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New Nebraska State Project

by Lauren Walker, First Vice President

This year our State Project was Schools for Africa (SFA). As of April 22nd, four chapters reported donating to our SFA state project for a total of \$335. In addition, eight chapters reported donating to other, local philanthropic causes for a total of \$1,909.



It was decided to select Nebraska CASA Association “Care packs for CASA” as our new state project. Each CASA organization has a program where they provide care packs, such as a backpack or suitcase, with essential items and some comfort items for children as they are taken to foster care. Our state project will help to fund these care packs for foster children across Nebraska.

CASA stands for “Court Appointed Special Advocate.” This organization trains volunteers to help advocate for foster children in the court system. Heartland CASA provided one of the sectionals at this year’s state convention, so many of our members got a chance to gain insight into the important services this organization provides. Nebraska has 22 CASA programs that serve 54 counties total. To find the CASA nearest you and to find out more, visit: [CASA | Volunteers to Represent Abused & Neglected Children | Nebraska \(nebraskacasa.org\)](http://CASA | Volunteers to Represent Abused & Neglected Children | Nebraska (nebraskacasa.org))

I have spoken with the executive director of the Nebraska CASA Association to ensure it would be easy for all chapters to donate to this cause and that our funds can be allocated state-wide. She assured me this is possible, and they would be very grateful for our support. I will be sending information to all chapter presidents about how to donate to “Care packs for CASA” soon. ✨

Nebraska CASA partners with 22 programs across the state of Nebraska providing a voice to neglected and abused children in the foster care system in 54 counties.





President's Message

Make the Key

By Roxie Lindquist

WOW! A new slate of officers has been installed,

Nominating Committee members elected, and the reappointments of the treasurer, several Finance Committee members, and several Endowment Committee members were completed. Nebraska State Convention 2023 is a recent memory and my time as your Nebraska State President is drawing to a close.

What a journey I have traveled the last two years. It was a pleasure to connect with Nebraska members. I will treasure the memories of chapter visits, emails, and phone calls that helped me connect to the greatest

members of our Society. I appreciate the support of Nebraska members as I navigated setting up visits, meetings, and convention planning, especially the bump in the road in 2023. We made it through!

I close with the following that I shared at the end of the 2023 Nebraska State Convention:

Some people see a closed door and turn away. Others see a closed door, try the knob, if it doesn't open...they turn away. Still others see a closed door, try the knob, if it doesn't open they find a key, if the key doesn't fit...they turn away. A rare few see a closed door, try the knob, if it doesn't open, they find a key, if the key doesn't fit...they make one. (Author unknown)

Thank you for helping me make the key to open doors for Nebraska DKG this past biennium. ✧

Nebraska State Achievement Awards

by De Smith, Chair Leadership Development Committee

Nebraska State Individual Achievement Award

Barb Skala-Irish was the 2023 Nebraska State Individual Achievement Award Winner. Barb is currently a member of Alpha Delta Chapter although she first became a Delta Kappa Gamma member when she was inducted into Alpha Lambda Chapter when she was teaching in Wausa, NE.

As a member of Alpha Delta, Barb has served as President, Secretary, and is currently serving as Treasurer. At the state level, Barb has served on the Scholarship Committee and is currently serving as Nebraska State Co-Archivist and as a member of the Communications Committee. Barb has attended numerous Nebraska State Conventions and the International Convention in Nashville in 2016 and the International Convention in New Orleans in 2022.

Congratulations to Barb Skala-Irish for winning the Nebraska State Individual Achievement Award in 2023.

