

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Pennsylvania State Organization State Convention
Second General Session
Wyndham Lancaster Hotel & Conference Center Ballroom B
Lancaster, PA
June 23, 2023



I. Call to Order

Pennsylvania State Organization President Eileen Little, Chi Chapter called the Second General Session of the 2023 State Convention (86th Convention) of the Pennsylvania State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to order on Friday, June 23, 2023, at 9:58 a.m.

II. You Have a Voice and A Choice

Preceding the Call to Order, Margie Zorn, Alpha Delta Chapter shared why she made the choice to join DKG. Her chapter is located in Somerset County and members come from 11 very small rural school districts. Because they are very rural, Delta Kappa Gamma membership offers them the opportunity to get to know teachers from other districts they may not see otherwise. Margie's journey began like many others. Twenty-three years ago, she was invited to join with some members and learned that she was being invited to join. At that time, she didn't know much about DKG other than it was a group of female educators, and membership was by invitation. She was honored to be invited and decided it would be a good opportunity for her to connect with other women in education. For Margie, joining was an easy decision. The question became why did she stay. She spent the first ten years of membership coasting. She was not very active; she attended meetings and enjoyed the food, conversation, and programs. She served on committees but had no leadership roles and never attended any DKG events beyond her own chapter's activities. It was a busy time in her life, having just started her administrative career, being involved in her son's and daughter's high school activities, and dealing with the ill health of both her parents. She went back to college to obtain her Superintendent credentials and served in that capacity for several years. The real reason why she coasted was she felt she couldn't lead this group of key women educators and, even though she was a leader at her school, she felt she didn't have the knowledge needed to lead her chapter. She didn't see the big picture. Finally, she retired in 2013 after 36 years in education and 13 years after joining DKG. She was serving as the Finance Chair so she felt she was contributing. It wasn't long before she was asked to serve as the Second Vice President in the new biennium. When she retired, she made the choice to be more involved in DKG, so she accepted. She was ready to use her voice. As she moved through the officer ranks and working with committees and committee chairs, she started to see the big picture. Attending her first State Convention was an eye-opener; everything was coming into focus. She learned that DKG was a marvelous group of women - committed, hard-working, thoughtful, welcoming, kind, knowledgeable, personable, fun, capable, exemplary, a well-oiled machine of passionate educators working toward a

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common goal. She attended the International Convention in Austin, Texas which filled in more of the big picture. Today, she is still learning about Delta Kappa Gamma, and she feels honored to be a part of it. No matter where she goes, as soon as she meets a member, they share a kinship. She ended by referencing the story “Seven Blind Mice” by Ed Young. The moral of the story is “knowing in part may make a fine tale, but wisdom comes from seeing the whole.” She encouraged everyone to continue active participation in DKG. By continuing to deepen our understanding of the organization and making the choice to be actively involved, we will gain the wisdom we need to fulfill our mission and help our members see too.

III. Welcome and Introductions

President Little welcomed all members and guests of the Pennsylvania State Organization to the Second General Session. President Little introduced the head table, past state presidents, Sue Allen, Chi Chapter, IT Specialist, and Bonnie Barnes, Alpha Sigma Chapter, outgoing *Keystonian* editor. She thanked everyone for making the choice to come to our State Convention and for the fabulous President’s Banquet. She thanked Karlee Vaughn, Alpha Zeta Chapter, Haddie Weber, Alpha Phi Chapter, and the chorus for the entertainment, Marcie Erickson, Beta Epsilon Chapter and Second Vice President for the planning and organization, and Barbara Gasperini, Alpha Upsilon Chapter, Immediate Past State President and Nominations Chair for introducing the Chapter Presidents. She also extended her thanks to Marcie for the beautiful Celebration of Life ceremony this morning.

IV. Report of the Chapters Present

Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa Chapter and Recording Secretary, gave a report of the Chapters present: 26 chapters out of 34 with a total of 136 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 that a total of 34 chapters were registered for the day. There were 152 member reservations for the convention with 14 member reservations for Friday only totaling 166 registered for the day. The total registrations for the entire convention were 234 with three virtual attendees.

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VI. Review of the Minutes

Kristine Reynolds, Beta Kappa Chapter and Recording Secretary, presented the minutes of the Second General Session of the 2022 State Convention held on June 11, 2022. The meeting minutes were read and approved by 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. Copies are available on the State website. Hearing no corrections to the minutes or questions, President Little declared them approved and stated the minutes will be filed.

The committee to read and approve the minutes for the Second General Session of the 2023 Convention is:

Kathy Bortner, Beta Delta – kabortner@comcast.net

Ruth Olson, Alpha Zeta – rlolson73@gmail.com

Kristine Walters, Alpha Beta – kmwguin@aol.com

VII. Unfinished Business

Mary Wilhelm, Kappa Chapter and Finance Chair, moved to have the 2023-2024 proposed budget approved. Since the motion came from committee it did not require a second. Hearing no discussion, President Little called for the vote by the Executive Board and the motion passed with 38 votes and 100% approval.

