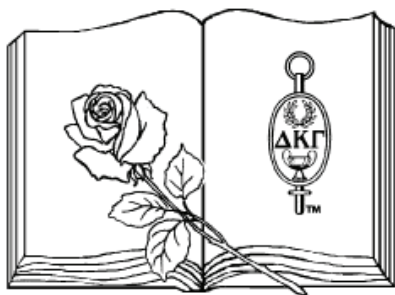




New Jersey State Organization  
Convention 2026

*Inspiration is Contagious*



Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center  
Somerset, NJ

April 17-19, 2026



# THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Organized by Dr. Annie Webb Blanton

Austin, Texas, May 11, 1929

## **International Administrative Board 2024 – 2026**

President - Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan

First Vice President - Candace (Candi) Martin

Second Vice President - Carol Herzog

Executive Director - Lucinda Hart | CAE, MBA

Europe Regional Director - Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf

NE Regional Director - Eileen Little

NW Regional Director - Lisa Olson

SE Regional Director - Nancy Davis

SW Regional Director - Belinda Clift

Immediate Past International President - Dr. Debbie LeBlanc

Member-at-Large (2024-2026) - Dr. Lisa Cooper Wilkins

Member-at-Large (2024-2028) - Dr. Donna Niday

Area Representative Canada - Dr. Sharlene McGowan

Area Representative Latin America - Vianney Campos

Parliamentarian - Dr. Helen Popovich

## **International Events**

### **Future Conventions:**

Aurora, Colorado (Gaylord Rockies): June 30 – July 4, 2026

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: July 4 – 8, 2028

### **Future Conferences:**

Austin, Texas: July 25 – 28, 2029

## **Mission Statement**

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

## **Vision Statement**

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

## **Key Initiatives**

Supporting Early Career Educators

UNICEF GIRLS Fund:

The Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success (GIRLS) Fund

## **Purposes**

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education
4. To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators
5. To endow awards to aid members in pursuing personal and professional growth and to provide grants to non-member educators
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action
7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively to support a sustainable world society.

**New Jersey State Organization of DKG  
Organized February 26, 1938**

**Charter Members**

Virginia A. Adams*	Jennie M. Haver*
Marou Brown Little*	Ruth H. Thomas*
Elizabeth M. Bozeath*	Dorothy S. Jackson*
Anna R. Nelson*	Frances Beers Tibbits*
Dorothy K. Cadwallader*	Lillian Kane*
Caroline Staman*	Winifred Weldin*
Ora Lee Everts*	Grace Koerner*
Sarah L. Strong*	Sarah O. Whitlock*

**State Presidents**

1940-1942	Elizabeth M. Bozeath*	Beta
1942-1944	Ruth H. Thomas*	Alpha
1944-1946	Frances Beer Tibbits*	Alpha
1946-1948	A. Virginia Adams*	Beta
1948-1950	Mary Lutz*	Gamma
1950-1953	Ethel Luidens*	Gamma
1953-1955	Viola M. Stokes*	Alpha
1955-1957	Ethel G. Patterson*	Beta
1957-1959	Bess Lewis Gettrich*	Alpha
1959-1961	Sarah L. Strong*	Gamma
1961-1963	Ruth E. French*	Beta
1963-1965	Charlotte E. Patterson*	Alpha
1965-1967	Margaret F. Abel*	Gamma
1967-1969	Dr. Arianna M. Claypool*	Beta
1969-1971	Mary L. Briant*	Alpha
1971-1973	Marie R. Stone*	Delta
1973-1975	Marion L. Ramsbotham*	Epsilon
1975-1977	Jeanette Middlebrook*	Alpha
1977-1979	Ruth N. Freed*	Delta
1979-1981	Sarah W. Lowden*	Eta
1981-1983	Beatrice A. Searles*	Alpha
1983-1985	Anna Marie Amorelli DellAvvocato*	Theta
1985-1987	Mary Ann Mironchik*	Lambda
1987-1989	Suzanne H. Hunt *	Epsilon
1989-1991	Dr. Blossom S. Nissman*	Eta

1991-1993	Ruth Forlines*	Nu
1993-1995	Marie McGuire*	Alpha
1995-1997	Patricia L. Rahn	Omicron
1997-1999	Dr. Beth Ann Richey*	Beta
1999-2001	Doris A. Lambert	Iota
2001-2003	Dr. Judith Merz	Alpha
2003-2005	Dr. Marilyn Gonyo	Lambda
2005-2007	Dr. Mary Lee Batesko	Zeta
2007-2009	Carmela S. De Marco	Gamma
2009-2011	Claire A. Swanson	Alpha
2011-2013	Roxanne Adinolfi	Sigma
2013-2015	Mary Conover	Pi
2015-2017	Barbara Smith	Omicron
2017-2019	Carol Schwartz	Gamma
2019-2021	Ingrid Williams	Nu
2021-2023	Dr. Nora Pollard	Lambda
2023-2025	Irene Maskaly	Iota

*\*Our deceased members*

### **New Jersey State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Officers 2025-2027**

President – Cathy Fortunato, Lambda  
 First Vice President – Diane Roberts, Omicron  
 Second Vice President – Christine Musick, Nu  
 Recording Secretary - Elizabeth Monaghan, Epsilon  
 Corresponding Secretary - Cathy Cleenput, Alpha  
 Treasurer – Ellen Hahn, Beta  
 Nominations Chair - Dr. Amy Fratz, Pi  
 Parliamentarian - Dr Barbara Glazewski, Lambda  
 Immediate Past President – Irene Maskaly, Iota



## State President's Message



Welcome to the 2026 DKG New Jersey State Convention. The remarkable educators in our state have collaborated to provide a multifaceted experience for this event.

Thank you to the elected officers, Diane Roberts, Chris Musick, Betty Monaghan, and Cathy Cleenput, who are admirable as a leadership team. We are grateful for our State Treasurer Ellen Hahn and Parliamentarian Dr. Barbara Glazewski, and all the gifted presenters, facilitators, and the chapter members who fulfill given duties during the convention. Thanks to state committee chairs Patty Curtis and Laura Perrius for the Arts Festival, Angela Castaneda and Carol Boehm for the Induction Ceremony, Barbara Henderson and Luella Vengenock for the Awards Ceremony, and Jane Murphy and Pam Watkinson for the Celebration of Life Service. Special recognition must be given to the Convention Chairs, Sue Davis, Jan Paxton, and Carol Schwartz, for their expertise and dedication.

As sisters we have a lot to do and share with one another this weekend: greet our DKG International President, participate in the basket raffle, dance to the music, attend the educational breakout sessions, and enjoy the birthday luncheon. Please visit the Arts Festival to admire the talent of our members and support the chapter sales. Remember to welcome new inductees and honor members with 50+ years in our Society. We applaud our sisters' achievements at the awards banquet and appreciate the choral singers. In conclusion, and importantly we gather for the Celebration of Life on Sunday morning. Welcome to our 2025 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year and new DKG member Stefanie Lachenauer who is our keynote speaker during the luncheon. Our International President Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan joins us this weekend! Both of these dynamic women will provide workshops during the afternoon breakout sessions.