Nebraska State Chapter Achievement Award

Alpha Delta Chapter, which serves a wide area of north-central Nebraska, was awarded the Nebraska State Chapter Achievement Award for 2023. Alpha Delta is a very active chapter and has consistently won Esther Pilster funds to use to aid the libraries in the communities that the members represent. One of their service projects was to gather items

for Christmas bags for Parmelee Preschool students on the Lakota Reservation, which for many of the students was the only Christmas gift they received. Congratulations—Alpha Delta Chapter! ✧



Members of the Alpha Delta Chapter receive the Nebraska State Chapter Achievement Award. Pictured are Barb Skala-Irish, the winner of the Nebraska State Individual Achievement Award; Juli Murphy, Alpha Delta President; and member Roxie Lindquist.

Nebraska State Convention Photo Gallery

These are just a few of the photos from fun times at the Nebraska State Convention. See more at the state website at <https://nebraskadkg.weebly.com/nebraska-state-convention.html>



▲ De Smith honors Presidents (past and current).



▲ Social time during "Nebraska Night" was perfect for catching up with friends.



▲ President Roxie Lindquist conducts Saturday's business meeting.



◀ Friday evening was for looking at the wonderful creative baskets and putting in your tickets.



▲ President Roxie Lindquist with invited speaker Northwest Regional Director, Bev Mantey-Van Crockhite.

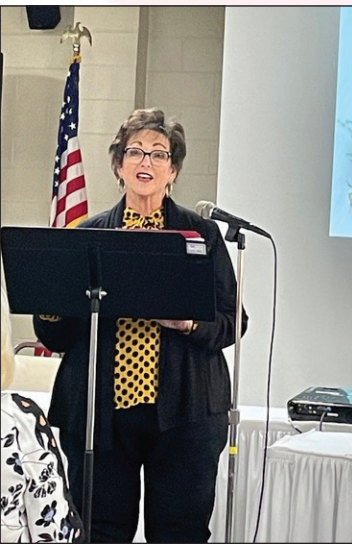
State Convention Photo Gallery, continued



▲ Friday evening music—by Doug Dickeson and Daniel Christian



▲ June Bowers provided piano accompaniment.



◀ Nancy Sic led us in song and sang “Amazing Grace” for the White Roses ceremony.



▲ President Roxie Lindquist installs new officers: Lauren Walker, State President; Sherry Maddox-Kermoad, First Vice President; Adia Brightman, Second Vice President; and Mary Eiler, Secretary.



◀ Nu Chapter was in charge of the Hospitality Suite and provided everyone with a marvelous snack bag!

Congratulations! Nebraska State 2023 Scholarship Recipients

by Laraine Conway, Scholarship Chair

THE DKG NEBRASKA STATE is happy to announce two recipients of the Nebraska State Scholarship for \$3000.00 each. Both have contributed to their DKG Chapter, their school and school district in various capacities over their years as an educator.

Our first Scholarship recipient is **Allisha Melroy** from Holdrege, NE. This is her sixth year as a member of Phi chapter. As a member of this chapter, she has served on various committees and is presently serving as the chapter's First Vice President.

Allisha is a strong believer in self-improvement. Given the constant changes and challenges educators face today, Allisha still has a passion for making sure that the students under her care receive the best education possible. She desires to work more closely with her colleagues to improve curriculum and instruction and to build an enriched learning environment for her students.

Educators who recommended Allisha for this scholarship praised her for her dedication to the teaching profession, her involvement in curricular improvement and her willingness to take on extra-curricular activities. She is a teacher who has excellent knowledge of her subject area and relates well to the students while still demanding their best performances. In short, Allisha puts her whole heart and soul into her students, works tirelessly for them, and is a tremendous asset to her school and community.

Our second scholarship recipient is **Merissa Zajic** from Shickley, NE. She has been a member of the Omicron chapter for nine yrs. Merissa was Second Vice President of her chapter from 2018 to 2020, has participated in different chapter committees and has been on the State World Fellowship committee since 2022.

Merissa is currently working on her Endorsement in Supervisor of Special Education and K-12 Principal, at the University of NE, Kearney. She has worked at Shickley Public Schools in a variety of capacities. Working toward this endorsement will enable her to continue to expand her skills, which would assist her to better support her students, as well as enhance the skills needed to support her staff, especially in her team leadership roles and as a Special Education Director. In addition to her teacher responsibilities, Merissa still finds time to volunteer in her church and community.

