

Susan Fritts honored with the 2024 WSO Achievement Award

Congratulations to Susan Fritts, the 2024 Washington State Organization Achievement Award recipient! Susan received her award at the Spring Convention President’s Banquet in Pasco on April 27, 2024. Members gave Susan a heartfelt standing ovation for her dedication and outstanding contributions to DKG at the chapter, state, and international levels.



A twenty-five-year member, Susan has enthusiastically embraced the opportunities for engagement and leadership afforded by DKG but has also genuinely and generously supported her colleagues in their personal and professional growth endeavors. At the chapter level, Susan has served as secretary, vice president and president. She chaired the S.E.E. (Supporting Early Educators), and the World Fellowship committees, spearheaded the chapter’s literacy project, as well as participated as a member of other committees – always with deep commitment and thoughtfulness.

Susan has been an ardent supporter of WSO DKG through her participation on Creative Arts Retreat and Leadership Development Retreat Planning Committees

for multiple years. She served as Area X liaison for three biennia. Susan served on several state committees before accepting the position of state secretary where her diligence was invaluable. Her positive outlook has been obvious when she has presented workshops or provided training to chapter officers in her role as second vice president for membership and first vice president for educational excellence.

Often described by colleagues as gracious, caring, and genuinely interested in others, Susan was the perfect president for leading our state through the COVID years. She encouraged chapters to try new strategies for communication, including zoom, to maintain the DKG spirit of fellowship and support for one another. She held monthly Zoom meetings with liaisons, chapter presidents and committee chair, not just to continue the business of the state but to offer support and connection. Who can forget her 3:00 a.m. Zoom call from Paris to participate in Spring Convention 2023?

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Unlock Opportunities: Bulletin Submissions and the 2024 DKG International Convention

Monique Harrison, 2023-2025 President

Bulletin Submissions: Share Your Insights

Congratulations to our State Secretary, Dr. Claire Smith, whose article “Start at the Top” was selected for inclusion in

breakout sessions, networking opportunities and voting on proposed amendments.

Remember, the *Bulletin* and the convention are gateways to growth, collaboration, and inspiration. Embrace these opportunities and contribute to the educational community!

DKG International Convention 2024 Keynote Speakers!

Margot Lee Shetterly is an award-winning author, researcher, and entrepreneur. Her groundbreaking work has revealed the untold stories of remarkable individuals who shaped history. Margot’s #1 New York Times best-selling book, *“Hidden Figures*, delves into the lives of the Black women mathematicians who played pivotal roles in the U.S. space program during the Space Race. Their contributions were often overlooked, but Margot’s research brought their achievements to the forefront.” Margot reveals how these brilliant women shattered barriers, defied stereotypes, and contributed significantly to scientific advancements. Their journey embodies the American dream and resilience. Margot’s storytelling inspires us to recognize hidden talents, celebrate diversity, and empower future generations. Her work reminds us that every voice matters, regardless of background or circumstance.

Andre Bradford, known by his stage name S.C. Says, is an award-winning slam poet and author. His powerful words resonate with audiences across the nation. Andre’s poetry explores personal experiences, social justice, mental health awareness, and relationships. His vulnerability allows listeners to connect profoundly, fostering empathy and understanding. As a two-time Austin Poetry Slam Champion and the 2022 Texas Grand Slam Champion, Andre’s performances captivate hearts and minds. His words ignite conversations and challenge societal norms. Andre’s poetry collection, *“Golden Brown Skin*, celebrates identity, resilience, and the beauty of being mixed race. His artistry transcends boundaries, inviting dialogue about race, culture, and self-acceptance.”

Remember, these keynotes are not just talks—they’re invitations to explore hidden narratives and embrace the power of words. See you there!

the 2024, [Volume 90-4](#) issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* provides educators, scholars, and professionals a platform to contribute their insights and research. Whether you’re passionate about educational leadership, organizational behavior, or professional development, consider submitting your manuscript to the *Bulletin*. Here’s how:

1. Complete your electronic cover sheet,
2. Submit your manuscript: Email your manuscript to bulletin@dkg.org,
3. Deadlines:
Bulletin Collegial Exchange: August 1, 2024 and December 15, 2024
Bulletin Journal: March 1, 2025 and October 1, 2024.

Leadership Discovery Centre Submissions: Elevate Your Expertise

The Leadership Discovery Centre welcomes submissions related to leadership, professional growth, and innovative practices. Follow these steps:

1. Complete Your Electronic Cover Sheet: Ensure all necessary information is included,
2. Submit Your Manuscript: Send your work to leadershipcentre@dkg.org,
3. Deadline: Open all year.

