



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

"Inspiration is Contagious"

DKGNJ State Meeting
Steinert HS, Hamilton Township
September 6, 2025

9:30 – 10:00 AM Registration/Fellowship

10:00 AM Call to Order by Cathy Fortunato

- Diane Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Wihelmina Bryant (State Motivator) gave a very moving and timely talk about our special children who go unnoticed until it is too late.
- Barbara Henderson took the roll call, and every Chapter was present with the president or representative, except Delta.
- Ellen Hahn gave the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions, and she will file as usual.
- Cathy Fortunato stated that the Minutes from the last meeting were approved by the review committee and distributed electronically. Hearing no corrections, the Minutes from the state meeting on May 31, 2025, stand approved as distributed.
- Cathy Cleenput, our Corresponding Secretary, reported on the cards she sent out recently and requested that all information for future cards be sent to her.
- Cathy Fortunato gave the President's Report.

Happy new school year! Thank you for coming to the first state meeting of the new biennium.

There is a new voluntary collection. The money collected will go to the DKG GIRLS and World Fellowship Funds. Please consider collections during your chapter meetings

Last July, Diane Roberts, Chris Musick, and I attended the State Organization Leadership Training sessions in New Orleans, Louisiana. We set plans for this year and enjoyed meeting other leaders.

I stayed on for the DKG Conference. The programs, networking, and enjoying the flavor of “The Big Easy” with other state leaders was energizing.

Two highlights struck me at the conference:

1. We heard motivational thoughts in Norwegian, Finnish, Japanese, and we sang the DKG song in Spanish.
2. One brave program included a speaker from Japan who was a survivor in utero during the WWII atomic bombing. This year marks the 80th anniversary.

I have two book recommendations from guest speakers at the DKG Conference: *Living Life without Limb-Its* by Merlyna Valentine and *Glorious Sadness* by Norina E. Bentzel.

Both authors are educators who triumphantly shared their stories as testimonies of courage and optimism. There is the enjoyment of being together and there are memorable moments. It is not too early to plan to attend the DKG Convention next summer in Aurora, Colorado. There will be an important vote on proposed international Bylaws to replace the Constitution. Save the dates for our state convention, April 17-19, 2026.

- October 5th – newsletter articles are due to our State Editor, Shannon Pizzuta
- November 6-7– Visit Booth 903 in the Exhibit Hall at the NJEA Convention. Tell your sisters. Betty Monahan authored an article in the Sussex County Retired Educators Association newsletter advertising our booth.

Contact me with *any* ideas or suggestions. Also, I am available and happy to visit your chapter. Last thought from DKG International President Dr. Beverly, (Diane and Chris can say it with me) “Be authentically yourself and lead with passion and purpose.”

Let’s kick off Project DKG Pink!

- **10:15-10:35 Program:** Lisa Hirkaler from Epsilon Chapter informed us about the Project DKG Pink Program that Cathy Fortunato has chosen for her biennium. Through her slides, speech, and various visuals, she showed us how important the human touch with words, gifts, or donations can be for women going through breast cancer. She gave examples of how we can help and will follow up with more workshops and get-togethers to help the cause.

10:40-11:15 Breakout Sessions were held for the following: Chapter Presidents, Chapter First Vice Presidents, Chapter Second Vice Presidents, Bylaws, Convention Committee, and Necrology.

11:20 Committee Reports (check with attached reports sent by committee chairs)

Cathy Fortunato announced that there is a basket being passed around for a voluntary collection. The collection is for a donation from the state to the GIRLS/World Fellowship Funds. Chapters may include their own voluntary collections to send to the funds that replaced Schools for Africa.

1. **Program:** Diane Roberts reported that she is looking for any convention programs from chapters and book referrals to be sent to her by Halloween. She would like to receive ideas for presenters and book recommendations. She stated we need to empower women everywhere, thus, GIRLS, EEC, and others.
2. **Membership:** Chris Musick, our membership chair, told us about the Centennial year, 2029, our 100-year celebration. The challenge is to induct 100 members into DKGNJ. We've had a good record the past few years. If we continue inducting 25 new members a year, we can accomplish the goal by 2029. Chris reminded us that it is not just classroom teachers but all educators. You can email her with any questions.
3. **Bylaws:** Barbara Glazewski spoke about Bylaws. There is one amendment to eliminate the Exhibit/Record Books position from the Bylaws. The

rationale is that the standing committee of exhibits and record books is obsolete due to the digitalization of information, which is being used by chapters. Many chapters have eliminated the President's record book or have created digital books that have not been displayed at the convention. Personnel who would be assigned to these duties would be available for more useful tasks upon the elimination of this committee. There will be no fiscal impact, \$0, now or in the future. A motion was made to approve sending the proposed amendment to DKGNJ Bylaws, Section A (1)d, to eliminate Exhibits and Record Books, for the DKGNJ membership at the annual convention in 2026. The motion was made by Laura Perrius, seconded by Ingrid Williams, and passed unanimously.

