

THE LimeLighter

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Oklahoma State Organization

February 2024 Vol. LXXI, No. 3
okdkg.org

DKGIEF International Women's Day

DKGIEF: Women Honoring Women
**Honor a woman who has had a significant impact
on your life or career.**

For each \$25 donation made in honor of that special woman, DKGIEF will send you a specially designed card and pin to present her.

**Your donation must be postmarked or received between
March 1, 2024 through April 15, 2024.**

DKGIEF will offer a different pin each year in celebration of International Women's Day. The initial 2024 pin features the blue hydrangea which symbolizes gratitude and heartfelt emotion. Parts of the flower and stems will be raised to give a 3D effect.



For further details on how to make your donation visit the DKGIEF website or scan this QR Code with your mobile device.



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DKG Oklahoma
Serving Education
Honoring Tradition



One of my school secretaries posted this on Facebook, and as I read it, I realized how many DKG women fit this criteria. As I travel our state working on increasing our membership, I stand in awe of the wonderful members who, like me, are retired and “Medicated.” We still have big accomplishment ideas in our heads while hoping our bodies should/could/can carry them out. Facebook describes us well, but I don’t claim to be elderly (smile). I won’t call people who are survivors of so much change anything but “time-honored.”

- * They call us "The Elderly."
- * They don't know we count it as a compliment!
- * We were born in the 40-50-60s.
- * We grew up in the 50-60-70s.
- * We studied in the 60-70-80s.
- * We were dating in the 70-80-90s.
- * We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90s.
- * We ventured into the 80-90s.
- * We stabilized in the 2000s.
- * We grew wiser in the 2010s.
- * And we are going firmly through and beyond the 2020s.
- * Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades...

- * TWO different centuries...
 - * TWO different millennia...
 - * We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.
 - * We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and WhatsApp.
 - * From live matches on the radio to black and white TV, color TV, and then to 3D HD TV.
 - * We went to the video store and now we watch Netflix.
 - * We came to know the first computers, punch cards and floppy disks, and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.
 - * We wore shorts throughout childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits and blue jeans.
 - * We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu, and now COVID-19.
 - * We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, and petrol or diesel cars, and now we drive hybrids or electric.
 - * Yes, we've been through a lot, but what a great life we've had!
 - * They could describe us as "exennials," people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.
 - * We've kind of "Seen-It-All"!
 - * Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other— in every dimension of life.
 - * It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE."
 - * A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE!
- Author unknown

So there, we love “CHANGE.” We can do much. So, keep working in our chapters because if twelve women in “The Great Depression” can birth DKG, we can work through all our changes to bring in and attract new and caring members with our special “exennial” spirit! Oklahoma State Organization is On Broadway: Everything is Coming Up Roses. Let’s mentor Millennial and Generation Z teachers and invite them to become a part of our vital organization.



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Members Matter--You Matter

**“Always remember that you matter,
You’re important and you are loved,
And you bring to the world things no one else can.”**

The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse

Charlie Mackesy

I hope that this truism speaks to you and reaffirms your being. As educators, we are lax in self-care. We forget that we matter to our families, our friends, our fellow workers and students. The lack of self-worth creeps in to undermine our confidence. We practice over-extending ourselves and then wonder why we cannot get everything accomplished. We fail to remember that we are important to the people in our lives. . .family, friends, co-workers, students and neighbors. We tend to be the ones getting the mail or trash cans for the neighbors on snowy days. We take time to accompany others to various appointments. We listen tirelessly to phone calls to offer support and direction. We are caregivers in many situations. Please know that you are loved by the people in your life, especially by the ones that you help, take care of, and go the extra mile for. We offer support and help in various ways that indicate to others that they in turn are loved. There are so many ways to love. . .we often forget that giving kindness and caring support are really acts of love. You are bringing to their worlds and yours, things that no one else can or does. In this month so focused on love, remember you ARE doing amazing things in a loving matter to support your students, your family, your friends and your neighbors.

**Members matter--You matter,
Cynthia Adair**

Presidential Ponderings*Beta News*

February 2024



OSO Update



Shelly Hudson
Second Vice-president

As we reach the midway point of the year, it's time to start thinking about important report deadlines. I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has already submitted their Necrology reports. If chapters have lost a member or members this year, chapter second vice-presidents should send me the official notice so we can honor these members at state conference this summer. In addition, send a tribute for that member to

me and also to Beth Schieber so it can be included in *The Limelighter*.

As we move forward, our next report, the Order of the Rose, is due May 1. I'm thrilled to celebrate the induction of new members with all of you. If you need assistance with recruiting, the OSO website offers three valuable resources. The DKG recruitment plan outlines six steps for acquiring new members and suggests preparing an "elevator speech" to share with non-members. Do you have one ready? Do you have materials you can provide to potential members? I recently shared the Beta Beta Chapter trifold brochure, which is based Alpha Chapter's brochure, with the Executive Board. Brochures are an excellent tool for reaching out to potential members, as they showcase the benefits and qualifications of membership in our organization.

During a Zoom meeting with

other state second vice-presidents, we were reminded that we sometimes place too much emphasis on the term "key women educator" and the length of time someone has been teaching to meet that criterion. They encouraged us to seek out young, dynamic educators in our schools and invite them to a meeting. I want to stress the importance of sharing the enriching experience of DKG with others. New members can bring energy and enthusiasm to your chapter and to the organization, which can be contagious and inspire other members to become more involved.

I am certain you would agree that your membership in DKG has been valuable. I cannot imagine how different my life would be without your support and encouragement. Let's think outside of the box and share this incredible opportunity with other educators. Together, we can make a difference and empower more women in education.

"Three's Company" By Michael Thompson

Guideposts

Feb/March 2024 - Volume 79, No. 2

"Stephanie and I were loving our empty nest. Could we make room for my 93-year-old grandmother?" asked Michael Thompson.

Linda Floyd is the topic of the article in the February/March issue of *Guideposts* magazine. Written by her grandson Michael Thompson, the article is about how his grandmother Linda came to live with him and his wife shortly after they became empty-nesters.



Bread Crumbs



By Lori Richardson-Morphew Leaving Breadcrumbs...

Throughout the school year, you might wonder how you can get it all done. How can you handle the workload, organize work and home, and manage family and children's activities? Below are some tried and true management suggestions from other OSO members.

Dacia encourages utilizing plan times wisely. Yes, we all want to talk to another adult, but

be wise with that time and make your plans, run your copies, or grade a few papers.

Calendars are a great way to write out everything going on for the month. Who has an appointment, when is your meeting, who plays sports tonight, and where? I like to write it down on a month-sized calendar, then use my daily view and set reminders on my phone. Finally, stay after school for just 30 minutes and set up for the next day. This preparation helps reduce your stress so you can go home and enjoy your family.

Delta Chapter suggests making a to-do list and prioritizing what needs to be done first. Welcome and accept offers of help. Delegate to those who can help.

Shut the door and turn off the lights. Sometimes you can get more done when people think you're gone.

Jen advises looking for family support when kids go in multiple directions! Parents, in-laws and friends can pick up kids from

school. Ask for help, find a mentor and join DKG. Respect your downtime and spend time with your family every chance you get.

Kandy recommends the use of post-it notes. It is rewarding to cross tasks off your list. Breathe!

Always remember that it will still be there tomorrow. And finally, REST...enjoy some "me" time. Friends and colleagues are very helpful as well as phone calls, emails, text messages and lunch!

Most Sincerely, Lori



Belonging

"True belonging is not passive. It's not the belonging that comes with just joining a group. It's not fitting in or pretending or selling out because it's safer. It's a practice that requires us to be vulnerable, get uncomfortable, and learn how to be present with people without sacrificing who we are."

Dr. Brené Brown

Alpha Chapter February 2024
Volume 44 Issue 6



Communications

Facebook

for Marketing and Communication

By Belinda Clift, Chair
International Communications and Marketing Committee



Have you ever searched for Delta Kappa Gamma on Facebook and been confused by the number of results that come up? When you do a search, you will see many suggestions including profiles, pages, and groups.

Profiles are usually where one goes to find friends.