There is a proud tradition of women supporting women, supporting education, while "Forward, moving ever!" Education may encompass advocating for women's health and supporting many women from across the state who are diagnosed with breast cancer. On Friday this convention will turn PINK. It is a visible sign of solidarity and a statement of hope, a call for awareness and support.

We inspire one another. The biennial theme is “Inspiration is Contagious.” Rediscover and relish the excitement of membership. Each of us has a story to share about sisters who inspire us. The result is that the inspiration leads to purposeful goals and actions, and bonding in sisterhood. The state convention gives us an opportunity to be inspired, to meet with one another in fellowship.

During the convention, observe our leaders both past and present. Consider becoming a leader in your chapter and/or the state. As a leader you are not alone as there is a network of support and encouragement from your sisters. Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan gave memorable advice during the last international conference, “Be your authentic self, and lead with passion and purpose.”

Congratulations to the chapters who are celebrating anniversaries. Best wishes and a warm welcome to our new inductees. I am grateful to all outgoing and incoming chapter presidents and our awardees. You are remarkable women who sustain the growth, mission, and purposes of DKG.

Enjoy your state convention.

Happy 88th Birthday, New Jersey State Organization!

*Cathy Fortunato*

DKGNJ State President 2025-2027

*"Be progressive. Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. But don't cling to the old when its worth has passed.*

*Don't be a person so set in your ways that nothing can change you."*

*Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, Founder*

**We honor and celebrate our longstanding members  
of 50 years or more!**

**Alpha**

Denise Doychak, 1974  
Peggy Firtion, 1971

**Beta**

Carol Catanio, 1976  
Marion Heath, 1967

**Gamma**

Lorraine Hall 1975

**Epsilon**

Mary Alice Hosking, 1972  
Elba Lane, 1972  
Georgeanna Lewis, 1972

**Zeta**

Rita Herber, 1972

**Eta**

Harlene Galen, 1974  
Faith Steinfort, 1974  
Leona Maffei, 1976

**Lambda**

Dr. Marilyn E. Gonyo, 1971  
Judith Jordan, 1971

**Nu**

Joan M. Smith, 1971

**Xi**

Helen Hudson, 1975

**Omicron**

Eileen Mahan, 1976

**DKGNJ Welcomes our International Representative,  
Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan  
2024-2026 International President**



Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan is a retired high school principal and registered nurse whose career has been defined by an unwavering commitment to education and professional excellence. She began her professional journey as a surgical technology instructor, preparing aspiring healthcare professionals with the practical skills and knowledge required for success in the operating room. Hall-Maughan is a passionate advocate of lifelong learning, a value

demonstrated by her academic achievements, which include an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision, a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelor of Business Administration.

Since joining Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) in 2002, Hall-Maughan has held numerous leadership roles, including Tennessee State President, First

Vice President, and Recording Secretary. As a DKGIEF luminary, she actively advances the Foundation's mission to Educate the World. Her service as International Chair of Finance and International Second Vice President further underscores her dedication to fostering educational excellence and organizational sustainability.

In recognition of her contributions to DKG, Hall-Maughan received the International Achievement Award in 2024. Today, as International President, she continues to lead with passion and vision, inspiring educators worldwide to embark on their own journeys of lifelong learning and leadership.

She resides in Florence, Alabama, with her husband, Steve, and their cherished cats. Together, Beverly and Steve delight in traveling the world, scuba diving, and ballroom dancing - fully embracing adventure both above and below the surface.

### **DKGNJ Welcomes our Keynote Speaker: Stefanie Lachenauer**



Stefanie Lachenauer is the 2025 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year and an educator with nearly 20 years of experience. She has been sharing mindfulness in and out of the classroom with students since 2013. As a frequent national and international conference speaker, Stefanie presents on topics in education ranging from trauma sensitive practices, mindfulness, social emotional learning, and other neuroscience backed practices. She is passionate about supporting students in learning about and appreciating themselves while empowering them to create change in their lives and the world. Her first book, *Let the Glitter Settle: Mindfulness for Teens* was just released in October 2025.



## DKGNJ Convention Schedule

### Friday, April 17, 2026

- 4:00 -7:00 p.m.      Registration (Main Lobby)  
Host Chapters: Gamma, Lambda
- 4:00 pm              Restaurant Opens
- 4:30 p.m.            Set Up for basket raffle (Ballroom)  
Host Chapters: Omicron, Xi
- 5:00 p.m.            Past State Presidents' Dinner (By Invitation)  
Seasonz Restaurant
- 5:30 p.m.            Ticket Sales for the Basket Raffle (Ballroom)
- 6:00 p.m.            Dessert & Coffee Social (Ballroom West)  
Host Chapter: Rho
- 6:15 p.m.            Chorus Rehearsal  
Chair: Laura Perrius
- 6:00 – 7:25 pm      DJ Music (Ballroom)  
Host Chapter: Epsilon
- 7:30 p.m.            Opening Session (Ballroom)
- Flag Salute: Chris Musick  
Welcome: State President: Cathy Fortunato  
International President, Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan  
Message: Lisa Hirkaler – Project DKG Pink
- Basket Raffle (Ballroom)  
Host Chapters: Omicron, Xi

## Saturday, April 18, 2026

- 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own
- 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Registration (Main Lobby)  
Host Chapters: Gamma, Lambda
- 8:00 a.m. Art/Music Festival, Info display set up  
Host Chapters: Epsilon, Zeta  
Chairs: Patty Curtis, Laura Perrius
- 4:00 p.m. *Breakdown of display*  
*Host Chapters: Delta, Epsilon, Zeta*
- 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Induction Rehearsal (East Ballroom)  
Chairs: Angela Castaneda, Carol Boehm
- 8-9 a.m. Chapter Sales
- 9 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Art/Music Festival  
Information display monitoring  
Chairs: Patty Curtis, Laura Perrius  
Host Chapters: Epsilon, Zeta
- 9:00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> General Session (Ballroom)  
Host Chapter: Beta  
International Representative – Dr. Beverly Hall-  
Maughan  
Q & A after business meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Orientation for Inductees  
Chairs: Dr. Denise Furlong, Debbie Snyder
- 10:30-11:45 a.m. Chapter Sales
- 10:30- 11:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions  
  
“Your Passport to Adventure: Off the Beaten Path –  
Exploring the Nature Side of NJ”  
Presenter: Dr. Pamela Albert Devine (Mu)

