

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Pennsylvania State Organization State Convention
First General Session
Wyndham Lancaster Hotel Conference Center, Ballroom B
Lancaster, PA
June 22, 2023



I. Call to Order

1. Pennsylvania State Organization President Eileen Little, Chi Chapter, called the Executive Board Meeting and First General Session of the 2023 State Convention (86th Convention) of the Pennsylvania State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to order on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 8:08 am.

The Presentation of the Flags was directed by Monique Lautenschlager, Phi Chapter. The flags were carried by Marcia Madigan and Janet Peterson, Alpha Mu Chapter.

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

II. Welcome and Introductions

President Little welcomed all members and guests to the Pennsylvania State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for the 2023 State Convention. President Little introduced the head table, including our Keynote Speaker, Kim Kluxen Meredith, our International guest, Susan Perkins, International Southwest Regional Director, past state presidents in attendance, and the state committee chairs in attendance. Eileen thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Pennsylvania State Organization. She thanked the team for the Wednesday’s Nibbles and Network and Cindy Reynolds, Beta Rho Chapter and Jackie Thomas, Omicron Chapter for chairing the Art Gallery, both new additions to the convention. Eileen thanked Royce Boyd, Alpha Beta Chapter and First Vice President, and the EEC Committee for the Album of Distinction, Music Bingo, and the Purposeful Seminar which was an amazing experience.

III. Parliamentary Rules for the Convention

Amy Dobbins, Beta Epsilon Chapter and State Parliamentarian, reviewed the Parliamentary Rules for Convention as found on page 14 of the Convention program booklet. The rules for convention included items addressed by the Executive Board and items addressed by the General Assembly including, if extended discussion ensues, the Presider will limit the total discussion time to 12 minutes for each proposal.

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IV. Report of the Chapters Present

Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa Chapter and State Recording Secretary, gave a report of the chapters present: 37 chapters out of 41 with a total of 202 members checked in. A quorum was present for the meeting.

V. Report of the Convention Treasurer

Dr. Candace Claar, Alpha Beta Chapter and Convention Treasurer, reported 152 member reservations for the convention with 74 member reservations for Thursday only, totaling 226 registered for the day. The total registration for the entire convention was 234 including three virtual attendees. A total of 41 chapters were registered for the day.

VI. Review of the Minutes

State Recording Secretary, Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa Chapter reported that the minutes of the Executive Board and First General Session of the 2022 State Convention held on June 10, 2022, 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 2023 Convention, and the minutes were also available on the state website. There being no discussion or corrections, President 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 2023 Convention are:

Michelle Fitzgerald, Alpha Nu – leddym11@yahoo.com

Jennifer McKay, Alpha Upsilon – blessyourstory@gmail.com

Marilyn Rogers, Beta Pi – mbeanrogers@live.com

VII. Correspondence

Greta Marie Taft, Pi Chapter and State Corresponding Secretary, shared the resignation letter from the *Keystonian* Editor, Bonnie Barnes, Alpha Sigma Chapter.

VIII. International Update

President Little introduced Susan Perkins, Beta Rho, Kansas, International Southwest Regional Director 2022-2024. Susan has been a member of DKG for over 25 years and has been involved in a variety of leadership roles in the Kansas State Organization, including State President, Membership Chair, and is currently serving as its Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. She has previously served at the International Level as a member of the Golden Gift Committee, an assistant to the

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Leadership Management Seminar in 2018, and a member of the Educator Book Award Committee. She is currently Assistant Principal/Director of Curriculum and Testing, at Goddard High School in Goddard, Kansas.

