



## President's Message

# Hello to a New Biennium!

By Lauren Walker,  
Nebraska State  
President

THE THEME for the new 2023–2025 biennium is **Every Member Matters**. When you hear these words, I hope that you feel a sense of inspiration that you are a key part of what makes our society excellent—because you are. I hope this theme makes each woman in Nebraska State DKG take pride in herself as an educator or former educator, and pride in herself as a member. I want this motto to also serve as a call to action in sustaining and expanding our organization's membership in meaningful ways.

The need for each chapter to make membership retention and expansion their number one priority has never been greater. Therefore, it is imperative that each of you truly embraces the idea that Every Member Matters. We need to invest our time and energy into making sure all current chapter members feel valued and see the value in belonging to our organization, and be brave enough to reach out to new prospective members and invite them in.

You're counting on me as your new State President to lead the way, and I'm committed to doing everything I can to ensure we retain our members and expand our membership. However, I'm not the one at each of your chapter meetings or programs, you ladies are. So, I'm counting on you to take this theme of Every Member Matters to heart and act on it at your chapter level. DKG will be stronger and better because of each of us. We're in this together, and we can do this!

Please contact me with any questions, suggestions, or general DKG needs at [laurenpp79@gmail.com](mailto:laurenpp79@gmail.com). I welcome invitations to visit your chapter either in-person or virtually.

Finally, mark your calendars for the 2024 Nebraska State Convention! It will be held on April 19–21, 2024, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Kearney, NE. ✧



### In This Issue

- President's Message—  
Hello to a New Biennium.....1
- Member Highlights from  
International Conferences .....2
- Chapter News—Gamma.....3
- Chapter News—Epsilon.....3
- Chapter News—Rho .....4
- State Convention Presenters  
Needed.....5
- Mark Your Calendars .....6
- Bylaws and Standing Rules  
Changes—Check This Out .....6
- Do You Know .....6
- Levels of Membership .....7
- Nebraska State Advisory  
Committee.....7

# Member Highlights from International Conferences

## Reflections on Phoenix

By Marla Ledgerwood

I attended the 2023 International Conference in July in Phoenix, AZ. It was a wonderful time of networking and personal growth. I decided to participate in the pre-conference activities to learn more about the native tribes from that area of Arizona. I was able to eat some of their food, play one of the games for women only, and learn about their history and culture. Listening to the keynote speakers reminded me of what DKG has done for fellow teachers and what it can do for me. One particular speaker was from Ukraine and a World Fellowship recipient. I want to take her message back to my chapter and let them know that our donations really do go to a great cause to help women of all ages get the education they want and deserve.

The breakout sessions will help me lead more meaningful conversations and meetings for my chapter. I have forgotten to put the “fun” in meetings and realize that may be what we need to make our chapter grow and thrive. I get so focused on getting business done that I don’t work at making members and guests feel welcome and important. Being from a small town in Nebraska and in a small school district, I don’t network like I should, and I found some valuable friendships from members in Alabama and Texas. I was even able to sit with the International President, Dr. Debbie LeBlanc, and listen to her share her experiences. It is a great reminder to me that we truly are a sisterhood and should not be alone. Thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2023 Conference by presenting me with the First Timer Award Scholarship.

## Sessions in Detroit by this Zeta Member

By Lynna Gene Cook

### Robert’s Rules Made Easy

Pre Conference Workshop July 12, 2023

- Presenters were Dr. Helen Popovich, PRP, International Parliamentarian and Lynna Gene Cook, PRP, Nebraska State Parliamentarian.
- 40 attendees participated in putting an agenda together, practicing presiding at meetings, learning how to make and amend motions, reviewing the Society’s governing documents, voting and elections, and more.

## The Magic of Minutes

Workshop July 14, 2023

- The presenter was Lynna Gene Cook, PRP, Nebraska State Parliamentarian.
- 35 participants became the Downtown Gavel Unit and held a mock monthly meeting.
- 35 participants became the secretary and wrote the minutes for the meeting and compared their work with the actual minutes.