- “Empowering Resilience: Emotional Intelligence’s Role in Building Self-Awareness and Management”  
Presenter: Dr. Sonia Toledo (guest)
- “The DKG Stipend Awarded Program – The 3 R’s Project: Read, Write and Record”  
Presenter: Lorie Jeskey (Epsilon) & Tracey Holland (Eta)
- “Heart Health For Her”  
Presenter: Camy Kobylinski (Iota)
- Book Discussion #1: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon  
Presenter: Stephanie DeBruyne (Alpha)
- 11:50 a.m. Banner Carriers Assemble (Ballroom Foyer)
- 12:00 noon Birthday Luncheon (Ballroom)  
Host Chapters: Eta, Mu, Nu, Alpha
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. Chapter Sales
- 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Art/Music Festival  
Information display monitoring  
Chairs: Patty Curtis, Laura Perrius  
Host Chapters: Epsilon, Zeta
- 2:30-3:45 p.m.. Breakout Sessions
- “Mothers of Invention”  
Presenter: Carol Simon Levin (guest)
- “Let the Glitter Settle: Bringing Presence and Awareness into our Lives and Learning Spaces”  
Presenter: Stefanie Lachenauer (Lambda) 2025 NJ State Teacher of the Year
- Meet our Delta Kappa Gamma Society International President – “Past, Present, and Future”  
Presenter: Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan

“AI in Education and Beyond”

Presenter: Diana Gross (guest)

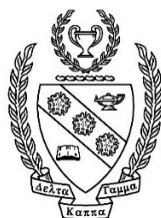
Book Discussion #2 – *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts

Presenters: Kathleen Moon (Omicron) & Joan Pujol (Omicron)

- 5:30 p.m. Inductees, Escorts, Chapter Presidents & State Officers assemble (Ballroom Foyer)
- 6:00 p.m. Induction Ceremony (East Ballroom)  
Chairs: Angela Castaneda, Carol Boehm
- 6:45 p.m. State Officers, Past State Presidents, International President, Chapter Presidents Assemble (Ballroom Foyer)
- 7:00 p.m. New Jersey State Organization of DKG Banquet & Awards Ceremony (Ballroom)  
Host Chapters: Eta, Mu, Nu, Alpha

### **Sunday, April 19, 2026**

- 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own
- 9:00 a.m. Celebration of Life Ceremony (Mirabelle)  
Chairs: Jane Murphy, Pam Watkinson
- 9:45 a.m. Closing Session (Mirabelle)  
Host Chapter: Beta



## 2026 DKGNJ Inductees

*\*Inducted in chapter*

### Alpha Chapter

Jenelle Garcia\*  
Vanessa Suscreba\*  
Natasha Tyjer-Mendez\*

### Gamma Chapter

Maida DePalma\*  
Sandra Estrada  
Corryn Gruber  
Mora Pattik  
Agueda Porras  
Shivonne Peña

### Epsilon Chapter

Alicia Citro  
Alison Ognibene\*  
Michele Tagliabue\*  
Patricia Felth

### Eta Chapter

Jennifer Verme

### Lambda Chapter

Hanan Attiyah  
Stefanie Lachenauer  
Sharmay M. Wood

### Nu Chapter

Tracy Betts\*  
Tracy Feighery  
Jessica Le Grange\*  
Jennifer Pulliam  
Jamie Cahill

### Xi Chapter

Charlotte Hopkins\*  
JoAnn Rocap\*

### Omicron Chapter

Renee Martin

### Rho Chapter

Ashlee Miller

## Chapter Presidents Reports

### Alpha Chapter

It has been an honor and pleasure to have served as Alpha's president for this past biennium. I am extremely grateful for my sisters' dedication and teamwork. Words cannot fully convey my gratitude and appreciation to my sisters for their support, guidance, and encouragement.

For this biennium, our chapter's central goals were to focus on helping others through our service projects and programs. We also took some time to focus on educational and personal growth.

Each summer we came together for book discussions and a swim. A truly wonderful way to launch every year. At each meeting we continued to strive to help others, learn and maintain our involvement in the community. Our programs included NJEA representatives to present programs and discussions on transgender in the classroom, and the immigration impact on students and teachers. All left each meeting with knowledge and helpful advice to be an advocate. We hosted a speaker from 'Strengthening Our Sisters' to help us learn how to meet the needs and give support to abused women and children. After the meeting carloads of donations were delivered to lift the spirits and assist these women and children in need. Alpha also expressed their creativity by creating a no-sew blanket to donate for an auction supporting the charitable work done at St. Peter's Haven.

Our programs have been informative, interesting and even at times entertaining. We relied on our sisters to provide their knowledge, expertise and warmth to keep our meeting attendance high and all of us engaged. But we even ventured beyond our meetings through our enjoyable 'Between the Petals' gatherings. We learned about the interesting historical Butler Museum and even learned how to knit and crochet so we could donate blankets to the Linus Project.

We were delighted to end this biennium by launching our new collaboration with William Paterson University to support early educators through our Grant-in-Aid donations.

We were able to succeed in realizing our goals through the hard work, dedication, compassion and involvement of our sisters. I am extremely proud of my Alpha sisters.

*Laura Perrius*

Alpha Chapter President 2024 - 2026

## **Beta Chapter**

Beta prides itself on being one of the first two chapters formed in New Jersey and looks forward to celebrating our 80th birthday in 2027.

Our 25 members, with over 700 years of combined membership, maintain a dedication to Delta Kappa Gamma and Beta by attending meetings, both in person and using Zoom, as well as supporting our philanthropic endeavors and charitable donations. At every meeting a collection is taken

for a local food pantry, with supplemental funds added from our annual fundraiser. In addition, we have, to date, collected and delivered 14,653 books to BookSmiles, along with monetary donations. This year's Welcome Back goodie bags were delivered to all 35 school districts in Salem County. Beta sisters continue to act as seamstresses, making dresses to be delivered to areas of need by one of our members. Local Meals on Wheels clients are the recipients of our handiwork as we assemble special treat holders each January to be delivered by Beta volunteers.

Some of our recent and upcoming programs include Internet Safety provided by a local detective in the Prosecutor's Office; Will and Estate Planning to be delivered by a lawyer, CPA, and Surrogate; and taking a tour of the recently renovated Salem County Courthouse.

In November one of our Beta sisters, Delise Dare, was recognized for her twelve incredible years of commitment and care to Ranch Hope, serving on their Education Committee. "Her guidance has helped shape programs that make a lasting difference for youth and families across New Jersey."

Each year Beta offers a Grant-in-aid to a junior or senior female undergraduate student. In the past, Rowan University students have been our recipients. We are in the process of extending our reach through collaboration with our Rowan University contact, hoping to reach out to Alumni, as well as current education majors.

Sadly, Beta saw the passing of two sisters this year with 63 combined years of membership. Jody K'Burg and Helen Hall will be greatly missed as we cherish the memories made with them.

Beta members are kept up to date through snail mail, emails, newsletters, Remind app, phone calls, text messages, and web news on our website. Check out all the great things we are doing by visiting our website <https://dkg-betachapter-nj.weebly.com>

*Jo Ann Corvino*

Beta Chapter President 2024-2026

## **Gamma Chapter**

This past year has been a truly remarkable chapter in the story of our Gamma Chapter. We began our journey by gathering for our Founders Day meeting, a poignant moment where we paused to honor the enduring commitment of our sisters. Celebrating those who have reached 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service was a beautiful reminder of the lifelong dedication that defines DKG. We are profoundly grateful for the sisters who continue to share their time, wisdom, and spirit with us.

