



THE WOLVERINE



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Summer/Fall 2026

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide



Colleen Retherford
2025-2027
State President



DKG Michigan
2025-2027 Biennium Theme
Forward Moving Ever!

President's Message

Greetings to all of you. I hope your summer is filled with laughter and the love of family and friends. By the time you read this, the previous biennium will have come to an end and a new one begun. Many of you are welcoming new officers, but a lot of chapters may be like my chapter, Epsilon, who decided to keep our executive board from the previous biennium. Whether new or returning, I hope that you all have an excellent biennium, and I look forward to seeing you at our virtual meetings of chapter presidents! A schedule will be sent to all chapter presidents soon. When you receive the link, I encourage you to share it with your chapter members and invite them to join us. The more the merrier!

Our Spring Convention was a rousing success! Many thanks to 1st Vice President Anne Wade (Alpha Lambda) and everyone who worked hard to make it one to remember. One highlight for me was the AIM Gala, where we rocked the night away with singing, dancing, and the fabulous photo booth! Shout out to Karen Lessnau-Scott (Alpha Theta) for the most authentic and eye-popping costume of the night! All the sessions that I attended were valuable and inspiring, especially our keynote speaker, Diane Phillips of Manitoba, and Jimena Alviar, World Fellowship Recipient. I left our convention feeling re-energized and ready to tackle our goals for the next year. If you did not attend, I invite you to try to come to our 2027 Spring Convention. Remember, first-timers to state conferences or conventions have their registration fee reduced.

In March we held our virtual President's Advisory Council meeting, and it was very productive. In our breakout rooms we discussed the spring convention, collegiate membership, and leadership succession. Collegiate membership can be a way to gain membership while supporting pre-service teachers and new professionals. It has the potential to be very beneficial. Elena Ivanova (Beta Chi) has contacted the Golden Apple Scholars Program, and we have met virtually with them. We hope to have a strong partnership with this organization and will be meeting some of the participants at Western Michigan University over the summer. Our ad hoc committee will also meet later this summer. Please let me know if you are interested in joining this committee.

Leadership succession is important at all levels of our organization. Noticing members who show up for meetings, conferences, conventions and coordinating council meetings is one way to identify our next leaders. The Leadership Discovery Centre on our international website has many resources for assisting in identifying and nurturing the next generation. Please take a look and let us know if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss.

A group of us attended the International Convention in Colorado in July. At that time, we voted on incoming international officers and the streamlined Bylaws and GAPP. I had attended a virtual meeting beforehand to meet the candidates for offices, and I am satisfied with my choices. I also supported the changes, including the overhaul of the governing documents. Please check back with the international website to learn about the new officers and governance changes, and encourage your chapter members to do so as well.

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2025-2027**

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President's Message

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An International Revision Alignment Task Force is being formed to help state organizations and chapters update their bylaws and standing rules to align with the new governing documents. Stay tuned!

I have had the pleasure of visiting several of our chapters and coordinating councils. Metro Council held their meeting in Northville, and it was lovely seeing members from my old chapter Gamma Alpha! There was an excellent presentation by the archivist at Cranbrook. His stories were entertaining and informative, and his delivery was a hoot! I also attended the Installation of Officers at both Gamma and Alpha Theta chapters. It was interesting to see how different chapters embrace different levels of formality. Both are valid ways of performing the installation, and both enjoyable in their own way. Our visitation chair, Toni Behrendt (Beta Alpha) and I also attended the Kenowa Council for a day at Meijer Gardens where we toured the Chihuly glass exhibit. How exciting! Meijer Gardens has a special relationship with the artist, and I'm so pleased that Kenowa Council extended the invitation to this special event. We will also travel to the Traverse City area to visit Phi Chapter. We're so lucky to have the opportunity to travel "Up North" in the summer and visit with our DKG Sisters!

Last, but certainly not least, the DKG International Communications and Marketing Committee has created podcasts that can be accessed through Spotify, YouTube, or the Apple Podcast app. I listened to the first two, and I was impressed by the interview quality. I found the Five Chairs podcast to be moving and practical at the same time. Shout out to our own Karen Lessnau-Scott for her part in making this happen. Our organization is doing important, compassionate and wise work, and we should all be very proud and humbled to be a part of this great endeavor.

Forward Moving Ever!

