

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!

As we enter the month of February, I think about this special season of **LOVE**. As you look around and see the members who are in your OSO chapters, your family members, your neighbors, and your friends take some time and spread some **L~O~V~E** ...

L ~ Lavish those who are around you with words of appreciation and encouragement

O ~ Open up and *share a special memory* with someone in your life

V ~ Value the lives of those who are around you

E ~ Enjoy every moment that you have been given.

In the words of Germany Kent... "Remember to **spread love**. Hug the people you care about and make sure they know that you care and appreciate them. Make it known to your friends and family that you love them."

May each of you have a Marvelous Valentine's Day filled with lots of love!

Melodie's Meaningful Memoirs

I would like to say a sincere thank you to our OSO Admin Team and our OSO Advisory Committee for their lovely floral arrangement, my Gamma Nu Chapter for their individual flowers and floral arrangements. I also want to thank all the OSO members who came to the *Celebration of Life* services for my Father and supported my family and me during this rough transition in our life.

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Ohio State Organization

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Melodie McGee, Gamma Nu

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Virginia Koch, Alpha Nu



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

My heart was and still is overwhelmed with the many, many, many OSO chapters and presidents that have and are still sending cards and love gifts to me. It has and is continuing to help encourage me when I read the different messages and see the beautiful artwork on the cards. I have also read every email that was sent from chapter presidents/members and the e-cards that were sent too. Each card and email have been placed in a special book that I am saving and will be treasuring them always.

The outpouring of your kindness and encouragement during the transition of my dad from his earthly residence, Deacon Frank C. Cleveland, Jr., will always be remembered. I ask that you continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers along with my mom, Barbara Cleveland.

Thank you again for your caring spirit and love that each of you extended to me during this season.

Until next time let's continue to. . .

🌹 Renew 🌹 Recapture 🌹 Respond...

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

Melodie



It's Almost Time!

Just 62 days until our **OSO State Convention on April 4 - April 5, 2025!** We know you are planning to be there. There's still time to ask members of your chapter to come with you, as registration continues through March 4. We will open the convention on Friday evening. The Executive Board Meeting and General Session will take place on Saturday, followed by our touching Necrology Service and our Birthday

Luncheon celebrating the 87th anniversary of the founding of our OSO DKG Society. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ymxnf626> and complete the short registration form; you'll be directed to the electronic payment link and receive a confirmation with your receipt. If you are having any challenges with the electronic registration form or payment, please contact Michele Koenig, Convention Registrar at koenigtutors@gmail.com.

To make hotel reservations at Deer Creek State Park Lodge, call 1-740-869-2020 and give the code GOSO. Designated convention rooms not filled will be released to the general public on March 4.

There are just 62 more days until our State Convention, but who's counting?

Are you registered to attend? **YES!**

Questions? Contact Convention co-coordinators: Sandy Royer at sandyroyer51@gmail.com or her sidekick Beth Archer at archer1140@yahoo.com

Convention Lifelong Learning Sessions

Remember those great Zoom sessions during the pandemic when we had to cancel our 2021 State Convention? Well, our 2025 convention **is happening**, and once again, you have opportunities to attend virtual sessions during February, March, and April. An email recently arrived in your inbox announcing the first topics. You have to admit, there are some pretty interesting sessions lined up; there's no limit to how many you can attend.

To register, click the registration link in the email and provide your name and email address. After you register, you will receive an email with your login directions. Be sure to save that email to use for login on the date of your session. We look forward to **seeing** you on Zoom!

And here's BIG news! You are in for a treat on Friday, April 4, when early birds may attend an in-person session. Starting at 3:00 p.m., Past State President Debby Canter will lead members on the Storybook Trail at Deer Creek. Please meet her at the starting point of the trail. Dress appropriately for the day's weather so you can walk, learn, and enjoy the beauty of nature at Deer Creek State Park. Help us know who to expect for the hike by signing up at <https://forms.gle/ZWHJ1RhyWDqofcWV7>.