The warmth of our sisterhood was perhaps most visible during our December gathering. With 35 women in attendance, the evening was filled with laughter and the joy of reconnecting over dinner and our White Elephant raffle. More importantly, we continued our heartfelt support for the Lala & Mimi Pajama Project, turning our fellowship into a meaningful gift for those in need.

Our mission to empower women educators continues to flourish as we expand our circle. This year, we were delighted to welcome back a sister Jessica Myers and celebrate the induction of six new members. We would like to extend a special welcome to Maida DePalma, Sandra Estrada, Corryn Gruber, Mora Pattik, Shivonne Peña and Agueda Porras.

As we look toward the horizon, we have much to anticipate. Our upcoming Social Service event will feature an inspiring visit from a local author, and we will conclude our year with a vibrant meeting focused on the art of craft mocktails—a perfect prelude to summer break—alongside the installation of our new officers.

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I step into the next biennium as your President. Supported by an exceptional Executive Board and the unwavering passion of this chapter, I am honored to lead us into our bright future.

*Angela Castaneda*

Gamma Chapter President 2024-2026

## **Delta Chapter**

Delta Chapter, located in beautiful Cape May County, is happy to report that we have had another successful biennium. Our membership is growing. Our chapter has recently inducted four new members from our local school district. Many of our members are from one district or are retired. We plan to actively recruit current teachers from the other 3 districts in our county. Our meeting participation continues to grow and we have been able to give back to our communities.

Project Read to Me places books in the hands of new parents through donations. Members met several times to pack bags with donated books. We pack bags with both Spanish and English books. Parents and Daycare/Preschools are very happy to receive these books.

Our members ran the snack stand at the summer dance competition. This program raises money to fund our annual scholarship.

Delta chapter hopes to continue to grow in membership this spring and into the new biennium. We also hope to continue fundraising to continue our scholarship program. We are looking forward to a great 2026!

*Amy Giulian*

Delta Chapter President 2024-2026

## **Epsilon Chapter**

Northwest Jersey's Epsilon Chapter has been a cornerstone for educational support and community service in the region. With a focus on teacher outreach, community enhancement, and member engagement, our chapter continues to make significant impacts. Chapter highlights included celebrating our 65th anniversary in 2025, marking decades of service and dedication to the community and education.

Our first year of the biennium introduced our Teacher Outreach Program. Epsilon Chapter focused on providing support to our chapter's active teachers. This initiative aimed to empower educators by offering resources and guidance to enhance their teaching methods and classroom environments. Building on the success of the first year, the second year saw a collaboration with the Montague Regional School District. Together, we provided support in implementing the career readiness curriculum standard through a Career Day event. These efforts aimed to prepare

students for future career paths and enhance their understanding of various professions. Looking ahead, Epsilon Chapter plans to continue its support of active teachers by presenting programs that will equip educators with the latest tools and methodologies to foster innovative learning environments, such as AI in the classroom and student-driven projects.

State President Cathy Fortunato selected breast cancer awareness as one of her biennial focal points. Epsilon sister Lisa Hirkaler leads the breast cancer awareness program, both on the state level and within our local community. Her programs offer informative sessions on self-detection, self-promotion, and community support. To further this cause, Epsilon created DKG PINK t-shirts as a fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Within the community, Epsilon has been actively involved in community service projects. Along with supplying food and supply donations for Manna House, we help prepare and serve meals for those in need. Donations also support DASI and DASACC, local women's shelters.

Epsilon Chapter encourages strong member connections through various social activities, such as our book club, visits to local arts centers, and simply enjoying each other's company over good meals. We are fortunate to have a strong and compassionate chapter. New members come from diverse educational backgrounds, ranging from Pre-K through college in the classroom as well as in administration. This diversity brings insightful opportunities, such as visiting the Holocaust & Genocide Research Center at Kittatinny Regional High School. Epsilon mourns the loss of three beloved members: Jane Phillips, who was also dedicated to the Sussex County 4-H program, Nona Calafiore, long-standing member, and most recently Linda Adams, dedicated former chapter president.

To learn more about Epsilon Chapter and our initiatives, please visit our website, <https://dkgepsilonnj.weebly.com/>. We would love for you to join us for a meeting or social event!

*Patty Curtis*

Epsilon Chapter President 2024-2026

## Zeta Chapter

During our 2024-2026 Biennium Zeta Chapter includes 40 active members as well as 10 reserved members. We are thankful to our Executive Board for their leadership and for a successful biennium. Zeta sisters continued to share warm fellowship as our informative meetings and dynamic speakers enabled us to grow personally and professionally. We are most thankful to the sisters who faithfully contributed by their attendance at chapter and state meetings, contributed to our fundraiser efforts and are always willing to lend a hand to support Zeta Chapter.

Zeta Chapter, established in 1961, will celebrate its 65th birthday this year. We celebrated with sister, Rita Herber on her 50th year membership in DKGNJ at our May 2024 meeting. Iconic sister, Dr. Mary Lee Batesko received the Dedicated Service Award also in the Spring of 2024. This award was well deserved for her many years of dedicated service both at the chapter and state level. Recipients of the Rose Award include Erinn Beyers in 2024, and the Key Award was presented to Kim Corso in 2025. Amy Casais was named 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year at Citta School in Toms River, NJ and retired after 40 years of teaching Special Education students.

Our Summer Fun, Friendship, and Pizza Party was hosted once again by Johanna McCauley at her lovely home. This get together enables us to kick off Zeta's new year and allows sisters the time to bond and socially reconnect with one another.

During this biennium, our chapter meetings included remarkable, informative, and knowledgeable speakers and presentations. The Ocean County Sheriff's Department educated us as to how drones are used to aid in the ability to keep communities safe, as well as aiding law enforcement in various endeavors. These endeavors include finding missing children, elderly adults, the rescue of swimmers and boaters, and crowd control. The program included many drones which were on display, some were quite large.

We visited a Balance Wellness Center, which promotes a holistic health model. Red Light Therapy was discussed and its positive health effects. This center offers chiropractic care, acupuncture, massage therapy, as well as services including infrared sauna, red light therapy and psychology. The

presenter schooled us in the various services and some of our sisters enjoyed some of the services.

Stefanie Lachenauer, 2024-2025 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, and a DKGNJ member presented Zeta sisters with a “Teacher Wellness” program. Her phenomenal presentation left us feeling calm and with a renewed attitude concerning the teaching profession in today’s world. Her book entitled, *Let the Glitter Settle*, focuses on Mindfulness for Teens. Melissa Miller hosted our 2024 and 2025 annual holiday parties in her warm, comfortable, and decorated home which aided in touching off the holiday spirit. We shared great company, delicious food, many laughs and goodwill at both events. Our various service projects were generously supported by Zeta sisters. In December of 2024 gift cards to family restaurants were donated to Dottie’s House located in Ocean County, a program that supports women and children suffering from domestic violence. Unfortunately, Dottie’s House was closed in 2025.