Susan started by providing information about scholarships, with Pennsylvania receiving 23 over the past years. A total of \$132,000 has gone back to chapters, leadership, and learning new things. There have been 42 World Fellowship recipients coming to Pennsylvania with \$151,600 being sent to support their studies. Pennsylvania has received \$22,505 from the Cornet Individual Award fund for projects. In 2015, the Pennsylvania State Organization, with four other states, received funds for the NE Regional Convention as well as Pennsylvania also receiving funds for the Creative Arts Seminar. DKGIEF, our new International Educational Foundation, has had projects since 2003 bringing \$97,745.20 into Pennsylvania to support teachers and children in the state. Pennsylvania has also had members consistently participating in many leadership opportunities provided by International, such as DKG Ignite and the Golden Gift. Susan shared that she has observed Pennsylvania developing many meaningful and relevant programs, including Wednesday's Purposeful Seminar. Part of Dr. LeBlanc's promotion is to be relevant in our communities and to develop strong leaders that are moving up. Susan enjoyed the recognitions given on Wednesday night through the Album of Distinction. Susan shared the importance of diversity in DKG in 17 countries with immense opportunities. DKG encourages everyone to get involved and can do so this July with the International Conferences - Detroit (July 11-16), Phoenix (July 18-22), and Finland (July 26-29). The latest initiative from International is called Avenue M which is International's deep dive into membership. Avenue M is going to help us know what areas of membership need to be focused on, who is DKG, where is our relevance, vitality, and sustainability. Susan encouraged all members who receive a phone call or email from Avenue M to give their honest opinion. DKG's focus objectives are to support our members, to share information about global opportunities, to develop leaders, and to build resources in order to become more. Susan ended her report by encouraging everyone to find one thing and focus on it. The one thing Susan likes to focus on is a positive culture which is what is going to drive DKG to success and continue to make us relevant, vital, and sustainable.

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IX. Reports

Treasurer's Report

Susan Blazosky, Beta Epsilon Chapter and State Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Members received an all-inclusive report listing available funds as of July 1 and our income and expenses. In reviewing the available funds, Susan focused specifically on the New York Life accounts. Susan indicated we are taking a loss in our investments with the current market. The Finance Committee is aware of this and will discuss this for the future, but the Pennsylvania State Organization is financially stable and our scholarship investments are solid. Members were also given a page of contributions by individuals and chapters and the proposed budget for 2023-2024. Hearing no questions about the treasurer's report, President Little stated that the report would be filed for financial review.

Finance Committee Report

Mary Wilhelm, Kappa Chapter and Finance Chair, stated the Finance Committee met in May to develop a balanced budget proposal to present at the State Convention. They reviewed spending from 2022-2023 compared with other years and based the budget on that. She then gave an in-depth report on the proposed budget for the upcoming year and funds requested from Committee Chairs. This budget will be presented for a vote on Friday. The committee recommends that it passes. Hearing no questions, President Little stated that the 2023-2024 proposed budget will be voted on by the Executive Board at the Second General Session on Friday, June 23, 2023.

President's Report

President Little started her last report by thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve as the State President these past four years. Eileen stated that she enjoyed visiting chapters, getting to know members and their hometowns. She was able to visit 44 out of 48 chapters over her four years as State President. The Leadership Team and Chapter Presidents continued to hold quarterly Zoom meetings as well as a workshop after the First General Session. Eileen attended the International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 12-16, 2022. She also attended the Virtual Executive Board Meetings that International has held and also, at the state level, the Executive and Administrative Board Meetings on July 26 & 27, 2022, via Zoom. An additional highlight during her second biennium included creating a focus group of six members from different areas of Pennsylvania State as well as Royce Boyd. Discussions included what the members liked about

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convention, what should be reframed or deleted, and any suggestions for improvement. One change brought about from this focus group was the Purposeful Seminar and members wanting to do more community service the same way chapters do. Eileen shared that the Northeast Presidents held Zoom meetings led by Carol Herzog, International Northeast Regional Director from September 2022 through June 2023. Eileen participated in International's Inside International and Town Hall meetings from June 2022 to July 2023. She, along with Royce, and Dr. Lyn Schmid, Chi Chapter and Leadership Chair, researched sites, obtained quotes, and signed the contract for this year's State Convention. She gave kudos to the Convention Team for being so flexible with a different site each of her years as president. She met with the Convention Committee for Convention 2023 on November 29 & 30, 2023 and held Zoom meetings from January through June. Eileen continued to maintain our PA State Facebook page. Royce has appointed someone to continue to maintain that page during her biennium. She advertised, posted, and selected a new *Keystonian* Editor, Tracey Dusch, Psi Chapter. Pennsylvania State is in a great place with Sue Allen starting in 2019, Susan Blazosky in 2022, and now Tracey in 2023 for all our stipend positions. President Little, officers, and committee chairs all worked to create electronic files with documents providing job descriptions and duties. At the International level, President Little served on the Scholarship Committee which had a face-to-face meeting in February. Remaining meetings were conducted via Zoom, which will be the format next year. She continued to keep in touch with former International World Fellowship recipient, Zhanar Tostubayeva, and with the current recipient, Alona Yurievna Kladieva from the Ukraine, who is studying in Arizona and will speak at the International Conference in Phoenix. She attended the PA State Creative Arts Zoom meeting on August 22, 2022, and attended the retreat on April 21-23, 2023, in Waymart, PA. She continues to support the International Art Gallery and loved the gallery last night. President Little concluded by stating that the Pennsylvania State Organization conducted all business and continues to move forward. Eileen's full report can be found on the website as well as the other committee and officer reports.

