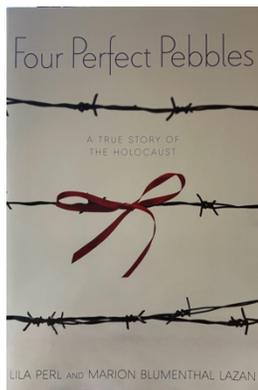


My 2024 DKG International Convention Experience

My journey to the 2024 DKG International Convention began last summer when I attended the 2023 DKG International Conference in Detroit with Joan Bostelman, Debby Canter, and Joyce Jones-Weinkam. After attending various breakout sessions and hearing from outstanding speakers, I was hooked! I knew then I had to attend the 2024 DKG International Convention in National Harbor, Maryland. The four of us immediately began making plans to attend the International Convention together.

Ohio was represented by ten OSO members at the 2024 DKG International Convention which provided an opportunity for us to forge new friendships within our group as well as other Convention attendees. It was a great learning experience for me as well as eye opening on how DKG members from around the globe came together sharing how they are tackling the challenges that many chapters are facing. I had the opportunity to attend not only general sessions but also various breakout sessions on the importance of communications with our members and others, how to market of DKG to non-members to grow our membership and making DKG relevant for all our members.

A very important order of business conducted at the convention was the consideration of 94 proposed amendments, many of which were carried over from the 2022 International Convention. We voted on all 94 proposed amendments before week's end along with several motions that were brought to the floor. I found the process of considering these amendments to be eye opening and a learning experience, it was so different from what I had previously experienced at the chapter and state level. It was through this process that I gained a new appreciation and respect for parliamentarians especially Dr. Helen Popovich, DKG International Parliamentarian.



We had the privilege of hearing from several outstanding convention speakers throughout the week. I was moved by Holocaust survivor Marion Blumenthal Lazan who shared her story of survival in the concentration camp and beginning a new life in the United States following the war. Her message was one of perseverance, determination, faith and hope. Marion's is an important life story that we all need to hear especially today. She shares her story in [Four Perfect Pebbles](#).

We had time for fellowship with our OSO members who attended as well as time to meet members from not only the U.S. but from Canada, Europe, Latin America and Mexico. I have learned to step outside the comfort of my chapter and expand my relationships with DKG members not only from Ohio but across the country. Thank you ADSOEF for assisting me financially to attend the 2024 DKG International Convention.

I would encourage all OSO members to step outside your comfort zone, open yourself up to new experiences, relationships and leadership opportunities within in your chapter, OSO and possibly at the international level. We are all key women educators and even though we may not be in the classroom any longer, we still play a very vital role in education through our membership in Delta Kappa Gamma.

Cathy Tenney, Beta Kappa
Editor of *The Voice & Foundation Matters*