

The Voice

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



Future-Focused Vision

The time has come for the Ohio State Organization (OHSO) to look ahead. It's not enough to maintain our efforts and uphold traditions. We live in a fast-paced, ever-changing world. To remain impactful and relevant, we must target both immediate and long-term challenges within the organization. Key women educators like us need to move forward intentionally with a bold, future-focused vision.

We have already begun implementing this vision with the biennial theme of FOCUS. Using FOCUS as our framework will help us develop a collaborative four-year strategic plan for Ohio. This plan will address three main challenges: (1) leadership development and succession, (2) revitalizing membership through support, retention, and recruitment, and (3) strengthening connections at the state, chapter, and membership levels. It will include goals, initiatives, and objectives aligned with these three key challenges. The plan will incorporate both qualitative and quantitative assessments and will be reviewed and updated regularly to maintain accountability.

The Ohio State Organization (OHSO) is eager to move forward and build on our proud traditions. As members of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, we recognize the importance of staying current and forward-thinking. With our biennial theme of FOCUS, we aim to create a collaborative, four-year strategic plan that promotes leadership, strengthens our membership, and enhances connections throughout our organization. This will establish a solid foundation for OHSO to grow confidently and succeed.

The things you say, the things you don't say, the things you do, or the things you don't do are always sending a loud message to those around you. What kind of message are you sending? Is it a true reflection of who you are?
~Lindsey Reitzsch

Energetically,
Dr. Molly Helmlinger, Beta Kappa
OHSO State President

Ohio State Organization

President
Dr. Molly Helmlinger, Beta Kappa

First Vice President
Sharon Scheidegger, Beta Delta

Second Vice President
Karen Dombrowski, Alpha Nu

Recording Secretary
Meier Bauer, Gamma Phi

Corresponding Secretary
Cathy Tenney, Beta Kappa

Parliamentarian
Joyce Jones-Weinkam, Gamma Xi

Treasurer
Diana Haskell, Gamma Phi

Immediate Past President
Melodie McGee, Gamma Nu

Editor of *The Voice*
Cathy Tenney, Beta Kappa

OSO Webmaster
Cathy Adams, Alpha Gamma

OSO Registered Statutory Agent
Virginia Koch, Alpha Nu

OHSO Second Town Hall Meeting

All OHSO-DKG Members

Topic: Gold Key

August 11, 2025

6:30 p.m. via Zoom



White Roses

We are saddened by the loss of our treasured OHSO Sisters.
We appreciate and remember their service.



Carol Alex

Alpha Omega Chapter

Sandra S Sowash

Alpha Delta Chapter

Bessie M Angles

Alpha Gamma Chapter

Maxine Marie Kistler

Delta Psi Chapter

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: (Eastern Time)

Tuesday, August 5th @ 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 2nd @ 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 7th @ 6:30 p.m.

OSO Changing to OHSO

We are changing only our abbreviation of Ohio State Organization from OSO to OHSO. You are probably wondering why change! OSO could also be Oregon or Oklahoma. OHSO helps to eliminate the confusion and readily identifies us as Ohio.



Important Dates to Remember

August 11, 2025

OSO Town Hall via Zoom
6:30 p.m.

August 15, 2025

DKG Fall Fine Arts Gallery
Opens for Submissions

August 21, 2025

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

September 15, 2025

DKG Fall Fine Arts Gallery
Last Day to Submit

September 17, 2025

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

September 27, 2025

OSO Fall Executive Board Meeting
Time & Place TBA

October 23, 2025

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

November 19, 2025

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

December 18, 2025

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

Death of a Member

The Membership Committee is reviving the practice of sending a note of sympathy to the family or friend of deceased members. We need your help!

Chapter presidents, please send a copy of Form 6, Report of the Death of a Member, to membership@dkgohio.org. The Ohio State Organization wants the family or friend to know that the life and membership of their loved one were valued. Thank you for helping us honor the life of your member.

Meier Bauer, Gamma Phi
OHSO Recording Secretary
OHSO Membership Chair

GOLD KEY

Attention ALL OHSO Members (All Chapter Officers and All Members)

On August 11th, the OHSO FOCUS Team (state officers) will host a second Town Hall meeting. The discussion will focus on the 2025-2026 Gold Key. All OHSO members are encouraged to attend. The C in FOCUS is *Communicate to Connect*.

Information will be shared regarding the requirements for earning the Gold Key. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Take an hour and join us via Zoom on August 11th at 6:30 p.m. Remember to register using the link below. A confirmation email with the meeting link will be sent to your email. We look forward to seeing you on August 11th.