In December 2025 two new donation centers were supported. Namely, The Open-Door Pregnancy Center and the J. Phillip Citta Cancer, through Community Medical Center, both located in Toms River. Sisters donated diapers, wipes, baby food and handmade crocheted baby blankets made by one of our very talented sisters to The Open-Door Pregnancy Center. A monetary donation was made to the Cancer Center’s Boutique to help women suffering from breast cancer.

Our book discussion expert, sister Johanna McCauley led a book discussion entitled *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. The interaction was thought provoking, informative and lively. Jen Goodwin, our always “generous of spirit sister” hosted this meeting in her beautiful new home. Thank you, Johanna, you are an accomplished, awesome, lover of the written word and we are so lucky to have you in our chapter. We are looking forward to our next book discussion with Johanna to discuss the book entitled *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger which will be hosted by Christine Morsch in her warm, comfortable home this spring. Thank you for your generosity in always hosting one of our meetings. Our final meeting will be held in May 2026 when we will install our new officers for our 2026-2028 biennium. Arlene Newman will be our hostess for the evening and therefore we can be assured that the set up will be as wonderful and effective as always. Arlene is the ultimate hostess and has

received us into her home for many meetings over many years. Thank you, Arlene. We will enjoy a catered dinner as well as surprise entertainment by a Zeta sister at this meeting.

Unfortunately, we also experienced a sad moment when we lost our dear sister, Marie Liddicoat, on April 17, 2025. Marie was a treasured DKGNJ member since 1988. An English teacher, Marie retired as an English Supervisor at Butler High School in Butler, NJ. Marie made many contributions to Zeta Chapter and held many positions at the chapter level, including 2nd Vice President during the 2008-2010 biennium, Treasurer from 2002-2006, as well as Recording Secretary from 2006-2008. Marie was the recipient of the Key Award in 2004. She is dearly missed and Zeta Chapter is thankful for her many contributions and dedication to our chapter DKGNJ.

*Kimberly Corso*

Zeta Chapter President 2024-2026

## **Eta Chapter**

I would like to express my gratitude to the Eta executive board for working together to support a successful biennium in our chapter. We have enjoyed social events, speakers with diverse expertise, holiday gatherings and continued our service to the community.

Our speakers educated us on internet safety and the new age of computer scams. We marveled at the Friendship and Gratitude Train presentation given by one of our own chapter members. It was a timely reminder that working together for a common cause can yield amazing results!

A number of Eta members were recognized for their achievements and dedication to the Eta Chapter. We have three members with over 50 years of membership- Dr. Harlene Galen, Leonna Maffei and Faith Steinfert. Tracey Holland is our state scholarship chair and gave a presentation at the DKGNJ convention to help inspire active teachers to follow their passions in educating today's students. We also had several members submit work to the arts festival for all to enjoy. Jane Murphy stepped back into her role as state chair of Necrology. Past president, Jacquie Long, received the Key

Award and Tracey Holland received the Rose Award during this biennium.

Eta Chapter continued to collect books for Book Smiles to spread literacy in New Jersey. We also began several new service projects. Pillowcases are being made for Quilts for Kids. Quilts for Kids is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming fabrics into patchwork quilts to comfort children facing serious illness, trauma, abuse or natural disasters. To date our chapter has created over 100 beautiful pillowcases to go with these quilts. The whole chapter worked together in a variety of ways- donating fabric, pinning, ironing, and of course sewing. Our chapter began supporting The Christian Caring Center in Pemberton by making sandwiches for those in need. Our active teachers had their students create placemats to spread some cheer to all those coming to the center for meals. Eta continued to support Providence House with a holiday gift drive and an annual donation for diapers and wipes to give support for families in need. Another favorite service project continued with our support for Meals on Wheels Loves Pets. Fundraising efforts through Boscov's and Scrip gift card sales helped to support our scholarship funds.

Eta awarded deserving active teachers and future educators scholarship money from our two scholarship funds: Ariana Claypool and Harriet DiLeonardo. Harriet, a beloved educator and longtime member of Eta chapter, lives on through her scholarship fund which supports women educators. These recipients were honored at our annual May dinner meeting.

Our chapter continues to grow slowly but steadily. We gained several new members and are embracing these new educators into our warm and caring chapter. Our October dessert meeting was transformed into a Souper Supper meeting with delicious homemade soups. DKGNJ President, Cathy Fortunato, joined us for our meal and presentation. Our December holiday gathering has an added piece - a white elephant gift exchange that provided lots of fun and laughs. We created handmade cards, continued our annual Bunco game night, and enjoyed a lazy afternoon at a member's beautiful home on the Rancocas Creek. This fall we met for a book chat and book swap night which will be added into our annual calendar of events. New ideas were supported as we blended old and new traditions to reflect the changing times.

Recognition of past chapter presidents who gave so much of their time and energy are underway. Past President's pins are being awarded at our get togethers and general membership meetings. We thank these ladies for keeping our chapter alive and thriving through the years.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be president of the Eta chapter. My thanks to all of my sisters for their help, encouragement and friendship. Eta is truly, "The best of the bunch," as our t-shirts proclaim!

*Karen Gamon*

President Eta Chapter 2024-2026

## **Lambda Chapter**

The Lambda Chapter is composed of 54 women who exemplify excellence in education. Like most of our DKG New Jersey Chapters, Lambda is composed of both actively employed and retired members. As our membership has aged, we are challenged to attract and retain new members who will inject new ideas through advancing educational excellence while also being sensitive to the needs of our communities.

During this past biennium, our very own Catherine Fortunato through the nominations process, has been elevated to the position of DKG NJ State President. Other members of DKG NJ saw in Cathy what we saw in Cathy. She is extremely intuitive and humble all while leading in a firm yet gentle manner. We are all extremely proud of her and excited about the influence that she will have on our organization.

During our Inductees Tea and Orientation, Lambda welcomed three new members. Our new members Hanan Attiyah, Stefanie Lachenauer and Sharmay Wood are all actively employed and offer an awareness and skills that are sure to benefit DKG NJ. We also congratulated Dr. Denise Furlong who was selected by the Graduate School of Education Alumni Association (GSEAA) of Rutgers University, to be one of their two recipients for this year's Distinguished Service Award.

Lambda has explored a variety of topics related to physical and mental health. Alexa Burgess, of Gemini Sisters Farm, presented "A Holistic Approach to Well Being". Alexa encouraged those in attendance to be

mindful of importance related to acquiring and maintaining mental/emotional health.

Aparna Kamular, who is an OT, with a private practice, presented a workshop entitled, “Meet Your Pelvic Floor-The unsung Hero”. Aparna explained the importance of maintaining pelvic health and strength.