Merissa has been recommended for this Scholarship because of her skills as a natural mentor and leader. She is a teacher who goes above and beyond her responsibilities because of her desire to enrich the learning opportunities of her students and to support other teachers. As a leader, Merissa was described as an invaluable member of her faculty.

These two worthy scholarship recipients, Allisha Melroy and Merissa Zajic, deserve acclamations for the outstanding support and services they provided to their students and colleagues. Congratulations to both of you on a job well done and best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavors. ✧



Allisha Melroy (above) and Merissa Zajic (below) receive scholarships from Laraine Conway, Scholarship Chair.





The Order of the Rose

by Adia Brightman 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair

Greetings!

At the 87th Annual Nebraska State Convention, we honored four chapters who increased their membership by adding at least three members in one year for the 2022–2023 *Order of the Rose* ceremony. The following chapters were honored.

- Epsilon
- Iota
- Omicron
- Upsilon

The chapter that received the Order of the Rose by increasing their membership by seven members for the 2022–2023 year was **Gamma** chapter.

Congratulations to these chapters for a job well done! ✧

Celebration of Life Ceremony

by Adia Brightman, 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair

We honored our dear sisters who have passed with a Celebration of Life Ceremony that was held after the Business Meeting at the 87th Annual Nebraska State Convention. We honored the following women with a white rose.

Chi Chapter

Ellen Barlow..... February 27, 2023

Alpha Epsilon Chapter

Judith BlakemanJuly 12, 2022

Gamma Chapter

Georgia Bishel..... June 4, 2022

Sandra Bottger..... December 12, 2022

Tau Chapter

Kathleen Cotter March 3, 2022

Rho Chapter

Doris HarringtonJuly 27, 2021

Jacqueline Kling.....October 14, 2022

Alpha Lambda Chapter

Sheila KeelerNovember 13, 2022

Iota Chapter

Marion Wittrock November 11, 2022

For each of our dear Delta Kappa Gamma sisters, we mourn her death because we will miss her—but death is another beginning for our friend. She has left a part of herself with those she loved, with her colleagues, and with all of us. Let us remember her always, keeping her memory alive by continuing her work. We will add her name now to all those who have preceded her to the Golden Book of Memories. ✧



Adia Brightman leads the White Roses Ceremony

Chapter News

Alpha Delta Receives State Awards

SMALL, BUT MIGHTY! This describes Alpha Delta Chapter. There are only ten members, however most meetings have more than fifty percent in attendance. Several members hold state offices and/or serve on state committees. These are among the reasons this chapter was awarded the 2023 Nebraska State Chapter Achievement Award at the April Nebraska State Convention during the Founders'/Presidents' Banquet. One member, Barb Skala-Irish, was "totally shocked" when she was awarded the Nebraska State Individual Achievement Award, just after her chapter had won! (See the photo on page 2.)

Gamma has Inspire Leader and Recognition

There is exciting news from Gamma Chapter! One of our members, Deb Ashworth, was named the *Inspire Grand Island 2023 Woman of the Year!* Inspire is an award that recognizes a woman's dedication to making the community a great place to live and work. Deb Ashworth was chosen from over one hundred accomplished, hard working and dedicated women that were nominated to be the Inspire Woman of the Year. Deb is the executive director of Operation Lifesaver in Nebraska, which provides train rail safety presentations across the state. In addition, Deb is one of the leaders in G.I. Connect, which is a group of small businesses who network for growth and collaboration. Along with many other programs and organizations, she is also involved in Orphan Grain Train and is a proud member of Delta Kappa Gamma! Congratulations, Deb!

