

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!

Let's celebrate together and give the gift of **TIME** with each other during this December celebration season. This special gift that you give to someone special in your life doesn't have to cost much money but it's worth a lifetime of memories.

Here are a few suggestions of what you might give when you're sharing your gift of *time* with someone special during this season...

- Share *time* reading a poem or a passage from a special book with someone special with a cup of hot chocolate or hot cinnamon tea.
- Take the *time* to write that someone that you love or that person who means something special to you a note or a letter and give it to them.
- Take some *time* to go on a walk in the Conservatory or an Art Gallery on the free day and see the floral arrangements or gallery art pieces.
- Listen to your favorite December music on the YouTube and sing some of those songs together spending *time* remembering the words to those songs with a group of DKG sisters, friends, or family members.
- Watch the snowflakes fall as you sit with someone special by a fireplace as you share *time* teaching a hobby or craft.

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Ohio State Organization

President

Melodie McGee, Gamma Nu

First Vice President

Dr. Molly Helmlinger, Beta Kappa

Second Vice President

Karen Dombrowski, Alpha Nu

Recording Secretary

Meier Bauer, Gamma Phi

Corresponding Secretary

Judith McClanahan, Gamma Nu

Parliamentarian

Joyce Jones-Weinkam, Gamma Xi

Treasurer

Diana Haskell, Gamma Phi

Immediate Past President

Debby Canter, Delta Epsilon

Editor of *The Voice*

Cathy Tenney, Beta Kappa

OSO Webmaster

Cathy Adams, Alpha Gamma

OSO Registered Statutory Agent

Virginia Koch, Alpha Nu



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

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So... remember during the month of December give someone special your *present* of your

T . . . Take opportunities to
I . . . Incorporate
M . . . Memorable
E . . . Experiences with others

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EACH OF YOU!

🌹Renew 🌹Recapture 🌹Respond...

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

Melodie



Alpha Omega Chapter donated toys and gifts for the Warren Family Mission's Christmas event for children at their November meeting. Pictured are Denise Gatta and Sue Pappas, Co-Presidents; Brianne Gayhart of Hannah's House; OSO State President Melodie McGee; and Tom Kiepper of the Warren Family Mission.



Darlene Rose Mary Ruzieka
Pi

Shirley Stocz
Beta Chi

Sharon Ward
Delta Chi

Nancy K. McAlexander
Alpha Upsilon

Elizabeth Collins
Chi

Mary Lou Custer
Alpha Mu



Gamma Sigma Chapter gathered at the library to cut fabric in preparation for the Blankets for Children service project. Blankets will be donated to Perry County Children Services to be given to kids as a warm hug during a very difficult time in their lives.

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, December 3, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Eastern

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ 1:30 p.m. Eastern

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

Membership is a Mystery

The membership initiative for the second year of the biennium is **REACH**. The strategies we implement in reaching the three distinct categories of membership are important for success. There are similarities and differences when reaching out to new members, recruiting previous members and retaining current members. Those similarities and differences should be viewed as a mystery to investigate.

Membership is a mystery. Ponder that statement. Why is it that certain chapters thrive, others merrily coast along, some struggle to keep going, and then specific chapters collapse? Ohio State Organization (OSO) currently has 67 chapters which means there are 67 mysteries to be unraveled.

Each chapter is encouraged to thoroughly investigate what is and what is not occurring within the three categories of membership. This must be done first at the chapter level. Why? Because each chapter knows firsthand what regularly goes on within their ranks. Each chapter must go deeper by researching what has been successful in the past that enabled gains to be made. Would the strategies done in the past be effective in the present? If not, what other strategies could be implemented? Conduct research into why the chapter has fallen short in gaining new members. Is the chapter repeating unsuccessful strategies hoping to get different results? Discover new strategies that have the potential to be successful in those endeavors. Each chapter must be aware of their own strengths so they can capitalize on them. At the same time chapters must minimize their limitations. Having a realistic view of membership at the chapter level will go a substantial way in unraveling the mystery.

