



MICHIGAN STATE ORGANIZATION OF DKG

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

RECHARGE-RETHINK-RENEW

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2022



Dr. Elena Ivanova • ivanovae4179@gmail.com • 248-890-3317

On a Personal Note: Welcome, fall!

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. I trust you had a great time, filled with exciting trips, visits with friends and family, gardening, camping, and quiet, peaceful days in your backyard. The highlight of my summer was the trip to Austin where I participated in *DKG Ignite* leadership seminar (the former Golden Gift seminar). I was one of 21 members, all from different states and countries. We spent a whole week on the lovely (and very hot!) University of Texas campus, attending lectures and meetings from 8:30 AM to 9 PM. The impact of this experience is unimaginable. It gave me a new perspective on the things I do as a person, professional, and a DKG member. I also have 20 new friends on whose support and advice I may always count. Come to the fall conference to hear more!



McCombs School of Business
DKG Ignite: Leaders Empowering Leaders
June 27 - July 2, 2022

We Need Information About Chapter Presidents!

Please use the link below to submit contact information about chapter presidents for the new biennium (even if it's not your first term) to our Corresponding Secretary Amy Wright. She needs it to create a new roster and to update the email distribution list.

Link to form:

<https://forms.gle/zczUjuDeVPfUsCo36>

If you haven't submitted **Form 110 (Chapter Officers Report)**, please do so as soon as possible. This interactive form is on dkg.org/Forms/Reports. You have to sign in to access it.

September - November Calendar

- September 9 – deadline for reservations at the conference rate at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Grand Rapids Airport
- September 15 – Early bird fall conference registration deadline
- September 15 – deadline for submissions to DKG Art Gallery (read the article on p. 5). Art Gallery Submissions is through Google Forms. For submission procedures, help, and tutorials visit the Art Gallery website: <https://www.dkg.org> > DKGMember (you must log in) > Apply_Submit/Submissions
- September 30 – October 1 – DKG Michigan state conference at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Grand Rapids Airport
- October 1 - Women in the Arts (WITA) reservations due (read the article on p. 4)
- October 14 – 16 – WITA at Butzel Conference Center at Camp Tamarack, Ortonville
- October 15 – *The Wolverine* submissions due
- October 22 – DKG U.P. conference, Marquette
- November 15 – **Treasurers:** Form 990-IRS due

How Do I Sign In To the DKG International Website?

You must use your ID and password to see the information that is available to members only.

Your ID is your membership number. Ask your treasurer if you don't know it.

Password: `dkg2014society`. After you signed in, you may personalize your password under MyDKG/My account.



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State Fall Conference
September 30–October 1, 2022
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Grand Rapids Airport

Free Registration for
First-Timers and Participants of
Betsey Cooper Leadership Workshop*
Teachers: No Fee For SCECHs

Join us at our annual fall gathering for lively discussions, presentations, raffle, and fellowship! DoubleTree is a lovely hotel, conveniently located close to I-96. The links to the registration form and hotel reservations are on the website. I look forward to seeing you there!

The theme of our conference is **Taking Our Pulse: Are We Ready to Move On?** It's time that we take the pulse of our organization. We went through stressful times, but we found the ways to **Recharge, Rethink, and Renew**, as individuals and as DKG members. Let's assess what we did and think about the plans for the future.

Our conference is taking place during the famous ArtPrize weekend. This determined the choice of the pre-conference seminar—**"The History and Navigation of ArtPrize."** It will be presented by Laura Ruggles on Friday at 6 PM. Come 15 minutes earlier to join the **"New Bees and Rose Buddies"** meeting which will be in the same room. This year, we decided to open up our traditional first-

* To qualify, you have to have attended or viewed a recording of all three summer sessions.

timers meeting to anyone who is looking for a new friend to hang out with during the conference.

Please take notice that the schedule of events is different this year. On Friday, the **Executive Board and General Membership meeting will start at 7:15 PM**—not at 8 PM, as it was in the past. We intend to end the meeting by 9:15 PM to have more time for fellowship.

Thanks go to our First VP, Karen Lessnau-Scott, who created an exciting program. Health conscious members: **Aqua Fitness Fun is back at 6:45 AM!** The At-A-Glance schedule is your guide to the breakout sessions. You can also find descriptions of the sessions online by using the link provided under the titles of the sessions.