4. **Communications:** Dr. Pam Albert Devine spoke about our website, newsletters, and Chapter updates. Our communication is excellent and growing on social media, using the statistics that she announced. She reminded us to send more photos that garner attraction to our sites and promote them to our newer members.
5. **Convention Committee:** Chairs: Carol Schwartz, Jan Paxton, and Sue Davis, gave us the schedule for Friday night at convention: 5:00 PM buffet in the restaurant, Ice Cream Social 6:00 PM -7:15 PM, Chorus 6:15 PM, Opening Program with Lisa Hirkaler's presentation at 7:15, and Auction starts at 7:30.
Sue will help you with any problems with the hotel, Jan will help you if there are any registration problems, and Carol will help with any other questions or complaints. You may reach them at:
Sue sdavis3984@gmail.com
Jan alphazetastate@dkgnj.org
Carol cbsrosered@gmail.com
6. **Finance:** Joan Oehm presented a copy of the balanced 2026-2027 budget. There will be a vote on the proposed budget at the 2026 DKGNJ Convention.
7. **Necrology:** Jane Murphy reported on the necrology committee meeting today. Ten chapters attended and received a folder with new Forms 6 and

2. They revisited the paperwork given out by Jane and helped her by giving missing information from 2019 to present for each chapter. She provided more folders for each chapter with old records that they may or may not want to keep or use for their chapter history.
8. **NJEA Convention Information:** Diane Roberts spoke on our new NJEA Convention Booth 903 at the upcoming NJEA Convention. She thanked everyone for the candy donations brought today. Angela Castaneda lent a wheel so convention attendees, potential members, can spin to win a prize. They will give out new DKG brochures, candy, and pencils. There are jobs available as exhibitors, and your help would be appreciated.
9. **Scholarship:** Susan Relles and Wilhemina Bryant spoke about the Margaret Abel scholarship. A 500-word essay with background information is necessary, along with other rules they must follow. The application is online for junior or senior undergraduates or graduate students in Education. Susan Relles stated they need volunteers for evaluators.
10. **CTAUN:** Arlene Newman spoke on CTAUN, the Committee on Teaching at the United Nations. DKG is an NGO with the United Nations with consultant status, with four representatives from NY. There is global interest in this. Arlene will report on upcoming conferences. www.TeachUN.org
11. **World Fellowship:** Barbara Smith spoke on behalf of Gail Starr about the World Fellowship program. It is philanthropic for women scholars. There are four \$1,000 grants given to women each year. 11,000 women have received these so far. The grants do not come from our dues. Each chapter president has a form to donate. Your chapter can include this item in its budget (Ex. GIRLS, World Fellowship) or under a fundraising account.
12. **DKGNJ Directory:** Diane Roberts announced that the DKGNJ yearbook/directory is almost complete. Let her know if there are any more corrections. Read all the chapter calendars for ideas you may want to use in your chapter.

New Business

1. Jane Murphy from Eta stated she knows a woman who started a school in Africa and housing for girls. She would like them to join DKG.

2. JoAnn Corvino from Alpha suggested that when a sister is retiring, instead of personal gifts, send a donation, in their name, to the GIRLS UNICEF Program, or other DKG programs.

Announcements

1. Cathy Fortunato announced that on Friday night, at the convention, wear pink, and there could be a dance party.
2. Rose Rhine announced Xi Chapter has Boscov's coupons and is selling their pretty rose candles for \$20.
3. Claire Swanson from Alpha said there is an initiative to secure a commemorative US postage stamp honoring Dr. Annie Webb Blanton. The International website has sample templates of letters to legislators. The first template is for DKG members or others to use. The second template is an outreach letter to legislators, to be used to request elected officials to advocate for the stamp on your behalf. The third is a sample letter for legislators, complete with information to help them draft their own letters of support. Claire has included the link to the info on the website.
4. Wilhelmina Bryant from Lambda showed off their (Sisters) T-shirt which you can buy for anyone important in your life for \$25.
5. Barbara Glazewski from Lambda stated that we need Bylaws members. Every Chapter needs a volunteer to get familiar with and committed to the Bylaws. It's not difficult.
6. Angela Castaneda from Gamma spoke about how important it is for new members to be inducted at the state convention. The ceremony is so meaningful. It makes a bigger draw and commitment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Glazewski and seconded by Claire Swanson. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at approximately 12:10.