Pages are designed for businesses, organizations, nonprofits, etc. Delta Kappa Gamma has an official Facebook nonprofit page. This page has the red rose logo as a profile picture. The staff at headquarters is responsible for posting approved content to the page. Individuals can connect and engage by commenting on the posts but cannot initiate a post. Other pages you discover are State Organizations and Chapters, and these should be clearly labeled as such. Chapters and states should be using pages to market DKG.

Groups are a place to connect, learn and share with members across the world or just in your neighborhood. You can create or join groups, such as teaching, doodle lovers, VIP groups, church groups, etc. Groups can be public or private. Many states, chapters and individuals have set up DKG groups. What is good about groups? It gives our members a voice. It's a place for individuals to communicate by sharing ideas or information or by asking questions.

Considerations for chapters:

Does your page or group name include the organization, state, and chapter name? This makes it easier for members to find a page they are interested in, and it cuts down on confusion. For example, a group called DKG Omega Psi does not show in what state the page or group is located.

Remember pages are public and can be viewed by anyone in the world. Pages should be used as a means of sharing positive things that are happening in your organization and promoting DKG. Remember pages are a marketing tool. Limit editors of your page to a few members. Encourage others to like, love, comment and share posts so your page will be more visible to current members and prospects.

Groups can be public or private. It is highly recommended that your group be private. Groups are not a platform where we publicize or recruit. These should be places where members share with each other. We do not want others joining our groups and spamming members. Nor do we want nonmembers joining and learning confidential information about our members. Individuals who are not members do not need to know when meetings are canceled, that a member has passed away or is sick and why a meal train needs to be started. Remember to use groups for communicating only with members.

Facebook is a useful tool for communicating and marketing with our members and the community. Let's make sure we use it as it is intended.

The Limelighter



Send e-mail articles to:
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Beth Schieber, Editor

Oklahoma State Organization
The Delta Kappa Gamma
Society International

Published four times a year:
October, December,
February, April



**The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International**



**...promotes
professional and
personal growth of
women educators
and excellence in
education.**

The Curriculum of Hope For a Peaceful World Winter 2024

Book Choice “Book banning is the act of removing materials from a school or library’s collection as a result of objections from groups or individuals who say they need to protect others—typically children—from the difficult information or ideas contained in the books.” American Library Association

The first recorded instances of this censorship practice in Colonial America focused on religious and political texts deemed too dangerous for the general public. The most commonly banned books in America today include children’s books, teen books and titles written for adults that address topics like race, mental health, LGBTQ+ issues and politics, and/or include offensive language, gun violence or sexist content.

Many feel that book banning will have a lasting negative effect on our society, including limiting the ability for students in schools to learn from the discussion of issues in order to face them appropriately in the future. There is a lot to read and learn about this topic.

[Book Banning: Definition, Meaning & Societal Impact | Trusted Since 1922 \(rd.com\)](#)
[2023 Banned Books Update: Banned in the USA \(pen.org\)](#)

Banned Books

Three classics you read in high school aren’t exempt from challenges. These titles are among the classics that have come under fire in recent years:

1984 by George Orwell
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Forever... by Judy Blume
The Giver by Lois Lowry
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Lady Chatterley’s Lover by D.H. Lawrence
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Ulysses by James Joyce
Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell
Animal Farm by George Orwell

Jana Telford Receives Art Award

Jana Telford, a member of **Alpha Iota Chapter**, received the **Governor's Arts in Education Award** on January 30, 2024, at the Oklahoma State Capital in Oklahoma City. Jana was presented with a medal by **Governor Kevin Stitt**. **Edgar Cruz** entertained those attending both before the ceremony and during the reception that followed. Many of Jana's family members, colleagues, friends and students attended the ceremony.

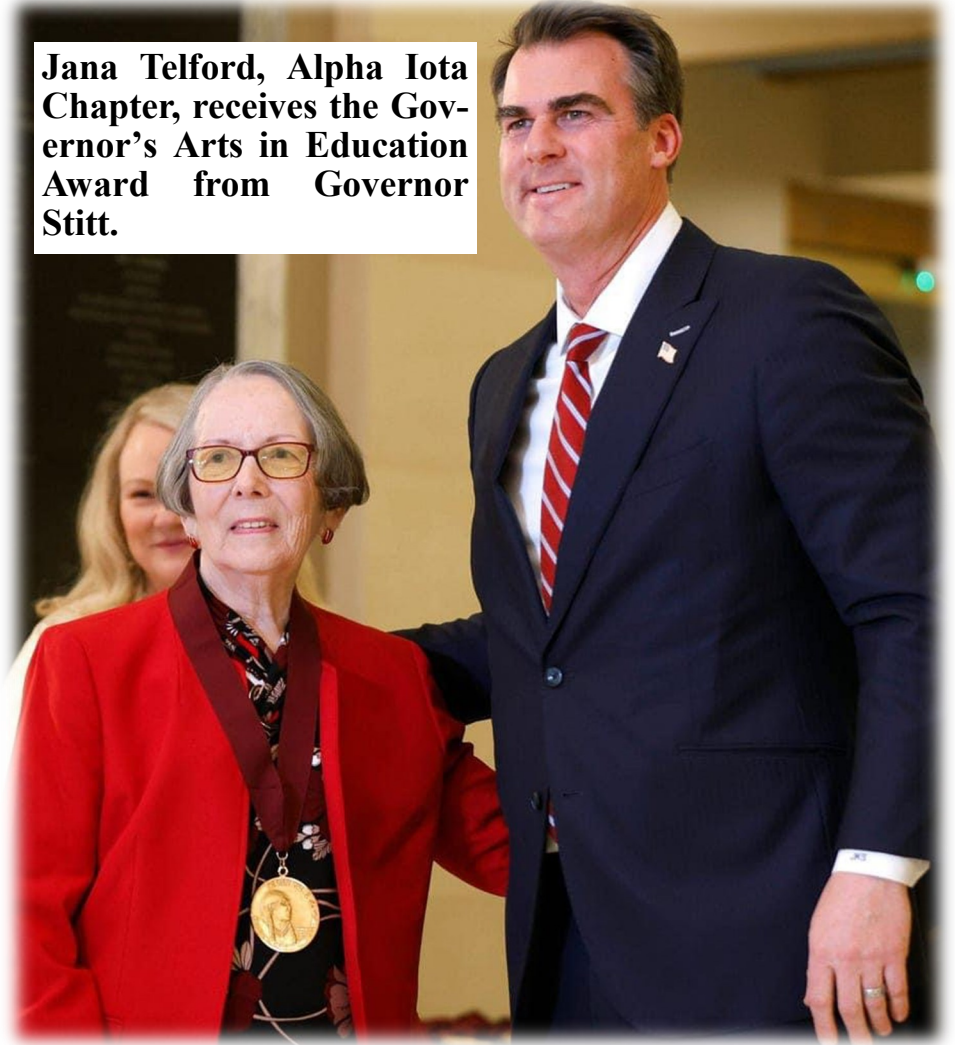
Jana's bio from the Governor's Arts Awards for Excellence in the Arts program states, "Jana Telford has inspired a love of music and an enthusiasm for the arts among two generations of students who have grown up in the community of Chandler.

With a legacy spanning forty years, she is credited with influencing music education for residents more than any other individual. Telford began her teaching career at an area elementary school and later worked as a director and accompanist in the high school music department. Along the way, she built programs that consistently earned awards in state competitions for vocal music. Telford's success engendered deep pride and community support for arts education programs in her town. Her mentorship of other teachers continues to pay dividends in the lives of current students. In recognition of Telford's lifetime of devotion to arts education, the district's performing arts center is co-named in her honor.

Retired from full-time teaching, Telford currently serves as an accompanist for the vocal program at Chandler's junior high and high school. She has also contributed time as a volunteer accompanist and assistant musical director for youth productions at a local community theater."

Jana was initiated into **The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International** in November, 1976. She has

Jana Telford, Alpha Iota Chapter, receives the Governor's Arts in Education Award from Governor Stitt.



served in many chapter offices, including president, and serves on the Alpha Iota Chapter Music Committee.



Be a CASA: Be a Voice For Children



Fourth Judicial District CASA: Garfield, Kingfisher, Blaine & Woodward

12 h · 🌐

Our CASA of the Month! Beth is absolutely incredible and we are so blessed and grateful for all she does for us and the children we serve! Beth, you're amazing!