A new feature on the program is **Takeaway sessions** that are scheduled from 12:20 to 12:55 PM. Each session is only 10-15 minutes long. Look for the descriptions and locations of these sessions in the program. They will take place in the hallways, lounges, and even courtyards (weather permitting).



"Live Fierce: It's Never Too Late to Put Your Health First" is the topic of our keynote speaker, Kristy Sidlar, a heart transplant recipient, author, and a board member of the American Heart Association.

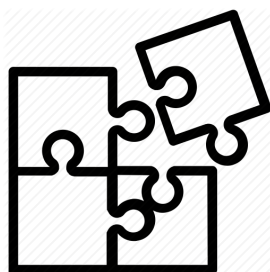
Our hosting chapter is Beta Omicron. Thank you, Penny Larson, the conference registrar, and Kathleen Rodak, the treasurer, for your hard work! I encourage



everyone to contribute to their chapter's service project—helping new teachers with materials, supplies, and offering other classroom support. They will accept checks and gift cards (Target, Meijer, Walmart, etc.)

Let's Think About State Events

I thank everyone who completed the survey about state events and the 2022 spring convention evaluation. I appreciate every comment, whether it conveys an approval or criticism. Your feedback is the most important document that helps us in planning future events.



Of the 116 respondents to the survey, 27% attend two state events per year, 27% - one event, and 31.2% do not attend state events at all. The main reasons for not attending are cost (48.6%) and distance (36.1%). 91.2% were in favor of reducing the state convention to two days instead of three. This change, if approved, can be initiated in 2025 because we have contracts with the hotels for the 2023 and 2024 conventions. Meanwhile, the Board will be considering ways of tightening up the schedule during the next two years which will allow this transition.

Last winter, I also surveyed all DKG state presidents about the frequency and format of their state events. Many states, including our neighbors Illinois and Ohio, have one annual event: a convention in odd years and a leadership conference in even years. Other states hold an annual convention and offer one-day regional leadership seminars, which are less costly and do not require a long drive. Both options seem prudent to me considering the rising prices for hotels (rooms and food) and gas as well as the time constraints associated with attending a state event.

As a result of these two surveys, we put the question about the frequency of our state events on the 2022

spring convention evaluation form. Of 88 respondents, 74.4% supported the idea to have one annual all-state meeting instead of two. This will involve eliminating the fall conference and creating a new format for leadership training. This change can be initiated in the fall of 2024 due to our contractual obligations with the hotels. The following options were listed for your consideration on the evaluation form (I apologize for an error due to which these options were not clearly stated):

- a two-day annual state convention and a one-day annual leadership workshop(s) (either regional or centralized) instead of the fall conference (58.8%);
- a two-day state convention in odd-numbered years when state officers are elected and a one-day state leadership seminar in even-numbered years when chapter officers are elected (27.9%).

At the same time, these are not our only options. This summer, we offered an online Betsey Cooper Leadership Workshop to chapter officers and aspiring leaders. All three monthly sessions were well attended and there will be one more, in-person, session, at the fall conference. We will evaluate the results, which will allow us to consider it as a model for future leadership seminars.

We will continue to explore **ALL** ideas and will put the options to vote at the 2023 spring convention.

Chapter Presidents!

Please discuss the question about the frequency and format of future state events at one of your fall meetings and share the results of this discussion with me. I welcome any suggestions your members may have.

Please ask your members whether they may be more willing to attend state events if we have one annual all-state event instead of two.



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**Women In the Arts
Butzel Conference Center at
Camp Tamarack, Ortonville
Friday, October 14 (4 PM or later)
through Sunday, October 16, 1 PM
The deadline to register
has been extended to October 1!**

Have you ever been to our annual fall retreat? If you have, then you know what a fantastic event it is. If you haven't, I invite you to join us this fall for a weekend of fellowship, fun activities, relaxation, walks in the woods, campfire and more. No artistic talent is required to enjoy this time with your DKG sisters. Imagine – no cooking, cleaning, babysitting, grocery shopping or other house chores. This is **YOUR** time and **YOUR** decision how to spend it. You may try your hand in the offered activities, work on your own project that has been languishing on the back-burner forever, read a book, or walk the trails. Bring a friend with whom you've been thinking of spending more time—she does not have to be a DKG member.