## Nebraska Members in Phoenix

By Linda Dickeson

Marla Ledgerwood from the Rho Chapter in Gordon joined Linda Dickeson and Margie Nowak from the Zeta chapter in Lincoln as the three Nebraska attendees at the DKG International Conference in Phoenix (pictured below). Marla was the winner of Nebraska’s “First Timer’s Award” for attending an international conference for the first time, while Linda presented a session called “Keep it Simple—Page or Web Design Basics for Non-designers.”

Margie assisted in two workshops—“What Do I Need to Know About Being a Treasurer,” which was a round table question and answer session; and “DKGIEF: Benefits and Stories of Your Foundation,” which shared stories to give the big picture of how YOUR foundation helps educate the world. All three Nebraska attendees agreed that they were energized and learned a lot from attending this well-organized conference. ✨





# Chapter News

## Gamma Chapter Networking Event

By Colleen O'Neill, President

### Thank you, Esther Pilster!

At the state convention in April 2023, Gamma Chapter was awarded an Esther Pilster grant. With this money, our chapter planned a day for networking with other chapters. We held this event on July 11, 2023 in Grand Island. On the day of the event, we had two state officers in addition to representatives from Alpha Zeta, Alpha Kappa, Upsilon, Kappa and Omicron in attendance. Eighteen Gamma members joined the ladies from the other chapters, and we spent the day getting to know one another and working together.

The main topics for the day were expanding membership and retention of current members, chapter program ideas, and leadership issues. It was a common theme among chapters that membership and leadership are some of the top concerns. We brainstormed about ways to attract new members and thinking outside the traditional box in which we sometimes find ourselves.

Retention of current members is also very important, and we discussed ways to make sure each member feels valued in DKG. We discussed how tapping into the interests, hobbies and passions of our members can be a good way to tie those interests to DKG and build leadership at the same time. Mentorship is also a way to help new members feel welcome while making our current members take a more active role in welcoming and guiding new members.

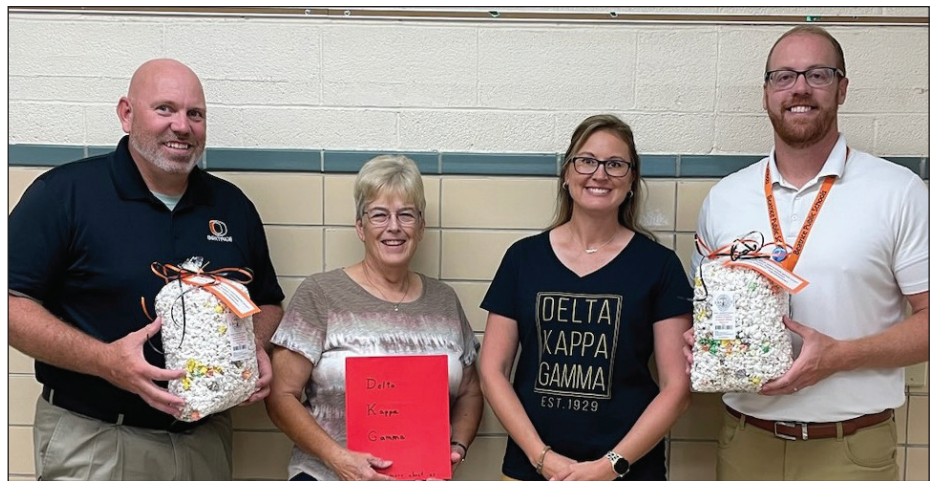
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## Epsilon Chapter Pops In

By Dusty Duis, President

For the last several years the Epsilon Chapter has created treat bags to share with local schools in August when the teachers and staff report back to school. This year, Epsilon Chapter decided to “pop in” to Beatrice Public Middle School as well as the High School with popcorn treats for staff and teachers.

The bags were adorned with school colored ribbon and tags that read “Popping in to wish you a great year.” Delta Kappa Gamma information folders are also gifted with an invitation to attend local dinner meetings.



*Beatrice Public Middle School Administrators accept the popcorn from Epsilon Chapter 2nd Vice President, Lana Hemphill (middle left) and Epsilon Chapter President, Dusty Duis (middle right).*



*Epsilon Chapter 2nd Vice President, Lana Hemphill, with staff at Beatrice Public High School.*



## Chapter News

*(Gamma chapter, continued)*

During all this work, we also took time to have a delicious meal, a wonderful dessert and a couple of fantastic door prizes!