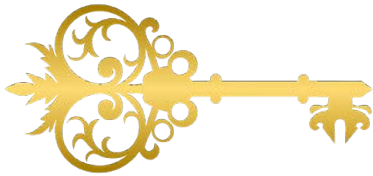
The second way to assist chapters in investigating more thoroughly their membership mystery is to explore the Delta Kappa Gamma website (**dkg.org**). The DKG website has entire sections devoted to membership. Follow these five simple steps to access the website:

1. Sign in using your DKG member number as the username and enter your password.
2. Click on the symbol that looks like short three horizontal lines. This is a dropdown symbol which will have eight categories.
3. Click on “Resources” which is the second category listed.
4. You will see two major areas which are “Media Resources” and “DKG Officer Resources.”
5. Click the “Membership” tab.

Clicking on the “Membership” tab will swing you over to “Membership Resources.” This has an incredible amount of membership resources. There are articles, videos, documents, forms and other information that any DKG member can access. It will be worth your while to learn more about what the website has to offer.

Remember to view membership as a mystery. Each chapter is a mystery to be investigated. The first part of the investigation will be conducted at the chapter level with current members providing insights and backstories. The second part of the investigation will be exploring the DKG website and the valuable resources available to assist and broaden your views. Embrace the mystery and be pleasantly surprised at what you will unravel about membership.

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



Gold Key Chapters for 2023-2024

Congratulations to the following chapters who will be recognized and receive their Gold Key certificate at the 2025 OSO State Convention.

Kappa
Nu Rho
Omicron
Pi
Tau
Zeta

Alpha Chi
Alpha Delta
Alpha Nu
Alpha Psi
Alpha Xi

Beta Delta
Beta Era
Beta Kappa
Beta Psi
Beta Rho
Beta Upsilon
Beta Zeta

Gamma Iota
Gamma Nu
Gamma Phi
Gamma Pi
Gamma Sigma
Gamma Theta
Gamma Xi

Delta Chi
Delta Kappa
Delta Mu
Delta Phi

Gold Key Honor Chapter
Alpha Chi



OSO Convention 2025

124 . . . 123 . . . 122 . . . Yep, we are still counting the days until our OSO convention on April 4 and 5, 2025. You know every member is invited to attend, right? Some chapter members are already planning their weekend together. It's a chapter tradition. They know they always leave earlier than necessary to make the trip. They plan to stop along the way for some casual shopping and, of course, lunch. This year's convention takes place in central Ohio's Deer Creek State Park located in Madison County. We will be celebrating the 87th anniversary of the founding of Alpha Delta State, now known as OSO. The convention officially starts on Friday evening with the opening session followed by the reception. It's a great time to greet old friends and get acquainted with new friends. The Executive Board Meeting and General Session will take place on Saturday morning followed by the inspirational Celebration of Life. Later our chapter presidents will be honored during the Birthday Luncheon where we will also install the state officers for 2025-2027.

Yes, President McGee has some big plans for our state convention, and she sincerely hopes that you will want to be there to help her celebrate her biennium and the 87th year of the Ohio State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Look for the registration form and the Deer Creek Lodge reservation information in the January issue of *The Voice*. Until then, start making your plans with your chapter members to be part of the April 4th and 5th OSO state convention! We will keep counting . . . **121 . . . 120 . . . 119 . . . 118 . . .**

Sandy Royer, Convention Coordinator and Beth Archer, her sidekick.



Alpha Delta

Guyanna K. Black

Gamma Iota

Sarah W. Reinhard
Terttu A. Revolinsky

Delta Chi

Lois Dennis
Shelby Elder

Gamma Theta

Gretchen Baptie
Sherri Mercsak
Erin Nusker
Gabriela Peters
Melissa Shultz
Angela Smith
Theresa Solar
Michelle Wyant

Reinstated Members

Delta Kappa

Tina Durnell-Smith

Alpha Gamma

Nancy Tanner

OSO-DKG Membership and Chapter Update

Active Members	2,143
Collegiate Members	5
Reserve Members	289
Total Memberships	2,437
Ohio Chapters	67

OSO-DKG Financial Update July 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024