Submitted by State President Colleen Retherford, Epsilon

The Margin Notes-- A Note from your Wolverine Editor

This edition begins my second volume as the editor of *The Wolverine*. I have learned much during my first volume, and I will continue to strive to maintain our state newsletter as a point of pride for our organization.

I learned that most other state organizations have a digital newsletter format ONLY. I have heard from many of you that you still wish to continue to receive a mailed copy. Our budget still supports this practice. But, as the issues only come out 3 times a year, they will be at least 24 pages when produced. If you would prefer to only receive a digital copy, please contact me, and I will remove you from our mailing list.

To entice you to consider the digital format, you may have noticed items that are underlined throughout the issue. On the digital version, if you hover your mouse over some clipart images or underlined items, it will take you to a website so you can explore more information virtually. Our digital edition is in full color and can be distributed more efficiently. You receive it much more quickly via email at a reduced cost.

Thanks to all of you who have submitted photos and articles for *The Wolverine*, as well as for our presence on Social Media. We have achieved over 38,775 views using these platforms. I have really enjoyed serving in this capacity and I appreciate all of your feedback and support.

Submitted by Wolverine Editor Karen Lessnau-Scott, Alpha Theta

**EDUCATED WOMEN,
UPLIFTED**

A DKG PODCAST

***Educated Women, Uplifted is a podcast made by DKG members.
Our goal is to uplift educators worldwide and showcase
real stories from educators in every field.***



DKG Michigan State Woman of Distinction Award 2026

We gathered at the DKG Michigan Spring Convention to celebrate distinction, a quality defined by leadership, compassion, and tireless dedication. I am honored to introduce a woman who embodies all three: Claire Rettenmund of Alpha Omega Chapter.

Claire was inducted into Delta Kappa Gamma in 1987. For 39 years, she has been a faithful and committed member to DKG. She has led her chapter for four terms as president and has received the Chapter Woman of Distinction in 2007 and 2019. Claire has held the position of First Vice President for two terms and Recording Secretary, along with serving on many chapter committees over many years. Even moving to Grayling, she kept active by taking on the responsibility for the chapter newsletter and she encouraged members to contribute. She has provided excellent and much needed leadership for the Flint Area Coordinating Council, serving as president and treasurer.

At the state level, her contributions and level of continued involvement are numerous. She is currently the Chair of the Women in the Arts Committee and has been a leader and presenter there for at least a dozen years. She just concluded her second term as Second Vice President. She graciously accepted the second term when there was a resignation, and she stepped up to provide continuity and stable leadership. As a member of the Membership Committee, her artistic sensibility and attention to detail enhanced the White Rose Ceremony, making it reflect the dignity and sisterhood of our organization. She has presented at numerous state conventions, participated in numerous President Advisory Councils and has been a co-site coordinator for Fall Conference.

Her artwork has been accepted multiple times for the DKG Fine Arts Gallery, which shows her creative contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma International.

Her professional experiences as a K-6th grade educator for 32 years and a classroom supervising teacher for many placements of student teachers speak to her dedication to education and students. Her community involvement with the Kirtland Garden Club, Community Theater, Flint Institute of Arts and the Beta Sigma Phi International Service Sorority all demonstrate her volunteerism and service.

Words members have given me to describe Claire include loyal, outstanding, extremely reliable, trustworthy, caring, giving, and encouraging. For this sustained, exemplary service over many years to DKG Michigan, we recognize and congratulate you, Claire, on being our 2026 State Woman of Distinction.



2nd Vice President Carol Dean (Phi) stands with Claire Rettenmund (Alpha Omega), DKG Michigan's State Woman of Distinction.

Submitted by 2nd Vice President Carol Dean, Phi



Chapter Woman of Distinction Pin

Red letters are on a gold background. The dark areas are raised gold.



Key Woman Educator Pin-Oval Shape

Pin shows gold laurel leaves with a diamond setting. It features an open red rose with green leaves outlined in gold on a black background in the center. The DKG letters are in black. Gold letters read, "KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS".

Key Woman Educator Pin-Diamond Shape

This pin has a black background with gold inlay. This diamond gem can be awarded by the chapter or state as a special award. The pin reads, "International Society for Key Women Educators".



Membership Anniversary Pins



Pins are available for purchase at state meetings, or may be shipped for a small fee.