Our current state president, Lauren Walker, spoke for a few minutes at the close of the day and mentioned how her goal and focus for the next two years, Every Member Matters, tied in so well with our work today. Lauren encouraged us to take the ideas and enthusiasm that we have today back to our chapters and implement some of the projects and strategies we outlined in our work together. Esther Pilster, your legacy lives on!



*Gamma Networking Event Organizers (left to right): Jenny Messerer, Cathy Morgan, Colleen O'Neill, Rebecca Hoobler*

## Rho State Accomplishments

*By Mala Ledgerwood*

During the annual DKG Nebraska State convention this spring, Rho Chapter received many accolades.

Frances Peters, a former teacher and counselor in Rushville and Gordon, was awarded recognition for being a 50-year member of DKG. Sharon Harris, retired GES teacher, received this award a few years ago.

President Marla Ledgerwood received an Esther Pilster chapter award to start a program called Raising Readers. This program will supply babies born in the Chadron Community Hospital with two books and invites their parents to visit a local public library and sign up for a library card to be able to continue reading to their child (see photo at right).

Marla also received an Esther Pilster classroom award to rekindle the Kindness Committee

at Gordon-Rushville Middle School. Sixth grade students participated in a multitude of activities throughout the year for this project. They painted rocks with kind words on them and hid

them in various places for people to find; created spring and Easter placemats and door decorations for the residents at the Rushville Assisted Living; made May baskets

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*Rho chapter provides two books per child born in Chadron Community Hospital in the Raising Readers program.*

*(Rho Chapter news, continued)*

for teachers; created signs for staff appreciation days including the bus drivers, nurse, administrative assistant, and cooks. During Kindness Week in March, part of the grant went toward T-shirts for staff and students who displayed various kind traits and attitudes. She hopes to continue the Kindness Committee at GRHS this fall where she will be teaching English.

To help bolster her effectiveness as a leader, Marla received the First Timer Award which allowed her to attend a Delta Kappa Gamma International Conference in Phoenix this summer. Finally, in honor of deceased DKG chapter members Doris Harrington and Jackie Kling, a white rose and remembrance page was placed in the Golden Book of Memories.

Additionally, Rho Chapter donated money to four of the public libraries in Dawes and Sheridan counties. The local educators' sorority likes to partner with local and state organizations to encourage education and educational opportunities for area children. Past projects have included giving books and dictionaries to preschool and elementary children and donating funds to Royal Kids Camp to provide camping experiences to foster children. This year, Chadron Public Library plans to use the donation for building renovations; Hay Springs Library and Rushville Libraries will continue to provide summer reading program enrichment opportunities, and Gordon City Library will buy book display racks to showcase their new books for juvenile readers. ✧

*Pictured at right are Julie Rasmussen (Hay Springs Library), Marla Ledgerwood (DKG president), Rachael Price (Gordon), Rosella Tesch (Chadron), and Dela DeSersa (Rushville).*



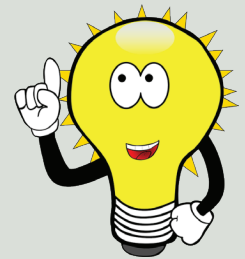
## State Convention Presenters Needed

Planning has already started by Lauren Walker, Nebraska State President, for sectionals for the 2024 NE State Convention in Kearney on April 19–21.

If you know of a potential breakout section presenter, or have a suggestion or an idea, send the information Lauren's way at [Laurenpp79@gmail.com](mailto:Laurenpp79@gmail.com).

Or call Lauren at:  
402-639-1106.

**All ideas are welcome!** ✧







# Mark Your Calendars

## October 7, 2023

### Nebraska State Advisory Committee

Pizza Ranch  
8420 Lexington, Lincoln, NE  
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

## Deadlines

### International DKG upcoming submission deadlines:

- Arts & Humanities Gallery Submissions will be accepted from **August 15 through September 15**.
- Application to be an International Speakers Fund speaker are due **September 15**.
- Application/Nomination for elected international positions are due **September 15**.
- Proposed amendments to the Constitution/International Standing Rules are due **October 1**.