In other news, a Gamma Chapter program was featured on *Local4* television. Rebecca Hoobler organized the program so that members were able to make blankets that were given to Willow Rising (formerly known as the Crisis Center). The spot on television described how our members were assisting women and children to be warm and comfortable during a stressful time. Thanks, Rebecca!

Lastly, Gamma Chapter received an Esther Pilster grant to enable us to sponsor a networking event with surrounding chapters. This event will focus on expansion and retention of membership and effective program planning. If you are in the chapters of Kappa, Alpha Kappa, Phi, Omicron or Upsilon, be watching for your invitation to this event!

Xi Celebrates 75 Years

Xi Chapter recently commemorated our 75th anniversary! The chapter was chartered in 1948 by twelve passionate women educators who shared an interest in promoting education and enhancing their professional growth. Today, our 36 members still believe in those same values. We work to provide financial and volunteer assistance to students, families and teachers in Dodge County.

Our projects this year included Habitat homes, domestic violence, fire safety education, library expansion and our biggest endeavor, THE TIGER HUB store at Fremont High School. Our support of THE HUB focuses on building an inventory of basic food items for breakfast and lunch, as well as needed clothing items for lower income students on the campus.

This was also a monumental year for our sister, Annette Rasmussen, as she marked her 50th year of membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. Her contributions to Xi Chapter have been immeasurable. ✨

At right, Annette Rasmussen.
Below, Xi chapter



Esther's Light Keeps Shining!

by Jeanette Althouse, Endowment Committee Chair

On the evening of April 21st, 16 Esther Pilster awards were given to DKG members totaling \$11,354.55. With much gratitude, these awards are touching lives across the state of Nebraska. Esther would be so happy to see how her generous giving has set off sparks across our state.

Following are the awardees for the 2023 year.

Individual Professional Development

Sandra Shillingstad ...Critical Questions in Ed.	\$854.55
Krista Calderon ISTE Live 23	\$2000
Katie Dewees..... Plain Talk About Literacy/Learning.....	\$2000

Chapter Projects

Mu	Supporting Classroom Tchrs.....	\$500
Alpha Delta	Valentine Public Library.....	\$500
Rho	Raising Leaders.....	\$500
Gamma	Networking to recruit/chapter mtgs.	\$500
Omega	Books, Blankets, Volunteers & Support....	\$500
Tau	Basic Needs Impacting Student Learning.	\$500
Theta	Cradle Catchers Project	\$500
Xi.....	Tiger HUB Student Needs.....	\$500
Alpha Lambda.....	Books for Knox County 3rd Graders	\$500

Classroom Projects

Jodie De Sordi.....	Hour of the 2nd Power.....	\$500
Marla Ledgerwood	Kindness Committee	\$500
Jennifer Johnson.....	Flexible Seating	\$500
Marilyn Janovec.....	STEM Activities for Lower Elem.....	\$500

For the upcoming year, the classroom and project awards will be raised from \$500 to \$750! Also, a *Rising Star* award was added that will pay for members of five years or less to attend the state convention! Please check out these awards at our NE DKG website! Just let the sparks fly! ✨

Congratulations! 50 Years of DKG Membership

Five ladies were honored at the 2023 Nebraska State Convention for their membership of 50 years in DKG.

- Carolyn Hopp, Epsilon
- Jacqueline Irwin, Theta
- Annette Rasmussen, Xi
- Frances Peters, Rho
- Shirlene Kunz, Tau

The Place to Be in July is...

[Detroit, Michigan](#) is the place to be July 12–15. The International Conference's focus will be on enhancing your well-being in both mind and body. Early registration discounts end June 11.

[Phoenix, Arizona](#) is the place to be July 18–22. This International Conference will help members celebrate their diversity. This conference has a preconference event, The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Immersion Experience. Early registration discounts end June 18.

[Tampere, Finland](#) is the place to be July 26–29. Tampere is the most popular place in Finland. Many outstanding keynote speakers will be presenting on a variety of subjects. Early registration discounts end June 26.