Statement of Financial Activity

Revenue	\$ 30,783.00
Unrealized Revenue	\$ 11,250.00*
Total Revenue	\$ 42,033.00
Expenses	\$ 17,650.00
Net Income	\$ 24,383.00

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

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$ 34,557.00
Investments Assets	\$229,676.00
Total Assets	\$264,233.00
Liabilities	\$ 0
Total Equity	\$264,233.00

Diana Haskell, Gamma Phi
OSO Treasurer



Season's Greetings DKG Sisters

A new year and a new biennium are approaching. Celebrate this momentous event by keeping DKG strong. Apply to become a 2025-2027 OSO **state officer** or area representative on the Nominating Committee.

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary

Sharing your leadership, talent and creativity is a wonderful way to give back to DKG and to help Ohio communities. The application link is at the end of this article. The application deadline is January 2, 2025. Happy Holidays!

Shirley Moore, Chairman, Gamma Nu
Karen Dunn, Alpha Psi
Dr. Norma Kirby, Alpha Delta
Cynthy Kleman, Beta Eta
Marilyn Kretschman, Gamma Iota

<https://tinyurl.com/7scfxj63>

Legislative News for December

Happy December DKG Sisters!!

The winds of change are blowing, and January 20th will see a change happen that will lead us for the next four years. What will this change bring us?

Imagine—you are reading a really good book and you come to the next chapter and all sudden, the story takes you down a different path that brings new changes to the storyline that you had become hooked on. Well, as we make the turn to prepare for the new year, we will also find ourselves preparing for possible changes in the world of education that could be once our nation moves beyond Inauguration Day on January 20th.

Just as I have mentioned before about Project 2025, which is a plan that was written in 2022 as a road map for the next conservative president to reform policies to a conservative mindset. However, President-Elect Trump has not endorsed Project 2025, but he has come up with an Agenda 47. So, now that there will be a change in Washington D.C., in January, what does that really mean for education?

How are they similar and how do they contrast?

- In regard to LGBTQ+, both plans call for protections for members of this community to be scaled back.
- Agenda 47 calls for revoking gender-affirming care policies
- President-Elect Trump will ask Congress to pass a bill that formally recognizes only two genders—male and female as assigned at birth.
- The biggest similarity between the two is that both call for the end of the Department of Education. President-Elect Trump has a plan to send the decisions regarding education to the state level. The states will be able to run education as their state sees fit.
- Both policies call for an end to the critical race theory and gender ideology.
- School choice—President-Elect Trump is in favor of parents having more choice in where their child attends school. Now that Congress will be controlled by the same party as the President-Elect, the possibility of new tax credits and incentives for those wishing for school choice. This will be something to watch out for since the election last week saw the voters in several states reject the increase of school vouchers.

In other Education news. . .

Teacher shortages

Special education is seeing a great shortage of teachers and has caught the attention of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as they begin an investigation into the issue and the response from the federal government. For the 2023-2024 school year, 70% of the schools in the country reported special education teacher vacancies. The problem that has come to light is the ability to keep teachers in the profession. There seems to be trouble keeping teachers beyond the first five years in the profession.

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The outlook of teacher vacancies throughout the other areas of teaching is just as severe except that the average length of time in the classroom is only two years as opposed to the five years of special education teachers. The question that comes to mind as I research the issues with teacher shortage is—why are so many parents and advice givers guiding high school students to choose a career that is not in teaching? Is it because of the pay that a teacher receives? Is it because of the testing scores linked to teacher retention? What could some of the other reasons be? I can think a few more based on my experience in teaching as I am sure that you can think of some based on your experience.

So, does this mean that we as DKG members, need to find ways to better support new teachers or students in college who are seeking a degree in teaching? I can see the need for this, but just how to implement such a program, is the question.