Please contact: Mary Oram 517-605-6328





Alpha Theta Chapter nominated the founder and volunteers of The Ivy Table in Brighton, Michigan for this year's Distinguished Service Award. Pictured L to R: Ginny Cole, Karen M. S. Bowen, Jessica and Dan Smokovitz, Carol Serafin, and Pam Olech

DKG Michigan Distinguished Service Award 2026

Jessica Smokovitz and the Ivy Table Volunteers are the Distinguished Service Award recipients for 2026. Jessica saw a need during Covid and began packaging and serving meals in Livingston County, which has 1 in 13 people living in food insecurity. At the end of Covid, she and volunteers had served 25,000 meals. This experience fostered her desire to continue to help people in need in her county. Ivy Table Cafe', a nonprofit 501 (c)(3), was started with the help of volunteers. The cafe' is a pay what you can pricing cafe' serving nutritious food to everyone regardless of their story, circumstance or financial need. Much of their food is surplus food and is collected and repackaged by volunteers and turned into meals. Some guests do pay full price, and some pay what they can, but many receive a free meal, with dignity, no questions asked. They also have a garden taken care of by volunteers in which they harvest fresh produce for the cafe'.

Jessica spent time in Thailand with her husband because of his job. It was there that she witnessed extreme poverty and hunger among the people.

Ivy Table now partners with missions in Thailand feeding two orphanages. Jessica has volunteers who do mission work in Thailand including free food distribution, community dinners, doing building repairs, and painting projects. They also offer teacher enrichment events. Volunteers package and provide food to hundreds of people in the community who line up to receive a food box of a bag of rice, fresh eggs, cooking oil, fish sauce, canned fish noodles, snacks, water bottles and a hot meal.

She is currently working on ride vouchers for guests to receive free rides to the café. There are community free fridges stocked with prepackaged meals, and Ivy Table stocks two food pantries at area high schools.

Jessica's compassion, leadership and perseverance has inspired Ivy Table Cafe' to expand, and her enthusiasm has inspired her volunteers which has spread throughout the county. One Cafe'. Two continents. Thousands of plates. One remarkable woman, Jessica Smokovitz and her many volunteers, all making a difference that started with a desire to feed a hungry neighbor.

Submitted by 2nd Vice President Carol Dean, Phi

Membership This and That

- Members should make sure to inform their treasurers of any changes in address, phone, or email. They provide international and the state with your info. This means you will keep up to date with events and publications.
- Keep an eye out for any potential members. Explore colleges and universities for possibilities. Collegiate members should be at least juniors and going into education, but it is possible to approach sophomores (even at community colleges) with information and mentoring. We are exploring a partnership with another organization which mentors potential teachers.
- New guidelines exist for dissolution and merging. Forms are available on the international website. Log in and go to the Forms menu. Then look for Membership. The first guideline is to inform the state of any problems. Please do that. If we can save some of our chapters as soon as problems exist, that would be helpful.
- Regarding dissolution, remember that as soon as members vote for dissolving, the chapter ceases to exist. No business may be conducted after that. Funds remaining revert to the state. You may no longer present yourselves as a chapter of DKG. Be aware.

As always, thanks for your kind attention and suggestions. Keep abreast of new ideas using the Ideaboardz on our state website.

Submitted by Membership/Expansion Chair Cindy Dietz, Gamma Alpha



Amy Wright (Alpha Epsilon) co-presented a session on Membership with committee chair Cindy Dietz (Gamma Alpha) at the Spring Convention in Lansing.



Find Us on the Web



DKG Michigan www.dkgmichigan.org
DKG International www.dkg.org

Follow Us on Social Media



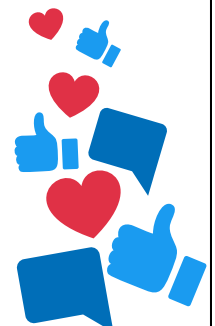
DKG Michigan

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International**



@dkg_mich

@dkgsi





Seeking State Leaders!



The Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for DKG Michigan state officer positions and for positions on the next Nominations Committee for 2027-2029. We have so many terrific leaders in our ranks. We hope you will apply. Serving is a great way to meet new people, help grow DKG and grow personally and professionally.