Check out the Mar/Apr 2023 issue of the DKG News on the International website or click the links above for more details. Happy and safe travels! ✨



Governance/Lobby Day at the State Capitol

by Lauren Walker, First Vice President

GOVERNANCE/LOBBY DAY was held February 21, 2023, at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln. This event was hosted by NSEA-Retired, and organized by DKG Zeta chapter member and current president of NSEA-Retired, De Tonack. Five additional Delta Kappa Gamma members, including myself, representing three different chapters attended this action-packed event.

Our day was brimming with activities and information. First, we were briefed on some of the key educational legislation that NSEA-Retired was supporting and were given instructions how to contact senators during the legislative session. We then headed over to the Capitol building to watch some of the legislative proceedings in action from the gallery. Senator Tony Vargas recognized our group as guests.

Next, we had an opportunity to visit with senators from the floor. Senator Vargas spoke to our group at lunch and further explained some of his views on the current educational legislation in our state. We concluded our afternoon by attending committee hearings during which we observed members of the public testifying in favor of or against bills and committee members debating bills and making amendments.

I encourage as many members as possible to attend this event next February. Speaking personally with our state senators allows you

to have a voice in the direction of educational policy in our state. This event gives you that valuable opportunity while providing fellowship and networking with other educational professionals from across the state. ✧



Attendees sat at tables grouped by district.



Nebraska DKG members Elizabeth Grotelueschen, Lauren Walker and Roxie Lindquist attended Governance/Lobby Day in Lincoln.

Bylaws and Standing Rules Changes

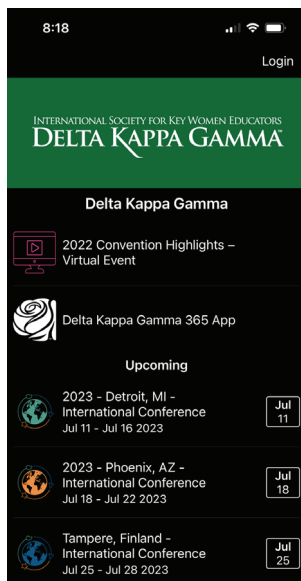
by Lynna Gene Cook, PRP

Voting at the state convention confirmed these amendments and changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

- Esther Pilster Award amounts were increased from \$500 to \$750 per award.
- Rising Star Award for educators with five (5) years membership or less to help with costs to attend a Nebraska State DKG event.
- A change clarified that Executive Board is responsible for determining Greek names for chapters. ✧

Introducing the DKG Events App

For those attending international events this summer, there is a new DKG Events app to help you navigate the experience successfully. The app is free on both the Apple App Store and Google Play store. Search “DKG 365” or “Delta Kappa Gamma” to find it. ✧



Mark Your Calendars

June 3, 2023

Nebraska State Advisory Committee

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

July 11–16, 2023

International Conference

Westin Book Cadillac
Detroit, Michigan

July 18–22, 2023

International Conference

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass
Phoenix, Arizona

July 26–29, 2023

International Conference

Tampere Hall
Tampere, Finland

Future Conventions

July 9–13, 2024

International Convention

National Harbor, Maryland (Gaylord National, D.C. Area)

June 30–July 4, 2026

International Convention

Aurora, Colorado (Gaylord Rockies) ✧

DO YOU KNOW...

A motion to adjourn is not required?

by Lynna Gene Cook, PRP

The president says, “Is there further business?”
(Wait to see if any member speaks. If so, take care of any business brought by a member.)

Then say, “There is no further business and the meeting is adjourned.” (Rap gavel.) ✧

2021–2023 Nebraska State Advisory Committee

President

Roxie Lindquist—Alpha Delta
PO Box 161
Bassett, NE 68714
402-684-2241 (home)
402-760-2018 (cell)

Note: Please contact President Lindquist if you need information from the rest of the committee. (We have been advised to limit the personal information delivered digitally.)

