

The Voice

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide



Renew



Recapture



Respond

A Message from OSO President Melodie McGee



Greetings, it's a beautiful day today in the OSO Delta Kappa Gamma Society neighborhood!

My OSO Delta Kappa Gamma sisters, this is my last article that I will be writing to you as your OSO President. I accepted the assignment to serve as your OSO President in 2023. Over the past two years, I have traveled to many OSO chapter meetings on weekday late afternoons, evenings, and Saturday mornings. (And yes, I am still a very active teacher in the classroom arriving at my site between 8:00-8:15 a.m. in the morning.) I've traveled sometimes during difficult weather conditions and Alexa acting up with navigational instructions. I had the pleasure of participating in chapter meetings, Founder's Day celebrations, chapter officer installations and recommitment ceremonies!

Michael, my husband, has been my classy, calibrating, calculating, punctual chauffeur to many chapter meetings outside of Columbus. My mom, Barbara Cleveland, would sometimes be my riding buddy and accompany me to meetings. Over the highways, and through the hills and sometimes through tough terrain to OSO chapter meetings we would go! But when we arrived it was worth the trip because we received the most scrumptious delicacies, this side of the Ohio River, during OSO chapter visits at brunches, lunches, and dinners! I was also blessed to receive some treasures from several chapters during my visits that included plants, (which are still growing and thriving), sculpted pieces of glass art, drawings, gift cards that I won from raffle drawings, as well as appreciation gifts. I went on a special behind the scenes tour of the OSU Athletic Department and I even got to attend my first OSU basketball game with my husband because I won a raffle ticket at one of the chapter meetings.

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Ohio State Organization

President

Melodie McGee, Gamma Nu

First Vice President

Dr. Molly Helmlinger, Beta Kappa

Second Vice President

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Recording Secretary

Meier Bauer, Gamma Phi

Corresponding Secretary

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Cathy Adams, Alpha Gamma

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Delta Kappa Gamma promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

During the 2023-2025 biennium, I requested OSO chapters to participate in Domestic Violence Prevention President's Initiative. I was overwhelmed with the amount of chapter presidents that stood up at our 2025 OSO Convention representing their chapters participation in the initiative. Thank you to all those OSO chapters who answered the call to serve and completed the assignment to share, in some way with women and children who were a part of the Domestic Violence Initiative. I know that your shared expressions of love that brought hope to every woman and child who were coming out of turbulent and unstable lifestyles. I thank all of you for sharing. You didn't have to, but you did! I am so very thankful for all of you! My heart overflows with joy and is singing!

My hope and prayers are that I will be remembered by something that I said, wrote, what I gave or did, or how I encouraged others throughout the 2023 - 2025 biennium, so that my presidential lineage inspired or impacted the life of just one person in a positive way.

Mary McCloud Bethune, a passionate educator nationally known special advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on African American Affairs regarding the problems in minority groups and the founder of the Bethune-Cookman College, wrote these words and thoughts I want to leave with you as I conclude my biennium journey..."I leave you love. I leave hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you respect for the use of power. I leave you faith. I leave you dignity."

In addition, I have adapted the poem which was one of my Daddy's favorite songs to sing during his performances...which was "No Man is an Island". So, I entitled this poem, "No OSO Woman is an Island".

No OSO woman is an island
No OSO woman should stand alone
When an OSO member celebrates her successes, we all should congratulate her!
But when an OSO member experiences grief,
we should remember how we felt during our journey, when it was our own.
During the 2023 through 2025 Biennium, OSO we found out that we needed one another.
It is education that binds us together to defend.
Each OSO member is our sister,
Each Delta Kappa Gamma woman throughout the world is our friend.
Over the 2023 through 2025 Biennium,
We saw OSO members gather together during
Executive Board Meetings, Leadership Seminars,
OSO Chapter President's Fireside Chats, Zoom meetings with OSO Admin Team,
Zoom Meetings with Advisory Committee and Admin Team
We Heard the music start with Cheryl Quay and the OSO Ensemble
singing during our meetings and we began
our Executive Board Meetings with The Kingdom Choir singing
"Stand By Me" from The Royal Wedding.
Those songs that we have been hearing and singing,
Will be forever ringing in our hearts...
No OSO woman is an Island
No OSO woman should stand alone,
When an OSO member celebrates her successes, we all should congratulate her!

But when an OSO member experiences grief, we should remember how we felt during our journey, when it was our own.
Remember OSO sisters we need one another...
It is education that binds us together to defend.
Each OSO member is our sister,
Each Delta Kappa Gamma woman throughout the world is our friend.

It has been a privilege to serve as your OSO President for the 2023-2025 Biennium.

🌹 Renew 🌹 Recapture 🌹 Respond...

May each of you have a bouquet of red roses in your lives every day...keep blooming!