Cornet Individual Professional Development Award

Looking to enhance your professional journey? The CIPD supports participation in conferences, seminars, online courses, and workshops. Apply by November 1.

2024 DKG International Convention: July 9 – 13, 2024 Where Ideas Flourish

Join us at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Explore waterfront terraces, indulge in entertainment, and connect with fellow educators. Highlights include keynote speakers,

Susan Fritts honored

Susan has also served our state DKG organization on the U.S. Forum and at the National Legislative Seminar. She has attended multiple International Conferences and Conventions and currently serves on the International World Fellowship Committee where her long-held commitment to equity and diversity, and her appreciation of world cultures, has resulted in many members having contact with a World Fellowship scholar for the first time.

Susan taught for 34 years, including seven years in American Samoa and Hong Kong. Her overseas experiences have made her a committed advocate for teaching cultural diversity and promoting the education of students for whom English is not their first language. Susan served on the board of Fetu Ta’iala, a non-profit project dedicated to increasing equity for Pacific Islander children in Washington State. She represented that organization in meetings with OSPI, resulting in a grant focused on decreasing the achievement gap for these students.

Susan is also passionate about her Norwegian heritage and has served as lodge president for the Poulsbo Daughters of Norway. She chaired the Oral History Committee, served as historian and as cultural director, and been involved in activities at the national level. A favorite hobby for Susan is the sewing of the traditional Norwegian bunad. Susan is a loving and proud wife, mother of two and grandmother of six.

Susan Fritts is a modest woman, filled with gratitude and unafraid of showing it, a woman who treasures her DKG membership and participates fully in its benefits. She is an inspiration to us all and we are very grateful for the gifts she has given us in WSO DKG. She is a worthy and deserving recipient of the prestigious Achievement Award. Well done, Susan!

News from the WSO Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee

Bev Reinvik, Chair

At our recent State Convention in Pasco, all seventeen Washington State Organization amendment proposals were approved by members at the General Session on April 27, 2024. Most proposals, ranging from simple edits to more controversial ones, were revisions to existing bylaws or standing rules.

Two NEW additions were awards honoring women. The *Woman of Distinction Award* is for a woman in Washington State who has rendered notable service to education but may not be eligible for honorary membership. The *Educator of the Year Award* is awarded to one Washington State Organization member who is actively employed in the field of education.

2023-2025

Washington State Organization Executive Committee

President

Monique Harrison, Beta Sigma Seattle

First Vice-President

Teri King, Iota Mason & Thurston

Second Vice-President

Terri Diehm, Beta Delta Auburn

Recording Secretary

Dr. Claire Smith, Mu Clark County

Treasurer

Pat Russell, Beta Sigma Seattle

Parliamentarian

Linda Elliot, Beta Delta Auburn

Immediate Past President

Pat Bennett-Forman, Alpha Sigma Kitsap

Executive Secretary

Sherri Wagemann, Eta Spokane

Society Business

ByLaws & Rules Bev Reinvik

Stipend & Scholarship Linda Johnson

Communications Jannette Manuel

Finance Mary Rennie, Jan Morgan

Leadership Development Marge Lofstrom

Membership, Expansion & Dissolution

Terri Diehm

Nominations Kris Bishop

Society Mission & Purposes

Educational Excellence Teri King

Educational Policy & Legislation

Keitha Bryson

State Rep to US Forum Pat Bennett-Forman

Leadership Retreat Marge Lofstrom

Creative Arts Retreat Caryn Mears

Music Liaison Terri Diehm

State Website Editor

MaryLou Gregory, Beta Chi Grays Harbor

State Editor, *Washington State Org News*

Barbara McPherson, Kappa Kent

All Washington State Organization officers and committees may be contacted using the WSO Directory or through DKGWA.org.



New Year, New Horizons

Teri King, 1st Vice-president—EEC Chair

Over the next few months, chapters will be planning for a new year with renewed energy. A new DKG year and new chapter leadership opens up opportunities for a new view of the world.

As new and renewed leadership takes the reins of your chapter, it is important to remember just because something has always been done that way doesn't mean it is the best way to continue. Maybe a few tweaks are in order? A chat with members to see what they would like to have as programs could be very helpful. Maybe a chapter member would like to adopt a program and organize it? Having a member adopt a program helps build leadership and could lead them to fill a chapter leadership role. Perhaps planning a program that would offer clock hours and inviting outside educators to attend might be a good way to learn and introduce your community educators to DKG? Maybe they too would like to become DKG members and grow with us. Would your chapter like to work on President Monique's Unity pro-

ject of supporting homeless youth? The sky's the limit, so let your imagination and your chapter's run wild as you figure out the year ahead.