Our co-chairs, Jean Buller and Nancy Walters, have been busy planning this event for the past year. They already have an impressive schedule of diverse activities, from art-making and photography to line dancing and forest bathing. But there is room for

more! **Maybe you can propose an activity?**

Jean and Nancy are open to all suggestions – the sky is the limit!

Check out the photos of the past retreat and of the Butzel Conference Center on Facebook: DKG Michigan Women in the Arts group:
www.facebook.com/groups/401316468404337

The information about registration, room choices, and payment options is at dkgmichigan.org/Events.



DKG U.P. Conference: "Life in the 906"
Saturday, October 22, 2022
10 AM – 3 PM
Hosted by Delta Chapter
Marquette Township Hall
1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette

Come celebrate our beautiful peninsula!

Featured Presentations:

- Marquette Regional History Center
- U.P. Author Sharon Kennedy
- Suicide Prevention Alliance
- Make and Take - Driftwood Mobiles

Registration: \$45.00.
Continental breakfast and pasty lunch are included.

The registration form and more information at [dkgmichigan > Events](http://dkgmichigan.org/Events).



DKG Fine Arts Gallery News

**The Passionate Artist
Within Us... Challenge
Yourself to Unlock Your
Talents and Share Them
with Us**



by DKG Blogger Aug 22, 2022

Be sure to be included in the August 15th – September 15th Submission Period.

Artists come in all categories and varieties, but one thing that unites them is a passion for their craft. Often though, to take the bold step of sharing one's talents is sometimes not as easy as it may seem. We are here to help!

The Arts & Humanities Jury provides an easy, quick opportunity to highlight the artistic talents and passions of our members. With a depth of artistry and cultural diversity, many members have willingly shared their talents through the submission process of the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

We encourage you to visit the DKG Fine Arts Gallery at <https://gallery.dkg.org>. With each category, you will be awed at the amazing visual, literary, musical and dramatic talents of our international membership.

The Arts and Humanities Jury has created a variety of categories specially designed to showcase your diverse talents.

- Writing - essay, short story, playwriting, poetry.
- Performance Art – dance, dramatics, filmmaking, music, original composition, oratory.
- Visual Arts: 2D – acrylic, charcoal, colored pencil, graphite, mixed media, pastel, pen & ink, printmaking, watercolor, photography (black and white or color).

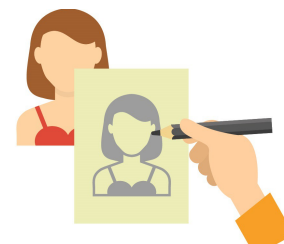
- Visual Arts: 3D – basketry, ceramics, jewelry, quilts, sculpture, textiles, woodcarvings.
- Multimedia: - Blend one or more categories! Illuminate your poetry or short story with photography or 2D Art. Combine playwriting or a musical composition with a performance video.

Click on the Submissions tab for the updated submission procedures, rubrics, informational webinar, and “Do’s and Don’ts” tips to guide you successfully through the submission process. To safeguard the personal privacy rights of individual content, **a new addition to the submission process is the inclusion of the Video Release and the Photography Consent forms**. Exciting changes to the submission procedures encourage members to submit cultural art and to submit writing in languages other than English, with an English translation.

Don’t forget to peruse the **Arts and Humanities Blog** Icon on the website (under DKGIEF/Blog/Arts and Humanities Jury). The platform is written bimonthly to inform and spotlight our amazing artists. Jury members share tips on strengthening the quality of submissions and highlight artists who have been accepted into the Art Gallery. The Arts and Humanities blog has been a wonderful addition to showcase the vast and culturally diverse talents of our membership.

Don’t miss out on unlocking the artistic talent and creativity within yourself.

With each submission opportunity, the Jury is excited to open our Art Gallery to the talents of our international membership. Will you be unlocking your creative talents? The true key is sharing your creative passions with others. **Click now!**





**Meet Debbie Blazonin Pajula,
New Co-Chair of the DKG
Michigan Legislation
Committee**

Debbie is a western UP native originally from Ironwood, MI. She and her husband, Dave, have resided for the past thirty years in Norway, near the border with Wisconsin.



