!" We

needed and wanted to stay connected and keep our work with DKG moving forward, and continue supporting our classroom teachers.

That was last May. Fast forward to our October Chapter meeting, our second meeting of our new year. This meeting was special as the daughter of one of our members had gotten up very early in the morning and driven over an hour to bring a laptop so that her mom could move from a telephone connection to an internet user for our meeting. The smile on this member's face when she joined was priceless, the sparkle in her eyes, and the joy in her voice. Her daughter, also a teacher was very pleased to help connect her mom to her DKG chapter, something that for over 50 years her mom had been contributing to. Another member, an active teacher overwhelmed with her virtual teaching at the local high school joined by internet and shared how she had told her colleagues and friends earlier that morning that she HAD to join her Chapter meeting today because she needed to feel the energy and support of the members real-time. It was an hour, an hour that would be able to feed her as she traversed the chaotic world of online teaching. As she explained this to us, I fully realized that DKG had important work to do. Beyond our normal great work, we also need to help create normalcy in the lives of our members and provide a pause in their COVID-19 crazy world for a true connection, to be able to share the pitfalls and successes they were experiencing in their new virtual classrooms with important people in their lives, women who could understand and relate to what they were experiencing, their DKG sisters.

Why is this working for us, this thing called ZOOM? Why is this tool of frustrating technology helping? Simply our members showed up, they tried! In life we know the 80/20 rule, showing up is 80 percent of the challenge and 20 percent is knowledge. We know that if students show up to school they will do so much better. The same applies to our life. Our members wanted to gather. We couldn't safely physically gather,

See "The Little Chapter" continued on [page 7](#)



Monique Harrison
Second Vice President
Membership Chair

As a follow-up to our Fall Board session on Membership and creating a marketing plan, I stress the need to connect with our current members and focus on retention.

The five steps to ensure target marketing are:

1. Identify and find the target audience
2. Grab attention of the target audience
3. Build a relationship
4. Follow-up
5. Close the "sale"



Some ideas to accomplish these goals are to:

- Increase Attendance at Meetings (Zoom)
- Identify current members who are not attending meetings
- Email; send newsletters; personal phone calls; one-on-one contact
- Share good things happening; give them a job to do
- Assign a mentor; take them to lunch; ask how you can help
- Get them to a meeting!

"The Little Chapter, continued from [page 6](#)

so we needed an option. ZOOM was a scary option, but let me tell you, the genie is out of the bottle. Our Chapter has been meeting successfully and will continue to do so. I'm not saying it is perfect and that the technology never fails, but our members are trailblazers in the classroom. Like all of the other challenges we face in our little Chapter, they rise to the challenge and say "why not give it a try!" Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

The WSO Executive Committee has made it easy for all chapters and has purchased a ZOOM license to share so it won't cost a dime to give it a try. Don't let a perceived barrier of no computer or internet detour you. All things are possible. The key is to dial-up ZOOM and give it a whirl. The success you achieve might just surprise you, and the smile on your fellow members faces, the rich conversations, will be a much welcomed reminder of why you joined DKG.

Welcome New Member

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Date</u>
Samara Hoag	Beta Sigma Seattle	Sept. 2020
Michelle Johnson	Psi Kennewick	Oct. 2020

White Roses of Remembrance

As we celebrate new members, we also mourn the loss of members who have passed away in recent months. Their lives will forever be reflected in our hearts.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Date</u>
Lillian Bea Hardy	Beta Seattle	May 4, 2020
Stella Foster	Alpha Pi Olympia	June 12, 2020
Delphine Peterson	Alpha Lambda Lower Yakima Valley	June 21, 2020
Beverly Gano	Mu Vancouver	June 23, 2020
Christina Dimmick	Psi Kennewick	September 1, 2020
Arlene Dolan	Alpha Zeta Goldendale	September 14, 2020
Miriam Puffert	Beta Seattle	September 26, 2020

The lives of these women will be honored at the Celebration of Life ceremony, Washington State Convention, April 2021. The Celebration of Life has taken place in Washington since 1946, first held in honor of DKG founder Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and nine members of Alpha Sigma State, Washington, who had passed away since the state organization began in 1941.

NOMINATIONS FOR STATE OFFICERS OPEN

The WA State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma has several positions open for the next biennium of 2021-2023. We encourage chapters to survey their members and nominate candidates.