Melodie



Evelyn Mead Crawford
Phi Chapter

Cynthia J. Meriweather
Alpha Delta Chapter

Robin Eileen Somers
Beta Delta Chapter

Virginia Pearl Mick
Gamma Sigma Chapter

Time to FOCUS on State Committees



The OSO state committees will play a crucial role during the 2025-2027 biennium. One of the responsibilities of the State President is to select members to serve on these committees. I believe that serving on state committees provide valuable leadership and engagement opportunities and serves as a potential pathway for future state officers. Additionally, it allows members who wish to become more involved with OSO to engage directly with the organization's internal workings while also familiarizing themselves with DKG Society International.

I am committed to creating a balance of new and experienced committee members to ensure effective service. Most of the committee work will be conducted through virtual meetings. If you are interested in serving on a state committee, please click the link below and complete the short Google form by June 15. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Molly Helmlinger
President-Elect for 2025-2027
First Vice-President, 2024-2025

<https://forms.gle/cYYutBGV4CU1vgCaA>

DUES

DKG International dues and Ohio State Organization dues remain unchanged for each membership type.

Membership Type	International	State	Total
Active	\$40.00	\$13.00	\$53.00
Collegiate	\$20.00	\$ 6.00	\$26.00
Reserve	\$20.00	\$ 6.00	\$26.00

The amount of chapter dues is determined by the membership of each chapter and will increase the above totals.

Your dues are to be paid to your chapter treasurer no later than June 30, 2025.

Diana Haskell, Gamma Phi
OSO Treasurer



Alpha Sigma
Charli Wendt
Stephanie Wendt

Alpha Upsilon
Deb Vodde

Alpha Omega
Carrie Copeland
Francesca Gomez
Isabella Mijavec
Alexandria Stephens
Megan Zetterquist

Beta Eta
Karen Shroeder

Beta Kappa
Sara Sybert

DKG Ohio Membership and Chapter Update

Active Members	2,161
Collegiate Members	5
Reserve Members	292
Total Membership	2,458
Ohio Chapters	66



Statement of Financial Activity

Revenue	\$54,772.00
Unrealized Revenue	\$10,201.00*
Total Revenue	\$64,973.00
Expenses	\$ 31,590.00
Net Income	\$33,383.00

*Investment interest & dividends + change in market value – management expenses

Checking/Savings	\$ 49,641.00
Investments Assets	\$228,628.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 244.00
Total Assets	\$278,513.00
Credit Card Liability	\$ 5,280.00
Total Equity	\$273,233.00

Chapters Induct New Members



Alpha Omega Chapter inducted five new members during their May meeting. The new inductees are Alexandria Stephens (collegiate member), Francesca Gomez, Isabella Mijavec (collegiate member), Megan Zetterquist, and Carrie Copeland.

Alpha Sigma Chapter welcomed two new members, Stephanie Wendt (left) and her daughter Charli Wendt. Charli is our first collegiate member.



Alpha Upsilon Chapter inducted Deb Vodde as a new member at their recent meeting

Inside International

DKG Ohio members are encouraged to participate in the monthly *Inside International Meetings* via Zoom. Join the meeting for half an hour to enjoy conversation with International leaders and staff. Directors and elected leaders will be available to answer questions and welcome comments. As the links to these meetings are available, Ohio members will be notified via Constant Contact.

Upcoming Inside International Dates:

Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Eastern
Tuesday, July 1st @ 1:30pm Eastern
Tuesday, August 5th @ 6:30pm Eastern
Tuesday, September 2nd @ 1:30pm Eastern

Chapter President's Connections with Dr. Molly Helmlinger 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

2025

July 23 ~ Wednesday
Aug 21 ~ Thursday
Sept 17 ~ Wednesday
Oct 23 ~ Thursday
Nov 19 ~ Wednesday
Dec 18 ~ Thursday

2026

Jan 21 ~ Wednesday
Feb 19 ~ Thursday
March 18 ~ Wednesday
April 16 ~ Thursday
May 20 ~ Wednesday

DKG U.S. Forum

The U.S. Forum is a part of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society (DKG) for women educators, which also includes Forums in Canada, Europe and Latin America. ALL DKG members living in the United States and Puerto Rico are members of the U.S. Forum.

The U.S. Forum serves its members through newsletters and social media, training webinars, workshops offered at international conventions and conferences, and by sponsoring the National Legislative Seminar (NLS).

You are cordially invited to check out the new DKG U.S. Forum website at:

<https://www.dkgusforum.org>.

Legislative Report

Summer is here and what is in store for Education? Click on the link to read this month's information regarding the Federal Budget and Education.

<https://secure.smores.com/n/794fr-summer-is-here?ref=email>



**Mark Your Calendars
for the
OSO Fall Executive Board Meeting
September 27, 2025
Time & Place TBA**



**Dr. Molly Helmlinger's
2025 ~ 2027
President's State Initiative
Mental Health & Wellness**



Alpha Lambda Chapter members donated books to Catherine Hare for her children's ministry at Amesville Presbyterian Church. Pictured standing are Chris Snoddy, Carol Wolf, Thelma Raines, Debby Sheskey, Nancy Smathers, and Nancy Wood. Seated is Lois Harkins, Catherine Hare, and Linda Sauer.

