



# New Jersey State Organization

*"Inspiration is Contagious"*

## **DKGNJ State Meeting Steinert HS, Hamilton Township January 3, 2026**

**9:30 - 10:00 Registration/Fellowship**

**10:00 am Call to Order by President Cathy Fortunato.**

**Pledge of Allegiance led by Chris Musick**

**Motivational Thought: Wilhelmina Bryant** exhorted us all to celebrate the DKG song as it challenges us to unite members in the continuous process of change to keep the organization relevant, improve education, and sustain the organization. She finished with the singing of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Song* as Diane Roberts accompanied on keyboard.

**Roll Call: Betty Monaghan** Every chapter was present with the president or her representative except Delta and Iota. A total of 51 members were in attendance.

**Cathy Fortunato** stated that there was a minor correction made in the minutes from September 6, 2025: a member had been listed with an incorrect chapter. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report: Ellen Hahn** gave the report. There were no questions, and she filed it as usual.

**Corresponding Secretary: Cathy Cleenput** reported on cards sent out recently and received. She asked that members contact her with anything noteworthy that should have a card sent out.

**President's Report: Cathy Fortunato.**

**Welcome!** I wish all of you a happy new year starting with this time together.

During the September meeting, New Jersey state donated \$70.00 each to the DKG World Fellowship and the GIRLS Funds (Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success). Thank you for your generosity. A strictly voluntary collection will be taken again today.

**Let's Get Excited!** The DKG International President, Dr. Beverly Hall-(Mawn) Maughan will be our guest at the state convention. Our State Convention for the weekend of April 17-19, 2026.

We need your help for a successful state convention:

- Encourage your chapter sisters to attend. It is a memorable and meaningful experience. Come and meet our International President.

- The convention responsibilities for each chapter will be distributed today and questions answered during the Convention Committee breakout session with Jan Paxton (Alpha) and Sue Davis (Epsilon).
- There is an opportunity to attend the convention workshop programs or book discussions. Wait until you see the list! It will be distributed today during the breakout session with Diane Roberts (Omicron). Remind members to register early as workshops close when full.
- Donate one large basket worth \$100.00 or more and two small baskets worth at least \$25.00 each. The basket auction is the state's only fundraiser (Omicron and Xi).
- Wear PINK on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> to support the DKG Pink Project, Lisa Hirkaler (Epsilon).
- Ask your members to contribute to the Convention Art Festival. Patty Curtis (Epsilon) and Laura Perrius (Alpha) will provide specific instructions.
- Send specific information to me (Lambda) if you plan to sell chapter fundraiser items on Saturday.
- Send two lists to Carol Schwartz (Gamma). For the Parade of Banners, add who will have the honor of carrying your chapter banner and three sentences about your chapter. Also, provide her a list of your chapter sisters who have 50+ years of membership in our society.
- Send the new inductee information to Angela Castaneda (Gamma) and Carol Boehm (Lambda).
- Send Form 2 and other required information to Necrology Chairs Jane Murphy (Eta) and Pam Watkinson (Rho).

**Other state news:**

Congratulations to Diane Roberts for the Impact (Project) Spotlight Project published on the DKG website. We now have 9 shared projects from New Jersey thanks to Epsilon, Lambda, Nu, and Omicron Chapters.

Congratulations to our New Jersey artists whose works were published in the DKG Fall Gallery: Patty Curtis (Epsilon), Tracey Holland (Eta), and Michele Contala (Lambda).

Articles for the State Winter Newsletter are due by January 5<sup>th</sup> to Shannon Pizzuta (Iota).

The motion to eliminate the position of Exhibits/Record Books State Chair will be published in the Winter Newsletter and on the state website. The vote will take place during the state convention.

Our next state meeting is June 6, 2026, and will focus Leadership Development/Training

Internet security is being addressed. Our Technology Chair, Dawn Flanders (Mu) offered concise and valuable advice to follow for prevention tactics. A future program presentation is already planned.

**DKG International news:**

- DKG has an Inside International monthly zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. NEW! Starting in January, DKG will have an Inside Leadership monthly zoom meeting on the third Thursday. The discussion this month will be **Developing Future Leaders**.
- IMPORTANT- The DKGIEF (International Educators Foundation) is requesting a New Jersey State Ambassador to ensure a strong, two-way relationship between the Foundation and each state organization. So far, 35 states are represented. Let's add New Jersey to the list. Let me know if you would like to volunteer to be our ambassador.