Our chapter continues to participate in fundraising events to support our Service Projects. We have chosen to support the Rutger’s Student Food Pantry. Many people assume that college students have security in housing and food, but they are wrong. Many students have reported that the financial responsibility of enrolling in college has left little for securing housing and food. Our donations help to ensure that food is available to those in need. We also support Town Clock’s Education Scholarship Program. Town Clock is an organization that provides affordable, safe housing to survivors of domestic violence. As educators, we know the cost of failing to have basic educational skills. Some of the survivors are under-educated and therefore will have difficulty securing stability, which may force them to return to their previous abusive settings. Through our scholarship support, we can help fund their education.

We continue to provide support through the Early Educators Award [EEA]. This award assists those who are graduating and looking forward to entering the field of education. The students are on the brink of entering the professional field of education but are hampered by difficulty paying the required cost of state testing and certification. Our award helps to defray the cost of testing and certification, freeing them to now become educators.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the loss of our cherished sister, Maryann Mironchik. Maryann was one of the Founders and Charter Members of the Lambda Chapter. Maryann was always willing to help and served numerous positions in our DKG NJ Organization. She left us with sweet memories, and we will all miss her.

*Wilhelmina Bryant*

Lambda Chapter President 2024-2026

## **Mu Chapter**

What a wonderful biennium this has been working with the women leaders of Mu Chapter. We are a small chapter with a big “can do” spirit. Not only do our members chair various offices and committees in our chapter but several members serve at the state level of Delta Kappa Gamma. Elizabeth Flynn and PJ Madreperl continue to serve as State Chairs for the Historian Committee. Dawn Flanders co-chaired the Rules/By-laws Committee at the state level and is currently co-chair of Technology Research and Support. She has presented at the Delta Kappa Gamma NJ State Convention and at other Delta Kappa Gamma chapters in the state. Dr. Pamela Albert Devine continues to take an active role at the state level serving at present Communications/Marketing/Social Media. Pam also facilitates workshops at the Delta Kappa Gamma NJ State Convention.

Being Jersey Shore Girls, our first chapter meetings of the year in August find us donning our flipflops and bringing our beach chairs to Seven Presidents’ Park in Long Branch to conduct a meeting in the late afternoon on the beach. In September where else would we be but apple picking at Eastmont Orchards in Colts Neck. This meeting gave chapter members who are starting the school year and their careers a chance to “walk and talk” with our seasoned educators who offered support by listening, giving advice, donating materials, and sharing ideas. As we were getting an education on the variety of apples, we did not forget our community and picked a bag of apples for Lunch Break in Red Bank. They thanked us for thinking of them. Our most moving event was participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Point Pleasant Beach in October. Wearing our pink DKG MUving Mountains shirts, we were honored that our State President, Cathy Fortunato and her son, John, joined us. Always looking to support students, Mu Chapter met for a Tasting Dinner at the Culinary Institute in Asbury Park hosted and prepared by the culinary

students. Mu Chapter donated to their building fund as they are outgrowing their current location. It seems that quite a few of our meetings evolved into helping the community in various ways.

We are thrilled to welcome two new members to Mu Chapter. Elizabeth Norton is beginning her career as a teacher in the Hamilton School District. Dana Franklino lives in Monmouth County and is a Speech Language Pathologist with the NYC Board of Education. It was a proud moment to see them participate at the induction ceremony at the 2025 Delta Kappa Gamma New Jersey State Convention in Somerset.

We are sad to have recently lost our member, our sister, our colleague, our friend Gayle Hull. She was very involved in Mu Chapter serving on various committees and offices. We have fond memories of Gayle and her service to Delta Kappa Gamma and the teaching profession. Last year we lost a cherished charter member, Lillie Ham Hendry. Lillie had been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 57 years. During that time, she held many offices and chaired many committees. Part of Lillie's legacy was the preservation of the Court Street School in Freehold, a National Historic Site, dedicated to the preservation of history and education of the community. We miss her grace and her stories.

It has been a rewarding time as the president of Mu Chapter. I had such great "Mu sisters" to lean on and learn from during this biennium. They are an inspiration! With these strong women leaders at the helm, Mu Chapter will continue to grow and share that "can do" spirit.

*Carolyn Bennett*

Mu Chapter President, 2024-2026

## Nu Chapter

As I reflect on my biennium, my heart is filled with gratitude for the unwavering support, friendship, and dedication of the executive committee and chapter members. It has truly been both an honor and a privilege to lead such an enthusiastic and compassionate group of women. Every accomplishment we celebrate is the result of our shared commitment, teamwork, and genuine care for one another, and I could not be prouder of all that our chapter has achieved together.

For many years, our chapter proudly embraced the description “small but mighty.” While our spirit remains just as mighty as ever, we can no longer call ourselves small! Through the enthusiasm and outreach of our sisters, we welcomed nine wonderful new members: Tracy Betts, Jamie Cahill, Tracy Feighery, Laurie Ann Hayes, Jill Klischies, Jessica Le Grange, RoseAnn Musto, Jennifer Pulliam, and Brigitte Watson. Additionally, we added two outstanding transfer members from Sigma: Carol Bastian and Laura Montgomery. Each of these women brings unique talents, perspectives, and energy to our sisterhood, and we are truly blessed to have them as part of Nu Chapter. We eagerly look forward to the many ways they will enrich our chapter in the years ahead.

Our chapter continues to thrive through meaningful philanthropic service and joyful fellowship. For the past two years, our President’s Project has supported Distributing Dignity, a South Jersey–based nonprofit dedicated to helping women maintain the dignity every individual deserves. Our members generously collected bras and personal care items to support women who may not otherwise have access to these essentials. The kindness and generosity shown by our sisters beautifully reflects our shared mission of women supporting women. During the Christmas season, our chapter partners with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society to help bring joy and comfort to local families. Each fall, we collect food items to help restock a local high school food pantry after the summer months. We also gathered toiletries for Crossroads and Providence House, shelters that provide vital support for youth and women in our community. These ongoing efforts demonstrate our deep commitment to service and remind us how powerful our collective compassion can be.

Supporting education remains the very heart of who we are. Our grants

continue to benefit both educators and students within the Lenape Regional High School District and its K–8 sending districts. We proudly provide \$25 Staples gift cards to the new K-8 teachers as they begin the exciting journey of preparing their classrooms. Each year, we award a \$1,000 classroom grant to support innovative projects that inspire student learning and creativity. Finally, we annually present a \$1,000 grant-in-aid to a female high school senior pursuing a career in education, helping to encourage and support the next generation of educators.

In addition to our service, we cherish opportunities to learn and grow together. This past summer, members enjoyed a meaningful visit to the Peter Mott Underground Railroad Museum in Lawnside, where we deepened our understanding of local history and the remarkable courage of those who sought and supported freedom. In October, we were honored to tour Drumthwacket, the New Jersey Governor’s Mansion, and in February, members enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Princeton University Art Museum. Each March, we continue our tradition of participating in a Combined Workshop with four neighboring chapters, strengthening friendships and sharing ideas that help our chapters flourish.

Our chapter also remains committed to growth and reflection. We updated our SAP and proudly submitted seven Impact Projects to International, allowing us to share the many ways Nu Chapter serves and supports others. We are currently compiling a new chapter directory featuring member photos, helping our new members put names to faces.