### February 15, 2024 Award Application Deadlines:

- Nebraska State Achievement Award
- Nebraska State Chapter Award

### Esther Pilster

- Chapter Project Award
- Individual Professional Development Award
- Classroom Project Award

### Scholarships

- Nebraska State Scholarship
- Nebraska State Mini-scholarship
- Bonnie Gelling Road Scholar Award
- Annadora Gregory Scholarship

### First Timer Award application deadline:

- April 1, 2024

## Conventions

### April 19–21, 2024

#### Nebraska State Convention

Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center  
110 2nd Ave., Kearney, NE 68847  
308-234-2212

### July 9–13, 2024

#### DKG International Convention

National Harbor, MD  
Gaylord National D.C. area ✨

## Bylaws and Standing Rules Changes

By Lynna Gene Cook, PRP

### Check This Out

- When dues are paid, a person becomes a member of DKG—the chapter may hold a ceremony, if desired.
- Reserve membership may be granted by the chapter “because of medical disability, geographic location, and/or no technological connection/skill.”
- New criteria for collegiate members—Constitution Article III. B. 4
- The induction fee has been eliminated.
- Go to the Nebraska State DKG website at <https://nebraskadkg.weebly.com>—click ABOUT—scroll to Standing Rules and Bylaws for the 2023 Nebraska governing documents. ✨

## DO YOU KNOW...

### what a “second” means?

By Lynna Gene Cook, PRP

When a member says “second” to a motion that has been made, that member is indicating she would like to discuss the motion. It does NOT mean she is in favor of the motion. When the “second” is made, debate may occur. ✨

# Levels of Membership

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By Sherry Maddox-Kermode, 1st Vice President

## Hello & Happy Fall!

I thought it would be helpful to learn a little about the different levels of membership in DKG. Some changes were made after the 2022 International Convention.

### Active member

- Shall be a woman who is or has been employed as a professional educator at the time of her election.
- Participates in all the activities of the Society

### Reserve members

- Unable to participate fully in the activities of the chapter because of medical disability, geographic location, and/or no technological connection/skill
- Granted by a majority vote of the chapter
- May participate in all activities except holding office.
- Active status restored upon their request.
- Exempt from paying chapter financial assessments.
- Must pay dues and scholarship fee, but amount of dues is lower than that of active members.

### Bachelor student

- Enrolled in an institution offering coursework leading to a career in education
- Have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education
- Be enrolled within the last two years of their bachelor's education

### Graduate/Masters/Doctoral student

- Shall have Graduate/Masters/Doctoral standing in an institution offering coursework in the field of education
- Have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education

### Collegiate members

- Be selected by the method established by the chapter rules
- Participate in all activities except holding office
- Serve as parliamentarian, that position is not an officer

### Transitioning—Collegiate members

- Members who graduate and become a paid educator shall pay active member dues.
- If a collegiate member does not pursue a career as an educator her membership will expire.

### Honorary members

- A woman not eligible for active membership who has rendered notable service to education or to women.
- Be elected by a method established by the respective executive board.
- Participate in all activities except for holding office.
- Serve as parliamentarian, that position is not an officer.

This membership information was updated in 2022. You can always find more detail under the menu for Publications | Documents at the [DKG website](#). ✨

# 2021–2023 Nebraska State Advisory Committee

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## President

Lauren Walker—Delta  
12106 Erskine Cir., Omaha, NE 68164  
402-639-1106  
Laurenpp79@gmail.com

**Note:** Please contact President Walker if you need information from the rest of the committee. (For security purposes, contact info for officers has been limited on the website and in digital publications.)

## First Vice President

Sherry Maddox-Kermode—Iota (Falls City)

## Second Vice President

Adia Brightman—Delta (Omaha)

## Secretary

Mary Eiler—Alpha Lambda (Niobrara)

## Treasurer

Dr. Margie Nowak—Zeta (Lincoln)

## Immediate Past President

Roxie Lindquist—Alpha Delta (Bassett)

## RELATED PERSONNEL

### Parliamentarian

Lynna Gene Cook—Zeta (Lincoln)

### Co-archivists

Barb Skala-Irish—Alpha Delta (Bassett)

Roxie Lindquist—Alpha Delta (Bassett)

### Editor

Linda Dickeson—Zeta (Lincoln)

### Webmaster

Lou Anne Miller—Alpha Theta (Lincoln)