Susan Davis (Epsilon) asked if the Ambassador meetings would be in person or virtual. Cathy Fortunato answered that they are virtual.

- Plan now to attend the International Convention in Aurora, Colorado on June 30-July 4, 2026. Registration is now open.

**Program: Claire Swanson.** Topic: How Healthy is Your Chapter? Analyzing your chapter strengths and weaknesses and developing strategies to strengthen your chapter. This slide presentation is [linked here](#).

**10:50 - 11:20** Breakout Sessions were held for the following: Chapter Presidents, EEC/Program Planning, Membership, and Convention Committee.

#### **11:20 Committee Reports:**

##### **1. EEC/Program Planning Report: Diane Roberts.**

The Program Planning Committee has selected a wonderful and diverse group of presentations for the convention. Make sure to register early to experience your top choices.

##### **2. Membership: Chris Musick.**

Each state has been charged with the challenge of bringing in 100 new members by 2029, DKG's Centennial birthday. If every chapter inducts the same number of people that they have in the past three years, we will achieve this goal. Please note, if your chapter number decreases, those "spots" will also have to be filled to meet this impressive challenge. Let's work toward NJ being a "centennial" state.

When bringing new members, ask if they have a friend who would want to join them.

February 1, 2026 - new member induction information due.

At convention, we will be honoring chapters with milestones: Zeta 65 years, Omicron 45 years, Nu 55 years, Xi 45 years, and Rho 40 years.

Please let Chris Musick know if your chapter has any members with 50 years in DKG or who have passed.

##### **3. Bylaws: Wilhelmina Bryant gave the report for Dr. Barbara Glazewski.**

Proposal for Article IX

Section A. Standing Committees, 1. Society business, d. Exhibits and Record books

Current Language: d. Exhibits and Record books

Proposed Language: The elimination of this standing committee as well as the list of duties in Section C part d.

There will be no financial impact now or in the future.

#### 4. Communications: Dr. Pam Albert Devine.

##### · Social Media: Pamela Albert Devine.

Latest Social Media Statistics

**Facebook:** [NewJerseyStateOrganizationDKG](#) which has **224 followers (31 more that this time last year and 10 more since September!! Up 3.2% in the past 90 says!)**

**In the last 90 days views were up by 73% and if there is a photo attached the viewing rate was 59.9%**

By age category the breakdown is as follows:

65+ 51.4 up from 49.7%

45-54 17.1 up from 16.3%

55-64 15.3 down from 14.8%

35-44 11.4 down from 13.2%

25-34 .05% same

Since our September meeting, the **Top Viewed Post** was the DKG NJ booth at the NJEA Convention and had the highest number of views **1,479 views!!!**

The New Jersey State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma in Atlantic City was second with 1,104 views!

Epsilon Chapters post about volunteering to cook & serve meals at Manna House was third with **924 views!**

Most recently the CTAUN Webinar post had **822 views!**

**Twitter:** New Jersey State Organization DKG [@NJStateOrgDKG](#) which has **72 followers**, up two since September.

**Instagram:** [dkg.nj](#) which has 39 followers (up five from last September.)

· Special thanks to the chapters that have been sending information for social media and especially to Epsilon, Lambda, Mu and Nu!! Also to the ETA Chapter of Alpha Zeta State -NJ who have been a top fan for 14 months in a row!

· Again, all chapters and members are encouraged to send exciting news for our webpage, newsletter, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to:

Communications Chair: Pamela Albert Devine (Mu) [pamela.albertdevine@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.albertdevine@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Jan Paxton (Alpha) [alphazetastate@gmail.com](mailto:alphazetastate@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Shannon Pizzuta (Iota) [dkgneditor@gmail.com](mailto:dkgneditor@gmail.com)

· I try to repost things that I see in chapter posting, however, PLEASE send me any photos of information from your chapter, especially if you are posting it on your website or social media

that is what our members really want to see! The saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words” ....is really true when it comes to social media.

Chapters are encouraged to promote our accounts at their chapter meetings and offer guidance to members who may need assistance in setting up additional social media accounts.

**5. Finance: Joan Oehm.**

Wilhelmina Bryant made a motion to approve the budget for 2026 and 2027. The budget had been sent out to the Executive committee 2 weeks before this meeting. Ingrid Williams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

**6. Induction Ceremony: Angela Castenada and Carol Boehm.**

They encourage all members and inductees to attend and be represented at the induction practice.

