



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

*"Reimagine Our Future and Reignite Our Purpose"*

**DKGNJ State Meeting**

**April 5, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by President Irene Maskaly (Iota) at 9:00. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

First Vice President Cathy Fortunato (Lambda) lead the pledge of allegiance.

**MOTIVATIONAL THOUGHT**

Motivator Catherine Cleenput (Alpha) welcomed all attendees to the convention and invited us all to greet every new day as an opportunity to fully live in each moment, to look at all beings with eyes of compassion, and to do so with a smile! (Attached)

**ROLL CALL**

Recording Secretary Chris Musick (Nu) conducted the roll call. Those present are recorded below with (X), and those not present are marked with (O).

X	President	Irene Maskaly	X	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Cathy Fortunato
X	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Diane Roberts	X	Recording Secretary	Chris Musick
X	Corresponding Secretary	Luella Vengenock	X	Treasurer	Ellen Hahn
X	Parliamentarian	Dr. Barbara Glazewski	O	Immediate Past President	Dr. Nora Pollard
X	Alpha	Laura Perrius	X	Beta	JoAnn Corvino
X	Gamma	Angela Castaneeda	O	Delta	Amy Giulian
X	Epsilon	Patty Curtis	X	Zeta	Kimberely Corso
X	Eta	Karen Gamon	X	Iota	Denise McDermott
X	Lambda	Carol Boehm	X	Mu	Carolyn Bennett
X	Nu	Ingrid Williams	O	Xi	Diane Brunetti
X	Omicron	Beth Selfridge	O	Pi	Dr. Amy Fratz
X	Rho	Crystal DiBetta			

Total attendance: 87 members (7 Executive Board, 12 Chapter Presidents, 68 Chapter Members)

## **Minutes of January 4, 2025**

The minutes from our January 4, 2025 state meeting were reviewed by the state appointed committee and distributed electronically. Hearing no corrections, the minutes are approved as distributed and will be filed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Corresponding Secretary Luella Vengnock (Beta) reported the following:

Correspondence sent:

(6) Sympathy cards

(14) Invitations for special seating at convention to Past State Presidents (snail mail)

E-mail sent for special seating at Convention to Committee Chairs.

Luella is still working on finalizing the Jersey Girl Dinner for the New Orleans Conference.

Please contact Luella with any card-worthy news from your chapter.

## **RULES OF ORDER**

Parliamentarian Dr. Barbara Glazewski (Lambda) read the rules of order.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Ellen Hahn (Beta) reported the following balances:

Starting Balance	\$ 7858.31
Total Receipts	\$ 22958.74
Disbursements	\$ 23487.46
Balance on hand as of 3/17/25	\$ 7329.59

The report will be filed for audit.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has guided me in this position. I've been fortunate to have an amazing supportive team to work with, starting with the executive officers, the chapter presidents, the committee chairs and finally, all the members of this organization. I thank you all!

I continue to be awed at the leadership and creativity that occurs on a regular basis.

As President, the time flies by, sometimes a bit of a roller coaster ride, but always knowing that there are MANY supportive members to guide me is HUGE! And for that, I thank you all!.

The executive board has listened to and acted upon member-inspired ideas and suggestions. I'm sure many of you have noticed some new initiatives, blending time honored traditions with a new twist. One of these is our member arts festival organized by chairs Patty Curtis and Laura Perrius. This is their second year of inspiring us with their vision and I want to take a moment to thank them for their hard work in organizing this event. I hope you take a moment to enjoy the visual and musical presentations throughout the day. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Mary Lou LeCompte (Lambda) and Michele Contala (Lambda) for the creation of my digital yearbook. The slide show they created will be playing during the arts festival. I would also like to thank Beta Chapter for hosting the business meetings for us this weekend.

Our next state meeting will take place at Steinert High School on May 31st. This will be a portfolio exchange session and a chance for the chapter officers to meet with your newly elected administrative team. Guess What?? This evening, I will be sworn in as your state nominations chair! None of you are safe! But seriously... the search for state officers for the 2027-2029 biennium begins! That sounds so far away but it will be upon us in no time! Holding a state office is a privilege that's open to all active members. It is a remarkable experience allowing you to try out your leadership skills in a safe and supportive environment. Self-nominations are accepted as are nominations from other members (just be sure you check with the person you are nominating before submitting her name). The nominations form will be posted shortly on the DKGNJ website. Please feel free to speak to me this weekend if you have any questions.

The International Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 31st to August 2nd. I highly encourage you to attend these events as they give you a better idea of the bigger picture, of what DKG and its global reach is all about. Please check the schedule of events, and registration on the International Website.

Finally, thank you for your support and encouragement. You have truly made my biennium enjoyable and fun. Thank you!

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Program Planning**

First vice-president Cathy Fortunato (Lambda) presented her report.

There are a variety of interesting, innovative, and impactful presentations offered today which serve the purposes of the Society. Between the presenters and the facilitators, there are 12 chapters contributing to the convention workshop programs. Among the presenters, there are two notable guests, Ben and Shelly, and eight sisters, all leading exciting presentations. We have two New Jersey County Teachers of the Year and one New Jersey State Teacher of the Year among the presenters today. Thanks to all who offered to volunteer their time and expertise for our benefit. If you need Professional Development Hours Documentation, there is a request list provided in each workshop. Please fill out the evaluation forms provided by Jan Paxton on our state website. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Our Keynote Speaker is Victoria Kessler from the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. Victoria will address the challenges and benefits of teaching about the Holocaust and Genocides by using the New Jersey Department of Education Curriculum Guide to Teach with Confidence. On behalf of the committee, we hope you find today's convention programs valuable. Thanks to all attendees and enjoy YOUR convention!

