INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

"Inspiration is Contagious"

DKGNJ State Meeting
Steinert HS, Hamilton, NJ
June 6, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by State President Cathy Fortunato (Lambda) at 10:02 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Betty Monaghan (Epsilon)

Motivational Thought: State Motivator Wilhelmina Bryant (Lambda) emphasized the importance of member communication and personal outreach, encouraging sisters to connect with those facing illness, isolation, or transportation challenges to keep them active in the sisterhood.

Roll Call and Attendance: Conducted by Betty Monaghan (Epsilon), State Recording Secretary.

Attendance	Chapter	President	Representative if President is absent
X	Alpha	Laura Perrius	
X	Beta	JoAnn Corvino	
X	Gamma	Angela Castaneda	
X	Delta	Amy Giulian	
X	Epsilon	Patty Curtis	
X	Zeta	Kimberly Corso	
X	Eta	Karen Gamon	
X	Lambda	Wilhelmina Bryant	
X	Mu	Carolyn Bennett	
X	Nu	(Ingrid Williams)	Nola Tosti
O	Xi	Diane Brunetti	
X	Omicron	(Beth Selfridge)	Jane Costantino
X	Pi	Dr. Amy Fratz	
X	Rho	Crystal DiBetta	

Attendance	Officer/Appointment	Name and Chapter
X	President	Cathy Fortunato, Lambda
X	First Vice President	Dianne Roberts, Omicron
X	Second Vice President	Chris Musick, Nu
X	Recording Secretary	Betty Monaghan, Epsilon
X	Corresponding Secretary	Cathy Cleenput, Alpha
X	Treasurer	Ellen Hahn, Beta
X	Parliamentarian	Dr. Barbara Glazewski, Lambda
0	Past State President	Irene Maskaly, Iota

A total of 47 members of DKGNJ were in attendance.

A quorum is established.

Approval of Previous Minutes Betty Monaghan (Epsilon) and Cathy Fortunato (Lambda)

The minutes from the April 18, 2026, State Meeting were approved by the Review Board and sent out electronically. There is a correction in the minutes, Delta Chapter President Amy Giulian's name was misspelled and is corrected. With no other corrections, the minutes are filed as corrected..

Officer Reports

Corresponding Secretary Cathy Cleenput (Alpha): Reported that between April 22 and June 6, 2026, 11 cards were sent out, while 1 card was received.

Treasurer Ellen Hahn (Beta): The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit without questions. The full electronic report remains attached to the permanent minutes.

- TD Checking account (#. . .9477) Balance as of 03/29/26 $5,428.62
- Margaret Abel Scholarship Fund $ 69,859.22
- Primerica Investments $79,846.80
- Designated Funds:
    - TD Saving account $500.99
    - Live Oak account $24,437.45
    - Live Oak 1 yr. CD $51,417.85

State President Cathy Fortunato (Lambda):

A warm welcome to all, especially the dedicated returning chapter officers and the newly installed new chapter officers, the impactful state committee chairs, and the leadership team of the state elected officers, Diane Roberts, Chris Musick, Betty Monaghan, and Cathy Cleenput.

The first year of the state biennium is nearly over. One of the greatest joys of my first year as state president was the in-person visits with your chapters. I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Gamma, Epsilon, Zeta, Eta, Lambda, Mu, Nu, and Rho Chapters, as well as the sisters at the combined meeting with Beta, Delta, Eta, Iota, and Nu, for your invitations. Witnessing your impactful service projects including the breast cancer programs, the community outreach, guest program presentations during business meetings, purposeful fundraising, and the warmth of the sisterhood in your chapters was truly enjoyable and inspiring.

State news:

- The ***tentative*** dates for state meetings next year are: October 3, 2026, January 9, 2027, and June 5, 2027 with a possibility of the 2027 State Convention to be held in March. The dates have yet to be approved by the Hamilton School Board of Education. Thanks to Angela Belmont (Gamma) for securing the reservations.
    - Karen Gamon (Eta) had a comment about the upcoming meeting tentatively scheduled for June 5, 2027. This will be a transition meeting as the biennium will be coming to a close.
- I have her permission to announce Jan Paxton will be leaving her appointments as our state webmaster and convention registrar. Please consider recommendations of chairs for each position. We need to plan a spectacular way to honor Jan at the next state convention.
- Looking ahead to the SUMMER Newsletter All submissions are due to Shannon Pizzuta by July 5th: State President, First VP, and Second VP Messages, Chapter Year Summary, and Active Member Reflections. No member spotlights are requested.
    - Crystal DeBetta (Rho) was given clarification regarding Active Member Reflections for the Summer newsletter.
- The October meeting will focus on internet safety and the potential for beginning collegiate chapters.
- Four “Jersey Girls” will attend the DKG International Convention in Aurora, Colorado. I am one and it will be sure to energize me to continue the second year with passion and purpose.

