

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Pennsylvania State Organization State Convention
Executive Board Meeting and First General Session
Steamtown Ballroom, Hilton Scranton & Conference Center
Scranton, PA
June 12, 2021



I. Call to Order

Pennsylvania State Organization President, Eileen Little, Chi Chapter, called the Executive Board Meeting and First General Session of the 2021 State Convention (84th Convention) of the Pennsylvania State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to order on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 8:05 am.

The Presentation of the Flags was directed by Monique Lautenschlager, Phi Chapter. The flags were carried by Laurie Criswell and Trudy Snyder, Alpha Beta Chapter.

President Little led the Pledge to the Flag. The pledge was followed by the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner” led by Nancy Hills, Psi Chapter and Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Committee, accompanied by Haddie Weber, Alpha Phi Chapter.

II. Welcome and Introductions

President Little welcomed all members and guests of the Pennsylvania State Organization to the gathering of Key Women Educators. President Eileen introduced the head table, the past state presidents in attendance, and the state committee chairs in attendance. President Eileen introduced our International guest, Connie Rensink, International Member-at-Large.

III. Annie Webb-Blanton

President Little invited Founder Annie Webb Blanton, portrayed by Cindy Reynolds, Beta Rho Chapter, to share some of her experiences about life in the 1900’s that shaped the need for the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Annie started by presenting President Eileen with a hanky that she always carries with her. In addition to telling members about her childhood and her career, Annie reminded members about the challenges women faced during the 1900’s and made a link between the pandemic of 1918 to today’s COVID pandemic. While serving as the first female superintendent of the Texas Public School System, she developed a vision – “to unite women by the bonds of an organization whereby they could strengthen one another while accomplishing worthy endeavors.” After initiating the first 11 members, eventually by 1945, the Society had 23,000 members, representing all 48 states. Annie concluded by stating that little has changed in the structure of the society and that, as members, we have a responsibility to uphold its vision and continue to help the society grow.

IV. Rules for the Convention

Greta Maria Taft, Pi Chapter and State Parliamentarian, reviewed the Rules for the General Session as found on page 11 of the Convention program booklet. Greta also read

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an addendum to this convention's parliamentary rules – if extended discussion ensues, the Presider will limit the total discussion time to 12 minutes for each proposal.

V. Report of the Chapters Present

Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa Chapter and State Recording Secretary, gave a report of the chapters present: 33 chapters out of 51 and a total of 122 members present. A quorum was present for the meeting.

VI. Report of the Convention Treasurer

Candace Claar, Alpha Beta Chapter and Convention Treasurer, reported 128 member reservations for the weekend and 33 of 51 chapters in attendance.

VII. Review of the Minutes

Pennsylvania State Organization Recording Secretary, Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa, reported that the minutes of the Executive Board and First General Session of the 2019 State Convention held on June 15, 2019 were sent to the Committee to Approve Convention Minutes. A copy of the approved minutes was sent to each member of the Executive Board prior to the 2020 Convention, and the minutes were also available on the state website. There being no discussion, President Eileen Little declared them approved and stated the minutes will be filed.

The committee members appointed to read and approve the minutes for First General Session of the 2021 Convention are:

Rose Ann Fulena, Alpha Sigma – ra_fulena@union.k12.pa.us

Carol Hartley, Chi – hartleys00@gmail.com

Tina Smith-Gilbert, Alpha Beta – tsmith1225@comcast.net

VIII. Correspondence

State Corresponding Secretary Marcia Erickson, Beta Epsilon Chapter, reported that she received direct written correspondence from Allen and Amy Weikirt expressing their gratitude for Omega Chapter's donation to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Kay Gray, a proud member of DKG. Marcie shared that throughout the year many thinking-of-you, get-well, sympathy, congratulations, and retirement cards were sent from President Eileen and the State Officers. Vince Monica, long-time companion to Margee Wolfe, beloved member of the Pennsylvania State Organization and Kappa Chapter, and in whose honor there is a State Scholarship named, wanted to express that Margee loved all the cards and notes from DKG members. Vince also appreciated all of the sympathy cards he received on her passing; she was a special and inspiring member, and she is

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missed. Her report concluded with a reminder that on the state website there is a Google Form for state and chapter officers and committee members to send updated contact information about their members.