Debbie received her Education Specialist Degree in Education Administration from the University of Wisconsin and B.S. and M.A. in Education from the Northern Michigan University, Marquette. Her thirty-four year career in education was in the State of Wisconsin where she worked as a K-12 resource teacher for students with learning, emotional, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities and as a K-12 LD/ED/ID Program Support Special Education Consultant for five school districts.

Debbie has been a member of DKG Beta Sigma Chapter (UP) since 1987. She is the 2020-22 past co-president of Beta Sigma and serves as the chapter's chair of the Personal Growth and Services Committee.

Debbie is passionate about legislation and mental health issues and will provide regular updates from the DKG U.S. Forum for Michigan members. She also is one of the presenters at the fall conference. The title of her session is "DKG U.S. Forum and Mental Health Issues for Educators."

Purpose of the United States DKG Forum

Source: www.dkgusforum.com

Do you know that, as a DKG Michigan member, you also are a member of the U.S. Forum at chapter and state levels and when attending regional conferences and International Conventions? The Forum is dedicated to being an advocate for women, children, and education by implementing actions which enable

change and improvement in social institutions, systems, legislation, and practices that impose hardships or impacts negatively individuals, groups or families.

The Forum is an assembly for the open discussion of current questions. This method should not be regarded as a question and answer session, but rather a time for the audience to comment, raise, and discuss issues and to offer information. It enables the audience to express ideas and opinions, thus continuously redirecting the discussion by the leaders to include the most relevant and expressed needs and interests of the group in its action planning.

It is important that all U.S. DKG members become active and involved in the efforts of the Forum. To learn more about the U.S. Forum, check out *US Forum Connection Newsletter* at www.dkgusforum.com

News from the U.S. Forum

- The 2022-24 Biennium Chair of the U.S. Forum Steering Committee is Darlene Cook, OR; the Northeast Representative is Beverly Johns, IL.
- Resolution *On Recognizing Mental Health Issues for Educational Staff and Promoting Support Services* was adopted at the U.S. Forum Meeting on July 16, 2022, in New Orleans. Below is the synopsis:

DKG Society U.S. Forum members will:

1. Educate themselves on the issues and needs related to mental health for educators through study, workshops, etc.
2. Inform members of current legislation related to mental health services for educators so they many take appropriate actions.
3. Promote destigmatization of mental illness through dissemination of information on successful school based treatment programs, supports and resources; etc.



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4. Engage in a wide range of activities that demonstrate emotional support for educators.

(For the complete text and the list of references go to www.dkgusforum.com)

You also may be interested in viewing the *Virtual March for Our Lives 2022* on June 11, 2022, featuring twelve inspiring, informative, and fantastic DKG members speaking in response to the Uvalde, Texas, shooting: <https://youtu.be/iiaVZrldMso>



“I have been elected chapter president. Now what?”

Taking a leadership role is challenging. You want to succeed, but you are not sure how to tackle this business of being a chapter president. It's good to have advice from those people who have been in your shoes. You may be lucky to have the past president as your mentor. You also will find a wealth of information at dkg.org under Resources/Chapter Tools. There are suggestions about how to develop a chapter plan, recruit new members, re-ignite the interest in those members who feel washed out, examples of best chapter projects, and fundraising ideas.

I want to share with you a few ideas about meetings. This is what I learned from my own experience as a chapter president and from other presidents:

- It is up to your chapter to decide how many

meetings you want to have. **The minimum is four meetings a year.** Together with your officers, develop a meeting schedule for the upcoming year and share it with your members as early as possible.

- Consider an **online meeting** option, especially in winter. You may ask those members who are experienced in using technology to invite their sisters who are not techno-savvy or don't have access to the internet. Smaller groups are also preferable for the members who have safety concerns about larger gatherings.
- **Communicate** with your members regularly, especially if you don't meet often. Your missives may be related to a DKG business topic or may be just reminders that you are thinking of your sisters. **Use the method of communication that works for your chapter.** Most presidents send emails—either themselves or through the corresponding secretary. But how about the trusty old snail mail, especially you have members who don't use email? Set up a **“card tree”**—share this responsibility with several members so each of you sends a card to four or five members. Make sure you are sending **fun cards!**
- Remind the members of the upcoming meeting and send out an **agenda**. It should briefly describe the program (presentation, fund-raiser, business discussion, trip, etc.)
- Start and end the meeting **on time**. Keep it short and to the point!
- **Share responsibilities** for organizing a meeting. Each meeting can have a different **presider** who sets up what is necessary for the topic of the meeting, for example, contacting the speaker and providing the necessary AV equipment (if needed).