We are especially looking for candidates for the positions of Second Vice-President and Recording Secretary. It would be wonderful to have people from each area of the state apply.

It is easy to submit your name into nomination. The form is on dkgmichigan.org>Member Resources> Forms> Individual forms> Nominations forms. If you nominate someone else, please be sure to get their permission first!

The committee will accept nominations, then in a month or so, put together a slate of candidates. We hope that will include you! Questions? Please contact us.

*Nominations Committee Chair Ginny Cole, Alpha Theta
Committee Member Liz VanWestenburg, Gamma Gamma*



How to Amend the Bylaws and Standing Rules for the Michigan State Organization

As a member of the Michigan State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, you have the right to make changes to the documents used to govern the Society. The main governing documents for Michigan State Organization are the Bylaws (BL) and the Standing Rules (SR). Although these are printed as one document, they are two documents. Bylaws contain their own basic rules relating principally to itself as an organization and define the primary characteristics of the organization. Standing Rules define the details of the administration of the bylaws.

If you wish to make a change in the bylaws or standing rules there is a format that should be followed:

1. First state the section of the Bylaws or Standing Rules you wish to amend. State the Article (a roman numeral) and all the subsequent letters and numbers as stated in the current Bylaws and Standing Rules. Then state the wording as written in the document.
2. Next state the amendment you wish to make, and the rationale for this change. Show what is being deleted and what the new wording will be.
3. Third state the way it will be stated in the BL & SR, complete with the appropriate numbers and letters.

If the change affects both the BL & SR, submit both changes in the above format. If the change is new information, use the numbers and letters to show where this amendment should be placed, and explain the rationale for this amendment. State the new amendment as it should be stated in the new document.

The amendment should be written on the Amendments to Bylaws and Standing Rules form and sent to the Bylaws and Standing Rules committee by November 1. The form for submitting an amendment can be obtained from Dr. Barb Souve'(Omega), Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee Chair, at barbarasouve1@gmail.com.

Submitted by State Parliamentarian Gloria Richards, Nu

Women in the Arts: October 23-25, 2026

Women in the Arts is scheduled for October 23-25, 2026 at the MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon on Higgins Lake. Although the deadline for registration is October 2, 2026, there will be other groups on site and we might not have the luxury of making last minute additions as we have done in the past. Register early!

With the cost of everything rising it is with great pleasure that the WITA committee announces that the cost for the weekend outing has NOT increased again this year. Take advantage of 2024 prices and sign up now for the unparalleled getaway that is fun, relaxing and educational. Prepare to be pampered and rejuvenated.

There will be a weekend of prepared meals, arts and crafts activities, time to relax, and making new friends while catching up with old buddies. Weather permitting, we will have outdoor activities. Since crafting is our united goal and all sessions are presented by DKG members we need volunteers! If you have perfected a particular craft or are eager to teach a new one, we need you! Crafts presented years ago will be new again with many different members attending. Please consider being a teacher to a small group of your peers. Since we are of the "Arts", we are happy to include sessions of voice, instrument, dance or theatre.

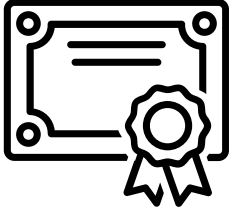
Many of the sessions offer SCECHs should you be earning those. Come alone, bring a non-member or good friend: just come! Please direct questions or information about a session you would like to present (or attend) along with your registration form and check to DKG to Claire Rettenmund. Registration forms are in *The Wolverine* and on the state website. They have also been sent to members via email. See page 8 for Claire's contact information, which is on the registration form.. You may also call her at (810) 938-5667.

Submitted by Arts Chair Claire Rettenmund, Alpha Omega

Women



in the Arts



Apply for SCECH Credits!

Would you like a new recruitment strategy? Plan a program that counts for SCECHs! A chapter meeting, a coordinating council field trip, a guest speaker-- the possibilities are endless! The SCECH application process is available via our state website by clicking on the Member Resources link at the top of the page. Choose SCECH Credits and look for the SCECH Slide Show link. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Submitted by SCECH Coordinator Karen Lessnau-Scott, Alpha Theta

Legislation Committee Advocacy Reminders

Debbie Pajula (Beta Sigma) and Lynn Mason (Sigma) are continuing as the DKG Michigan Legislative Committee Co-chairs. We are fortunate to be learning so many advocacy strategies from Lynn, our expert on Legislation. She is a fantastic person with a wealth of legislative knowledge and experience. Lynn attended the Biannual National DKG U.S. Forum Legislative Seminar in DC this past spring. It continues to be an incredible and valuable Seminar for us all!