IX. Reports

1. Treasurer's Report – Mary Wilhelm, Iota Chapter and Finance Chair, presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Wanda Keller, Iota Chapter. Members were provided an all-inclusive report listing income, expenses, and a page of contributions by individuals and chapters. Hearing no questions about the treasurer's report, President Eileen stated that the report would be filed for financial review.
2. Finance Committee Report – Mary Wilhelm, Iota Chapter and Finance Chair, gave an in-depth report on the draft budget for the upcoming year and funds requested from Committee Chairs. The proposed budget will be voted on at the Second General Session on Sunday, June 13, 2021. Mary also shared that chapters were asked to evaluate the *Keystonian* Editor, the State Webmaster, and the State Treasurer. Only about 50% of the evaluations were returned; the committee would like to see an increase in this amount.
3. Rules Committee Report – Lois Brown, Chi Chapter and Rules Chair, shared that two proposals will be presented and displayed during New Business when members will be voting.
4. Creative Arts Retreat Report – Greta Marie Taft, Pi, reported that the 2021 Creative Arts Retreat was canceled due to the pandemic. A scrapbook of the 2019 Creative Arts Retreat was available in the Steamtown prefunction area for members to view. The next Creative Arts Retreat, on April 21-23, 2023, will be at the Salvation Army's Ladore Retreat and Conference Center in Waymart, PA.
5. You Have a Voice and a Choice - Pat Carpenter, Beta Rho Chapter, shared her voice and why she made the choice to join DKG. Pat stated that since making the choice to join DKG, she has chaired chapter committees, currently serves as 1st Vice President, has been recognized as a Woman of Distinction, and has had her crafts featured in the International Gallery of Fine Arts. Pat spoke about how she and each member of the society were placed in classrooms where ripples were put into place that have had and will continue to have long-lasting effects. When all of these strengths come together in DKG, they can make a force where ripples turn into a tsunami.
6. President's Report – President Little, Chi, shared her gratitude for how chapters, officers, and committees embraced Zoom as our new means of gathering and communicating in this difficult year. She stated that the merger of three chapters into one that is being called Erie Chapter was successful, and it has received its new Charter from

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International. She shared that Alpha Beta Chapter successfully met International President Becky Sandowski's challenge – all members either updating their My DKG profile or creating a My DKG account on the International website - and is in the process of scheduling their Zoom Coffee with International. President Eileen indicated that anyone willing to assist at the registration table at the San Antonio Conference should get in touch with Kay Stuart, Pi Chapter. The San Antonio, TX, and Portland, OR, conferences will have a virtual option for attendance. President Eileen stated that Susan Blazosky, Beta Epsilon Chapter, was appointed to the Finance Committee to replace Barbara Emmer who had to step down. Also, Nancy Schnell, Chi Chapter, is the new State Achievement Award Committee Chair due to Dr. Betty Bertram stepping down. All Committee Reports are posted on the state website. President Eileen shared that the committee for selecting this year's convention site included Royce Boyd, Dr. Lyn Schmid, and herself. President Eileen introduced the new convention team – Becky Johnen, Alpha Beta, Convention Coordinator; Candace Claar, Alpha Beta, Convention Treasurer; Tracey Dusch, Psi, Convention Protocol; and Connie Marr, Alpha Theta, Convention Protocol. She went on to state that nine members were recognized in International's Gallery of Fine Arts and that the Pennsylvania State Organization has 2,158 members and 97 new members.

7. International Update – President Little introduced Connie Rensink, Theta Chi Chapter, Texas, International Member-at-Large. Connie has been a member of DKG since 2006, has been in education for 16 years, and is a Global Competencies Specialist supporting educators and schools. She serves as her chapter's Webmaster and as Texas State Organization Parliamentarian. In addition to her role as International Member-at-Large she is the Chair of the DKG Strategic Planning Committee, DKG/NGO Representative to the United Nations, and a member of the International Issues Task Force. Connie spoke to members about what the DKG Administrative Board does and about the wide variety of members in the Society whether it be their cultures, their languages, or even their time zones.

She shared that the International Administrative Board, committees, and staff have developed SMART goals for setting benchmarks for the Strategic Plan: Knowledge, Nimbleness, and Trust. She invited chapters to refer to this Strategic Plan for ideas and then use the format and content that makes sense for their chapters.

