



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

"Reimagine Our Future and Reignite Our Purpose"

DKGNJ State Meeting

May 31, 2025

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by incoming State President Cathy Fortunato (Lambda) at 10:00am who lead the meeting in the absence of Irene Maskaly (Iota).

Pledge of Allegiance

Betty Monaghan (Epsilon) led the pledge.

Motivational Thought

Wilhelmina Bryant (Lambda) read a poem in the absence of State Motivator Cathy Cleenput (Alpha) written by fellow sister Suzette Given that speaks to the inner strength within us all.

Attendance

There were 19 members in attendance documented via sign in sheets.

President's Report

Read by Claire Swanson (Alpha) in the absence of Irene Maskaly,

Good morning... Thank you for taking the time to travel today and join us as we conclude one biennium and embark upon another. My apologies for not being here today and thank you Claire for stepping in for me. I settled on my home yesterday and thank heavens for big brothers who are kind enough to stay over. I have said to many others, "life events first" ...this is the first time I've had to take my own advice. It's hard not to be here with you!

I consider it a privilege and a challenge to move us forward after the covid years. My recent predecessors had to rewrite the DKGNJ "playbook" so to speak and embrace uncharted territory as state presidents in trying times. My goal was to reunite us, embrace our past and reimagine our future as DKG International did the same. I am proud to be a member of DKG and even prouder to be a DKG New Jersey member! I have had the privilege to meet and befriend many DKG members from around the globe ...but no one beats the "Jersey Girls" in spirit and heart!

I would like to end this message by sharing a quote attributed to Pope Francis, but in fact, there appears to be no record of him stating this. It does though, extoll the virtue of living selflessly, which I believe all educators do.

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you." Ladies, continue to share your gifts of nurturing and caring, continue to be uniquely yourselves!

Thank you for enlightening and enriching my life and my life journey!

Please note, remember to submit your newsletter submissions to Shannon Pizzuta by July 5th . Please also note the upcoming state meeting dates at the end of this meeting.

Portfolio Exchange/Transition

Executive board members as well as Committee Chairs exchanged information to prepare for upcoming positions.

Meeting resumed following the portfolio exchange.

Incoming President's Report

Welcome! I am excited to begin the new state biennium together on July 1st. As the past Lambda Chapter President, I opened every presidential report with a quote from a Lambda sister. It's important to recognize and celebrate your chapter members.

The quote for this meeting is from our keynote speaker, Victoria Kessler. After joining us at the state convention she wrote, "It was uplifting to see such an amazing and dedicated group of women coming together to support each other and education. Thank you for allowing me to be part of something so special." Quite a vision statement. We are a dedicated group of women educators, united in purpose, individually gifted, and inspired by each other. The theme for the new biennium is "Inspiration is Contagious."

Please raise your hand if you know of a breast cancer survivor. 2 women. 3 women. 4 or more. I learned from our convention workshop presenter Lisa Hirkaler from Epsilon Chapter that breast cancer is common among the women in our society. There is a need for education, support, and quoting Lisa "empowerment." After consultation with the newly elected officers, the president's project for the next two years is Breast Cancer Awareness.

The latest from DKG Society International:

1. There is DKG Global Task Force on Unity and Belonging, a team committed to foster inclusivity, connection, and collaboration across our International society.
2. The Centennial Celebration Committee asks each member to contribute a symbolic \$19.29 to the Centennial Celebration Fund. These funds will go toward a gala to honor DKG's 100th anniversary at the 2029 International Conference in Austin, Texas (July 25-28, 2029). Members can make contributions year-round and are encouraged to do so multiple times.
3. As you begin to plan for your chapters, consider including a donation to the DKG sponsored GIRLS Fund, which replaced the Schools for Africa Fund.
4. I will be attending the State Organization Leadership Training this July with Diane Roberts and Chris Musick. Afterwards, I will stay for the DKG Conference in New Orleans.

My first state responsibility was to appoint the 2025-2027 State Committee Chairs as some leaders were asked to continue at the beginning of April. The good news is that we have 10 new committee chairs so far. With the help of a past state president, there is also a plan to have long standing chairs to mentor new members during the second year of the biennium.

Thanks to Angie Belmont (Gamma) and Ellen Hahn (Beta) for the process of securing the dates for the upcoming state meetings to be held here at Steinert High School.

Thanks to Angela Castaneda (Gamma) for providing refreshments this morning.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your State President.

Announcements

2025-2026 State Meeting Dates:

September 6, 2025

January 3, 2026

Convention: April 17-19, 2026

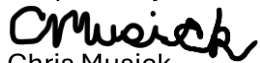
June 6, 2026

Jane Murphy (Eta) stated that she has boxes of file folders of necrology information listed by years. It was decided that Jane, along with a committee of volunteers, would sort the information by chapter and then give to each chapter to retain in their records. It is thought that there is not room for all of these files in the state archives at Georgian Court University. Chapters can keep a digital record of the information if they choose.

Betty Monaghan announced that the total number of books donated to the President's project Book Smiles was 11,914. Well done!

Barbara Hendersen (Epsilon) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Claire Swanson (Alpha) second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Musick

Recording Secretary