Taken from: [4th Judicial District CASA Volunteers | Facebook](#)

Court-appointed special advocate (CASA) and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers advocate for the best-interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Volunteers work with child welfare professionals, educators and service providers to ensure that judges have the information they need to make the most well-informed decisions for each child.

There are 939 state organizations and local programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia with 97,900 volunteers nationwide. **More volunteers are needed.**

Get to know a CASA Volunteer!

Beth Schieber

- Sworn in as a CASA in July 2020
- She is advocating for a brother & sister
- My favorite thing about being a CASA is making a difference in the lives of children, advocating on behalf of their best interest to everyone included in the case and being a voice for children in a world where they may not have a voice.
- Making a difference in the lives of children drew me to a career in education. After spending 34 years in the classroom and 30 years as a school board member, becoming a CASA was the next logical step for me. Although I am now retired from the classroom, I do tutor two full days a week at my local elementary school (in my tenth year), and because I still want to help children and give back to my community, being a CASA permits me to do both.
- I LOVE to read (I am a bibliophile to be exact), and I my greatest joy is attending all the academic and athletic activities of my six amazing grandchildren
- Fun Fact: I am a military child. I traveled to many places as I grew up and love the variety of people and cultures with whom I had contact. My father, brother, two brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, and several nephews and nephews-in-law were/are all career military.



JOIN NOW

- 580-242-1153
- 4jdcasa@thecarecampus.com
- www.fourthjdcasa.org

Help us grow our volunteer network and make a difference in our community. We can effect positive change if we work together.

Education Bills to Watch in the Oklahoma Legislature from the OSO U.S. Forum Committee



**Debby
Yarbrough
Chair**

**OSO
U.S. Forum
Committee**

Now that the 2024 session of the Oklahoma Legislature has begun, you may want to follow some of the proposed bills. You can track legislation at www.oklegislature.gov or www.legiscan.com.

Oklahoma Senate

SB 1313: Introduced by Senator Adam Pugh (R), chair of the Senate Education Committee. Increases teacher salaries by \$1,500 to \$3,000 based on years of experience.

SB 1315: Introduced by Senator Pugh. Adds adoption to the teacher leave policy enacted by the legislature in 2023.

SB 1342: Introduced by Senator Ally Seifried (R). Establishes a Teacher Recruitment Academy program that would pay the tuition and fees for Oklahoma students pursuing a bachelor's degree to teach in critical shortage fields identified by the state.

SB 1213: Introduced by Senator Seifried. Reduces the financial burden on preservice teachers by providing a \$3,000 stipend during their student teaching internship.

SB 1303, SB 1305, and SB 1306: Introduced by Senator Rob

Standridge (R). Collectively, these bills would eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion offices and policies at Oklahoma public higher education institutions.

SB 1395: Introduced by Senator Pugh. Expands the number of members of the State Board of Education from 7 to 11. Also eliminates the governor's sole authority to appoint Board members. Instead, the authority to appoint Board members would be divided between the Senate ProTem, the Speaker of the House, and the governor. Would also allow Board members to be removed because of "malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance" of Board duties or missing 3 successive Board meetings without just cause.

SB 169: Carry over of previous SB169 from 2023 session. Introduced by Senators Todd Gollihare (R) and David Bullard (R) and Representative George Burns (R). Mandates that law enforcement officers and emergency medical service providers who serve the area in which a school district is located "be physically present and directly involved in a minimum of one (1) security drill" of the minimum four (4) security drills required each year.

Oklahoma House of Representatives

HB 3619: Establishes a **Students' Bill of Rights**. Sponsored by Representative Sherrie Conley (R). Lists the rights of students enrolled in public schools and charter schools; prohibits punishment for students exercising their rights. Provides a notification and de-

mand process for violations of students' rights, authorizes the filing of civil lawsuits for violation of student rights and directs the court to award attorney fees to the prevailing party.

HB 3501: Introduced by Representative Tammy West (R). Authorizes the State Board of Education to assist in establishing community school pilot projects, subject to funding. Establishes minimum requirements for such projects, such as "strengthened curriculum and academic programs, expanded learning opportunities, integrated student supports or wrap-around services."

HB 3512: Sponsored by Representative Ronny Johns (R). Amends the **Oklahoma Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Life Skills Education Act** to include instruction in fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness for students in grades 6 – 12. Instruction must include suicide prevention and awareness of community and school resources and how to access them. Directs the Governor to authorize a week to be known as "Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week."

HB 3800: Sponsored by Representative Sherrie Conley (R). Provides parents and guardians of students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 the option to opt their student out of taking the biennial "Oklahoma Needs Assessment Survey." The survey collects data about student mental health, violence, academic failure, and use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

(Continued on Page 11)

Education Bills to Watch in the Oklahoma Legislature from the OSO U.S. Forum Committee

(Continued From Page 10)

School districts would be required to provide parents and legal guardians prior written notice that includes a copy of the survey or assessment tool and the information that they may opt their student out of the survey by providing written notice to the district.

HB 4016: Sponsored by Representative Mark McBride (R). Amends previous legislation relating to the **School Security Revolving Fund** to permit the use of funds by school districts to implement a crisis management solution that includes a hard-wired notification system that notifies staff, law enforcement, and first responders of the location of an identified threat.

“The notification system shall also notify staff via text, email, and voice alert. The system must also address the time gap issue from the beginning of a violent event until law enforcement support can arrive and end the threat. The crisis management solution shall provide training and implementation of a variety of secured response options, including threshold protection, escape and evade options, and trauma first aid items.”

HB 3942: Sponsored by Representative Melissa Provenzano (D). Grants authority to the Legislature to withdraw or deny school accreditation.

HB 4137: Introduced by Representative Amanda Swope (D). Directs the State Board of Education to adopt subject matter information literacy standards and sets out the minimum requirements for such standards. Also directs the

State Board of Education to convene a committee of educators (librarians and teachers from a range of subject areas) to develop the standards, which will be reviewed by experts and presented for public review across the state. Requires schools to incorporate information literacy standards as appropriate in instruction in grades K – 12.

HB 1450: Sponsored by Representative Melissa Provenzano (D). Amends previous legislation on teacher evaluation by eliminating the provision for an individualized program of professional development.

HB 3277: Introduced by Representative Rhonda Baker (R). Creates the **Student Digital Safety and Awareness Act**. Directs boards of education to adopt and implement digital safety policies that address the following components: the filtering and monitoring of internet content accessed; the detection of cyberbullying by monitoring digital communication and online interactions; self-harm and suicide prevention through the use of monitoring features that identify online content related to self-harm and suicide; detection of threat alerts through the use of monitoring features that identify potentially dangerous online activity and discussions; and the protection of student privacy. Requires data privacy and transparency in data collection with informed consent from parent/guardian. Mandates that schools report annually on the effectiveness of their digital safety policy to the State Department of Mental Health and

Substance Abuse Services, which is responsible for overseeing and ensuring compliance with the act. Non-compliant schools may face penalties and the loss of state funding. Directs the Legislature to appropriate funds to implement the act.

HB 3012: Sponsored by Representative Denise Crosswhite Hader (R). Authorizes the transport and storage of firearms on school property under certain circumstances. Any person who is allowed to own a firearm under state law “shall be considered individually authorized relicensure and verification under the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1990.”

Note: In addition to monitoring the progress of proposed legislation, OSO members may also want to be alert to discussion about the proposed state budget. For example, advocates for Dolly Parton **Imagination Library** programs may want to contact their state legislators to ensure that continued funding for IL remains in the budget. With the support of local affiliates, the Imagination Library program provides books to children from birth to age 5 at no cost to the child’s parents. In 2022, the Oklahoma State Department of Education dedicated \$2.5 million in federal pandemic relief funds to expand the program to all 77 counties in Oklahoma. OSDE funds half the cost of the books, and the local affiliate pays the other half, reducing the cost per book to \$1.10.



Legislative Update

KOSU | By Lionel Ramos

February 1, 2024 at 5:00 AM CST

Senate Republicans Lay Out Legislative Education Goals for Upcoming Regular Session

Republican members of the Senate Education Committee say they'll push incentivizing teachers to end an ongoing shortage and stimulating the economy when session begins Feb. 5.