**INVITATION
INAUGURAL TOWN HALL MEETING
JUNE 8, 2025
6:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

You are cordially invited and encouraged to participate in the OSO Town Hall meeting.

The topics for the OSO Town Hall meeting are to discuss the 2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget and the proposed website development expenditure. The Proposed Budget and Rationale are attached.

We are looking forward to seeing you. All attendees must register prior to the June 8, 2025, Zoom meeting using the link provided below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JhTsoD5OQXGsXKoPPHJnA>

OSO - DKG Membership Spotlight



Julie Willoughby, Beta Kappa Chapter

Dr. Julie Willoughby, Beta Kappa Vice President, was recently selected at the 2025 OAESA Outstanding Central Office Administrator. Dr. Willoughby is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Urbana City Schools. Willoughby facilitates Urbana's District Leadership Team, Professional Development Committee and the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System Committee. She also leads the Resident Educator Program, facilitates all curriculum adoption, serves as the district testing coordinator and district compliance officer. She will be recognized during the OAESA's awards celebration on June 16 at the OEASA Professional Conference in Columbus. Along with the recognition, Urbana City Schools will receive a \$500.00 award which Willoughby has determined will be used to benefit students at each of the three schools in Urbana.



Sue Datish, Beta Chi Chapter

The Community Star sponsored by the *Warren Tribune Chronicle*, recognizes the brightest examples of community service and the people who do those good deeds. The Community Stars program celebrates volunteers who go above and beyond to make a measurable impact in the community and the lives of others. Selected this year was Beta Chi First Vice President Sue Datish. Mary Bumstead, Co-President of Beta Chi nominated Sue for her dedication to Beta Chi and her other community service. Sue is regarded as a *gifted problem solver*, helps different groups such as Trumbull Retired Teachers Association, United Way and Trumbull Town Hall with technology needs and newsletters.



Beta Chi Chapter celebrated its 70th birthday. Eileen Niemi, charter member, was in attendance and honored.



Gamma Phi Chapter members volunteered as *grunts* at the annual Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon set up day.



Beta Zeta Chapter President Suzanne Geis and Cassandra White from Sarah's House in Defiance, Ohio show some of the soap socks knitted and crocheted by members and toiletry items donated by Beta Zeta members. Sarah's House is a Victims Assistance program which walks victims through the court process and explains their rights.



Delta Chi Chapter held a Recommitment Ceremony.



Gamma Upsilon Chapter welcomed Anna Feyervari, Assistant Director of Domestic Violence Services, to their meeting in April. Following her presentation; Anna accepted donations from the chapter including birthday celebration kits and money donated for needed items (first photo). Anna and treasurer Stacy Jarvi Anna with DKG members; Joann McEwen, Phyllis Peters & Terri Thomas (second photo). Anna holding one of the birthday kits (third photo).



Alpha Iota Chapter donated a truckload of clothes and children's books to the Way Station in East Liverpool for one of its community service projects.



Alpha Psi Chapter donated to Jamie Trout, Executive Director of Eastside Community Ministries, to support their Tools for School and Lace Up for Kids projects.



Phi Chapter awarded the Anne and Ginny Sperry Scholarship of \$400.00 to Melissa Dills. Melissa is an Integrated Tech Specialist at Lake Primary and Lake Elementary in the Lake Local School District working towards additional certification. Pictured are Barbara Baltrinic, Melissa Dills, and Mary Jean Lyon.



Gamma Lambda Chapter awarded a \$400.00 scholarship to Madison Swartzentruber, 6th Grade English Language Arts teacher in the Lake Local School District. The money will be used as she studies for her Master of Art in Applied History and a Certificate in Public Humanities at the University of Akron. Pictured are Dr. Mary Jo MacCracken, Madison Swartzentruber, Kaitlin Jones.



Alpha Upsilon Chapter presented Terri Peltier, school librarian, an Educational Grant check from Becky Doak for waterproof bags for student library books at Springcreek Primary in Piqua.



Beta Psi Chapter decorated Easter cookies at their April meeting.

Important Upcoming Dates to Remember

June 1, 2025

Chapter President's Report Due
Online Gold Key Application Due

June 8, 2025

Inaugural OSO Town Hall Meeting
Open to All OSO Members
2025-2026 Proposed Budget
6:00 p.m. via Zoom

June 11-12, 2025

Biennial Seminar 2025

June 15, 2025

Google Form for OSO State Committees Due

July 1, 2025

OSO Executive Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. via Zoom

September 27, 2025

OSO Fall Executive Board Meeting
Time & Place TBA