

# 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!

When I got home on Saturday 9/14 from the Fall Executive Board Meeting after getting 20 minutes of sleep the morning of the meeting, I fell into a deep sleep. I had a dream entitled **IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?**

The dream started with three of the OSO founders having a tea party on an array of puffy clouds looking at us through the windows of The Quest Conference Center during our Fall Executive Board Meeting. Suddenly Margaret L. White, our founding First State President, leaned through the clouds to hear one of our OSO members saying "Well, this is my last time serving as President, I'm tired of this!" Margaret turned and looked at Amelia Kirkland, our state's first parliamentarian, who gasped and said, "I don't believe this!" Soon Edith Keller, one of our state's founders who was known for her *merits of honor and service*, overheard one of the chapter presidents saying that their chapter was strongly considering dissolving, and she began to weep. So, the three founders said, "Let's see if we can look around up here and find H.G. Wells and see if we can borrow his "time machine." They wanted to be able to travel into the future and see what would happen if all the OSO officers, members, and chapters, said the words, "Not me, I'm not serving again."

What might happen to the future of OSO?

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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

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.

They found H.G. Wells and borrowed his time machine, climbed in and moved the lever forward a few years from now. My dream now turned into a nightmare! The NOT ME virus/plague spirit had spread from one officer to the next officer, from one OSO chapter to the next OSO chapter until Delta Kappa Gamma Ohio State Organization no longer existed.

The three founders said to each other, "Just think of all the work, sacrifice and dedication that we put in beginning this state organization that is no more, due to the lack of leadership. What we built and tried to model for these future generations, is no more. Our lineage is gone forever. Then they returned to the year 2024 and asked the question again to the OSO members... IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

It's time now chapter officers to mentor, encourage, prepare, and have others understand their roles so that they can share in the responsibilities of serving in OSO chapters. If not, my nightmare will become a reality. Generations to come will not know OSO ever existed, reap the financial scholarships and other benefits of our OSO community of educators.

It's time to look at yourself in the mirror again that you received as a member of our OSO community when I first began my presidential journey. You need to *reflect* on the words of our biennium theme before it's too late.

Look in the mirror and ask yourself the question...What can I do during this fall harvest season to Renew - Recapture and Respond to the needs of my chapter and its members right now, so that it will be able to stay alive, functioning, and strong!

We can't just give up now and quit. The future is in our hands. Remember...If NOT YOU...THEN WHO?

### **Melodies' Meaningful Memoirs...**

Congratulations, to our New OSO Corresponding Secretary, Judith McClanahan, from Gamma Nu Chapter!

Don't forget the Fireside OSO Chapter Presidents Zoom Chat on October 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.! Watch for the Zoom link to come out soon!

Welcome aboard to each of you in your new roles in the Ohio State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

 Renew  Recapture  Respond...

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

***Melodie***

## Chapter Websites

For your chapter website to be linked to DKG, Form 72 must be completed by webmasters every new biennium **no later than October 31, 2024**. Webmasters, visit [DKG.org](http://DKG.org); Forms; Website for compliance information and Form 72.

First time compliance: may submit a request form at any time.

Reassertion of compliance: resubmit form between August 1 - October 31 of even-numbered years.

## President's Page

Chapter presidents are invited to join International President, Beverly Hall-Maugham for a brief update specific to chapter presidents and chapter members. A new message is released on the first of August, October, December and continuing through the even numbered months. The video can be found at [DKG.org](http://DKG.org)>Publications>President's Page. Enjoy the video and note the upcoming important dates

## 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.

### Inside International Dates for 2024

Tuesday, October 1 @ 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5 @ 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3 @ 6:30 p.m.

## Treasurer Talks

Chapter treasurers are invited to participate in *Treasurer Talks* on Saturday, October 12, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. DKG Ohio State Treasurer will send the Zoom link to chapter treasurers a few days prior to the virtual meeting. The one-hour meeting will include:

- International Finance Committee Introductions
- Treasurer's Calendar
- Step-by-Step Guide to Dues Portal Member Management
- IRS 990N filing directions
- Responding to your questions and suggestions

I look forward to your participation!

Diana Haskell, OSO Treasurer



**Debra Wing**  
 Alpha Delta

### **Message from the OSO Nominating Committee**

Hello key educators of the Ohio State Organization, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. It is time to intensify our efforts to build the slate for the 2025-2027 elected state officers (**President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary**) and for representatives to serve from the five areas on the OSO Nominating Committee.