- First and most importantly: We hope you had a great ending to this school year and will enjoy a fun and safe summer!
- Reminder to all of us, safety must come first... remain aware and stay safe regardless if you are working, traveling or at home!
- Our most important focus is on Public Education and Educators.
- DKG is non-partisan and we, as an organization, should focus on issues which make education the best it can be.
- We should consider CREATING Potential Legislation ideas for new bills and focus on actual existing bills that will help make education better for our students and educators. (DKG Purpose #4)
- We should continue to try to improve working situations for all educators...teachers, consultants, administrators, school nurses, paraprofessionals, and support staff in our state and in all states across our country.

We in DKG Michigan have work to do!

- Do you have ideas to help deal with the current teacher shortages we are experiencing? (Consider attending local school board meetings) (Research Michigan Grow Your Own Program)
- Can we provide ways to help keep our school environments as SAFE as possible? (Prevent school shootings and unnecessary immigration reform errors)
- We must continue to come up with how to provide needed help and programs for the mental health issues that are affecting our students and our education staff. We need more counselors/Psychologists and programs to help our students and our staff.
- Remember the Michigan Peer Warm Line: 888-733-7753. Help is free and only a phone call away.
- Citizen participation is an essential and important component of a democratic government such as ours in the United States of America.

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Do NOT Miss Out on Opportunities for Scholarships & Grants



Are you working on a graduate degree, retraining, or seeking an additional endorsement on your teaching certificate? Perhaps you should consider applying for a Delta Kappa Gamma Michigan Scholarship or an International award.

The International Lucile Cornet Award is granted to educators for the purpose of participating in professional seminars, workshops, and other non-degree programs that relate to an educator's professional aspirations. The Cornet Award is granted three times per year: February 1st, May 1st, and September 1st. This application is available online at the International website at dkg.org. You can apply up to 6 months ahead. Awards vary and will pay registration, travel, meals, etc.

DKG Michigan offers scholarships for educators who are working on a graduate degree, retraining, or an additional endorsement in education. Scholarship applications need to be submitted by March 1st. A plan of study and proof of acceptance at a college/university is required. Two \$1,000 scholarships, two \$500 scholarships for retraining or additional endorsements, and one \$800 scholarship for graduate study may be awarded at the Spring Convention. Forms and information can be found on the DKG Michigan website.

The Scholarships/Grants Committee awarded the Katherine Keeling Memorial Grant to Lynn Mason (Sigma). She was able to attend the DKG International US Forum National Leadership Seminar held in March of 2026. Gara Williams (Beta Tau) was awarded the Delta Kappa Gamma IGNITE: Leaders Empowering Leaders Program Grant. She attended the seminar this summer.

At the close of the Spring Convention, several drawings are held. This year, Cynthia Dietz (Gamma Alpha) and Carol Dean (Phi) won the Kathy Cashen Grant 50/25/25 raffle. Cathy Ayers (Mu), Pat Carson (Alpha Rho), and Kathleen Rodak (Beta Omicron) had their registration for State Convention paid from the Member-to-Member drawing. For help or questions contact:

Mary Oram
7511 Wadding Drive, Onsted, MI 49265
gardenatthelake@comcast.net

Submitted by Scholarship Chair Mary Oram, Gamma

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- Elected Legislative Leaders REQUIRE input and feedback... the people in the public... to help them vote for what their constituents want. They can then enact policies that are consistent with the will of the people...their public constituents.
- WE, as constituents in our Districts, should contact and form positive working relationships with our district legislators at all levels of government. This is a very effective way that we can continue to get the improvements and support we need for education.
- Our MI District Representatives and MI Senators have votes to cast. A yes vote from your legislator is necessary for positive changes/bills we are trying to get passed or a no vote from your legislator may stop any undesirable changes/bills we'd like to see stopped. A suggested download in your APPs is "5 Calls", a simple way to contact your legislators and a place for you to get help with simplifying your message.