There are at least [28 education bills](#) proposed in the Senate this legislative session. They include teacher pay raises, higher reading standards and efforts to keep students in the classroom.

Sen. Adam Pugh, R-Edmond, chairs the Senate Education Committee. He says the goal is to amp up Oklahoma's future workforce.

"There is a direct correlation between education attainment and economic outcome," Pugh said during a [press conference](#) at the State Capitol Wednesday. "And we have got to better position the state of Oklahoma to lead the nation. And position the United States to once again be the world's leader in education."

He said paying college tuition and fees for young teachers-to-be, and then paying them enough to want to stay in the classroom once they start teaching, will ensure rising standards for Oklahoma students are met.

Pugh was joined by three of his colleagues in the Senate: Sen. Dewayne Pemberton, R-Muskogee; Sen. Kristen Thompson, R-Edmond; Sen. Ally Seifried, R-Claremore. They took turns explaining how some of their proposed bills would help fill the state's teacher shortage and stimulate the economy.

Seifried is proposing [SB 1342](#), a bill establishing the Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Academy, which would mandate the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to pay tuition and fees for students who choose to study to become teachers.

The subsidized schooling would have some stipulations attached for students. Individuals who get money from the regents will be required to teach in a critical shortage subject area for the number of years they received assistance from the state.

Pemberton's [SB 1520](#) aims at bringing retired teachers back into Oklahoma's public schools by increasing their salary caps. Retired teachers under 62 will be able to earn up to \$30,000. Those over that age could earn up to \$55,000.

"We need to try to build our (teacher) pipeline," he said. "But you can't build that pipeline fast enough. We're in a situation that we don't have the front-end kids coming in as quickly as we'd like them to. So we're going to incentivize the back end."

One of Thompson's goals is to limit school districts' use of virtual days. Her [SB 1768](#) aims to do just that by naming what constitutes enough of an emergency: inclement weather, teacher staffing shortages and building maintenance.

Pugh also said he plans to introduce updates to last year's school choice program, which protects parents collecting their private school vouchers from having to pay taxes on them.

"Oklahoma Teachers May Not Have to Return Errant Bonuses," Walters Says

State Superintendent Claims Negative News Coverage Is False

OKLAHOMA VOICE

BY: [NURIA MARTINEZ-KEEL](#) - JANUARY 31, 2024

State Superintendent Ryan Walters said Wednesday errant bonuses his administration paid to educators might not have to be paid back.

In a press conference he called to accuse reporters of lying about the situation, Walters said the Oklahoma State Department of Education is coordinating with the teachers who wrongly received signing bonuses to find another solution. He said that

could include longer contractual commitments in exchange for keeping the money.

"There is a path forward that does not require a payback from those teachers," Walters said.

But at least one affected teacher got no such promise, her attorney, Mark Hammons, said.

Oklahoma County teacher Kristina Stadelman heard from the state agency in the past two days, informing her a Feb. 29 deadline for repayment no longer applied, Hammons said.

But that included no guarantee she would never have to repay the bonus, he said, and that's why she joined a lawsuit on Wednesday to challenge the demand.

"They extended the time for the deadline and said they were looking into other possibilities," Hammons said. "We don't know what that means, and they didn't explain that to her, but they certainly made no promise that she wouldn't have to pay back all or any portion of that money."

Both of Hammons' clients, Stadelman and Osage County teacher Kay Bojorquez, said they were awarded \$50,000 bonuses in the fall from a teacher recruitment program Walters created last year.

The program paid signing bonuses of \$15,000 to \$50,000 to more than 500 certified teachers who agreed to return to the classroom from other professions or moved to Oklahoma from out of state. Recipients had to commit to work five years in an Oklahoma public school district.

Those who had worked in a public school the previous year were not eligible.

This month, the state Education Department informed Stadelman and Bojorquez they never met the program's qualifications, though both had been approved and given bonuses, according to court documents.

(Continued on Page 13)

Legislative Update

(Continued From Page 12)

Their lawsuit states both teachers received letters ordering them to pay the full \$50,000 back by the end of February, including tens of thousands of dollars that had gone to taxes.

Bojorquez had not heard from the state agency about any other potential solution as of Tuesday, Hammons said.

News outlets *Oklahoma Watch* and *StateImpact Oklahoma* were the first to report the agency's repayment demands. Their reporting found the agency mistakenly paid \$290,000 in bonuses to nine teachers.

Walters said media coverage of the repayment demands have been a "deliberate lie pushed by reporters."

When pressed for details on which elements of news coverage had been untruthful, Walters said his administration identified only four teachers who had been paid in error rather than nine, as *Oklahoma Watch*

and *StateImpact Oklahoma* had reported.

Reporters from both news outlets said at the press conference they stand by their reporting. They said the state Education Department confirmed the information they included in their story, including the figures Walters is now saying are false.

Walters said the teachers who improperly received bonuses had gotten past the agency's "initial round of screening because of some specific situations." His administration paid the bonuses and later realized certain teachers never met the original criteria after further rounds of review, he said.

Later verification also uncovered that other teachers had been paid less than what their qualifications deserved, Walters said, but he didn't know the number of underpaid educators.

News reporters aren't the only ones Walters has accused of lying. He claimed teachers provided

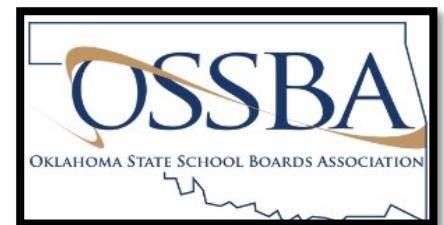
"misinformation" on their applications and received payments in error as a result.

Both Stadelman and Bojorquez have sued Walters for defamation for making this claim.

Stadelman and Bojorquez thought they were eligible for the program when the state Education Department approved their applications for bonuses, according to their lawsuit.

They contend that an error by the state agency isn't grounds to make them repay. Both teachers said they already spent their bonus and it would be "financially impossible" to return it.

Information Taken From OSSBA Newsletter



Nominations Committee

Think about getting involved at the state level. You will have a lot of fun and meet some great people. It's never too early to think about running for a state office or committee for 2025-2027. The deadline for filing is December 1, 2024. Submit your applications to

Sandra Pendergraft
2605 Kingston Road
Ponca City, OK 74604

Scholarship Committee

This committee awards scholarships to OSO members for further education and/or enrichment opportunities.

Members who apply and are accepted will be awarded scholarships at the State Convention (odd years) or at the Leadership Conference (even years).

OSO Officer

If you enjoy taking minutes, then you should apply for the Oklahoma State Organization secretary position.

The OSO secretary takes minutes at the State Convention, Executive Board meetings and the State Conference. The secretary can tape these meetings and then type them for approval later.

You will not be disappointed if you choose to get involved on

the state level, whether on a committee or as an officer!



Sandra Pendergraft, Chair

Oklahoma State Organization on Broadway

Everything is Coming Up Roses

Google “What is it like on Broadway?” and get some young, trendy answers. According to NOOBRA on Quora.com, opening night for a Broadway show is a special and electric event, filled with anticipation, excitement and a touch of nervousness (*I’ve been, so true!*). Here's what you can expect on opening night—

1. The Buildup: As you approach the theater, you'll notice an air of buzz and anticipation. People are dressed to the nines, chatting excitedly about the show they're about to see. The theater itself is transformed, with red carpets, flowers and special lighting creating an atmosphere of glamour and excitement. (*How do we build up DKG? Some of you already are! Everyone of all ages loves the stage, a metaphor for DKG excitement and possibilities for membership and more!*)

2. The Pre-Show Rituals: Once inside the theater, you'll find programs, souvenirs and refreshments available for purchase. You might also encounter cast members signing autographs or taking photos with fans. The theater staff will be extra attentive, ensuring everything runs smoothly. (*This is how presidents and officers feel planning for DKG conferences, meetings and events.*)

3. The Electric Atmosphere: As the showtime approaches, the energy in the theater intensifies. The lights dim, the orchestra tunes up and the audience hushes in anticipation. The anticipation is palpable, and the excitement radiates from the crowd. (*Everyone getting ready for our OSO Summer Conference-let’s have a sell-out crowd!*)