Connie continued by explaining the merger that happened in February 2020 of DKG's Educational Foundation and DKG Supporting Corporation now known as DKG International Educators Foundation and how it supports effective educational projects, the educational and charitable activities of DKG International, and professional growth of educators worldwide. She took a moment to honor the memory of Dr. Kay L. Clawson who was the chair of the new foundation and lost her brief battle with cancer earlier this year.

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She concluded by reminding members and providing information about the International Conferences this summer in Portland, Oregon, and San Antonio, Texas. Parliamentary procedure training will occur on July 7 in Portland, Oregon. She also recognized members of the Pennsylvania State Organization who have made an impact by having been given International scholarships, attending the Leadership Management Seminar (Golden Gift), or having their work featured in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts. Our members make contributions professionally, intellectually, personally, and financially which creates a ripple effect – even your smallest contributions can make an impact.

X. New Business

Dr. Marjorie Paradise, Chi Chapter and Membership Chair, read a motion from the Membership Committee recommending with regret that the following Chapters be dissolved – Iota Chapter and Alpha Lambda Chapter. With this motion being made by a committee, it did not require a second. President Eileen stated that the motion requires a simple majority from those on the Executive Board to pass. An electronic vote then occurred with 35 out of 35 Chapters voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Lois Brown, Chi Chapter and Rules Chair, read the first proposal to be considered for this convention concerning the *Keystonian*. The motion Lois read was to amend Article X (Activities), Section 2 (Publications) that states “The *Keystonian* shall be made available four (4) a year to all members. The *Keystonian* shall be available on line and through snail mail” to read “The *Keystonian* shall be made available four (4) times a year to all members. The *Keystonian* shall be available on-line or by special request.”

President Little indicated that this motion requires a two-thirds majority of those attending the convention to pass and asked for any discussion. Royce Boyd, Alpha Beta, who proposed the amendment, clarified the intent of it by stating that it is to give all members a choice as to how they will receive their *Keystonian*. The default choice will be electronic, but if a member wishes to receive it via snail mail, she may request it to be sent that way. This will involve a process that will not happen overnight.

Monique Lautenschlager, Phi, shared reasons why her chapter is concerned about receiving the *Keystonian* on-line. These reasons included members not having a computer and/or printer, printing it themselves being cost prohibitive, the difficulty in reading it on a computer, and the convenience of reading a recent hard-copy no longer applicable. Monique continued by stating that if all members’ dues go towards funding the *Keystonian*, all members should be given a choice as to how they receive it. She ended by recommending that members rethink the amendment.

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Dr. Lyn Schmid, Chi Chapter, shared that the motion still allows for members to have a choice. The wording “or by special request” puts the onus back on the member to be able to request the *Keystonian* by the post office. She also pointed out that it is in our by-laws that all things are voted on at convention as we do at the International level, too, which is why it requires two-thirds vote from those attending.

Louann Shrader, Omega Chapter, proposed an amendment to the amendment due to the fact that the wording “by special request” may be causing members some confusion. Louann wished to amend the amendment by striking “by special request” and adding after the word “or,” if requested, a mail-printed version.”

Sue Fritz, Chi Chapter, seconded the amendment that Louann proposed. President Eileen asked for discussion on this amendment. Hearing no further discussion, President Eileen asked for the vote on the amendment: “The *Keystonian* shall be available on-line or, if requested, by a mail-printed version.” The motion passed.

President Little then explained that members now needed to vote on the motion since they just voted only on the amendment to the motion.

Based on the Parliamentary Rules addendum read earlier, the discussion reached its 12-minute limit. Louann Shrader, Omega, then made a motion to extend the discussion for 10 minutes. This motion was seconded by Joyce Bigley, Alpha Nu Chapter, and the motion passed.

Mary Kay Davis, Alpha Sigma, added to the discussion by stating that, since the current wording is that we can receive it by snail mail or electronically, to save a lot of time for the Executive Board and others, the chapters should encourage their members to indicate their interest for an electronic version. It would possibly increase the number of those who receive an electronic version more quickly than the amount of time it would take to develop a protocol for changing or adapting to the new change.

Bonnie Barnes, Alpha Sigma, shared that we currently have 309 members who request an on-line version out of 2,158 members. The state has been asking over the last several biennia for members to inform her and Sue Allen, State Webmaster, that they want an electronic version. Bonnie indicated that the motion is mainly changing one word, “and” to “or.” Everyone will still receive it, but a choice needs to be made.