**7. Necrology Report: Pam Watkinson.**

a. Necrology Form 2 is due February 1, 2026. Every chapter should submit one, even if they have no deaths to report.

b. If any chapter has lost a member since Feb. 1, 2025, there should be a Form 6 on file with me, our state treasurer Ellen Hahn, and DKG International.

c. Any chapter who has lost a member should submit a copy of a tribute by March 1, 2026.

Included with the tribute should be the names of the writers and the readers.

d. Framed photos of the departed sisters will be needed. The Celebration of Life Ceremony will be held on Sunday morning of the state convention.

Future Actions:

A reminder email will be sent to the Chapter Necrology Chairs to remind them of the information given orally at the DKGNJ meeting on January 3, 2026.

Try to have someone from your chapter go to a memorial service for a member who has passed.

Cathy Fortunato thanked Pam Watkinson and co-chair Jane Murphy as Necrology has been updated on the website from 2019 to 2024.

**8. NJEA Convention follow-up : Diane Roberts.**

One hundred and sixty names were gathered at the NJEA convention. These names were organized by county and sent to each chapter in hopes we will be able to gain some new members. Thanks to all who contributed through donations, participation or stopping by at the convention.

**9. Scholarship: Susan Relles and Wilhelmina Bryant.** It was a very disappointing year as only 2 applications were received for the Margaret Abel Scholarship, even though they had reached out to colleges and universities asking them to post the information on their websites.

**10. Special Awards:**

**Luella Vengenock** gave the report on the Rose Award. This year the Rose Award will be given at the 2026 State Convention in April.

**Barbara Henderson** informed us that the committee has chosen a winner for the Dedicated Service Award. The medallion has been ordered, and the price went up \$2.

**11. World Fellowship: Diane Roberts shared Gail Starr's Report.**

This year, \$4000 grants awarded to 14 women scholars as well as 10 second year \$800-\$1000 extension grants.

World Fellowship grants are fully funded by DKG member donations.

In late October, chapters were emailed a DKG donation form 43, three seasonal correspondence cards, and a list of 2-3 World Fellowship recipients to contact during the school year.

Chapters are encouraged to do three things:

1. Share World Fellowship information at a chapter meeting
2. Make a chapter donation
3. Contact their assigned World Fellowship recipients three or more times during the year

**12. UN/CTAUN: Arlene Neuman** invites us to join a webinar on Saturday January 24, 2026 at 11am on Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom. This webinar is the first in a series on AI hosted by CTAUN. Details are posted on [teachun.org](https://teachun.org).

**13. Convention Report: Jan Paxton and Sue Davis.**

Jan is responsible for the convention booklet again this year. I will be sending out specific information and instructions to specific people later in January, but the general outline is that this year it is Chapter Presidents Reports. State Committee reports do not get published this year. I will need reports from the presidents of each chapter. I will also need reports from Necrology and Induction with the names of those being remembered and inducted this year. I will also need the 50+ year member's names, so chapter membership chairs can help Chris Musik get me that information.

To keep the website current, it is important that people sending information to Shannon for the newsletter copy me ([alphazetastate@gmail.com](mailto:alphazetastate@gmail.com)) on everything, especially forms and photos! Anything related to Convention needs to come to me, also.

**Report- US Forum: Carmela DeMarco** shared an invitation to a seminar from March 8 - 11, 2026 at the Embassy Suites in Alexandria, VA. Then there will be a Day on the Hill. Information is on the website.

**New Business:**

**Dissolution of Iota Chapter.** Cathy Fortunato thanked Denise McDermot and her executive committee for many years of service. Laura Perrius(Alpha) made the motion to dissolve Iota Chapter. Crystal DiBetta (Rho) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

**Patty Curtis (Epsilon)** announced that Epsilon has DKG Pink T shirts for sale. She also reported that the Arts Festival had over 30 pieces last year and that this year there will be performances as well.

**Claire Swanson** reported that a preliminary draft of changes to the bylaws is on the DKG website. All are encouraged to review and comment.

**Adjournment:** Susan Relles (Lambda) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Henderson (Epsilon) seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:24pm.

**Respectfully submitted by**  
**Betty Monaghan**  
**DKGNJ Recording Secretary**