The EEC committee is gearing up our virtual Fall Board, September 27-29, 2024! We have a great lineup of educational workshops being planned from all of our state committees, the Rachel Royston committee and our State Treasurer that will be of interest to chapter leadership as well as chapter members!

We heard you loud and clear last year and will be working with the Technology ad hoc committee to host Zoom training just before the meeting to help everyone become more familiar with Zoom, how to change your screen name, vote, raise your hand, etc.

If you have a program idea for Fall Board, please reach out, EEC would love to hear your ideas to have an inclusive and engaging meeting. If your chapter could use some support in program development for 2024-25, please reach out, we can help! Also, it is never too soon to think about planning for the Spring Convention in Stevenson, Washington in April 2025. We are already collecting workshops for that event, so please share if you have something you'd love to see or contribute!

International leadership update

Barbara Clausen, Chair, International Leadership Discovery Center

Mahatma Gandhi wrote, "The fragrance always remains on the hand that gives the rose." In my twelve years of International leadership service, I have received and am so grateful for the blessings, friendships, and "rose fragrance" in DKG experiences. I would encourage each of you to take the step of becoming more involved at the state and international level. The society is YOURS and you will reap the benefits of investing in it!

The International Leadership Development Committee supports a member website with training videos on meeting management, preparing for leadership succession and more. DKGIEF Ignite recipients receive in-depth leadership training in a week-long seminar. Training is provided for all State Organization officers and other trainings open to all are available at DKG conferences.

The Leadership Discovery Centre uses a chair-led process to create a website hub filled with resources to serve members and attract non-members. The "inside" section provides interactive Viewpoints from around the world in different languages on such topics as the role of women, education, children, and advocacy. It shares articles and media from members. On the "outside" section, members and non-members can find links to You Tube videos, DKG International convention speakers, an annotated bibliography, and other resources on the web. This is a world of opportunity to help you grow – please share the site with your chapter, sign-in and use it!

The experiences you have with DKG will serve you for a lifetime. You too will retain the fragrance of the rose. So put your heart into it and dare to give. please share with your chapter, sign in, and use it!

Dare to Go!

By Leadership Development Committee

Where do you Dare to go so you Know more about your DKG and Give all your talents and experience to help others? You got it: DKG conferences, conventions, workshops, and other leadership events. Our Washington State Organization recently held the 2024 Spring Convention in Pasco. Amazing speakers, workshops, and engaging activities were just some of the things that made the weekend enlightening and inspiring. The Leadership Development committee presented a workshop on “Chapter Leaders: Making a Smooth Transition into the 2024-2026 Biennium” to help upcoming chapter leaders. As presenters, we learned as much as we taught. That is one of the incredible advantages of networking and making connections with our DKG members and guests.

Did you miss the May Convention? Or maybe you want to continue learning more? Fortunately, WSO is offering another exciting opportunity to do just that at the Leadership Development Retreat at Rainbow Lodge in North Bend, July 23-25. You don't want to miss this event! With the theme of “Unlock Your Inner Power”, participants will undoubtedly enjoy exploring, sharing, learning, and having fun on this three day adventure. The retreat committee is diligently working to bring you interesting and pertinent speakers, learning activities, and support.

Register soon to make sure you get a spot. Registration forms are available on [page 9](#) and on the WSO website at: <https://www.dkgwa.org> -Events Tab-State Retreat Tab 2024 Rainbow Lodge



Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship Recipient Charlene Shea. She has been teaching for 21 years and is completing her administrative credentials to earn her principal certification. Charlene is well versed in education through the lens of a classroom teacher and is now seeking the opportunity to widen and enhance her ability to support teachers, students, and their families. An administrative credential will encourage her to move her skills to the next level and increase opportunities at the district level to benefit future educators and students. Charlene was inducted into Mu Chapter in 2013. She has served as Chapter President and is currently serving a five-year term as trustee on the Board of the Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation.



Thank you to our WSO DKG members who donated at the State Convention to support our Stipend and Scholarship Fund. We gratefully thank our DKG chapters, individuals, and anonymous donors who support us year after year. Your generous **GIVING** enables us to **GIVE** to members applying for stipends and scholarships. Happy Spring!