4. The Show Begins: The curtain rises, and the magic unfolds. The actors deliver their lines with passion, the dancers move with grace, and the music fills the air. The audience is captivated, their eyes glued to the stage. (*It all begins with the Rosy Award Talent Show Friday evening, June 7, at our Summer Conference! Read the rules and enter as an individual or chapter.*)

5. The Applause and Cheers: The audience reacts with enthusiastic applause and cheers as the show progresses. Every well-executed scene, every emotional moment and every catchy tune are met with appreciation. The energy in the theater is palpable, and it feels like the show is alive. (*Oh, it’s going to be a great OKDKG Conference. Talent is everywhere!*)

6. The Standing Ovation: At the end of the show, the audience erupts in a thunderous standing ovation. The actors take their bows, beaming with pride and gratitude. The energy in the theater is at its peak, and you can feel the joy and satisfaction radiating from the crowd. (*Stand up and applaud DKG. You won’t want to miss this Conference!*)

7. The Afterglow: As the audience exits the theater, they carry with them the lingering magic of the performance. They discuss their favorite moments, the actors' performances and the overall impact of the show. Opening night is an unforgettable experience that leaves a lasting impression. (*Don’t miss Oklahoma State Organization on Broadway: Everything is Coming Up Roses at our OKDKG Summer Conference, DKG moments that will last forever!*)



Membership Matters

It's Showtime! Time for the Rosy Awards!

State Conference Oklahoma City June 7 – 8

Get ready to be wowed as DKG sisters from across the state share their talents in comedy, dance, poetry and vocal and instrumental music at the Rosy Awards on opening night of the OSO convention! This year's convention theme is "OSO on Broadway: Everything's Coming up Roses." If you or a group of sisters would like to be a part of the show, you can find information and an entry form on the state website at

<http://www.okdkg.org/conferencesconventions.html>.

Entries are due April 15.

Back by popular demand—on Friday night, instead of having to eat a rushed meal before the convention

starts, you can enjoy a **free box supper** courtesy of OSO (our state organization). The box supper includes your choice of sandwich, chips, cookie and a drink.

Registration forms and hotel information are available on the state website. **Registration deadline is May 10, 2024.** Remember that you can register for just one day if you're unable to attend both Friday and Saturday. If you're interested in carpooling or sharing a room, please check with your chapter members.

Hope to see you there! **Debby Yarbrough**



Calendar

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

- **June 7-8, 2024**
Oklahoma State Organization Conference
Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA DEADLINES

March 15, 2024

- OSO Scholarship Applications

April 1, 2024

- Chapter Service Award



FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION/CONFERENCE

- **2024:** National Harbor, Maryland
(Gaylord National, D.C. Area)
- **2026:** Aurora, Colorado
(Gaylord Rockies)

INTERNATIONAL DEADLINES

March 1, 2024

- DKGIEF Project Application
- *Bulletin:* Journal submissions

May 1, 2024

- DKGIEF Cornet CIPD Application



ROSY AWARD TALENT SHOW RULES

Friday Night, June 7, 2024

Time TBA

Delta Kappa Gamma Oklahoma State Organization



To be eligible:

- * The show is open to all OSO DKG members of all ages.
- * Talents may include singing, dancing, instrumental performances, skits, comedy and poetry/reading.
- * Everyone must return a completed and signed Talent Show Participation Form by April 15, 2024, to Dr. Jo Ann Pierce aspirehigherconsulting@gmail.com or Donna Talley dk tall@sbcglobal.net
- * Maximum of 5 participants per group act. Complete one Talent Show Participation Form listing the leader and up to 4 other performers.
- * Time limit is 2.5 minutes to 3 minutes
- * Acts are responsible for their own props, costumes and musical accompaniment.
- * In all cases the decision of the judges is final and will not be open for discussion.

Remember Your Sisters



Chapters, at the death of a member, please send a **Form 6** to **Shelly Hudson** shelly.hudson@cox.net.

A copy also should be sent to **Di-ane Lasse** (dlaase@hotmail.com), and to **International** (mem@dkg.org).

In addition, please send an article about your chapter member's passing to **Beth Schieber** (triumphantheartwoman@yahoo.com) who will post the tribute in *The Lime-lighter*.



Agnes Estella Siegrist "Aggie"
March 29, 1929 - January 3, 2024

Aggie was a beloved 50-year member of **Beta Beta Chapter**. The wit and wisdom of Agnes was well known and well loved.

She attended Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater and received her Bachelor's Degree in Education. She later earned her Master's in Education from Central State University and postgraduate degrees in reading specialist, special education, and psychometry. She was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

Agnes was named as Oklahoma Special Educator of the Year by the Oklahoma Federation for the Council for Exceptional Children, Agnes also was selected as El Reno's Outstanding Teacher of the Year, and Canadian County Teacher of the Year.



Zella Stone
July 23, 1947— October 19, 2023

Zella was a member and secretary of **Beta Lambda Chapter**. In the course of her academic career, she received numerous degrees including a Master's in nursing from Oklahoma University and a Master's in nursing administration from Oklahoma State University. Zella's career spanned over fifty years and three states. She worked in hospitals, technology centers and in the classroom as a nursing instructor. She completed her career as the nursing director at Eastern Oklahoma State College. She continued volunteering at different clinics. She impacted many lives throughout her career and is greatly missed. Her daughter **Rachel England** is the president of Beta Lamba.



Insurance Benefits for Members

Your DKG membership provides insurance for all your troubles whether it be yourself, your chapter, your credit cards, or your pet.

- Life and health from Boon-Chapman
- Professional liability, general liability, accident medical insurance, directors and officers liability, bonding and property insurance from AIM
- Pet insurance from VPI/Nationwide
- Identity recovery from ID Theft Assist
- Longterm care and care for the senior market from LTCR
- Discounted hearing assessments and prescription hearing aids from TruHearing

- Dental care from dentalinsurance.com

You can take advantage of the group rates available through your DKG membership.

To find the listings, sign in to **DKG.org** as a member and then

- * go to About Us
- * Membership - Benefits
- * Discounts

You can follow that up with a web search for the companies. Be sure to identify yourself as a DKG member when you contact these companies.

Oklahoma State Organization Scholarships Available

State Committee Overview 2023-2024

Committee Members: Dr. Melissa Brevetti, Chair, Delta; Harriett Webber, Rho (2027); Dr. Holly Rice, Xi (2027); Kim Lucas, Alpha (2025); Betty Estes, Alpha Sigma (2025); Lina Gunsaulis, Beta Mu (2027)

Application deadline will be March 15, 2024.

Information: Scholarships will be awarded to current classroom educators and retired educators to gain knowledge and bring resources to our communities, improving our future by degrees, collaboration and effective practices.

For further information on specific scholarships: <http://www.okdkg.org/scholarship-committee.html>

The following criteria are used to award our state scholarships:

- Applicants need to have completed the second year of being an active member of their chapter.
- Members must be engaged in the field of education or planning on returning. This stipulation does not apply to Enrichment scholarship applicants.
- Individuals may only receive one major scholarship (\$1500 or \$3000) in a 5-year period.

To find out more details about the scholarships available each year, you can visit the OSO website at www.okdkg.org. At the top of that page you will see Sitemap, click and look for State Committees. You will need to use the Forms Protected password. Scroll down until you see Scholarships and click again. This will take you to the page where information about each specific scholarship is given. The application forms can also be downloaded from this page. The application deadline for OSO scholarships is March 15. Members who apply and are accepted will be awarded scholarships at the State Convention (odd years) or at the Leadership Conference (even years). If you have further questions, feel free to contact me. **OSO Scholarships are listed on page 19.**

Dr. Melissa Brevetti

Delta Chapter

Brevetti.melissa@gmail.com



OSO Scholarships Available

(Continued From Page 18)

Helen Olander Scholarship \$3000

Full-time student devoting one academic year to her studies, six to twelve hours of coursework each semester.

Dora McFarland Scholarship \$3,000

A full-time teacher attending a state, national, or international conference, convention or training aimed at classroom enrichment.

Blanche Moon Scholarship \$3,000

A student who is completing a Doctoral Dissertation.

Hazel Benedict Scholarship up to \$1500

A member who desires to attend a state, national or international educational conference or convention. Estimated costs should be included in the definitive statement of plans for study.