The **President** serves two years and is responsible for providing leadership and development within the state organization. Detailed duties can be found in the Alpha Sigma State Standing Rules.

First Vice President is the chair of the Educational Excellence Committee and facilitates the development of the action plans each year. In addition, she serves as the presiding officer in the absence of the president.

Second Vice President serves as the chairperson of the Membership Committee and may perform other duties as assigned. She would preside in the absence of the president and first vice president.

Secretary keeps the minutes of each meeting of the organization. In addition, secretary prepares and shares correspondence as needed.

The Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Committee has five trustees who each serve for five years. A new trustee is elected each year and eventually be-

comes chairman the final year of her term. Her responsibilities include interviewing and selecting scholarship candidates, among others. She attends state and RRPSF meetings. A complete list of jobs is available from Carol Linscott, Secretary/Treasurer for RRPSF.

The Nominations Committee is comprised of three members who each serve three years. This requires members to attend state and committee meetings, seek candidates for office, write articles for the state newsletter, collate and distribute information about candidates. Members also serve in the election process of reviewing applications and the voting process at state convention.

There are many capable women among the membership in WA state. We hope you will consider nominating someone. Application forms are available on the WA state website and must be turned in on or before January 15, 2021.

Jane Carden, Nominations Chairperson
502 43 Ave SE #18A
Puyallup, WA 98374
Janecarden1@hotmail.com

Advocacy Resources

Keitha Bryson, Excellence in Education Committee – Legislative Liaison

The national Quality of Work Life in Education team put together a webinar for August 3, 2020. Members of the team are educators from New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, and Washington. Dr. Jerry Carbo, one of the members from Pennsylvania, is also a workplace attorney, a professor at Shippensburg University, and the President of the Healthy Workplace Coalition.

The team compiled useful resources for families during the pandemic. A few of them are:

- Filing for an ADA accommodation for work because of an underlying health condition.
- Filing for family leave to care for a loved one at home who has an underlying health condition.

- Applying for childcare funding because you are back at work and your children are in virtual school at home.

This document is one that educators will need to reference for information about workplace conditions and available resources during the pandemic. Educators should share this document with families in their school communities.

To read *COVID 19, Your School, and Other Workplaces: A guide on leave, accommodation, and safe work requirements* and other helpful resources, see the DKGWA Covid-19 Resource page. <https://www.dkgwa.org/covid-19-resources.html>

Honoring member achievement

By Sherri Wagemann, Immediate Past President

The purpose of the Washington State Achievement Award is to honor members in the state who, through continuing and outstanding service to education, have promoted the purposes and policies of DKG. Now is the time to nominate an outstanding member for our 2021 Washington State Achievement Award. Each chapter or individual wishing to submit a nominee will find an interactive Achievement Award Nomination Form on the WA State website at: www.dkgwa.org

Be sure to download the nomination form, give it a title and save it to your computer. Then, open the document and type your responses. Finally, save the document again. The nomination form **MUST** be received by the Immediate Past State President on or before the February 1 deadline.

Send to:

Sherri Wagemann, Immediate Past State President
10005 E Augusta Ave.

Spokane Valley WA 99206-4112
sherri.wagemann@dkg1@gmail.com

There are many DKG members who serve, or have served, at the local, state and/or international levels of responsibilities who are deserving of this honor. We encourage you to give your thoughtful consideration to these worthy members and submit your nomination.

Washington State Achievement Award Guidelines

Criteria for Selection of Nominees for the Achievement Award:

The nominee must be an active member of a Washington State chapter of DKG.

- The nominee must have a minimum of seven years membership in DKG.
- The nominee must have rendered notable service to education and to DKG.
- A nominee who has held office at the chapter and/or state level will be given preferences.
- Each chapter has the privilege each year of nominating one member of the Washington State Organization or submitting no nomination.
- Chapters may resubmit the name of a previous nominee who was not chosen to receive the award.
- No member may receive the award a second time.
- No state president shall be eligible for the award during her term of office or during the biennium immediately following.
- A nomination form shall be sent to the chapter presidents. Each chapter wishing to submit a nominee shall return the nomination form postmarked no later than February 1 to the Immediate Past State President. The immediate past state president shall select an ad hoc committee, from the currently serving area liaisons, and shall function as the chairperson of the committee.