Creative Arts Retreat Update

Greta Marie Taft, Pi Chapter, provided an update about the Creative Arts Retreat. This year's retreat which was held on April 21-23 was held at the beautiful Salvation Army Ladore Lodge in Waymart, PA. There were 16 different workshops including loom knitting, watercolor painting, pencil drawing, quilting, and beginner ukulele lessons. In addition there were several workshops that involved movement such as yoga, a meditative walk, and water aerobics.

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Saturday evening's activity was a murder mystery play. There were many opportunities to relax and make new friends as there were ten first timers in attendance. Greta thanked her committee, the presenters, and the attendees. The next Creative Arts Retreat will be on May 16-18, 2025 in Waymart, PA.

You Have a Voice and a Choice

Rebecca Barkley, Beta Pi Chapter, shared why she made the choice to join DKG. As a musician, Rebecca was asked to play the piano for the skit her local chapter, Beta Pi, was presenting at the end-of-year dinner in 2019. She saw how much fun everyone was having. Some of the teachers in attendance she knew from her school district. She was thinking of retiring soon and wanted to join DKG to spend time with her colleagues. Now, as a member of DKG, she enjoys taking part in all of the events - seeing everyone at September's Meet and Greet, participating in the Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser, putting care packages together for the Norristown Ministries, playing the violin for DKG activities, singing in the State Choir, State Convention Music Bingo, helping a DKG sister at an elementary spring fair, and when she was teaching, she was grateful that two Beta Pi members helped her out at her big elementary string concert. She was surprised at how much she enjoyed her first Creative Arts Retreat where she made a loom hat, played Mahjong, and put dried dill dip ingredients in a Christmas ornament. If someone asks her what her favorite part about DKG is, she would say the camaraderie. Everyone has been kind and supportive that you sometimes don't get in other aspects of your life. It is a safe place where you have a voice and can state a choice. She encouraged everyone from new members to long time members to take the time to get to know someone you don't know. Most importantly, she wanted everyone to know how grateful to everyone she has met the last few years who have been kind and welcoming to her.

X. New Business

Membership Update – Marcie Erickson, Beta Epsilon and Second Vice President. On May 27, 2022, Beta Alpha Chapter members voted to dissolve. Pennsylvania State Organization worked with the chapter to help them and to assist any members who wished to transfer their membership to another chapter. Several members wished to transfer their membership. From June 1 through June 9, 2023, electronic votes were received by President Little from the Executive Board to accept the recommendation for the dissolution of Beta Alpha Chapter. All votes were in favor, with regret, to accept the dissolution of Beta Alpha Chapter. There were two chapters and two Past State Presidents that did not respond with their electronic vote. This motion needed a majority from the Executive Board to

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pass, so this motion passed. Dissolution of Beta Alpha Chapter will be recorded in our minutes for all members to know.

XI. Rules

Amendment Proposals – Lois Brown, Chi Chapter and Rules Committee Chair, stated that there are two proposed amendments. Lois stated that Mary Wilhelm, Kappa Chapter, would be discussing state dues and fees, and Louann Shrader, Omega Chapter, would be discussing Pennsylvania State Organization Presidents. Each member shared each of the proposed amendments that were submitted.

Mary Wilhelm -

The first proposal was to amend Standing Rule Section VI – State Dues and Fees. The Standing Rule now reads “All dues and fees are payable to the State Treasurer by June 30 each year. Part A - Membership - Active members will pay \$40 International, the \$1 scholarship fee if the chapter does not have a separate scholarship amount, and \$17 State dues. Reserve members will pay ½ International and State dues. Collegiate members will pay the same as reserve International dues and state dues.” The rationale for the change is to increase funds in our budget. The proposal is to be amended through deletion and substitution to state “All dues and fees are payable to the State Treasurer by June 30 each year. Part A - Membership - Active members will pay \$40 for International, the \$1 scholarship fee if the chapter does not have a separate scholarship amount, and \$17 for State dues. Reserve members will pay \$20 for International and \$7 for State dues. Collegiate members will pay \$20 for International dues and \$8 for State dues.”