Beulah Elliot Clinton Memorial Scholarship \$1,000

The recipient will be a full-time teacher working toward a Master's degree in the field of education. The money can be used for either summer school or course work during the school year. At least six hours of graduate work is to be taken each year. The scholarship is renewable for three years providing the recipient meets to the expected academic standard.

Beulah Elliot Clinton Road Scholar Scholarship \$500

The recipient will be a member for at least two (2) years, with induction prior to April 1 of the induction year. She must be fifty-five (55) years of age or older, which is a requirement of the Road Scholar program, formerly known as the Elderhostel program. She must be accepted as a Road Scholar before submitting the application for the OSO Road Scholar Scholarship. This scholarship will not be funded until fully endowed to give five hundred dollars (\$500).

Thesis/Dissertation or Research Scholarship \$500

This applicant should have baccalaureate degree, minimum of 26 graduate hours and be able to devote the necessary time for the satisfactory completion of her university approved project.

Summer Term Scholarship \$500

Applicant working toward a degree or certification. Minimum of six hours of course work.

Edna Donley Summer Term Scholarship \$500

Applicant working toward a degree or special certification. Minimum six hours course work.

Regular School Year Scholarship \$250 - \$500

Full-time teacher working toward an advanced degree or special certificate by taking university courses during the school year. Minimum three hours.

Enrichment Scholarship \$250

For a member who desires to take a university course or attend a workshop for enrichment.

Kathy Davis Legislative Forum Scholarship \$1000

This scholarship is to assist a member who would like to attend The National Legislative Seminar in Washington, D. C.

ATTEND THE DKGIEF FUNDRAISER!



Looking for a fun night out? Well, toss in your dancing shoes and tune up your vocal cords for an evening spent at

Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar
(sponsored by DKGIEF)

Wednesday, July 10th
6pm - 11 pm



World-class musicians will play all your requests and favorites while weaving in improvisational humor.

Heavy appetizers, desserts, and soda/water will be included with your ticket purchase, and the venue is just steps away from the convention center.

A portion of the **\$150 ticket price** will be tax deductible as a contribution to DKGIEF.

Tickets are limited to 300, so join your DKG sisters as you'll sing and laugh the night away while making incredible memories!

To attend, select the "DKGIEF Fundraiser" add-on option when registering for the Convention.

Educators Book Award

The International Educators Book Award Committee always encourages state organizations and chapters to use books to enhance their programs. It is one way of keeping members actively involved in DKG and a positive step to retaining active members. A list of program ideas for using books during meetings is available on [dkg.org>About>Ed Book Award Winners>Suggestions for Using Educators Award Books](http://dkg.org>About/Ed_Book_Award_Winners/Suggestions_for_Using_Educators_Award_Books).

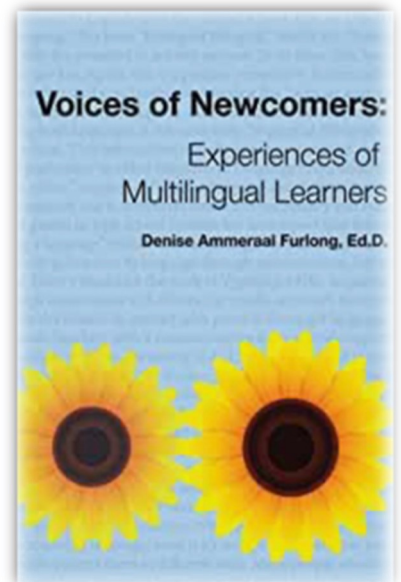
A few examples of how state organizations and chapters used books to enhance their programs:

- A state organization held a fall conference that offered Personal Growth and Professional Development workshops. One of the workshop choices was a book discussion group that was not a book award recipient but a current best seller.
- Two chapters held a joint meeting that included a book discussion of an award winning book and an

exchange of used books.

- One chapter donated an award winning book to their local library.

The Educators Book Award Committee loves to hear from chapters about the unique ways they use the award-winning books in their programs.



World Fellowship

Dr. Marilyn Sue Hamilton (Mu)
Alphamusings Montana State Organization
January 2024



One of our major purposes in Delta Kappa Gamma is to endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators. The World Fellowship Fund enables us to fulfill this purpose. The World Fellowship Fund is a 501c3 organization which is tax deductible. Please offer several collection opportunities within your chapter to collect money for this valuable fund. Contributions can be made through the Delta Kappa Gamma website on the World Fellowship page, or a check can be sent to the state treasurer.

Here are a few suggestions to have fun while collecting money each month in your chapter. Feel free to adapt any or all to your chapter's preferences.

- January—Contribute \$.50 for every degree on the thermometer at your meeting.
- February—Donate \$.50 if you have hugged someone today and \$1.00 if you haven't.
- March—give \$.50 if you are wearing green and a \$1.00 if you are not.
- April—"Shower" the World Fellowship Fund with change from your purse.
- May—Give a \$1.00 to honor a special woman in your life.
- September—Donate \$.50 for every apple you have eaten this month.
- October—Give \$.50 for every pumpkin in your house (real or artificial).
- November—Give \$1.00 for each of your blessings.
- December—Give \$.50 for every gift under your tree.

Making and sharing a World Fellowship basket to auction or sell will help members remember to contribute to the fund. Members may find it meaningful to send letters, cards, or care packages to World Fellowship recipients. Your chapter may choose a recipient to support during their graduate studies. A confidential list of the 2023-24 recipients is on the Delta Kappa Gamma website. Establishing a relationship with these remarkable

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND

TRY IT...YOU'LL LIKE IT

A Note from President Pierce

The 2024 DKG International Convention comes to National Harbor, Maryland, from July 9-13, 2024, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. Attendees will enjoy gorgeous views of the Potomac River and access to waterfront terraces.

The bustling town of National Harbor features malls, boutiques, casinos, wine bars, top-notch restaurants and so much more. And, for a dive deep into American history, Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia, are only a

short drive away.

Like those before it, the 2024 International Convention promises to deliver enlightening breakout sessions, the chance to network with fellow members from around the world and the opportunity to shape the future of DKG as members gather to vote on proposed amendments to the Society's governing documents.

Keep an eye on the *DKG NEWS* and www.dkg.org over the next few months for more information!

Each day includes a meal.

Wednesday & Friday includes the luncheons. Thursday is the Regional breakfast. Saturday The Society Dinner. The Opening Night Celebration is open to everyone whether you purchase the whole week or individual days. It will include appetizers and cash bar. The DKGIEF event is not included in the price. I think it will be at Bobbie McGee Dualing Pianos. I plan to attend. Come join me!

Dr. Jo Ann Pierce

Nu Chapter



Above Left: Milestone membership recognitions are presented to **Betty Keim** for 10 years and **Kay Morris** for 15 years.



Above Right: NU Chapter's Scholarship recipient **Kessi Cabler** (Left) is pictured with her mother **Vicki Cabler** (Right), a new member and a science teacher at Bruin Academy.



State President Dr. Jo Ann Pierce poses with **Chapter President Opal Upshaw**. Dr. Pierce presented a PowerPoint entitled, "Everything Is Coming Up Roses." The emphasis was on developing positivity and creating new chapters.



OSO President Jo Ann Pierce with her "Everything Is Coming Up Roses" towel and homemade roses created by **Paula Dunlap**.



Alpha Chapter



For three years in a row, **Alpha Chapter** sponsors a booth at the Kingfisher Winterfest held at the Kingfisher County Fairgrounds.

Above: Jo Yandell and Lori Richardson-Morphew work together at the Alpha Chapter Booth at the Kingfisher Winterfest. Alpha members made a number of items to sell at the event including BBQ sauce, candy filled/decorated jars, cakes, coloring kits for children, jars of soothing foot soaks, candy coated pretzels, hot chocolate mixes, and stuffed Teddy bears. Alpha Chapter uses the money earned on the event to help fund chapter projects. It is a fun time, and as is shown in the pictures, the purposes and mission of DKG was shared with all who stopped by our booth!

Right: Below: Alpha Member, Jo Yandell, works the Alpha Chapter Booth at the Kingfisher Winterfest.