Connections

Terri Diehm, 2nd Vice-president—Membership

I'm baaaack. It's not that I actually was gone I am simply changing my DKG responsibilities. I am leaving a job I liked very much,

Music/Fine Arts Liaison, and am going back to a position I held about fourteen years ago, WSO 2nd Vice President -Membership. It too was a position I enjoyed tremendously. The best part of both positions is that it requires a person to make connections. I have enjoyed connecting with our membership by working on a data base to include our performing and literary artists as well as all of our visual artists. The convention art gallery found some of our members making connections by finding common

interests through their artistic passions. What a wonderful way to create common bonds with our DKG sisters.

In my new position as WSO 2nd VP/Membership Chair I am able to connect with our members in many other ways. In these times when chapters and states are struggling with keeping and retaining members, connecting with your members is of upmost importance. Whether it be through newsletters, offers of a ride to meetings, keeping in touch with members that have not been able to attend a meeting, finding shared interests, being a support through all of our ups and downs. These personal connections create the heart of our organization and can help strengthen a chapter. Your members want and need to feel connected, wanted and valued. Are those connections happening in your chapter?

Welcome New Members



Congratulations and welcome to our newly inducted members.

Rebecca Rhodes Beta Kappa Oak Harbor
Jennifer Wilson Beta Upsilon Grand Coulee

Bursting the Bubble Campaign



Did you know that in their survey of members, Avenue M, consultants to International DKG on how to grow membership, found that most non-members had little to no information on the benefits of DKG membership? In fact, 10% of current members lacked this information. The Bursting the Bubble Campaign currently found on the International website seeks to remedy this problem. Each circle (bubble) in the graphic represents an opportunity or benefit of membership in the Society. The campaign will take a deep dive into each bubble and will include multimedia resources for marketing DKG within and beyond the Society.

Explore the benefits of DKG membership on the DKG International website www.dkg.org.

White Roses of Remembrance



We have lost four members since February 2024. They will be honored in the Celebration of Life at the 2025 State Convention.

Arlene (Peach) Harrington Beta Seattle
Bonnie Jean Gilovich Phi Grays Harbor/Pacific
Sandra Landenglos Alpha Zeta Goldendale
Agripina (Minda) Wilson Beta Sigma Seattle



Sherri Wagemann, WSO Executive Secretary

Many thanks to the chapters of Area II and Area III for serving as outstanding hostesses and helping to make the 2024 Spring Convention a wonderful event. Excellent workshops and activities, speakers and displays were enjoyed by all. The Red Lion Pasco Airport and Conference Center staff were very helpful and professional.

Please note the following tasks and updates to your chapter's calendar:

- ◆ **Form 110** - Form for Reporting 2024-2026 Chapter Officers needs to be completed and copies sent to: WSO President Monique Harrison, WSO Executive Secretary Sherri Wagemann and to Society Headquarters at mem@dkg.org by **July 1, 2024**.
- ◆ **Form 87** - Remember to send this form to Society Headquarters for any change in chapter treasurer.
- ◆ Because the Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake was recently sold to provide low-income housing, an active search was begun to locate alternative venues viable to hold our **April 25-27, 2025** Spring Convention. After much careful comparison of venue proposals received, discussion and deliberation, the WSO Executive Committee made the recommendation to hold the 2025 Spring Convention at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA. The recommendation was based on date availability, needs and budget. This change in venue was approved by the WSO Board by an emergency electronic vote, which will require ratification at the Fall Executive Board.
- ◆ **July 23-25, 2024** Members and guests are encouraged to attend the upcoming summer event "Unlocking Your Inner Power" Leadership Development Retreat at Rainbow Lodge Center located in North Bend, WA. Attend this wonderful three-day event to recharge your batteries, experience fellowship and experience learning opportunities with amazing speakers. COST: \$295.00 which includes lodging, all meals and supplies
- ◆ **September 27 - 28, 2024** Fall Executive Board will be held virtually. Mark your calendars to attend important training for incoming 2024 - 2026 chapter leaders and members.
- ◆ **July 9 - 13, 2024** Mark your calendar to attend the DKG International Convention at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Harbor, MD. *The Gaylord National Resort overlooks the Potomac River with waterfront terraces at its back door and the bustling town of National Harbor at its front. From malls to boutiques, live entertainment to casinos, wine bars to restaurants, and ferry terminals to Ferris Wheels, National Harbor has whatever might be your interest. And, if you desire, take the short trip over the river to Washington D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia. Of course, the convention will also offer all the excitement you have come to expect and more: enjoying keynote speakers, engaging in breakout sessions, networking with members, connecting with old friends, and using your member voice when you vote on proposed amendments to the Society's governing documents www.dkg.org. Save the date! **July 9 – 13, 2024**.*



Thank you to all our DKG members for supporting our State Scholarship Fund events this year: Books for Bucks and the Paint and Give social at the state convention in Pasco. Some chapters have received sweet Lindt treats, red rose ink pens and individual prizes for reading the most books. Please send your \$1.00 per book read or donation by June 15, 2024 to our state treasurer:

Pat Russell
21038 102nd Ave. SE
Kent, WA 98031

WSO adopts new Regional Plan

By Pat Bennett-Forman, Immediate Past President

Gone are the Quadrant designations for dividing Washington State into subdivisions for purposes of workshops and training opportunities. The Executive Board passed a revision to the State By-laws at the Spring 2024 Convention which identified *Regions* as the term that would be used to describe the groupings previously known as *Quadrants*.