Sisters step up! Make it happen! Use your leadership, creativity, talents, and energy to benefit OSO/DKG and the many communities throughout Ohio. An application link is contained within this issue of *The Voice*. The application may be used for all positions. Simply complete the application and send it with your photo electronically to Shirley Moore at [s.council@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.council@sbcglobal.net) by January 2, 2025. The members of the OSO Nominating Committee urge all interested members to apply.

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

### **OSO-DKG Membership and Chapter Update**

Active Members	2,046
Collegiate Members	3
Reserve Members	282
Total Memberships	2,331
Ohio Chapters	68

### **OSO-DKG Financial Update July 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024**

#### **Statement of Financial Activity**

Revenue	\$ 28,682.00
Unrealized Revenue	\$ 7,571.00*
Total Revenue	\$ 36,253.00
Expenses	\$ 10,328.00
Net Income	\$ 25,925.00

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

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

Current Assets	\$ 40,277.00
Investments Assets	\$225,997.00
Total Assets	\$266,274.00
Liabilities	\$ 500.00
Total Equity	\$265,774.00

Diana Haskell, Gamma Phi  
 OSO Treasurer



**Gamma**  
Tia Tyler

**Mu**  
Evelyn Dearing  
Holly Welsh

**Pi**  
Jennifer L. Fair  
Joyce M. Ray

**Beta Chi**  
Shifon E. Ballard

**Gamma Pi**  
Mukadas Tshieba

**Gamma Theta**  
Kathy Baka  
Robin Echols Cooper  
Lucia Jarvis

**Delta Chi**  
Mary Butts  
Kim Cooper  
Jacque Strauss  
Bennie Ross

**Delta Psi**  
Donna Goodman  
Ann Hinkle



## REACH

The membership initiative for 2024-2025 is **REACH**. It is an acronym that will assist us to reach out to three potential membership areas: (1) previous DKG members, (2) current members, and (3) potential new ones. We must reach out to all three areas if OSO membership is going to increase. There needs to be a mindset adjustment in the way we think about membership. To help us adjust to this mindset, let us remember the acronym **REACH**: relevancy, empowerment, actions, connections and heritage. Let us go deeper into the application of each word as it applies to DKG membership.

**R-Relevancy.** What is relevant to one person may not be relevant to another person. You accepted being a member of DKG for specific reasons. Your reasons may have been different from mine. When we reach out in the three membership areas, we need to discover what is relevant to that specific person. People join and retain membership in various organizations because they see it as being important in their lives. It is relevant to them. We need to make DKG relevant.

**E-Empowerment.** One definition of empowerment is the process of becoming stronger and more confident. The responsibility of increasing membership is not left up to a handful of people. It is crucial that each sister be empowered to reach out to potential members. Go to the [dkg.org](http://dkg.org) website. On the home screen it literally states, "Empowering women who educate." Empowerment starts from within you and expands outward to others. Nurture that empowerment and go seek other DKG members.

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**A-Actions.** We must be strategic in our approach to membership. We cannot leave things up to chance or hope. It goes way beyond just mentioning at a chapter meeting that we need members because it is part of earning Gold Key recognition. We need new members because DKG is relevant and is about empowering women. Membership requires multiple plans of action. During each chapter meeting carve out some time to seriously discuss membership. Utilize the creativity and brainpower of your chapter membership to develop and implement those plans of action. Make sure you have monthly updates. Make the necessary adjustments as it applies to your strategic plans of action to increase membership.

**C-Connections.** The definition of connection is a relationship in which a person, thing or idea is linked with something else. Reaching out to previous members, retaining current sisters and finding potential new ones involves making meaningful connections. One of the key reasons I joined DKG 34 years ago was I knew it would certainly be a sure-fire way to network with other smart women educators. When moving up through the professional ranks in my career it required relocating. One way I immediately engaged in that new location was to transfer to the local DKG chapter. I had the privilege of being an active member of five different Texas chapters and now Beta Kappa in Ohio. It has enriched me at so many levels to be associated with DKG. What connections can you make?

**H-Heritage.** DKG was founded in May 1929 in Texas by Dr. Annie Webb Blanton. She initiated eleven women. These twelve empowering women were our founders. Want to be inspired? Read about these pioneering women. OSO was the 28<sup>th</sup> state initiated by DKG in January 1938. Go to [dkgohio.org](http://dkgohio.org) to familiarize yourself with our amazing Ohio heritage. We need to maximize the incredible and jaw-dropping heritages of both DKG and OSO. It will provide rich history in our membership initiative.

The **REACH** initiative was introduced to attendees at the OSO Fall Executive Board meeting held on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The PowerPoint utilized for the membership presentation is now posted on the OSO website. Please reach out to the three membership areas and keep it as a chapter priority. There will be further exploration of membership in my future monthly columns.