Future Action(s)

1. Collect sheets from facilitators.
2. Thank you notes to presenters by mail. Michele Contala photos on cards
3. Thank you notes to facilitators by mail.
4. Send in the mail PDH certificates to workshop attendees by request.
5. Review convention evaluation results.
6. Prepare folder and USB to give to Diane Roberts at the state meeting on May 31, 2025.

## **Educational Excellence**

First vice-president Cathy Fortunato (Lambda) presented her report.

There are two major projects and two key initiatives shared by DKG International EEC Chairperson, Daphne Cagle. DKG Project and Program Spotlight- DKG International requests to collect and disseminate great ideas for projects and programs across the entire sisterhood. We have representation from New Jersey. Thank you to Epsilon, Lambda, and Nu Chapters for submitting a total of five Spotlights to the International Committee.

DKG Visionary Networks- Connect with DKG sisters who will lead interactive groups to learn about various educational topics. The webinars will be offered on Zoom. Check the International Website in May to join a group. An opportunity exists for New Jersey sisters to lead groups.

GIRLS, Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success replaces Schools for Africa. Thank you to the five sisters who attended the DKG Inside International Zoom meeting with Marisa Ferguson, Assistant Director of Global Cause Partnerships for UNICEF-USA. In addition, there is a focus from DKG International on SEE, Supporting Early Career Educators at the chapter levels by sharing ideas and guidelines, and improving outreach.

## **Membership**

Second vice-president Diane Roberts (Omicron) presented her report.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as the State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership Chair over the past two years. I have enjoyed meeting many more DKG NJ women than I previously knew. I was fortunate to be able to attend the State Organization Leadership Training in Texas before taking on the position and met and learned from women from all over the world. Additional ideas came from workshops I attended during the National Harbor International Convention.

It has definitely been my pleasure to work with and support NJ chapter membership chairs as we all strive to add more key women educators to our local organizations. Last year we were able to add 43 new members to DKG NJ with about half of those ladies participating in our convention induction ceremony. This year we are pleased to announce that 33 women are seeking to join our wonderful organization and 14 of those ladies will be inducted at our ceremony this evening. I thank everyone for their efforts in adding new members and strengthening our organization. I also encourage you all to keep on the lookout for more potential inductees. And don't be afraid to invite other types of educators, those not necessarily in a school building, to check us out and perhaps join.

## **Finance/Audit**

Joan Oehm (Alpha) stated that the budget was found to be in order and was approved.

## **Nominations**

Mary Lou LeCompte presented the following slate to be Inducted during the convention:

For President: Cathy Fortunato (Lambda)

For First Vice President: Diane Roberts (Omicron)

For Second Vice President: Chris Musick (Nu)

For Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Monaghan (Epsilon)  
For Corresponding Secretary: Cathy Cleenput (Alpha)  
For Nominations Chair: Irene Maskaly (Iota)

**Unfinished Business - None**

**New Business**

Chapter presidents were directed to take a convention pamphlet.

**Announcements**

DKGNJ has collected 10,891 books which have been donated to Book Smiles, the President's Project recipient.

Susan Davis (Epsilon) reminded the group that Chapter photos would be taken after the induction ceremony in the hallway and that they should have their banners.

Following the business meeting there will be a roundtable discussion with DKG International representative Candice Martin. Information that was shared is attached to these minutes.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Barbara Pollex (Lambda) moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Lou LeCompte seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Musick

Recording Secretary

**ADENDEM**

**Roundtable Conversation with Candice Martin**

Questions about the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International were posed to Candice Martin. She responded to the questions with grace, humor, and great knowledge. Below is a summary of the information shared:

- #DKG 2<sup>nd</sup> Century and Beyond is a regrowth of the Avenue M survey growth plan where an analytic group was hired to conduct a one year survey, interview past, present, and potential members and then compile the results and make recommendations. The results can be found on the DKG International Website.
- Please apply for the International Speakers Fund to share topics you are passionate about. The fund pays for transportation to go to another country, speak at conventions, conferences, and meetings, or provide training.

- Visionary Networks are small groups that meet online on a regular basis, led by someone trained to lead, for the purpose of discussing specific areas of interest. They will be offered on 3-to-4-month intervals and virtual training will be provided.
- GAPP (Guidelines and Policies & Procedures) is a revision of the Governing Documents and will be voted on in 2026. Find information on the International Website. Any member may propose amendments.
- Inside International meets every first Tuesday of every month via Zoom. They are offered alternating times (12:30 pm and 5:30 pm CT) to accommodate more participants. Enjoy conversation with International leaders and staff. You can find the link on the International Website under Events. Once there, choose Virtual Events Around DKG.
- SOLT (State Organization Leadership Training) will take place from July 29 – July 31, 2025 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The International Conference follows at the same location from July 31 – Aug 2.
- DKG Next is a group to be formed of newer members who are up and coming leaders with the purpose of meeting the needs of newer members. They will fly to Texas in November 2025 to meet the International Executive members of DKG.
- Every member of the DKG organization has the right and duty to offer amendments in the governing documents. To do so, go to the International DKG website, under MYDKG choose Apply/Submit, next choose By Laws Revision. Include reference of the article to change (add, change, delete) and the rationale for the adjustment.

Candi Martin thanked the State of New Jersey for inviting her to attend this wonderful event. She encouraged everyone to visit the International Website often.