Due to the COVID-19 mandate this past spring, both the 2020 and 2021 WSO award recipients shall be presented at the 2021 state convention. The award shall be a certificate and pin.



Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation

Supporting opportunities for women educators



Dr. Charlene Shea
RRPSF Board

As educators we encourage and support our students to dream big, to overcome obstacles, to reach their goals. Do we do the same for our colleagues? Do we do the same for ourselves? Rachel Royston believed that through encouraging and positive mentorships, friendships and scholarships capable and ambitious women educators

could realize their full potential. The Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation financial support is an amazing gift to assist women educators earning graduate degrees, advanced certifications and/or administrative credentials.

As a former recipient of the RRPSF scholarship it was a blessing to be supported financially and inspired and uplifted by my DKG sisters. Now I get the opportunity to serve as a member of the RRPSF committee. I am so honored to mentor and support women as they strive to reach their goals. It is my hope through the

RRPSF we reach more women to apply for this scholarship. I challenge each of you to be the mentor; the inspiration. Seek out and encourage female educators who are pursuing advanced degrees, credentials or certifications. Guide them to apply for the RRPSF scholarship. Tell one active teacher about this opportunity. The application is online and due to COVID19, interviews will be conducted via Zoom. Maybe that educator is you—dream big, overcome obstacles, reach your goals—apply for a scholarship! Not in contact with actively working teachers? Consider a financial gift to the scholarship fund. A small gift combined with other small gifts create a large scholarship blessing! How about joining the RRPSF team- we would love to serve with you! Together, we can follow in Rachel Royston's footsteps by providing financial support and encouragement to assist women educators as they realize their full potential!

Dr. Charlene Shea
Gaiser Middle School Science Teacher
Adjunct Professor WSU-V

The value of scholarship



Amy McLaughlin
RRPSF Margaret
Harvin award

I want to sincerely thank you for the Rachel Royston Scholarship. It is truly an honor to receive such a generous award. I am currently a doctoral candidate in the educational leadership program at Washington State University, and I am very grateful that someone is willing to invest in me and my future

goal of improving K-12 educational systems.

Teaching and learning are my two greatest passions. I earned my bachelor's degree in education in 1994 and my master's degree in special education in 1996. In 2010, I completed the administrative certifica-

tion program at WSU, and I just recently completed the WSU Superintendent Certification Program. I taught for twenty-one years before moving into administration. My teaching background includes third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, elementary resource room, middle school resource room, and secondary Life Skills. In addition, I was an instructional specialist for two years and an English language arts instructional coach for two years. My current position is Director of Special Programs in a small, rural district in eastern Washington. I oversee state and federal programs including special education, Learning Assistance Program, Title I, Title III, bilingual, highly capable, foster care, Section 504, and McKinney-Vento. I enjoy being an advocate and a voice for underrepresented populations.

*Continued on [page 11](#). **The value of Scholarship***

The value of scholarship continued from [page 10](#)

I became a widow and a single mother when my husband passed away after a two-year battle with brain cancer. I hope to be an example and show people that no matter what life throws their way, that they can do anything they put their mind to. My priority is to help others to be the best versions of themselves they can be. My driving force is the desire to open doors to a brighter future. I want students to have access to every opportunity and college and/or career pathway they aspire to choose.

I am at the beginning of a long journey to attain a doctorate degree in educational leadership. Your support provides me encouragement and motivation to stay the course. Without it, it would be all too easy to put it on hold. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. It is sincerely appreciated.

Gratefully,
Amy McLaughlin



Strategic Planning Underway

Janet LeBeau, SAP Co-Chair

The State Strategic Action Plan Committee wishes to give all our chapter members a great big **THANK YOU!!** We appreciate you taking the time to take the SAP survey and sharing your thoughts and opinions. Chapter Presidents, **THANK YOU** for taking all your chapter members' surveys and compiling the information onto one document. What a job!

Each chapter president who sent their tallied information to the SAP Committee will receive a special appreciation gift. One of our talented members, Teri King, will create a virtual DKG background with the chapter's name on it to use with their Zoom meetings.

The committee is looking forward to reviewing your ideas so we can base the new Strategic Action Plan on your input. We will be happy to share our new SAP document during our Spring Convention.