Get Involved in other efforts that also help:

- Consider volunteering to help at the polls
- Promote voting by learning for ourselves and helping others to learn about current issues, voting dates and procedures to follow in order to vote in Michigan.
- VOTE in each and all of our elections! Go to mi.gov/vote for any and all voter information.

REMEMBER, it is important that we each contact our Michigan District State Representatives; our Michigan District Senators; our District's Federal MI Representatives; and our District's Federal MI Senators. Start today regarding issues/bills that concern us or are of interest to us. We want our Legislators to be aware of the issues/bills about which we are unhappy or concerned. We also want our legislators to be aware of any issues or bills we support, are in favor of and want to promote. We want their vote to reflect our wishes and/or concerns!

Submitted by Legislative Co-chairs Debbie Pajula (Beta Sigma) and Lynn Mason (Sigma)

**UP Fall Conference Featured Speakers
October 16-17, 2026**

Charlene DeWitt

Charlene has been able to teach in 4 different school districts in Michigan in a variety of age groups - preschool through 5th grade plus in multi-grade classes and became a Reading Recovery teacher. Now she is working with Amish children. Charlene earned her BA at Western Michigan University many, many years ago.

After retiring from Brimley Area Schools, Charlene was asked if she would evaluate an Amish child who was struggling with reading. She was willing and interested since she had found in her genealogy research that part of her family had been Amish. And so, the adventure started. Charlene has had this exciting, enjoyable, and educational experience since 2019 and continues to learn herself!

She once heard an Amish man in the Clare, MI area say, "let me tell you about the Amish rather than what you hear or think about them". Let Charlene share her experience of working with some amazing Amish children and families. Denki!

Julie Buchholtz

Julie is fortunate to live along the shores of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where the presence of nature grounds and sustains her. She feels most connected when she stands on the same earth her ancestors walked before her. Julie is a proud member of the Bay Mills Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Her inaugural book, *Who Am I*, was selected as a 2021 Own Voices/Own Stories Winner. Julie's second book, *Mama's Song*, serves as a prequel to *Who Am I* and led her further along the path of embracing her Indigenous heritage. It tells the story of the little girl's birth and a mother's deep gratitude to the Creator for such a gift. *Mama's Song* reflects a mother's wish for her daughter to live the "good life," or *mino-bimaadiziwin*. Through this story, readers are introduced to the Seven Grandfather Teachings of Wisdom, Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Humility, and Truth.

Chi Miigwech for your interest as Julie shares her story.

Thelma Godin

Thelma is an award-winning children's author whose stories celebrate curiosity, culture, and community. Her debut, *The Hula Hoopin' Queen*, earned starred reviews, major awards, and a special reading by Oprah Winfrey on Storyline Online. It has been adapted for children's theatre and staged off-Broadway. With roots in social work and experience as a school librarian in an urban environment, Thelma creates lively, inclusive tales inspired by real children and real places. Her other beloved books include *How To Dress A Dragon* and *Hush A Bye Night: Goodnight Lake Superior*, plus the board book *Hush a Bye Night: Goodnight Up North*.

Now living by Lake Superior, Thelma writes, plays cello, gardens, and dreams up new stories. Come to Thelma's conference session to hear the stories behind her award-winning work, learn concrete ideas for bringing these tales to life, and gather practical inspiration for educators and families.

Becky Arbic

Becky has taught mathematics for the past 24 years. Within the last 11 years, she has taught math contextually, teaching Geometry in Construction, AMPED on Algebra (Algebra in the Manufacturing Process, Entrepreneurship and Design) and Algebra 2 for the trades. She works in the summer months training other teachers around the country how to implement those classes in their schools. Becky believes bringing relevance to math education is key to improving student engagement and ultimately improving student outcomes.

Becky plans to show how making math relevant is possible in all classes and what schools who teach math contextually have been able to accomplish in terms of student growth & achievement. You won't want to miss this!

**Moving Forward . . .
The Future is Ours!**

DKG



Michigan Women in the Arts Weekend Retreat

Friday, October 23-Sunday, October 25, 2026

Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, Roscommon



REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline: October 2, 2026

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Cell _____

Room Preference: for two nights lodging including meals for Friday p.m.,
three on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday

_____ Double Room, per person rate \$ 250.

_____ Single Room, per person rate \$290.

Roommate's name, Chapter , email/cell _____

List food allergies or accommodations _____

Please note any skill, craft, art, music, project or session you are willing to
present _____

Mail check to "DKG" with form to:

Claire Rettenmund

243 S. Jackson Trail

Grayling, MI 49738

Contact: cerbirder@yahoo.com



Moving Forward . . . The Future is Ours!