Dr. Alberta M. Dobry
Alpha Eta Chapter

Marlene Laidley
Alpha Alpha Chapter

Elizabeth Wetson
Beta Chi Chapter

Alice Berry
Delta Kappa Chapter



OSO - DKG Membership Spotlight



Nancy Russell
Beta Kappa Chapter

Nancy Russell and her husband Dave were recognized as Shelby County Historical Society's volunteers of the year award at a recent event held at the Ross Historical Center in Sidney, Ohio.

You Can Do This!

Ohio State Organization needs you. OSO does not exist without the willingness of its 2,451 members to be actively engaged in various areas of the organization. We urgently need you to step up. My direct message to each OSO member: **You can do this!**

What do I mean? This is whatever role you see yourself stepping up to do. It may be at the chapter level. OSO needs leaders at the chapter level to be officers. These officers need capable chapter members to step up and serve on committees. These committees need to be focused on goals and objectives that correlate to the seven purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma and beyond. **You can do this!**

There will be opportunities to serve on designated state committees in the next biennium that starts July 2025. Look for further details on the website in the February edition of *The Voice*. Serving on a state committee is an excellent way to gain broader knowledge about the inner workings of OSO. It is a logical pathway to a state officer position. **You can do this!**

We need decisive leaders at the state level to serve as officers. I firmly believe that state officers serve to assist the 67 chapters. That means being a mentor. Can you see yourself in that role? Can you see yourself contributing to the growth of our chapters? If so, apply to be a 2025-2027 OSO officer. The deadline to apply has been extended to February 10. There is a link on the OSO website and in this issue of *The Voice*. **You can do this!**

Every one of us have strengths. What strengths are you willing to step forward with to help create a more relevant and robust chapter and Ohio State Organization? **You can do this!**

Energetically,
Dr. Molly Helmlinger, Beta Kappa
OSO First Vice President
OSO Membership Chair



Key educators! The application deadline for OSO 2025-2027 state leadership is extended to Monday, February 10, 2025. Here's your chance to apply in case you missed the original deadline.

Apply online today at <https://tinyurl.com/mph57u6y> !

Call for: President, First VP, Second VP,
Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary
and Nominating Committee Area Representative

International Women's Day March 8, 2025



In 1977, the United Nations established **International Women's Day** to promote eliminating discrimination against women and advancing gender equality globally. Celebrated annually on **March 8**, International Women's Day honors women's contributions and highlights the ongoing challenges they face without regard to national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political divisions.

Celebrate courage and empowerment with the purchase of a 2025 International Women's Day pin. By ordering a pin, you are honoring an exceptional woman in your life and contributing to initiatives that support and empower women worldwide. Here is your chance to express gratitude to the women who have inspired and guided you.

The **DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF)** is offering its second International Women's Day pin fundraising initiative to support our mission of educating the world. The 2025 pin features a red tulip – red symbolizing courage and determination and tulips presented as a symbol of empowerment to women worldwide. The International Women's Day pin campaign began on **January 15, 2025**, and ends on **March 1, 2025**.

HOW TO ORDER

Ready to celebrate your mentor? The 2025 International Day pins will be ordered and shipped from Award Concepts with a \$25 donation per pin going to the DKGIEF area of greatest need.

Using Award Concepts to distribute the pins allows those ordering to have the pin(s) and specially designed card(s) sent to them to personally present to the woman being honored or mailed directly to the woman being recognized. Order your pin(s) at <https://tinyurl.com/4nkxm3sw>

On the Award Concepts home page in the "Featured Item" column on the left, click on the pin, and the order form will open. Select the number of pins and pay using a credit/debit card.



Zeta Chapter – Denise R. Reilly

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 published, Ohio members will be notified via Constant Contact.

Upcoming Inside International Dates:

Tuesday, February 4, 2025
6:30 p.m. Eastern

URGENT MESSAGE

Recently there has been uptick in the number of members unsubscribing from *The Voice, Foundation Matters* and various email blasts that are sent out. **Please note that when a member you unsubscribe, you are unsubscribing from all mailings from both OSO and ADSOEF.**

As editor, I am not able to resubscribe you. I am only able to have a **resubscribe email** sent once through Constant Contact. Once you receive the **resubscribe email** follow the steps listed in the email. Until you do so, your email address is marked **Awaiting Confirmation**, and you will not receive any mailings. If you no longer have the resubscribe email, I then must call Constant Contact to have the resubscribe email sent again.