President Little indicated that this motion requires a two-thirds majority from those attending the convention to pass and asked for any discussion. Hearing no discussion, President Little asked for the vote. The motion passed.

Louann Shrader -

The second proposal was to amend Standing Rule Section I - State Convention - Part B - Past State Organization Presidents. The Standing Rule now reads “1. Convention expenses of each past Pennsylvania State Organization President, excluding the immediate past State President, shall be paid by the Pennsylvania State Organization convention fund. Reimbursement shall be lodging, not to exceed one-half (1/2) of a double room rate for two nights, reimbursement of registration fee, and reimbursement of all official convention meal functions. 2. A Delta Kappa Gamma remembrance shall be sent to past state presidents who are not in attendance at the state convention.” The rationale for the change is to 1. With the current financial problems of the Pennsylvania State Organization Convention budget, and in order to meet the future financial demands of the

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convention budget, the past state presidents believe it to be prudent if the reimbursement for ½ room fee be eliminated, and 2. Changing the wording from “shall” to “may” gives more leeway to the State President for remembering past state presidents who may not be able to attend due to unforeseen and/or permanent circumstances. The proposal is to be amended through deletion and substitution to state “1. Convention expenses of each past Pennsylvania State Organization President, excluding the Immediate Past State President, shall be reimbursed by the Pennsylvania State Organization convention fund. Reimbursement shall be for the State Convention Registration Fee, and all Official Convention meal functions. 2. A Delta Kappa Gamma remembrance may be sent to past state presidents who are not in attendance at the state convention.” Louann asked if there were any questions.

Rose Ann Fulena, Alpha Sigma Chapter, questioned, because the proposal excludes the Immediate Past President, whether there is language in the proposal that covers the Immediate Past President. President Little stated that the Immediate Past State President is included with the description for the current officers and the reimbursements for them.

Kimberly Inman, Zeta Chapter, asked whether this would cause Past State Presidents not to attend conventions. Those Past State Presidents in attendance stated it would not keep them from attending.

President Little indicated that this motion requires a two-thirds majority of those attending the convention to pass. Hearing no other discussion or questions, President Little asked for the vote. The motion passed.

XII. Nominations

President Little called Barbara Gasperini, Alpha Upsilon Chapter, Immediate Past State President and Nominations Chair to the podium. Barbara stated that the Nominations Committee moves that the following candidates be presented for election as the Pennsylvania State Officers and Committee members:

Officers -

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 - Amy Dobbins, Beta Epsilon

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Finance Committee -

Kay Stuart, Pi
Carolyn Smith, Alpha Theta
Trisha Dilick, Alpha Theta

Nominations Committee -

Gisele Rinaldi, Chi
Amy Radford, Beta Rho
Karen Snyder, Beta Gamma

President Little stated that only the Executive Board (Officers, Past State Presidents, Chapter Presidents or her designee) may vote. The motion to accept the slate of officers and committee members was given en masse as recommended by the Nominations Committee. As this motion was offered by a committee, there was no need for a second. President Little asked for any additional nominations, discussion, or questions. Hearing none, President Little asked for the vote. The motion passed with 43 votes and 100% approval of all questions.

XIII. Door Prizes & Announcements

President Little announced that the Grand Prize winner from Wednesday night's Music Bingo was Sonya Browell. The Grand Prize winner from the First Timers' Game was Nya Cherry. Both of these ladies will receive online registration for the 2024 State Convention. President Little explained that Jessica Redcay, Chi Chapter, one of the workshop presenters, was unable to attend the convention. Her workshop was called Robokind Phonics: Learn How to Teach Students to Read and Enjoy Reading Using the First Teacher's Assisting Robot. She created a video and Sue Allen, Chi Chapter and IT Specialist posted it on the website under State Convention - Convention Workshops and Resources. President Little asked for a change to be made with the Second General Session on Friday by starting the session halfway through the breakfast. The purpose for this change was to get to the Unfinished Business of voting on the proposed budget before the new officers depart for Texas for Leadership Training. Door Prizes were awarded to Doreen Weaber, Nu Chapter; Kathy Lauer, Beta Beta Chapter; Florence McCabe, Tau Chapter; and Brittany Bertoli, Chi Chapter.

XIV. Adjournment

President Eileen Little adjourned the First General Session and the Executive Board Meeting of the 2023 State Convention (86th Convention) of the Pennsylvania State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at 9:37 a.m.

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