The rationale for the new terminology was that it afforded greater flexibility for how chapters and areas might be grouped so each Region had approximately the same number of chapters and members. Revisions also called for re-examination of the Regions every five years to ensure size equity. Additionally, in response to the desire to have more in-person, but less expensive gatherings of members, the revised By-laws require that there be workshops in each Region every biennium.

Based on data collected through two member surveys, it was also recommended that Regions be given the responsibility for hosting state conventions rather than areas. Currently some areas have only one chapter, some have less than twenty members. Hosting duties by area

has become too onerous and expensive for the areas. Survey results indicated that the hosting Region should be on the same side of the state as the convention.

Consequently, three Regions have been defined: East (of the mountains), Southwest, and Northwest. Areas 1,2,3, and 8 will belong to the East Region. Areas 4,5, and 9 to the Southwest, and Areas 6,7, and 10 to the Northwest. Spring Convention 2024 was held in Pasco in the East Region. The next convention is being held in the Southwest Region and the 2026 Convention will be in the Northwest Region.

More importantly, in-person Regional Workshops will be held in the 2024-2026 biennium in each Region. An Ad-Hoc Committee is being formed to provide input on the structure and content of these workshops. The idea is that they will provide both fellowship and personal/professional development for members without the travel and cost of a state meeting. These workshops will also be held in hybrid format so that members outside the Region may attend workshop sessions virtually.

Unlocking Your Inner Power

Caryn Mears, Chair

Come join us in “Unlocking Your Inner Power” on July 23-25, 2024. The Leadership Retreat Committee is planning our WSO Leadership Development Retreat at Rainbow Lodge in North Bend. We have several exciting and engaging activities to improve our physical health, reduce stress and help us increase our energy. By learning how to relax and grow as a leader, we will more easily connect with ourselves and each other. Each of us is a leader in our own right, but you do not have to be a DKG officer to attend this amazing retreat. This fabulous spa-like opportunity is open to everyone, so invite a friend to join you for the “Girl’s Weekend” in the middle of the week!

Do you have your reservations yet? There are still rooms available, so find a friend who might need more clock hours. We will offer 3 Clock Hours for Social Emotional Standards. The registration



Leadership Retreat Committee: (L to R) Candice Rutherford, Cathy Johnson, Caryn Mears, chair, Marge Lofstrom, Susan Fritts, and Amanda Robel-Lopez

form is in on [page 9](#) and on our state webpage at [2024 Rainbow Lodge Retreat \(dkgwa.org\)](#). Please contact Caryn Mears (cmears4@aol.com), or Marge Lofstrom (mtlofstrom@gmail.com) with any questions regarding clock hours. Complete information will be available at the retreat.



Unlocking Your Inner Power

Personal Growth and Leadership Management Seminar 2024

Presented by DKG Washington State Organization

Grab the keys to unlock your inner power and recharge your batteries with three days of fellowship experiencing learning opportunities with amazing speakers.

WHEN: July 23 – 25, 2024

WHERE: Leadership Retreat at Rainbow Lodge Retreat Center
46820 SE Mt Si Road, North Bend

COST: \$295.00 (includes lodging, all meals, and supplies)

REGISTRATION is open!

Registration must be postmarked by July 9, 2024. Send your registration form and check made out to WA STATE ORG to: Mary Rennie, 2201 Longmire Ln, Selah, WA 98942. *Registration is not complete until payment has been received, so please remember to enclose your check.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip Code** _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____

Chapter _____ **Area** _____ **Room with** _____

Food Allergy only: _____ **First Floor** _____ (Limited Special needs)

Chap. or State office _____ **Ch. President** _____ **Member** _____ **Guest** _____

Clock Hours _____ **Yes** _____ **No** _____ **Check#** _____

PHOTO RELEASE: *The submission of this registration grants my permission to DKG WA official publication, including the state website and WSON. I understand that if I do not give permission, a written statement denying permission for use of my photo, voice or words must be attached to this registration.*

CANCELLATION/EMERGENCY POLICY: *Cancellations prior to July 9, 2024, will be refunded minus a \$10 handling July 9, 2024, refunds for cancellation will be void unless a replacement participant may be found. Refunds will follow the WSO voucher process.*



Rachel Royston Permanent Scholarship Foundation

Barbara Brown, Chair

The Rachel Royston Trustees have selected five recipients for the 2024 scholarships. All are outstanding educators, and the Trustees are pleased to be able to help them further their education.