DKG Ohio Membership and Chapter Update

Active Members	2,155
Collegiate Members	5
Reserve Members	291
Total Membership	2,451
Ohio Chapters	67

Statement of Financial Activity

Revenue	\$31,653.00
Unrealized Revenue	\$ 6,500.00*
Total Revenue	\$37,613.00
Expenses	\$ 20,000.00
Net Income	\$17,613.00

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

Statement of Financial Position

Checking/Savings	\$ 32,987.00
Investments Assets	\$224,476.00
Total Assets	\$257,463.00
Credit Card Liability	\$.00
Total Equity	\$257,463.00



OSO State Convention
April 4-5, 2025

GIRLS Initiative

By now most of you know DKG is no longer supporting Schools for Africa. DKG is now supporting educational access for girls in Africa through an initiative simply titled, GIRLS (**G**irls **I**nitiative to **R**evitalize **L**earning and **S**uccess). This fund works to bolster girls' education in Africa. It addresses critical barriers to girls' education and strengthen global expertise in this field.

The key areas of focus are 1) get a better understanding of barriers facing girls in Africa, 2) address harmful social norms, 3) deploy technology, 4) mount global advocacy and leadership and 5) develop a Technical Advisory Panel.

To learn more information about this initiative and view a brief informative video on the fund narrated by Marisa Ferguson, Assistant Director of Global Cause Partnerships for UNICEF USA, go to DKG International's website at www.dkg.org and search for GIRLS Fund.

Karen Dombrowski, Alpha Nu
OSO Second Vice-President
Education Excellence Chair

Important Upcoming Dates to Remember

February 1, 2025

Chapter Necrology Report Due - Gold Key Requirement

[Necrology Report Form](#)

February 4, 2025

Inside International @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

February 6, 2025

Lifelong Learning Session: The Value of Book Clubs for Students and Teachers

[Registration Link](#)

February 10, 2025

Last Day to Submit OSO Officer Application

February 11, 2025

Lifelong Learning Session: I'm the Chapter Treasurer, Now What?

[Registration Link](#)

February 13, 2025

Lifelong Learning Session: A Survivor's Story of Domestic Abuse in the Philippines

[Registration Link](#)

February 15, 2025

Deadline for submissions to the Spring Fine Arts Gallery

February 18, 2025

Lifelong Learning Session: Abigail Adams: A Woman for Our Times

[Registration Link](#)

February 20, 2025

Chapter Presidents Fireside Chat @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

February 25, 2025

Lifelong Learning Session: Secrets to Exciting, Engaging and Informative Chapter Newsletters

[Registration Link](#)

February 27, 2025

Lifelong Learning Session: Providing STEM Activities at Camp and on Saturday Events

[Registration Link](#)

March 4, 2025

Last Day to Register for the 2025 OSO State Convention

[Link to OSO State Convention Registration Form](#)

News from Around the State



Alpha Tau Chapter honored Cheryl Quay and Ruby Logan as 50-year members. Alpha Tau has three, 50-year members. Mary Howell was honored last fall.



Alpha Gamma Chapter held a membership drive at the Willis James Bed and Breakfast in Chillicothe on September and three new members were inducted in January.



Beta Upsilon Chapter provided local new teachers with a gift bag, treats, and information on DKG membership which were hand delivered during the first few weeks of school.



Beta Upsilon Chapter members participated in the Holiday Brown Bag Silent Auction event to raise money for Early Career Grants. Members placed bids on a mystery bag with the bag going to the highest bidder.



Beta Chi Chapter members Sue Smith, Hope Collins and Katie Hank enjoying the chapter's December meeting.

Save the Date

DKG – Ohio State Organization



Biennial Seminar 2025

Wed. June 11 – Thurs. June 12

Learn about the Amish Community in a unique way!

Hear first-hand their lifestyle, faith, education,

and woodworking expertise.

Look for more information and details in the March issue of *The Voice*.