Karen Dombrowski, Alpha Nu
OHSO Second Vice President
OHSO Gold Key Coordinator

<https://tinyurl.com/yzae6xcp>



**Mark Your Calendars
for the**

OSO Fall Executive Board Meeting

September 27, 2025

Time & Place TBA



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Meier Bauer, Gamma Phi
OHSO Recording Secretary
OHSO Membership Chair

Membership and Expansion Committee

As we have begun a new biennium, the Membership and Expansion Committee is sharing with you our commitment to honor our members, keep existing members, recruit new members, move toward expansion of new chapters, and explore how to make our membership and meetings relevant to members. If you would like to be part of this adventure, please let the committee know by sending a message to membership@dkgoohio.org. The nucleus of this committee has been formed, but we welcome additional members and new ideas.

Membership sessions are being offered at the State Leadership Training and the DKG International Conference in New Orleans. Your OHSO state officers will be attending these various sessions. Time has been built into the schedule for the State Membership Chairmen to work together, as well as the OHSO officers. We will share our plans and ideas with Ohio DKG members throughout the year. Please accept the challenge of addressing our membership concerns and being open to ideas and plans that are shared with you. This can be an exciting time for the Ohio State Organization and all its members.

Meier Bauer, Gamma Phi
OHSO Recording Secretary
OHSO Membership Chair

Ohio State Organization Executive Board Meeting Action Taken

Diana Haskell, OHSO Treasurer shared a report providing a Statement of Financial Activity and Position for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, which appears at the end of the newsletter.

Finance Committee Chairperson Cathy Adams presented the Finance Committee Report, beginning with the Proposed 2025-2026 Available Fund Budget which appears at the end of the newsletter.

Michele Koenig, Gamma Chapter President, moved to adopt the OSO 2025- 2026 Available Fund Budget as prepared and presented by the Finance Committee.
The motion was approved.

Finance Chairperson Adams continued her report, addressing the benefits of a newly designed and secured OSO website.

Michele Koenig, Gamma Chapter President, moved to hire a professional website designer to create the visual layout and member site navigation of a new, secured, OSO website as presented by the Ohio State Organization Finance Committee. The Available Fund Reserve, up to \$15,000, will be appropriated for this technology upgrade. The motion was approved.



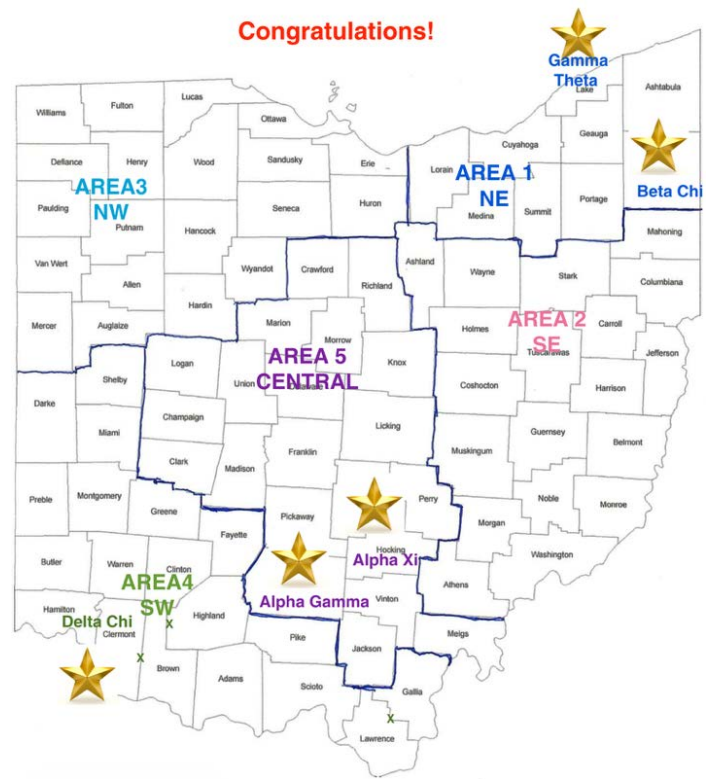
Beta Kappa Chapter Members Honored



Connie Schneider and **Evonne Schnippel** longtime educators and friends were inducted into the Botkins Wall of Honor in June. The Wall of Honor is designed to recognize notable Botkins alumni and other community members who have brought honor to the Botkins School District, or who have made a significant contribution to the district.



Dr. Julie Willoughby, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Urbana City Schools was selected as the 2025 OAMESA Outstanding Central Office Administrator. Dr. Willoughby was recognized during the OAESA Professional Conference in June. Along with the recognition Urbana City Schools received a \$500 award which will be divided among the three principals' accounts to benefit students at each school.



Congratulations to the 29 chapters that brought in new members last year! You are all to be congratulated. Keep it up!

Special recognition goes to Gamma Theta with 11 new members and then to Alpha Gamma and Alpha Xi with 8 new members, followed by Beta Chi and Delta Chi with 6 new members each. Way to go! We can't wait to hear how you did it.