Gail Pinsky, Beta Alpha Chapter, requested that a comma be added after “if requested” in the amended motion. President Eileen stated that Gail’s request is more of an editorial piece which can be done later as the State goes through the process of making the change if the motion passes.

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Marilyn Rogers, Beta Pi Chapter, stated that she enjoys reading the *Keystonian* and would be willing to pay the postage herself to receive it in print. She believes there could be other members that would do the same for a printed version.

President Little stated that the additional 10 minutes expired. She reread the amended proposal and asked for the vote: “The *Keystonian* shall be available on-line or, if requested, by a mail-printed version.” The motion passed. President Eileen again stated that it will be a process and that the membership will be kept informed.

President Little again invited Lois Brown, Chi Chapter and Rules Chair, to the podium to read the second proposal to be considered for this convention concerning Nominations. The motion Lois read was to amend Article VIII, Section 3D that states “The Nominations Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. The immediate past president shall serve as chairman for a two-year term. The Executive Board shall elect three (3) members each biennium for a four-year term” to read “The Nominations Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. A past state organization president, appointed by the newly installed state organization president, shall serve as chairman of the Nominations Committee. The Executive Board shall elect three (3) members each biennium for a four-year term.”

President Little indicated that this motion requires a two-thirds majority of those attending the convention to pass and asked for any discussion.

Louann Shrader, Omega Chapter, who made the proposal, explained that there have been times in the past when the Immediate Past State President was unable to assume the duties as Chair of the Nominations Committee. At those times, the newly installed State President had to nominate another past president to assume that position. We currently have language that states that the Immediate Past President serves for only two years. Past President Barbara Gasperini has been that Immediate Past President for two years. If our current election goes through, we would have no Immediate Past President, however, the newly installed President can elect or appoint a past State President to be the Chair of Nominations. This proposal would clean up the language in the By-Laws.

Tracey Dusch, Psi Chapter, spoke against the motion. Article VI, Section 4B reads “when a vacancy occurs in other elected or appointed positions, the President shall name a successor.” The unique situation that we are in is resolved by Article VI, Section 4B meaning no amendment is necessary.

Louann Shrader, Omega, agreed with Tracey, however, the amendment would put a stipulation to it stating that whomever the current State President appoints has to be a Past State President.

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Barbara Gasperini, Alpha Upsilon, also spoke against the motion by saying that emergencies, such as the pandemic, happen as we have experienced this biennium. If we ever needed to keep continuity, this is the time. Chapters have had a difficult time trying to communicate and keep things going. As Tracey indicated, Article VI, Section 4B takes care of this. If our new President or continuing President wishes to appoint a new Chair, she may do so, or she may reappoint her as the Chair. It is under President Eileen's discretion.

Hearing no further discussion and the 12-minute limit expiring, President Little reread the amended proposal and asked for the vote: "The Nominations Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. A past state organization president, appointed by the newly installed state organization president, shall serve as chairman of the Nominations Committee. The Executive Board shall elect three (3) members each biennium for a four-year term." A standing vote was taken. The motion failed.

Barbara Gasperini, Alpha Upsilon Chapter, Immediate Past State President, and Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the 2021 -2023 biennium.

Eileen Little, Chi – President
Royce Boyd, Alpha Beta - 1st Vice President
Marcie Erickson, Beta Epsilon – 2nd Vice President
Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa – Recording Secretary
Greta Marie Taft, Pi – Corresponding Secretary

Mary Wilhelm, Kappa– Finance Committee
Linda O'Connor, Omega– Finance Committee
Barbara Tobais, Nu – Finance Committee

Barbara Clark, Psi – Nominations Committee
Carol Lane, Alpha Zeta - Nominations Committee
Diane Whitaker, Omicron - Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee moved that the vote be en masse for these candidates. There being no nominations from the floor, President Little called for the vote. The motion was approved.

XI. Door Prizes

Door Prizes were awarded to Karen Tinstman, Sigma Chapter; Melissa Moorhead, Alpha Beta Chapter; and Linda Young, Chi Chapter.

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XII. Announcements

President Little asked for anyone planning to attend the International Conferences this summer to sign up at the registration table. An attendee may be asked to write an article for the *Keystonian*.

XIII. Adjournment

President Eileen Little adjourned the Executive Board Meeting and First General Session of the 2021 State Convention (84th Convention) of the Pennsylvania State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa,
State Recording Secretary