Karen Barker is currently a principal in the Lake Washington School District. She was honored to be a speaker at the International Forum for Character & Citizenship in Washington D.C. in 2023. Her goal is to earn a PhD for Character Development at the University of Missouri.



Tricia Corsetti is currently the principal of Commodore Options K-12 on Bainbridge Island. This unique school, under Tricia's leadership, is committed to Multi Tiered Systems of Support training. Tricia is receiving her second scholarship to continue working on her Superintendent /EdD program coursework at WWU.



Alexandra Gallawa is currently a fifth grade teacher in the Vancouver School District. She is dedicated to creating positive relationships with each individual student in her class and is proud to have positively impacted an ODD student's education this year. Alexandra's goal is to earn a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governor University in Utah.



Meagan Graves is currently a fifth grade teacher in the Vancouver School District. Each year she works to create an equitable quality education for all her students. This year she is proud to have positively impacted an autistic student's education. Her goal is to earn a Doctorate of Philosophy in Math and the Sciences.



Marit Nierman is currently a Learning Specialist at Berney Elementary School in the Walla Walla School District. She leads monthly grade level meetings and works in classrooms implementing (UDL) Universal Design for Learning, a framework designed to provide the highest quality of education for all students. Marit's goal is to earn her principal certification at Gonzaga University.



Highlights from the National Legislative Seminar 2024

Nancy K. Sheng, Legislative Committee

In March, sixty-eight DKG members representing twenty-six states assembled at the Holiday Inn National Airport in Arlington, VA for the 2024 National Legislative Seminar (NLS). Members received training in advocacy skills and up to date information on current issues of importance. The US Forum Steering Committee identified these issues by a survey of members in the fall of 2022 as part of their initial planning for this event.

At the seminar, members received two and a half days of instruction, discussion, and lectures from guest speakers, followed by a day on Capitol Hill to meet with their representatives, as previously arranged. Armed with specific requests, data and talking points, our members visited thirty senators and forty-five congressional representatives. Our members spoke up about our bills currently in committees, HR744, Supporting the Mental Health of Educators and Staff Act in the House and its companion bill in the Senate, S2530, in addition to the other priorities and concerns for their states.

Pat Bennett-Forman and Nancy Sheng represented Washington State, along with Darlene Cook. Although Darlene currently serves as the Oregon State Organization president, she resides in Vancouver, WA. Darlene is also the current US Forum Steering Committee Chair



L—R: Tara Heikila and Darlene Cook, Oregon; the Honorable Representative Suzanne Bonamici; Pat Bennett-Forman and Nancy Sheng, Washington.

for DKG. Together we met with Washington state Congressmen Derek Kilmer and Rick Larsen and their staff members, and Congresswoman Kim Schrier. We also met with Oregon Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, who wrote and introduced HR744 into congress last year. Pat and Nancy hand delivered a packet of information for HR744 and S2530 to the other seven Washington state congressional representatives and both of our senators, Patty Murray, and Maria Cantwell.



Evaluations from the seminar were enthusiastic, averaging 4.5/5 points overall! Some of the highly rated speakers included Lisa Maatz on current education legislation, and Rob Weil on Artificial Intelligence. One democratic and one republican representative gave invaluable insights in briefings on the Hill Tuesday morning. Tom Nichols from AARP explained how social security works, and there were other speakers and panels. Another highlight of the trip was a visit to Arlington Cemetery to lay a beautiful DKG wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

Overall, NLS was a highly successful, meaningful, and impactful experience. This summer a new steering committee will be elected at the DKG International convention in National Harbor, Maryland. They will begin planning the next NLS for the spring of 2026. Please consider joining us at the next NLS! It will be an unforgettable experience!

Educator of the Year Showcase

Dr. Claire Smith, WSO Secretary 2023-2025

This has been the first year of a new award in the Washington State Organization of DKG. The Executive Committee wished to highlight some of the outstanding professional work being done by our active-teacher

members and so the *Educator of the Year Award* was born.