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



## Requested Reading

At the 2024 OSO Fall Executive Board Meeting Chris Snoddy shared *The Lesson of the Lantern* which had been shared by Past State President Beth Archer during her biennium. Many of those in attendance asked for a copy of the reading. Enjoy reading *The Lesson of the Lantern*.



### The Lesson of the Lantern

This is the story of a young boy who was growing up on a farm. One night, his father asked him to go out to the barn to retrieve something.

“Oh, Daddy!” the boy said. “I can’t go! It’s too dark! I’m scared!”

The father realized that this was a teaching moment, so he took a lantern and guided the boy out onto the porch. “Hold up the lantern, son. How far can you see?”

The boy said, “I can see to the tree.”

The father told him, “Walk to the tree.”

Hesitantly the boy walked with the lantern to the tree.

“Now, hold the lantern up again. How far can you see now?”

“I can see the chicken pen,” the boy answered. So the boy walked to the chicken pen.

“Hold it up again, son. Now how far can you see?”

I can see to the barn, Father.”

And thus the young boy learned that he could walk to the barn in the dark by holding up the lantern.

*You are the light. In many situations you are the lantern holder that lights the way for others to see the path. If we see each other as lantern holders then we will surely be able to help others on their own paths to leadership.*

\*Story attributed to Mark Craig, pastor of the Highland United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

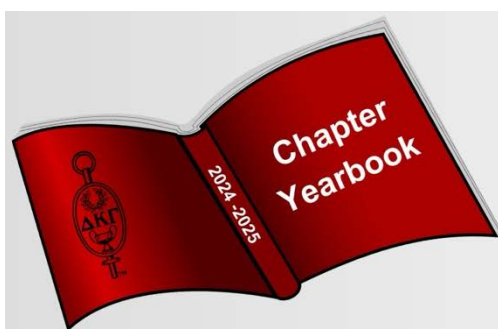
## **DKGIEF Lucile Cornet Professional Development Award Applications Deadline November 1, 2024**

**You**, an employed educator and a DKG member, or your colleague who is not yet a DKG member, can receive funds to participate in continuing education opportunities, conferences, conventions, and seminars.

How? Apply for a Lucile Cornet Individual Development Award. Apply no later than November 1 for an activity that occurs January 1 - June 30, 2025, or no later than May 1 for an activity between July 1 - December 31, 2025. You may receive this award only once but can apply up to two times a year should your earlier applications be unsuccessful.

Where are the applications found?

[https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/DKGIEF/Funds/Cornet\\_Award/Cornet\\_Award.aspx](https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/DKGIEF/Funds/Cornet_Award/Cornet_Award.aspx)



**Chapter Yearbooks  
Due by November 1, 2024**

### **Save the Date!**

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

**All OSO-DKG members are invited.**  
Come! Network! Learn! Enjoy!  
Have you put these dates on your calendar?



**OSO State Convention  
April 4-5, 2025**





## OSO Convention 2025 Planning

At the conclusion of the OSO Executive Board Meeting on September 14, 2024, the Convention Steering Committee met to share ideas and consider tasks. Pictured are Cathy Adams, Alpha Gamma; Michele Koenig, Gamma; Beth Archer, Alpha Psi; Sandy Royer, Delta Kappa; Dr. Norma Kirby, Alpha Delta; and Janet Steffy, Beta Zeta. Representatives from Alpha Nu, Beta Gamma, Beta Eta, Beta Nu, Beta Mu, and Gamma Pi were unavailable.



Gamma Phi Chapter celebrating the DKG International's *Bursting the Bubble* campaign at their September meeting.

**Delta Upsilon Chapter** kicked off the 2024–2025 school year, with some members and guests attending the Akron Rubber Ducks baseball game. The mascot was kind enough to pose for a picture with Delta Upsilon members.



## EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### OHIO STATE ORGANIZATION

#### October 2024

Fall is here!! Welcome to the school year 2024-2025. I hope this newsletter brings you information that helps you learn more about what is happening with education and those who we have elected to represent us both in Washington D.C. and here in Columbus, Ohio.

Update on last year's reports:

#### **Book Banning**

This has been a hot-button topic for the last year. Florida has been one of the states that has been busy with pushing the banning of books. Several other states have jumped on the bandwagon to also ban books in the interest of what is felt to be best for the students. Some states this summer went so far as to threaten librarians with being held accountable for upholding the book bans to the point of threatening them with the loss of their job. But all that has begun to turn . . . push back has begun, even in Florida and time will tell if we see this become a back-burner topic.