Alpha Chapter

TULAKES NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PANTRY

Alpha Chapter continues to partner with **Tulakes Neighborhood Food Panty** as a chapter service project. We collect toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash and deodorant for women, children and men. Several Alpha members have taught or are currently teaching at Tulakes Elementary School near the

Tulakes Neighborhood Food Pantry.

The Pantry has been instrumental in getting families not only food and necessary personal goods, but it has assisted in get

ting much needed dental and health care for families in the Tulakes area. Alpha Chapter has been working with the neighborhood ministry for a few years.



ALPHA CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE

If you have a Facebook account look for Alpha Chapter's FB page. Search for Delta Kappa Gamma-Oklahoma State Organization-Alpha Chapter. You can **like** and **follow** our chapter's FB page. You will then receive notifications when something has been posted. It is a great way to stay informed about what is happening in our chapter and to communicate your successes, needs or shout-outs with others. Let's stay connected!

Below: Alpha Chapter's December meeting took place at the home of Alpha member **Nikki Coshow**. Each attendee brought a favorite holiday dish and a "Dirty Santa" gift to share. The food was wonderful, the gifts were great, but the fellowship was spectacular! A great time was had by all.

Left to Right: **Lori Richardson-Morphew, Kandy Bishop, Jen Evans, Thalia Henning.**



Beta Beta Chapter

Bob Palmer, Homeless Outreach Coordinator and renown artist, spoke to Beta Beta Chapter members at the November meeting. Bob and his group minister to the “underserved” homeless in the Oklahoma City area. Mr. Palmer visits camps usually unseen by the public. He works with the South Yukon Church of Christ. In addition to assorted snacks, socks, and blankets and other supplies, members donated \$189.00 for the homeless project.

In addition to the Homeless Outreach Program, Beta Beta also contributed to the **Yukon Beautiful Day (\$806)** in September and

Yukon Sharing (\$100) in October. In 2024, members donated \$230 to **Partner’s Club Prom** in January, \$245 to **Youth and Family Services** in February and will donate to **Jacob’s Cupboard** in March and the **YPS Back to School Breakfast** in April.

Tim Haws, Vice-president of Operations of **The 34 Project**, was guest speaker at the January chapter meeting. The 34 Project maximizes potential for those living with spinal cord and other neurological disorders. The chapter donated \$50



Tonya Taylor
Service Committee Chairs



Jennie Wilmes
Service Committee Chairs

to The 34 Project. In addition, some members also contributed donations to this worthy cause.



Above: Beta Beta Chapter members **Kay Casper** and chapter president **Shelly Hudson**, prospective member and grant recipient **Su Scavitto** and members **Tonya Taylor** and **Neta Duke** dressed for the “Peace, Love & Grants” 70s-themed **Yukon Public Schools Foundation for Excellence** grants award gala. **Lee Wells** is not pictured. **Beta Beta** donates \$250 to the Foundation annually.

Beta Beta Chapter

Okarche Teachers Receive Books from Beta Beta Chapter

Left: Beth Schieber, Ann Hufnagel, Abby Chadd, one of the five recipients (Third from Left), and Megan Henderson pose with the crates of books collected.

Abby expressed her gratitude, saying, "I want to thank you so much for my new books for my class! My students and I are so excited to use them." These heartfelt words are a testament to the impact Beta Beta Chapter is making.

Over 540 books have been donated to teachers in **Okarche, El Reno and Yukon** over the past three years.

Five Okarche Elementary School teachers—**Lyric Allen (Pre-K), Amy Parcell and Emma Wood (2nd grade), Abby Chadd (4th grade) and Amanda Bekkelund (5th grade)** — received books for their classroom libraries. Chapter members collected children's books as their annual December community service project.

The Beta Beta members sorted the books into grade-appropriate "crates" for distribution. Over 150 books were donated to the Okarche teachers. Chapter members **Megan Henderson (OES counselor), Ann Hufnagel (OES librarian), and Beth Schieber (OES tutor and library volunteer)** delivered the book-filled crates to the surprised and delighted teachers.

Ann Hufnagel states, "These

donations will enhance the educational experience of our Okarche Elementary students."

Reflecting on the chapter project, Beth Schieber states, "As we look to the future, we are confident that Beta Beta Chapter will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of children and educators in our communities."



Members Beth Schieber, Megan Henderson, 2nd grade teacher Amy Parcell, 2nd grade teacher Emma Wood, and member Ann Hufnagel.



Beta Beta members present books collected at the December Christmas celebration to teachers at **Okarche Elementary School.**

Alpha Iota

Right: Enjoying refreshments during the meeting are **Kim Leatherwood, Mary Mascho, Rachel Karger and Jennifer Green.**

Pictured below: New members initiated at the November meeting include **Mary Mascho, Jennifer Green, Elizabeth Golliver and Kristi Peery.** **Shonda Brisco** is a new member to Alpha Iota through transfer membership.



Psi Chapter



Editors Note: President's messages are wealth of good advice and wisdom, and this column is a wonderful example.

President's Message

Debby Yarbrough

President, Psi Chapter

Editor, *Psi Signal*

Strong writing skills are important to success not only in

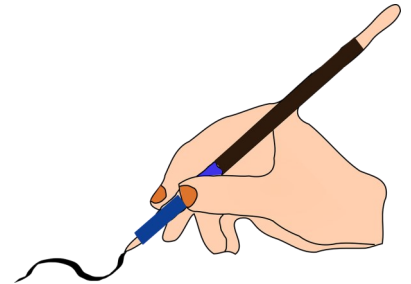
school but throughout one's life. Writing is key to developing our ability to think critically. It requires us to organize our thoughts and make connections and comparisons between concepts. Clear writing reflects clear thinking.

Strong writing skills are valued by employers. In a 2013 survey by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, 93% of employers surveyed agreed that "a [job] candidate's demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly and solve complex problems" is important.

Our writing, whether a note to our child's teacher or a business plan as part of an application for a bank loan, is often the first impression that others have of us, especially in a world of increasingly digital communication.

Kyle Wiens, CEO of iFixit, an online repair community, states, "In blog posts, on Facebook statuses, in emails, and on company websites, your words are all you have. They are a projection of you in your physical absence." Strong writing skills indicate one's attention to detail, organizational abilities, and commitment to quality work.

Psi Chapter's sponsorship of the annual essay contest for seventh and eighth-grade students signals our belief in the importance of effective writing.



Left: Psi member **Rita Barnett** (center) shared a sample of the many crafts she enjoys—a framed arrangement of pressed flowers, a variety of colorful bracelets, and a photo she took from the Washington Monument in DC that she had enlarged and made into a plaque. **Center:** Guest crafter **Karon McCubbin (Lambda Chapter)** taught members how to fold greeting cards into decorative boxes. **Right:** **Esther Fields** displays the boxes she created from her cards.

Beta Nu

1. Learn that you are fair game-anyplace, any time
2. Learn that children walk around in adult-sized bodies.
3. Learn that politics is a four-letter word.
4. Learn to wear a full skirt because you will have to punt.
5. Learn that chicken served banquet style is a weekly occurrence.
6. Learn that you do not have an "S" on the front of your bra.
7. Learn that everything you say takes on the colors of "gospel or gossip."
8. Learn that you are expected to contribute time and money to every cause and every campaign.
9. Learn that "no makeup/no pantyhose" days are absolutely essential.
10. Learn to delegate—or die!

Dr. Joe Anna Hibler: One of the Fellows
By Dr. Jill Jones Tourian

Homeless Students

"Let's say we missed the mark ten times over. Would Oklahoma's citizens — the brave, bold, resourceful and upright of our state — be content that we have 12,000 homeless children? What if I threw on top of that, we know where to find them? We know who they are, and we know where the majority of them and their siblings go to school? The fact is that we do know, and the correlation between this epidemic and our ranking of 49th in education and 46th in overall child-well being is difficult to ignore."

These words by **David McLeod** address the count of Oklahoma's homeless youth. McLeod is one of three University of Oklahoma professors who partnered with the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency to determine how to best distribute \$32 million of federal funding toward unhoused and housing-insecure Oklahomans.



Above: Carol Scott, Diane Ackerman and Cheryl McInnis proudly display their "little boxes" made from greeting cards.



Members participated in making "little boxes" from Christmas cards. The little boxes can hold a gift card, candies or M&Ms. This idea is from the 2023 OSO Convention.