Our Showcase for 2024 introduces you to six superb educators from our ranks. In alphabetical order:



President Monique Harrison at the podium with L-R: Pia Longinotti, Beth Greaves, Jannette Manuel, Mindy Hoffman, Joyce Stark, and Charlene Shea

BETH GREAVES. Nominated by her friends in Theta Yakima Chapter, Beth currently works as a kindergarten teacher in the Naches Valley School District. A veteran teacher of the early grades, she also brings to her job experiences working with cases of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Attention Deficit Disorder. She mentors newer teachers through a Studio Classroom program. Beth's other interest is in alpacas. Hopefully you got to visit her stunning display of spinning in the Convention Art Gallery.

MINDY HOFFMAN. Mindy is a Special Education teacher in the Kennewick School District and was nominated by her friends in Psi Kennewick Chapter. Mindy is known for her kindness, patience with her students and for the high expectations she holds of them. Mindy has been involved in mentoring newer teachers in her district and has also completed curriculum work for OSPI.

PIA LONGINOTTI. Pia was nominated by her friends in Eta Spokane Chapter. She teaches High School Freshman English in the Freeman School District. Pia is known

for her work in middle-to-high school transition, for volunteering her time in the high school library, and as the Journalism/Yearbook advisor. She is a firm believer in equity grading in her classrooms. Have Pia tell you about her professional study trip to Europe, after which she wrote a curriculum unit on the Holocaust.

JANNETTE MANUEL. Jannette was nominated by her friends in Beta Sigma Seattle Chapter. She has spent twenty-four years as a Career & Technical Education teacher with Seattle Public Schools. Currently, she serves as the Interim Assistant Principal at Garfield High School. Jannette is known and loved for her work in equity and community engagement. Jannette has held numerous leadership roles in the district. If you get a chance, ask her about Socorros' Corner which she founded to aid low-income students in the Philippines.

Continued on page 13, *Educator of the Year*

2024 Educator of the Year

CHARLENE SHEA. Charlene is President of Mu Clark County Chapter, and was nominated by her chapter friends. She teaches Science at Gaiser Middle School in the Vancouver (WA) School District, and is working on her administrative credentials. Charlene has participated in many curriculum developments in Science. Well known for her compassionate attitudes to her students, she has done much to encourage girls in STEM. If you ask, she will surely tell you about her love of the outdoors!

JOYCE STARK. Joyce was nominated by her friends in Alpha Lambda Lower Yakima Valley Chapter. A forty-three year veteran classroom teacher, she currently teaches high school science in the Sunnyside School District. Joyce has an impressive number of awards to her credit, including a year as an Educator Fellow working with NOAA. She has worked tirelessly at local, state and national Science Fairs. If you meet Joyce, ask about her professional presentations in Australia, Belize and Japan!



At the Spring Convention luncheon, State President Monique Harrison announced that the recipient of the WSO 2024 *Educator of the Year* is Joyce Stark.

Congratulations Joyce!

Retired: Now what?

Kay Stern, Mu Clark County

Many new retirees enjoy the freedom of NO bells, paperwork, and mandatory meetings. But transition from work to retirement is not easy especially when late August rolls around. As the first week of school nears many miss the organizing of the room, welcoming students and catching up with colleagues. Dr. Claire Smith, Mu Clark County, found the transition to be a time to become a volunteer mentor. Claire retired as the World Language department chair. Few communities have subject mentors for new World Language teachers. Knowing that, Claire let her replacement know she would be available to meet for coffee and chat if needed. Shortly after school started the teacher contacted Claire. Claire shared her materials, tips on the AP (Advanced Place-

ment) exam and her pacing calendar. Claire developed an informal mentorship, with several meet ups during the year. Shortly after the mentorship started, a mother of one her former students asked if Claire was available to help a new AP Spanish teacher at the mother's school. The new AP teacher had been hired after the yearly AP teacher training was over. Claire willingly helped the new appointee through the structures, content and preparation for an AP language class. She also works with former students who want to learn languages not offered in their school. Claire's informal mentoring allows her to have her own schedule and use her experience. One very successful transition.



DKG around the state

Area IX - Judy Holliday, Liaison

Beta Chi Greys Harbor members were enlightened by guest speakers, Erv and Phyllis Granahan from the Lion's Club, who spoke about the G3 Lion's Club Vision Foundation. Through donations, grants, and fund-raising, seven clubs were able to purchase three special cameras used to complete vision screening. The well-trained members have been screening students, free of charge, throughout Grays Harbor, Pacific, Jefferson, and Thurston Counties. In the past five years they have screened over 30,000 children. Mr. Granahan demonstrated the process using one of these special cameras to check the eyes of Beta Chi member, Vicki Lentz. Within a matter of seconds, the information was recorded on the camera, and he was able to print a label giving the results of Vicki's vision check. In schools, these labels are attached to a referral letter for the school nurse to send to the families when the student needs to see an eye



doctor. What an amazing, wonderful, and appreciated service these Lions Clubs offer to our area communities.