VIII. Nancy Grove Visionary Award

Tracey Dusch, Psi Chapter, Past State President, and Nancy Grove Visionary Fund Chair, presented the Nancy Grove Visionary Award. Nancy Grove, 1993-1995 State President, recommended the creation of the Visionary Fund to be used for projects and programs that would involve the growth and development of our state organization and its members. Her vision in starting this fund has allowed other leaders who followed her to develop such programs as the Creative Arts Retreat. The Nancy Grove Visionary Fund awards a grant to an in-service, active teacher member to fund innovative ideas and activities related to excellence in education within the educational community. This annual award is administered by the Past State Presidents. The 2023 Nancy Grove Visionary Award recipient is Jennifer McCay, Alpha Upsilon Chapter. Jennifer has been teaching Geometry for over 25 years and in construction of geometry, her students often struggle with the concepts. She loves to create things with paper, so she did some research to try to design origami to make the foundation of all the angles and bisectors for her students that need hands-on activities. With the grant, she will be able to purchase papers, folding tools, and research books for her project. She is moving

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to the middle school where this project will be able to be used, but will also be able to present it to high school students and train two teachers.

IX. Report of Scholarship Committee

Susan Martin, Eta Chapter and Scholarship Committee Chair, announced the 2023 Scholarship and Enrichment Grant recipients and asked for those in attendance to be recognized. For the 2023 Convention, the committee awarded four (4) Scholarships and eight (8) Enrichment Grants. The 2023 recipients were the following:

Scholarships

Rose Ann Fulena, Alpha Sigma – Dr. Irene Murphy Award and the Rebecca Place Honorary Award

Andrea Rutledge, Chi – Margaret J. Wolfe Award and the Kathleen Kuzmiak Memorial Award

Lauren Blatchford, Alpha Sigma – Past State Presidents Memorial Award

Catherine Kasun, Beta Epsilon – Marian Spitzer Robling Scholarship

Enrichment Grants

Bonnie Barnes, Alpha Sigma, awarded through the stipend of and in honor of Wanda Keller

Joyce Bigley, Alpha Nu

Elizabeth “Liz” Brewer, Sigma

Rebecca Hilzinger, Alpha Epsilon

Melissa Ostrowski, Chi

Karen Prince, Alpha Omicron

Ann Ryan, Alpha Mu

Karen Snyder, Beta Gamma

X. New Business

Royce Boyd, Alpha Beta Chapter, First Vice President and EEC Coordinator asked for a Point of Privilege. Royce presented President Little with a gift from the members of the Pennsylvania State Organization for her two terms as State President. Everyone appreciated her effort to do the outstanding job she did under such extenuating circumstances. President Little accepted her gift and shared that she loved being State President. She has many great memories and is so glad that everyone is making the choice and using their voice for DKG and for Pennsylvania State.

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Nancy Schnell, Chi Chapter and State Achievement Award Committee Chair, asked for a Point of Privilege. Nancy asked that the name Kay Stuart, Pi Chapter, recipient of the 2023 DKG Pennsylvania State Organization Achievement Award, be noted as such in the minutes.

XI. Announcements

Dr. Candace Claar and Tina Smith-Gilbert, Alpha Beta Chapter, reported that \$3,433 was raised from the basket raffle. In addition, the State Store earned \$365.50. Candace, Tina, and their chapter expressed their thanks to the 38 chapters who provided a basket for the raffle. President Little announced for Marcie Erickson, Beta Epsilon Chapter and Membership Chair, that there were a few glass balls from Celebration of Life that were placed on the trees remaining to be picked up by members from the following chapters - Alpha Xi (2), Alpha Gamma (2), Beta Iota (1), and Omicron (1).

XII. You Have a Voice and A Choice

Janys Kercher, Eta Chapter, shared why she made the choice to join DKG. Being at convention is a gift to her because she always goes home energized, and she is planning a new year with many fun, educational, and worthwhile programs and projects. She has not been a member of DKG for long, just shy of ten years, serving as Chapter President for the last five. She was invited to a Meet and Greet at the home of Terri Stetler, Past State President 1997-1999. She was just retiring, and found, in the first year, she was excited to do what she wanted to do when she wanted to. After that first year, she became restless and needed to find something to do. Subbing and volunteering were not filling the void. The Meet and Greet came at a good time because she felt she had a lot of gifts and skills that could be useful somewhere. Finding out about Delta Kappa Gamma and all the wonderful things they were doing in education was good for her. The members that attended the Meet and Greet were a community of like-minded women. In the group, she found that she did have a voice and a choice to be part of something that was supportive of educators. It is important to feel seen and supported, and sometimes teachers don't always have those feelings.

Participating in community work, committee work, fundraising, planning, relevant programming, awarding scholarships, and leadership possibilities provides opportunities to remain relevant even into retirement. She will soon be celebrating her 10th anniversary with Delta Kappa Gamma. She is very grateful for the friends she has made and to be able to come to this convention and to belong to this wonderful society.

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XIII. Closing Song & Adjournment

Karlie Vaughn, Alpha Zeta Chapter, led members in the closing song “Once More.”

President Eileen Little adjourned the Second General Session of the 2023 State Convention (86th Convention) of the Pennsylvania State Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at 10:58 a.m.

The flags were retired with Haddie Weber, Alpha Phi Chapter, playing the recessional. Flag Bearers were Marcia Madigan and Janet Peterson, Alpha Mu Chapter.

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