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- **Refreshments!** Have **hosts** for each meeting who will provide refreshments.
- Make sure someone is taking the **minutes** if the chapter recording secretary is absent.
- Think outside the box when you consider a **presentation** topic. With the internet at our fingertips, you can invite a non-local speaker. Maybe someone from the Michigan State Organization or the DKG International, a writer who has won the DKG award, a state legislator?
- An **activity** keeps you members...well, active—whether they are attending the meeting in person or online. There is a variety of things that can be accomplished during a meeting, such as art-making or yoga for seniors (can be done sitting in your chair).
- **HAVE FUN!** Nothing keeps members from attending meetings more than feeling bored. Spruce it up with a fun ice-breaker, a raffle, a skit, a game. Ask your members for suggestions—you may learn something about them you don't know.



Amended Constitution and International Standing Rules That May Require Amendments to Chapter Rules

The 2022 International convention adopted many of the amendments listed in the March/April issue of the DKG NEWS:

https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Publications/DKG_NEWS/2022-March-April-79-2.aspx

The list below gives the newly adopted wording of only those rules that are most likely to have a direct impact on chapter rules. “PA” stands for “proposed amendments.”

Article III.A.1 (PA 49)

Membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shall be by invitation. At the time she joins the Society, a member becomes a member of the international Society, a state organization, and a chapter.

Article III.B.2 (PA 51)

Reserve membership shall be granted only to a member who is unable to participate fully in the activities of the chapter because of medical disability, geographic location, and/or no technological connection/skill.

Article III.B.3 (PA 53)

Honorary Members

a. A chapter or state organization honorary member shall be a woman not eligible for active membership who has rendered notable service to education or to women and is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service.

b. An international honorary member shall be a woman who has rendered notable service to education or to women, who is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service, and who is not a current or former member of DKG at the time of election.



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Article III.B.4 (PA 48)

Collegiate members shall be undergraduate or graduate students who meet the following criteria:

- a. Bachelor student collegiate members shall
 - (1) be enrolled in an institution offering coursework leading to a career in education; and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education; and
 - (2) be enrolled within the last two years of their bachelor's education degree.

b. Graduate/Masters/Doctoral student collegiate members shall have Graduate/Masters/ Doctoral standing in an institution offering coursework in the field of education; and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education.

When a collegiate member starts her career as a paid educator, she will pay active member dues and become an active member. If a collegiate member does not pursue a career as an educator, her membership will expire upon graduation or withdrawal from the education degree program.

Article IV.B.1 (PA 55)

Eliminated from the *Constitution*
(Remaining subsections are not renumbered in this table.)

Article IV.C.2 (PA 63)

New members shall become members when dues are paid. New members who join between July 1 and December 31 shall pay full international dues for current fiscal year. New members who join between January 1 and March 31 shall pay half dues. New members joining between April 1 and June 30 shall pay full international dues for the ensuing year.

Reinstated members shall pay full annual dues whenever reinstated. Chapter and state organization dues may be pro-rated as the chapter/state organization determines.

Article IV.C.3 (PA 64)

Immediately thereafter, the state organization portion of the dues shall be sent to the state organization treasurer and the international portion to the International Headquarters

ISR 4.21 (PA 57)

Eliminated from the ISR

Additional adopted amendments were: 1-23; 25-28; 41-42; 44-49; 51; 53; 55-57; 60-68; 70; 74-83; 89; 91-94; 97; 108. These amendments affect state organizations, chapters, and individual members but do not require amending state Bylaws or chapter rules.

To get the complete wording of all amendments, refer to the list in the March/April 2022 issue of the *DKG NEWS*.

Webinar Back to School with U.S. Dept. of Education Thursday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m. ET



Link to register:

https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_jE_vnPijRVKIPtjGFEI6SA

The White House is hosting a back-to-school town hall for educators in collaboration with the National Education Association (NEA) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Our panelists include NEA President Becky Pringle, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, White House COVID Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha, and CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky.

The topics include health and safety in schools, academics, and mental health issues. Do not miss an opportunity to bring your concerns to the experts and have your questions answered.