Left: Andrea Wildman, Shereen Rasor, and Joyce Hess proudly display their craftsmanship in gift box making.

ΔΚΤ

Beta Lambda

Left: Cambree Crase and Haven Clark celebrate their December birthdays at their school.



Pam Harding accepted the Beautiful Day challenge to celebrate every birthday in Bokoshe's Elementary School. "It was a wonderful idea presented at our OKDKG State Conference. All the kids look forward to "their" day at the birthday table. This is our second year of celebrating, and we look forward to many more years of celebration," says Pam.

Beautiful Day's mission began with a simple statement to elementary school age kids: "The day you were born was a BEAUTIFUL DAY. Your life and existence is worthy of being celebrated." We are passionate about telling children this important message. We want kids to know that they are seen and loved by the community they call home.

Right: Parker Abernathy Nevaeh Henderson and Dakota Adams celebrate their January birthdays. Parker's grandmother Celia Abernathy and her great-grandmother Royce Lynn Bell are members of Beta Lambda.





2024 Oklahoma State Conference Registration
“OSO on Broadway: Everything is Coming up Roses”

Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City
 1815 South Meridian Avenue

Last Name:	First Name:	Title:
Address:	City:	Zip:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	Chapter:
Email (Most accessed):		
2022-2024 Chapter Officer position:	2023-2025 State Officer or State Committee Chair position:	

Photo Release: “I grant permission to OSO of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to use my photograph in <i>The LimeLighter</i> and/or the Gamma State Website.”	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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Check ALL appropriate choices:

☐ Chapter President or Designee
☐ Oklahoma State Past President

☐ First Timer to the Oklahoma State Convention
☐ Initiated in 2023-24 – *Welcome new member!*
☐ Initiated in 1973-1974 – *50 years in DKG!*
☐ National Board Certified in 2023 – 2024
☐ Received Doctorate in 2023 – 2024
☐ Attending International Convention in 2024

Event	Date	Ticket Quantity	Cost	Total
Registration fee	June 7-8		\$10	\$10
Showtime Sandwiches/Concessions	Friday, June 7		\$0	
Theatre of the Stars Luncheon Buffet- Pork Loin, BBQ Brisket, Grilled Veggies, Mashed Potatoes, Tossed Green Salad, Strawberry Cream Cake, Chocolate Cake	Saturday, June 8		\$35	
Presidents Rose Banquet* - Asiago Crusted Chicken, Pasta, Tomato Coulis, Tomato Basil Soup, Cheese-cake, Apple pie	Saturday, June 8		\$40 *Past Oklahoma State Presidents attend the Banquet compliments of Oklahoma State	
Add \$2 for Venmo Payments			Total	\$

Payment for Meals/Events must be received by May 10, 2024

Contact Convention Chair Shelly Hudson (shelly.hudson@cox.net or text--405.698.7497) with questions.

***** Meals must be prepaid. NO meal tickets will be sold at convention. *****

The cost of the meal includes food, service charges, and taxes.

Mail Registration form and check to: Diane Laase 10801 West Country Drive Oklahoma City, OK 73170		Make Checks payable to Oklahoma State Organization Venmo: @OSO-DKG \$2 charge for Venmo payments
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Friday Night's Opening Session Friday, June 7, 2024 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Rosey Award Talent Show with International Guest 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Optional Showtime Sandwiches/Concessions provided at 5:30 p.m. Dessert and Beverages will be provided at 8:00 p.m.	ATTENDING <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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Hotel Reservations for Embassy Suites and Driving Instructions

Register online: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/okcmres-gam-bdf4d61c-9882-4bf1-9416-76a6d538e987/>

Register by phone: 1-405-682-6000

Room Cost: \$119.00 + 14.125% tax/night

- Cost is for 1 to 4 people per room
- Group pricing will end on May 23, 2024

Driving Instructions to the Embassy Suites, 1815 South Meridian Avenue, OKC, OK:

Traveling from North I-35

- Travel south on I-35 toward OKC. Look for signs that say Oklahoma City/Dallas.
- Continue on to I-40 West toward Amarillo.
- Exit 145 for Meridian
- Turn left or south onto S. Meridian Ave.
- Destination about a mile on your right or west side of road just past SW 15th St.

Traveling from South I-35

Route 1:

- Travel north toward OKC
- Continue onto I-235 N
- Take Exit 126 on the left for Interstate 40 W toward Amarillo
- Take Exit 145 for Meridian Ave.
- Turn left onto S. Meridian Ave.
- Destination about a mile on your right or west side of road just past SW 15th St.

Traveling from South I-35

Route 2:

- Travel north on I-35 toward OKC.
- Take Exit 121B to merge onto I-240 W/OK-3 West toward US-62 W/Lawton
- Continue onto OK-3W
- Merge onto I-44E
- Take Exit 116B on the left to merge onto OK-152 W/Airport Rd.
- Take the Meridian Ave north exit toward northbound S. Meridian Ave.
- Merge onto S. Meridian Ave.
- Destination will be on your left or west side about 4 miles north.

Traveling from East I-40

- At the Wichita/Dallas Junction, continue west toward Amarillo
- Exit 145 for Meridian Ave.
- Turn left or south onto S. Meridian Ave.
- Destination about a mile on your right or west side of road just past SW 15th St.

Traveling from West I-40

- Travel East toward OKC.
- Exit 145 for Meridian Ave.
- Turn right or south onto S. Meridian Ave.
- Destination about a mile on your right or west side of road just past SW 15th St.

ROSY AWARD TALENT SHOW PARTICIPATION FORM

(Participant's Registration Page)

Participant's name _____

Email _____ CP# _____

Soloist

Group act

If group act, leader should be in charge of form

If group act, list others:

Other Participants in	Email	Cell Phone #

Description of act: _____

Performance Information

Performance Category:

Singing

Instrumental

Poetry/Reading

Comedy

Skit

Dancing

Name of act or song and artist/composer: _____

Performance Length not to exceed 3 minutes. Must provide technical needs, but we will have microphone set-up. This page due April 15, 2024 to:

Dr. Jo Ann Pierce aspirehigherconsulting@gmail.com or
Donna Talley dkttall@sbcglobal.net

ROSY AWARD TALENT SHOW SCORE SHEET

(For Judges' Use Only)

Participant

Other Participants:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Name _____

JUDGING CRITERIA	POSSIBLE SCORE	JUDGE'S SCORE	JUDGE'S COMMENTS
Stage Presence & Professionalism <i>Overall confidence, poise and ability to communicate with the audience</i>	25		
Technical Ability <i>Voice quality, pitch, projection; use of instruments or props, precision; technique; choreography; rhythm, coordination</i>	25		
Difficulty of Material Chosen	20		
Appearance/Costume <i>Appropriate and supportive of the act, posture, gracefulness</i>	15		
Creativity <i>Something new, unique, original; creativity in delivery of act.</i>	15		
TOTAL SCORE	100		

A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

VOLUME XXXVIII1 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2024

- ♦ Add some volunteering to your life. Helping others increases happiness and reduces stress.
- ♦ Pay it forward. When you're at the drive-thru window, you can pay for the car behind you. When the person gets to the window to receive the order, it will be a pleasant surprise to find it has been paid for.
- ♦ Declutter and donate. Recognize that you need to take it slowly.
- ♦ Keep a gratitude journal. You may be able to find someone who needs to hear they are appreciated.
- ♦ Spend time in nature. Bring a trash bag and gloves—just in case.
- ♦ Promote good causes and important issues over social media.
- ♦ Ask someone how you can help them.
- ♦ Smile and be nice—even to strangers. Say, “Good morning.”
- ♦ Use your manners, say please and thank you. Be patient, caring, observant and considerate. Treat people with respect, even those you don't particularly want to get to know.
- ♦ Offer help and assistance when someone needs it. Be courteous, polite and helpful.
- ♦ Break-up with one thing plastic—like plastic sandwich bags. Don't buy them so you won't be tempted to use them.
- ♦ Reconnect with a family member or an old friend. Start by sending a card or an email and see what happens.
- ♦ Of course you can always try an “oldie but goodie” - exercise regularly, eat better, get more sleep and/or work on breaking a “bad” habit.