#### **Mental Health**

Please remember to check on your teacher friends and let them know you are there for them. ELA teachers in Ohio are especially in need as they must contend with a new ELA program that may seem daunting. Remember to *BEAT THE STIGMA!!*

#### **Bills Introduced**

I reported last year that 488 bills were introduced in Washington D.C. that pertain to education. So far for 2024, there have been an additional 254 bills introduced. Most of those bills have to do with FASFA and protecting those on college campuses from antisemitism issues.

I am seeing though some promise in the fact that there are bills that have been introduced that focus on the classroom. H.R. 9307 addresses the issue of keeping students in school by focusing on reducing the student absence numbers.

S.B. 4783 is a bill that aims to address the issue of cell phones in the classroom. This is a hot-button topic that we are seeing requirements of the school districts in Ohio.

H.R. 9005 addresses the need to increase funding for Teacher Work Study programs to prepare teachers for the education workforce so that they stay as teachers and not become overwhelmed to the point that they leave the education work field. Hopefully, this bill will make a difference in the teacher shortage that we are facing now.

#### **Project 25**

Please take time to read about Project 25. This could become damaging to the education process as we know it. I have found some items in there that we as teachers would not agree with. I am not projecting a political opinion on this; however, I feel this is indeed worthy of our attention as teachers.

#### **On the Homefront in Ohio**

Two big issues in education:

**Science of Reading**—schools in Ohio have been given the requirement to follow the rules of Science of Reading. This became a law signed by Gov. DeWine this summer. The purpose of this bill is to address the

issue of the low reading scores of our students. This bill makes the 3 Queuing system illegal in Ohio. Schools also must choose a reading program from the approved list that was vetted by the Department of Education. These new reading programs can be very daunting to the teachers as they require teachers to follow a script and can have more parts to it that end up requiring a great deal of classroom time. The one part of reading that I see in danger with these is the freedom of students to read for the enjoyment of reading. The reading programs do not have this built in for the students. With the SOR comes additional training that is being required of all teachers—not just reading teachers—to understand Dyslexia and the Science of Reading. This can add up to as many as 50 hours of additional training.

**Cell Phones**—Gov. DeWine has issued a requirement for schools to have a set cell phone policy that addresses the need to keep students engaged in the classroom and not on their cell phones. This issue has gained attention at the state level and at the federal level.

Sharon Scheidegger, Beta Delta  
Legislative Advocate/Liaison to the U.N. & U.S. Forum

## Important Upcoming Dates to Remember

**October 1, 2024**

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

**October 12, 2024**

Treasurer Talks @ 11 a.m. via Zoom

**October 15, 2024**

Deadline to Submit Photos for the November Issue of *The Voice*

**October 31, 2024**

Deadline to submit Form 72 for Chapter Website Compliance Seal

**November 1, 2024**

Last Day to Submit Chapter Yearbooks

**November 1, 2024**

DKGIEF Lucile Cornet Professional Development Applications Due

**November 5, 2024**

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

**December 3, 2024**

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

**January 2, 2025**

OSO Elected Positions Application Due



**Beta Alpha Chapter** awarded two scholarships at their September meeting. Both young ladies are graduates of South Gallia High School and currently attending the University of Rio Grande. Pictured from left to right are Alyssa Cremeens, Karen Waugh (Chair of the Scholarship Committee) and Isabella Murphy.

**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA INTERNATIONAL  
OHIO STATE ORGANIZATION  
APPLICATION  
for elected positions at the state level  
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027**

**This application is to be completed by the CANDIDATE.**

**(May include Attachments)**

Please return *this completed form* and your **photo** by **Thursday, January 2, 2025.**

1. Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. For what position are you applying? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Chapter name: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Present Professional Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Professional Experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Educational Background: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Experience in DKG, OSO and/or Chapter (committees, offices held, meetings/conventions attended, etc.)  
  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
International \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Membership in other Professional Organizations and Offices Held:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Technical Skills (check all that apply):

- ☐ Able to send and receive email correspondence
- ☐ Able to prepare and send/share documents electronically
- ☐ Have regular access to computer and printer
- ☐ Able to set up and invite attendees to a ZOOM (or similar) meeting
- ☐ Able to participate in a ZOOM (or similar) meeting

10. Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

11. Share your reasons for wanting to serve in a state office for the Ohio State Organization.

12. How do you expect to impact the organization as you serve in the desired position?

13. How have you prepared yourself for servicing in this state position?

14. Include any additional information you deem important for members to know about who you are as a member of DKG.

Please return this completed form and your photo by *Thursday, January 2, 2025*,  
to:

Shirley Moore

Email: [s.council@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.council@sbcglobal.net)

Telephone: 614.476-6227