Welcome New & Reinstated Members

**Zeta Chapter**

Glenda Beres

PI Chapter

Penny Wright

Alpha Xi Chapter

Jenny Frey

Alpha Psi Chapter

Sarah McGee

Alpha Omega Chapter

Carrie Copeland

Francesca Gomez

Isabella Mijavec

Alexandra Stephens

Megan Zetterquist

Beta Eta Chapter

Karen Schroeder

Beta Kappa Chapter

Sara Sybert

Beta Chi Chapter

Ava Bloom

Bonnie Everitt

Amy Mark

Rebecca Seiple

Gamma Nu Chapter

Tiffany Williams

Gamma Xi Chapter

Terri Anderson

Karen Cottrell

Gamma Pi Chapter

Diana Vrabel

Gamma Sigma Chapter

Charity Smith

Delta Theta Chapter

Carolyn McIntire

Carol Merritt

Delta Upsilon Chapter

Jennifer Schaeffer

Delta Psi Chapter

Barbara Kuhlman



Alpha Mu Chapter celebrated its 85th birthday. Surprise Birthday gifts were given to all sisters who attended. Alpha Mu sisters are displaying their mittens, which were supplied by Barbara Pritts, with the loose change they collected. The loose change was then donated to ADSOEF.



Alpha Psi Chapter members assisted parents of Muskingum County students in filling out applications for the Tools For School program at Eastside Community Ministry. These applications will ensure that the students will receive a backpack filled with school supplies for their grade and school year.



Delta Mu Chapter members and friends had an informative tour of OSU's Shoe. We are ready for the football season to start.



Delta Phi and Alpha Psi Chapters met for a summer field trip to Roscoe Village in Coshocton. We enjoyed lunch and chat time at the Indian Bear Cork and Coffee.



ALPHA PHI CHAPTER visited Great Council State Park, near the site of the historic Shawnee Village of Old Chillicothe, known as Oldtown. The park focuses on the history of the Shawnee people in Ohio and their interactions with early European settlers. Pictured are Robin Prewitt on the left, Bryanne Peck, and Denise Shaneyfelt sitting in the back.



Delta Upsilon Chapter continued our journey as lifelong learners, ten of our members took a field trip to Lavender Trails in Orville to find out about reclaiming land and the many uses of lavender. We were able to cut lavender and purchase some locally made products, including lavender honey.

Ohio State Organization Proposed Available Fund Budget 2024 - 2025

Available Fund 2024 - 2025	Budget	Actual	Notes
REVENUE			
Dues	29,780	29,746	
Interest	505	4	
Visa Rewards/Other income	700	18,630	
Equity account dividends and interest	1,557	15,465	unrealized revenue
Convention Income	25,250	6,440	
Total Available Fund Revenue	57,792	70,285	
EXPENSES			
Operating			
Administrative Management & General	4,446	3,502	
Program Services			
Administrative	8,521	7,953	
Chapter Visits	1,000	555	
Committees	1,700	370	
Contributions	600	550	
DKG International Convention	10,000	6,912	
Meetings	5,000	5,343	
Member Engagement	1,275	978	
OSO Convention April 5, 2025	25,250	7,479	
Total Available Fund Expenses	57,792	33,642	

Ohio State Organization Proposed Available Fund Budget 2025 - 2026

REVENUE		Notes
Dues	\$27,860	2000 active members x \$13; 310 reserve and collegiate members x \$6
DKG Reimbursement	\$3,264	DKG Reimbursement for State Officer Leaders Training (SOLT) in NOLA 4 officers x \$816
Visa Rewards/Other income	\$155	Visa Rewards \$150; Money Market Interest \$5
Move from Savings	\$27,733	Transfer dollars in savings to checking, only as needed, to pay expenses
Spring Conference Registration	\$6,300	One-day Spring Conference Registration 105 registered x \$60
Total Available Fund Revenue	\$65,312	
EXPENSES		
Operating		
Management & General	\$4,446	CPA \$2,000; Insurance \$350; 25% of Salaries \$1,500; 25% of Payroll Taxes \$596
Program Services		
Administrative	\$8,671	Supplies \$900; 75% of Salaries \$4,500; 75% of Payroll Taxes \$1,773; Contracts \$1,198; Other \$300
Committees	\$4,000	Mileage, operating and printing expenses; US Forum expenses March 2026
Contributions	\$800	Emergency Fund \$500; Ohio History Connection \$50; International guest attending Ohio Conference \$100; retirement gifts \$150
DKG International Conference	\$9,500	July 31 - August 2, 2025 Sheraton Hotel, NOLA per Reimbursement Policy
Leadership Workshops	\$14,300	SOLT \$4,500 (July 2025); Committee Chairs \$800 (August 2025); Chapter Officers Training in three locations \$9,000 (June 2026)
Meetings	\$15,900	Officer meetings \$4,000; Fall and Spring Executive Board meetings, mileage, printing, rentals \$6,900; 10 geographic sites \$5,000
Member Engagement	\$1,395	Zoom fees \$360; Constant Contact fee \$225; Website fee \$200; Google Suite fee \$610
OSO Spring Conference	\$6,300	One-day meeting expenses and reimbursement per Reimbursement Policy
Total Available Fund Expenses	\$65,312	
		Executive Board adopted 07.01.25