School Bus Driver Shortage

In addition to the issue of shortage of teachers for our students, the education world is also experiencing a shortage of school bus drivers. This ends up being an inconvenience to parents who must scramble to find a way to get their children to school after a no-show bus. In the schools we are seeing this lead to greater amounts of absenteeism of students. This of course leads to greater gaps in the education of the students as they are expected to do double time learning to catch up from what they missed. The teachers in the classroom also must find ways to catch these students up without sacrificing the other students who have not experienced the bus issues. House Resolution 9733 was introduced on September 24th of this year by Kentucky Representative Morgan McGarvey as a bill introduced to address the shortage of school bus drivers. Unfortunately, when you read this bill, it really does nothing to help with the shortage.

Just in case you are keeping track of the bills introduced regarding education in Washington D.C., we are up to 708 bills introduced during this session of Congress.

As a final note

Please note that the words in this newsletter are meant to provide information and I hope that none of the words come across with my personal feelings in the political world. Thank you and enjoy.

Thank you and have a great holiday season!!

Sharon Sheidegger, Beta Delta
OSO Legislative Liaison



Tau Chapter presented Mr. Beading Principal of Scranton Elementary School with 17 Burger King \$15.00 gift cards, totaling \$255.00 for their “Caught Being Good” program. This program rewards students for completing their homework and for kindness to other students.

Happenings Around the Buckeye State



Alpha Phi Chapter gathered at the Clinton County Historical Society in Wilmington for their yearly auction of home baked goodies, Christmas items and home decor. We also celebrated with Maxene McClellan, who celebrated her 95th birthday on Veterans' Day. Maxene has been an OSO DKG member since 1962. Seated (L to R) are Denise Shaneyfelt, Maxene McClellan, Carole Haines, Linda Beaver. Standing (L to R) are Linda Rinehart, Linda Nier, Anna Cates, Rhea Young, Karen Shonkwiler, Robin Prewitt, Jyl Dwyer, Bryanne Peck, Sally Valdiviez and Douglas Middleton, the auctioneer.



Gamma Xi Chapter heard from Mandisa Williams Interim Director of Dove House, a women's shelter with the YWCA in Butler County, who explained their services. Pictured below are Lyn Garr, MS, Director of Empowerment and Advocacy for Dove House; Gamma Xi members Maureen Schwab, Ellen Denney, Lisa Smallwood, Kathy Lach and Mandisa Williams, Interim Director of Dove House.





Gamma Theta Chapter held an Initiation luncheon where the following eight women became members of t our chapter: Gretchen Baptie, Angela Smith, Theresa Solar, Gabriela Peters, Erin Nusker, Michelle Wyatt, Melissa Schultz and Sherri Marsek. Diane Ingels, Pam Richmann, Suzanne Jackson and Roberta Kaleb were also recognized for their 40 plus years as members of Delta Kappa Gamma.



Beta Kappa Chapter members met at the Shelby County Historical Society to help make 400gingerbread house for the Historical Society's Christmas of Yesteryear on December 7, 2024. Pictured are Melissa Bowers, Janet Nufrio, Tilda Philipot, Historical Society Director; Barri Jill Grandey, Nancy Russell, Regina Hunsucker, and Becky Turner-Michael.



Ohio
State Organization



OSO State Convention
April 4-5, 2025
Deer Creek State Park Lodge
Mt. Sterling, Ohio

We're looking forward to seeing chapter members from all over the state of Ohio gather together!

See old friends and make new friends.

Gain ideas for your chapter.

Attend the Executive Board Meeting, General Session, 87th Birthday Luncheon and a fun reception.

Experience the election of new OSO officers.

Celebrate as your chapter president is recognized in the Parade of Presidents.

Enjoy the beauty of one of Ohio's premier state parks.

COME! Enjoy!

Be part of this special OSO gathering!

Important Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 1, 2024

President's Page

DKG.org >Publications>President's Page
Applications for Zoom Presentations Due

December 3, 2024

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

January 2, 2025

OSO Elected Positions Application Due

January 7, 2025

Inside International @ 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

January 15, 2025

Arts & Humanities Submissions for
Spring Fine Arts Gallery Opens
Application Form available on www.dkg.org

February 1, 2025

Chapter Necrology Report Due – Gold Key
Requirement



OSO State Convention
April 4-5, 2025