Phi Grays Harbor Pacific had some excellent speakers for their monthly programs. DeeDee Johnson, who once worked at Stafford Creek Prison, shared the prison layout, what her job entailed, and some of the various programs at the prison. She displayed several stuffed animals that had been made by inmates in the "teddy bear" program. The bears are donated to police departments or even sent overseas to orphanages.

Leslie O'Brien, who is currently the President of the Aberdeen/Hoquiam Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, gave a presentation on "Brain Health and Alzheimer's Prevention" through lifestyle interventions. She presented a book review of "The XX Brain" by Lisa Mosconi, PhD and had on display products such as olive oil, power greens, canned salmon, and coffee to emphasize the Mediterranean-style diet which was recommended in the book.

Darrin King of the Grays Harbor Task Force presented "Community Engagement Drug Awareness Training" at the March meeting. He delineated the focus of the Task Force, showed samples of drugs currently prevalent in the area and explained some signs of a drug user including paraphernalia being used. He clarified how to handle encounters with users, drugs, or paraphernalia. He emphasized the nationwide cell call/text number 988 to report or get help for substance abuse and other mental health issues.

Among the service projects in which members participate are monthly collections for Coastal Harvest which collects recyclable containers, plastic bags, and egg cartons, and hotel type toiletry samples for the Hoquiam Food Bank. The membership will also donate three-piece towel sets to the new transitional youth shelter in Hoquiam.



A tradition that has flourished in Phi Chapter is honoring members' birthdays, especially when they turn ninety. The latest member to reach that milestone is Barbara Bogdanovich. At the February meeting she was surprised with birthday cards and gifts with the theme of ninety items to recognize this achievement.

Iota Chapter of Mason/Thurston County has been very busy! They have welcomed three new members, Kathy James, Toni Ochoa Pierson, and Michaela McCoy, and one transfer, Virginia Lane. They also lost a beloved member, Shirley Sainsbury. Iota is actively recruiting members while reaching out to their numerous aged DKG Sisters, to keep them in the loop.

Iota members have been putting together "Mental Health Kits" for area schools. These feature the "988" cards in packs of five so teachers can hand them out

to students who are under stress. Also included is a bit of chocolate, lip balm, a "pop-it" stress reliever toy, and a personal card signed by all their members. They have recently updated their bylaws and are in the process of producing a "Yearbook" for members. Iota hosted an excellent Mental Health conference for our area workshop, featuring Sonja Fritts. Members had art displayed at the Spring Conference in Pasco and presented a couple of workshops.



Find all Convention and hotel information online at DKG.org. Register today!

Keynote Speaker Wednesday July 10 Luncheon



Margot Lee Shetterly is the Author of the #1 New York Times best-selling book *Hidden Figures*, delves into the lives of the Black women mathematicians who played pivotal roles in the U.S. space program during the Space Race. Their contributions were often overlooked, but Margot's research brought their achievements to the forefront.

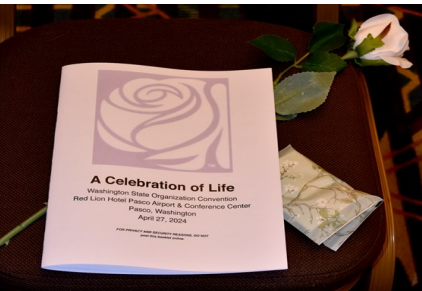
Keynote Speaker Friday July 12 Luncheon



Andre Bradford, known by his stage name S.C. Says, is an award-winning slam poet and author. His powerful words resonate with audiences across the nation. Andre's poetry explores personal experiences, social justice, mental health awareness, and relationships.



**Washington State
Organization
Spring Convention
April 26-28, 2024**





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Important Dates

Form 110 Reporting 2024-2026 Chapter Officers DUE	July 1, 2024
DKG International Convention, National Harbor, MD.....	July 9-13, 2024
Chapter Treasurer Annual Report DUE to WA State Org.	July 15, 2024
WSO Leadership Management Retreat at Rainbow Lodge.....	July 23-25, 2024
WSO Fall Board (virtual).....	September 27-28, 2024
Arts & Humanities Gallery Submissions for Fall Gallery	August 15-September 15, 2024