MY DKG—Sign UP Today

**Marge Lofstrom,
Leadership Development Committee**

There's a treasure right at your fingertips and it's free! If you haven't registered for MyDKG on the Society's webpage, you need to do it now. It's easy and you then can access a plethora of resources such as Chapter tools, Guidelines for Chapter Leaders, international forms, DKG approved graphics, the list goes on and on. Remember, you must register in order to have access.

Here's how to register:

1. Go to the Society website: dkg.org
2. On the home page, click on SIGN IN on the top right corner of the page
3. Enter your six digit DKG# ID (the number on your membership card. Ask your treasurer if you don't have it.)
4. Enter the default password. (The DKG Society Headquarter can assist you with the default password. email mem@dkg.org. or call 512-478-5748. Be sure to change it once you successfully log onto the site.

Once you are on the members only site, take time to complete your profile on MYDKG. Then check out the links to the Legacy of Leadership Directory, Chapter Locator. It's well worth your time to take advantage of this DKG members only site.

Important Dates

December 1, 2020	Amendments to Standing Rules/Bylaws nsauer@charter.net
December 1, 2020	RRPSF Scholarship applications
December 9, 2020	Area Liaison Zoom Meeting 5-6pm
January 9, 2021	Executive Committee, Zoom at 5pm
January 10, 2021	Budget Committee
January 11, 2021	Executive Board, Zoom at 5pm
January 15, 2021	Nominations for WA State Org. Janecarden1@hotmail.com
February 1, 2021	WSO Scholarship/Stipend applications mmmuto@aol.com
February 1, 2021	State Achievement Award nominations sherri.wagemannkg1@gmail.com
February 15, 2021	ASN deadline for articles dkgwanews@gmail.com



Together Always

by Caryn Mears, Psi Kennewick

In 2017, I retired from teaching music with the Kennewick School District, just in time to help my 83 year old mother move from her home in Las

Vegas into a retirement home. But within eight months, she ended up having to downsize again and move into an assisted living facility. I spent many hours driving from Washington to Nevada every month to check on her. During that time, I discovered her unstable gait and illegible handwriting were symptoms of something far more serious than just aging. "Parkinson's," the doctor had said, "I'm very sorry, but with Akinetic Rigid Parkinson's, there's no medication to help you." Mom was devastated. She was now confined to a wheel chair and could no longer do her beloved crossword puzzles or look at her great-grandchildren on Facebook.

Thirty years earlier, mom had started a birth search. As a small child, she was shuffled from one foster home to another and eventually adopted at the age of four, but she always wondered who her mother was and what she looked like. When I was fifteen, my mother showed me her adoption paperwork. Her story fascinated me because the description of her mother was a physical description of my 5'4", 140 pound frame. Writing several poems over the years, mom announced that she was going to write her own story, and she would dedicate it to the wonderful man who had adopted her, my grandpa.

My mom went from being an illegitimate child to winning many championships and becoming Mrs. Minnesota in 1965. She then went on to play in the Sands Hotel Orchestra in Las Vegas with Wayne Newton. She had a marvelous story, so when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's I asked mom if I could help her finish her book. We often chatted about which subjects would be interesting to be included in her book. Little did I know, she was only jotting down tidbits as her handwriting became more and more illegible. With the ravages of Parkinson's taking a piece of

her body one system at a time, I felt very lucky to still be able to call mom on the phone and ask her questions. Her mind remained lucid until the very end. Whenever I visited, I'd tell her, "I'm still writing and the book's almost done!"

At one point mom commented, "Are you trying to finish this book before I die?"

"No," I replied, "I'm trying to finish this book before I die!" and we both had a good laugh as I had been working on it on and off for two years.

When the manuscript was finally completed, I hurried to Las Vegas, and we sat together for several afternoons while I read her the entire book. "Now, I just have to find a publisher." I explained.

Mom grinned from ear to ear. "You've done a remarkable job taking my tidbits and turning them into a real story!" she said, thrilled to finally see her story come to fruition.

In 2020, just a few months after she passed, I was able to find a publisher, and I'm proud to say, her story is now a published book. You'll see all of her poems and many, many pictures of her interesting life. If you'd like to read a story about adoption success, and the journey to find long lost relatives, this is a book you'll enjoy!