We are especially proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of several members. Debbie Thomas was named Shawnee Employee of the Month for April 2025. Amy Mosser, the 2025-2026 Lenape Regional High School District and Burlington County Teacher of the Year, continues to inspire students and colleagues through her excellence in education. In June 2025, Gail Griffin was honored as an inductee into the inaugural Academic Hall of Fame at Seneca High School, a well-deserved recognition of her lasting impact. Vicki Shoemaker was celebrated with a mural dedicated in her honor at Tabernacle Elementary, recognizing not only her devotion to teaching but also her dedicated service on the Board of Education.

From warmly welcoming new members and celebrating the achievements of our sisters, to serving our community and supporting educators and

students, Nu Chapter continues to demonstrate the strength, compassion, and dedication of the seven purposes that define DKG. As we look toward the future, we are excited to build upon our traditions of service, fellowship, and excellence. While we may no longer be small, our hearts remain mighty, and together we will continue to make a meaningful difference.

*Ingrid Williams*

Nu Chapter President 2024-2026

## **Xi Chapter**

It's so hard to believe that my second biennium as President of Xi Chapter is coming to a close. Our chapter has been busy with fundraising, volunteer work and social events. Every October, we hold a full-day event called Scrappy Saturday in which folks sign up and pay to work on their scrapbook projects. That is uninterrupted for up to 11 hours! We provide the space, tables, Wi-Fi, and three meals. We also have vendors who sell their scrapbook related items. We start months ahead of time to secure permission from the Northfield Community School in Northfield to use their cafeteria.

During this event, our sisters donate baskets for a silent auction. Most members donated food, money and/or their time to prepare and serve the three meals. In 2025, we gave away four Teachers Helping Teachers classroom grants, each valued up to \$250. The winners came to our March 2025 meeting and enthusiastically explained their projects. They enjoyed food, pictures and conversation with our members. All were given information about the DKG-XI Chapter. We also awarded two female students from Stockton University \$750 awards to help defray the cost of professional clothes, certificate and fingerprinting fees. Perhaps some of the money was enough to set up their first classroom. We are giving away Teachers Helping Teachers grants again this year as well as awards to two student teachers.

This year we addressed the food inequity in our community which affects our students in our local school district. We volunteered with the Community Food Bank during the summer, so our community has food for the students throughout the summer. We collected canned goods for our local Methodist church for our senior citizens. Our fundraisers this year,

including our scrapbooking day and selling Boscov coupons, gave us the chance to donate funds to several deserving food banks including the New Jersey Community Food Bank and “No 1 Hungry in EHC” food pantry. We also helped to buy holiday presents for the students at our local elementary school. We donated new and gently used books as well as individually wrapped new board and picture books as a holiday gift for each child, from infants to preschoolers at Atlantic City Day Nursery Center. We implemented a new service project that entails placing flags at our Veterans Cemetery on national holidays. This event gives us great joy to celebrate and remember the men and women who protect our freedoms.

Our most enjoyable meeting throughout the year is “Beach Day in Strathmere” where we celebrate each other. We have incorporated “Novel Tea” throughout the year and have experienced history, women’s rights and opinions about our society. The books are picked by our sisters who come out and enjoy fabulous teas, tea sandwiches and oodles and oodles of delicious desserts.

In closing, being a sister and president of the DKG-XI Chapter has been a world- wide experience. Since many of us are retired, we share our experiences traveling while our active members can’t wait to retire and join our adventures. We have reached out to sisters who have left our chapter and have been successful with asking them back. We are always looking for active teachers who would like to join us and we extend the invitation to check us out and join our worthwhile Society. My motto is “don’t wait to live in retirement, live now”. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a leader in this organization.

*Diane Brunetti*

Xi Chapter President, 2024-2026

## Omicron Chapter

Omicron Chapter has had a very busy and productive biennium. We have increased in membership to 36 members, and our new members are dynamic and energetic. Our meeting topics included a presentation on breast cancer by a member who is a survivor, a River Lady cruise, an outing to see a Buddy Holly show, also attended by Zeta and Xi members, and weaving instruction. At our Christmas meeting, we had a fun and informative presentation on Kool Kitchen Science.

We continue to support our charities. We have donated many books to Book Smiles in support of the state program. Our Books for Babies program, which has been in existence for over 20 years, continues to provide book bags to new mothers at a local hospital. These bags include a primary book, suggested readings for young children, and information on joining the library. This year, we received a thank-you note from the hospital stating the impact our bags could have on the literacy of young children.

Another of our charities is Providence House, which provides help to women who are victims of domestic violence. This year, we donated money and gift cards as well as items from their wish list. We also presented a mini-grant to an Omicron member under the SEE (Supporting Early Educators) Program and continue to support the International Education Fund. We collect items for local food banks. Every year, we present a \$500 scholarship to a student from one of our local high schools to be used in pursuit of a degree in education.

We have three charter members, Betty Gill, Joanne Hill, and Patricia Rahn. We treasure them for their past – and present – contributions. How blessed we are to still have their wisdom and support available! We are very sad that one of our most distinguished and supportive members – Dr. Barbara Wheeler - has died. She was a wonderful and wise member and friend and will be missed.

*Beth Selfridge*

Omicron Chapter President 2024-2026

## Pi Chapter

Pi Chapter remained an active and engaged chapter throughout the 2024–2026 biennium, continuing to focus on meaningful service to our community while strengthening the connections within our sisterhood. Our gatherings reflected both purpose and fellowship, reminding us that our relationships are at the heart of all we do.

Over the course of the biennium, we held four general membership meetings, each offering a unique opportunity to celebrate, reflect, and reconnect. Our Fall Dinner marked the start of the school year with warmth and enthusiasm. An after-holiday dessert evening, graciously hosted by Barbara Priggemeier, allowed us to gather in the spirit of the season. Connie Erickson welcomed members to our Annual New Member Tea, a cherished tradition that highlights growth and renewal within our chapter. We also proudly celebrated our 40th Birthday Dinner, honoring the legacy and longevity of Pi Chapter. At each meeting, time was intentionally set aside for fellowship, including our much-loved “Celebration Sack,” where sisters shared personal milestones and family news, strengthening the bonds that unite us.

Service remains a cornerstone of Pi Chapter’s mission. Throughout the biennium, we supported a variety of important community initiatives. We raised funds for the Annual Breast Cancer Walk each October and continued our longstanding commitment to donating food to the Ronald McDonald House. Through Backpacks for Kids, we provided weekend meals to families in need, and we awarded stipends to early career educators as they begin their professional journeys. Our partnership with BookSmiles also continues, with members collecting books throughout the year to promote literacy and access for children. In addition, our book club selects relevant and engaging titles, gathering regularly for thoughtful and lively discussion.

Recognizing membership milestones is a treasured tradition at our Birthday Dinner. During this biennium, we were delighted to honor Diane Camiolo and Bobbie Travaline for 30 years of dedicated membership and service. We look forward to celebrating additional sisters at our June 2026 Dinner, where members marking 30, 20, and 15 years of membership will be recognized for their continued commitment to Pi Chapter and Delta Kappa Gamma.