First Vice President

Lauren Walker—Delta (Omaha)

Second Vice President

Adia Brightman—Delta (Omaha)

Secretary

Mary Eiler—Alpha Lambda
(Niobrara)

Treasurer

Dr. Margie Nowak—Zeta (Lincoln)

Immediate Past President

De Smith—Zeta (Lincoln)

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)

STANDING COMMITTEES/ SOCIETY BUSINESS

Communications

Marcia Kay Fouraker, Chair—Xi
(Fremont)

Joyce Christen—Alpha Epsilon
(Merna)

Barb Skala-Irish—Alpha Delta
(Bassett)

Rules

Dr. Kelly Gomez, Chair—Alpha Iota
(Omaha)
Susan Langley—Mu (Tekamah)
Consultants: Lynna Gene Cook and
Dr. Margie Nowak—Zeta (Lincoln)

Healthy Chapters/Expansion

Nicole Smith, Chair—Alpha Iota
(Bellevue)
Marti Sanchez—Omega (Omaha)
Teresa Ann Chromy—Upsilon
(Linwood)

Finance (elected)

Dr. Sharra Smith (2021-2025),
Chair—Alpha Iota (Bellevue)
Jenna Adamson (2021-2025)—
Alpha Theta (Seward)
Amy Backstrom (2019-2023)—
Upsilon (Bellwood)
Kim Wilson (2019-2023)—Chi
(Benkelman)
Consultants: Lynna Gene Cook and
Dr. Margie Nowak—Zeta (Lincoln)

Leadership Development

De Smith, Chair—Zeta (Lincoln)
June Bowers—Iota (Falls City)
Jodean Bridges—Xi (Fremont)
Roxie Lindquist—Alpha Delta
(Bassett)

Membership

Adia Brightman, Chair—Delta
(Omaha)
Linda Isaacson—Tau (Omaha)
Cassie Wilbeck—Alpha Zeta
(Deshler)

Nominating Committee (elected)

WESTERN
Shari Packard (2021-2025)—Theta
(Scottsbluff)

NORTHEAST
Beth Manzer (2019-2023)—Nu
(Osmond)

CENTRAL
Rebecca Hoobler (2021-2025)—
Gamma (Grand Island)

SOUTHEAST
Lisa Fricke, Chair (2019-2023)—Delta
(Omaha)

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Mona Weatherwax (2021-2025)—
Alpha Lambda (Niobrara)
Esther Wilson (2019-2023)—Rho
(Chadron)

Endowment Committee (elected)

Jeanette Althouse, Chair (2019-
2023)—Omicron (Saronville)
Mary Helen Fuchs (2019-2023)—
Kappa (Humphrey)
Cathy Morgan (2021-2025)—Gamma
(Hastings)
Karen Peters (2021-2025)—
Alpha Lambda (Bloomfield)
Consultant: Lana Danielson—Omega
(Omaha)

SOCIETY MISSION

Education Excellence

Lauren Walker, Chair—Delta
(Omaha)
Carol Hess (West)—Chi (Imperial)
Dianna De Jonge (Central)—Phi
(Franklin)
Dusty Duis (Southeast)—Epsilon
(Odell)
Sheralee Boe (Northeast)—Nu
(Madison)

US Forum Emphasis

Linda Simonsen, Chair—Alpha Zeta
(Hebron)
Jan Wulf—Zeta (Lincoln)

Music

Nancy Sic—Xi (North Bend)
Cheryl Schuett—Gamma
(Grand Island)

Scholarship

Laraine Conway, Chair—Omega
(Omaha)
Dr. Lillian Larson—Alpha Kappa
(Kearney)
Caroline Mosier—Omicron (Shickley)

World Fellowship

Sherry Maddox, Chair—Iota
(Falls City)
Lorraine Walsh—Zeta (Lincoln)
Merissa Zajic—Omicron (Shickley)