International News:

- There is a Form 119 available to all to propose amendments to presiding motions regarding the changes from the DKG Constitution to the DKG Bylaws.
- According to international leader Donnis Poe, there will be a template available to use for our state bylaws to comply with any proposed international changes.
- There is a proposal by International EEC Chair Daphne Cagle (California) to change the Girls Fund to the Every Child Fund.

- DKG is presenting podcasts called “Educated Women Uplifted” and “DKG Dialogues.” Check the website and YouTube.
- There are 60 ideas for projects listed on the international website.

  dkg.org Resources Program Planning/EEC Chair

Please check both the international and state websites for a wealth of information.

I have enjoyed this year as your state president and to all of the newly elected chapter officers, remember to *enjoy* your first year together with your sisters.

Program Presentation: State Leadership Chairs, Debbie Snyder (Lambda) and Dr. Denise Furlong (Lambda), Presented “Lead Your Way: Discovering Your Authentic Style”. Leadership is not a title or position, it is stepping up to help and bring out the best in others. Everyone has their own leadership style which they encouraged us to develop.

Breakout Sessions (10:52 to 11:43 AM)

Chapter Presidents: Cathy Fortunato (Lambda) and Patty Curtis (Epsilon)

Chapter First Vice Presidents, Program Planning: Diane Roberts (Omicron) and Arlene Newman (Zeta)

Chapter Second Vice Presidents, Membership: Chris Musick (Mu) and Barbara Iannatto (Gamma)

Chapter Recruitment: Claire Swanson (Alpha)

State Committee Reports

Arts, Patty Curtis (Epsilon)

- Festival Highlights: The Third Annual Arts Festival featured 25 member exhibits across multiple media, including paintings, textiles, glass art, photography, and mixed media.
- Acknowledgements: Gratitude was expressed to Alpha, Epsilon, and Zeta chapters for event support; Dr. Pamela Devine for media promotion; and Laura Perrius for providing live music (harp and dulcimer) after the Chair suffered a fractured wrist.
- Future Business: Suezette Givens (Alpha) will serve as Co-Chair for next year's festival. The committee is also exploring the addition of a live poetry reading for original works.

Second Vice President Chris Musick (Mu):

- The Centennial Challenge was discussed.
- New Brochure “Unlock Your POTENTIAL” was shared.
- The International Website dkg.org has valuable tools and information dealing with membership.
- The next session of Inside International will be held Aug 4 at 6:30 ET.
- Membership Chair duties were reiterated.

- Membership Chairs should remind the chapter members that “Membership is Everyone’s Responsibility.”
- Barbara Iannatto from Gamma shared a wealth of ideas and strategies to increase and maintain membership.
- Future actions
    - An electronic version of Barbara Iannatto’s (Gamma) information will be disseminated.
    - Contact information of chapter 2nd VP/Membership Chairs will be shared.
    - Information shared by Chris Musick will be distributed.

Necrology, Jane Murphy (Eta)

Tributes should be read in the chapters. Make sure that your biographical information is up to day. Remember to submit Form 6.

First Vice President Diane Roberts (Omicron):

Year-End Report: Thank you to the chapter first vice presidents for their collaboration. Ten convention workshops were finalized from 14 book titles and 11 workshop proposals. Out of 156 convention attendees, 106 participated in the morning sessions and 93 in the afternoon sessions, resulting in 32 professional development hour certificates being emailed. Evaluation forms for future workshop and book proposals are currently available on the state website and via the newsletter

Breakout session report with chapter First Vice Presidents**:**

- Duties & Orientation: New 1st vice presidents were welcomed and oriented on their primary responsibilities: assuming the role of chapter president if necessary, planning chapter events, and assisting with book discussions for the upcoming state convention.
- Resources Provided: Distributed workshop and book proposal forms, alongside handouts detailing free and low-cost speaker resources in New Jersey.
- Program Planning: Highlighted the International EEC website as an excellent source for program ideas.
- Arlene Newman also shared personal strategies and insights for sourcing effective programs and guest speakers.

Nominations, Dr. Amy Fratz (Pi)

Nominations are officially open for the following DKGNJ State leadership positions:

Elected positions: President, First Vice President (Program Planning/EEC), Second Vice President (Membership), Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary.

Appointed Positions**:** Treasurer and Parliamentarian.

Members were urged to nominate qualified candidates or consider serving themselves. Online nomination forms are available on the website, and physical forms are available upon request. For further details or to submit nominations, members should contact Dr. Amy Fratz directly at acfratz@gmail.com.

Announcements

Betty Monaghan (Epsilon) spoke about the upcoming healthcare contract negotiations that affect DKGNJ members who are part of NJEA and NJREA.

Carmela DeMarco (Gamma) offered her house for a nominations meeting this September.

DKG Song was led by Carol Boehm (Lambda) with Diane Roberts (Omicron) on the keyboard.

Crystal DiBetta (Rho) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Relles (Lambda) seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted: *Betty Monaghan,* DKGNJ State Recording Secretary