In addition to our service and meetings, Pi Chapter enjoyed enriching and creative fellowship activities. Members participated in a presentation on Artificial Intelligence led by Karli Fratz, explored creativity through a card-making workshop hosted by Barbara Priggemeier, and engaged in a pumpkin floral design project, among other shared experiences. These activities not only foster learning but also deepen our sense of community.

As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate the installation of our officers who will continue to lead Pi Chapter with dedication and vision. Together, we remain committed to service, professional growth, and the enduring strength of sisterhood.

*Dr. Amy Fratz*

Pi Chapter President, 2024-2026

## **Rho Chapter**

Rho began the new biennium with its annual “Beginning of Summer” Picnic at the home of Joanne Hyland. New officers were installed, and members had a wonderful time socializing, eating, and swimming in Joanne Hyland’s beautiful pool!

Our 2024 fall gathering was well attended at Capuano’s Italiano Ristorante in Flemington. Guest speaker Shelly Glass presented a workshop on teacher stress and anxiety with great tips on reducing stress and the mental load of teaching. Members also collected diapers, cash, and gift cards for our ongoing chapter project to support The Center for Great Expectations. Rho’s very own Mary Jean DiRoberto is the Katy’s Place Program Manager at CGE’s trauma informed on-site licensed child development center. They do great work with women and their children who are healing from addiction and domestic abuse.

Our 2025 Inductee’s tea was well-attended. Joanne Hyland, past president, presented information about the DKG International’s “Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning & Success,” which supports girls’ education initiatives in Africa. We also planned for the 40th anniversary celebration of Rho Chapter in 2026, selecting a date and a group of sisters to plan the function. Our celebration will be held on May 30, 2026. A slide presentation of our chapter through the years has been planned.

Our local food pantries have been inundated with families needing assistance during 2025. A new chapter project was started in 2025 to support families with food insecurity throughout Hunterdon County. Rho members brought groceries and personal care items to each chapter meeting and donated them to the Flemington Food Pantry. We have collected 140 pounds of food and personal care items so far. Sisters will continue to support this worthy cause during the next biennium.

Rho chapter continued with two fundraisers this biennium. Dena Breslin, an honorary member of Rho offers her profit from Touchstone Jewelry sales each year at our Holiday Dinner. The jewelry is made from beautiful Swarovski crystals and is a popular event for Rho and the restaurant workers where we have the dinner! Each year, this fundraiser raises enough to give our five local Hunterdon County High Schools a grant-in-aid scholarship for senior girls planning a career in education. For 2025, Rho increased the amount to \$250.00 per student. Dena also generously donated the DKG membership fee to our newest member, Ashlee Miller who joined us in 2025. Ashlee started her first teaching position at Kingwood Township School in the fall of 2025.

Our second fundraiser was the sale of Pashmina scarves. This year, Rho included a pale pink rose Pashmina for sale to support Cathy Fortunato's state project of breast cancer awareness. They are quite lovely.

Finally, our Rho Chapter sisters continued to be much involved in professional activities, accolades, and leadership roles that contribute to education. The following members received pins for 25 years of membership: Susan Johnson, Susan Grassi, and Mary Jean DiRoberto. Dr. Kate Zimmerbaum successfully defended her dissertation and received her Doctor of Letters with a concentration in Literary Studies in 2024. Rho member Anita Petersen was chosen as the Teacher of the Year in 2025 for Raritan Valley Community College. Maryann Sajor became the vice president of our local Hunterdon County Retiree's Education Association. Finally, Gargi Adkhari was selected to serve on the following at the state level: NJDOE Elementary NJSLA-S Advisory Committee, NJDOE Member of the Board of Examiners, NJ Commissioner's Teacher Advisory Council, NJSTA Elementary Member at Large, and recently selected to ISTE+ASCD Generation AI STEAM Communities of Practice for Educators. Rho members are proud of their accomplishments! We are a

small, but tight-knit DKG Chapter dedicated to the principles of our Society!

*Crystal DiBetta*

Rho Chapter President 2024–2026

### ***In Memoriam***

	<b>Inducted</b>	<b>Deceased</b>
<b>Alpha Chapter</b>		
Dr. Esther Guerin	1976	2/3/2026
<b>Beta Chapter</b>		
Helen Hall	2000	3/27/2025
Dr. Joann “Jody” K’Burg	1986	2/2/2025
<b>Delta Chapter</b>		
Gerry Erichson	1997	6/8/2025
<b>Epsilon Chapter</b>		
Linda Adams	2003	1/30/2026
Nona Calafiore	1985	1/6/2026
<b>Zeta Chapter</b>		
Dr. Marie Liddicoat	1988	4/17/2025
<b>Lambda Chapter</b>		
Mary Ann Mironchik	1967	7/27/2025
<b>Mu Chapter</b>		
Gayle Hull	1997	1/29/2026
<b>Omicron Chapter</b>		
Dr. Barbara Wheeler	2018	2/2/2026

## Rules of Order for the 2026 Convention

- A quorum for this convention meeting consists of the majority of the members who have registered at the convention.
- Committee reports are limited to three (3) minutes.
- Every registered member may make motions, add to discussions and vote.
- All persons addressing the chair shall stand and state their name and chapter.
- All motions, amendments and resolutions shall be presented to the chairs or presiding officer in written form before a vote is taken and shall be signed by the individual or chair of the group presenting such a motion.
- No second is needed when the motion comes from the committee.
- All motions shall become part of the Recording Secretary's file.
- On speaking to a motion, each person shall be limited to five (5) minutes.
- The discussion time for any proposed amendments to the governing documents will be limited to ten (10) minutes.
- No person shall speak more than twice to the same motion.







INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**

**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SONG**

WORDS BY ANNIE WEBB BLANTON & CORA M. MARTIN  
MUSIC BY LILLIAN MOHR FOX



Women teachers to the calling,  
Firmly Rally never falling,  
Duty ne'er upon us palling,  
Staunch, courageous we!  
Loyalty and trust e'er heeding,  
Mindful of our sisters needing,  
Aid and guidance from those leading,  
Helpful may we be!

Oh Delta Kappa Gamma  
Faith we pledge forever!  
Hand in hand our loyal band,  
Forward moving ever!  
Onward! tis our sisters need us,  
Courage, Faith, and Honor lead us!  
Wrongs in truth and justice heed us,  
Firmly shall we stand!

Guardians of the faith yet sleeping,  
For our sisters watch e'er keeping,  
Deeds of others now we're reaping,  
We for others stand!  
To us pioneers have given;  
We return their gifts to heaven;  
Work for others is the leaven,  
That inspires our band!

Oh, Delta Kappa Gamma,  
In the fold we gather!  
Unity and Liberty,  
Shall be our watch words ever!  
Education e'er we'll further,  
Each is bound to each as brother,  
With this faith in one another,  
We shall win, for aye!