**Delta Kappa Gamma MI 2026 Fall
Conference – October 16/17, 2026**

**Bay Mills Community College, 12214 W.
Lakeshore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715**

Conference and Hotel Registration Deadline: September 30, 2026

+ ☐	
Name: _____	Fall Conference 2026 Registration: \$75 (includes conference costs, Saturday breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack) Paid: _____
Chapter: _____	
Street Address: _____	Friday Evening Meet & Greet + Craft: \$10 Paid: _____
City: _____	Check Number: _____
State: _____	Check Amount: _____
Zip Code: _____	Dietary Restrictions:
Phone: _____	Gluten Free: _____
Email Address: _____	Vegetarian: _____
Chapter Officer: _____	
State Officer: _____	PIC Number: _____ (Only if earning SCECH's) (No cost)
Photo Release: <u>Yes</u> _____ <u>No</u> _____	Rent a Table? \$10 Yes _____ No _____

Additional Information, including hotel registration information, and cancellation policies can be found on the events page of the organization's website at www.dkgmichigan.org. ☐

You may choose to print this registration form and mail it in with a check. Please mail the form and a check to our Conference registrar:

Jan Miller, Alpha Tau Treasurer
818 Court Street
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
(906) 748-0404

Questions about registration can be directed to Jan Miller at janmiller818@gmail.com or Sherry Hutchins at hutchinsma_pa@hotmail.com.

Our venue does not allow gambling of any sort, which includes raffles. Therefore, we will be renting table space (approximately 3'x 3') to individuals and chapters who wish to bring baskets or other items to sell – either via silent auction or direct pricing. You can indicate the table rental on the registration form.

Accessibility Needs:

Elevator service to the conference level is available at Bay Mills Community College. Special guest room accommodation at the Bay Mills Casino and Resort should be made directly with the hotel.

Cancellation Policy:

A person having to cancel their registration will receive a refund provided her written request is posted **fifteen days** prior to the event. This would be **October 2, 2026**. (Standing rule 7:01 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International). Requests for cancellations must be sent in writing to the same person to whom the registration form was sent. If it is necessary to cancel after **October 2, 2026**, you should attempt to get someone from your chapter to attend in your place. **No refunds will be made after the cancellation date.**

Earn Michigan State Continuing Education Clock Hours! (SCECH's):

There is no SCECH fee for this conference. In order to earn the SCECH's, please do the following:

- Register for SCECH's at the registration desk when you check in.
- Attend SCECH sessions from beginning until end.
- Fill out all provided paperwork.
- Submit paperwork at the registration desk prior to leaving.

Please mail this completed form and your check, payable to Alpha Tau/Delta Kappa Gamma to the 2026 Conference Registrar:

Jan Miller, Alpha Tau Treasurer
818 Court Street
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
(906) 748-0404

Hotel Booking Information:

Bay Mills Resort and Casino
11386 W. Lake Shore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715
Group block for October 16 – 18, 2026 (until September 30, 2026)
Booking Code BKG685, 1-888-422-9645 (\$153 plus tax)

Rooms are filling fast! Call soon to reserve yours!

We Had a Rockin' Good Time At the AIM Foundation Gala!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the AIM Educational Foundation, I would like to thank everyone who rocked the night away at the annual AIM Educational Foundation Gala on April 24, 2026. We had 63 guests, many of whom came dressed in the style of the early rock-n-roll era. We danced to the tunes from the 1950s and 1960s and sang from the collection of karaoke songs; played the rock-n-roll trivia game; took pictures at the photo booth; and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the cash bar.

Special thanks go to Lynn Mason (Sigma), the trivia game host; Laura Ruggles (Sigma), the talented photo booth operator; Karen Lesnau-Scott (Alpha Theta) for the great music selection and for managing the Shout Out desk; Wayne Eves, the karaoke DJ; Kathy Muench (Phi), the hard-working Rockin' Shoppe manager; Toni Behrendt (Beta Alpha) for helping with the Mystery Mania lottery; Kathleen Rodak (Beta Omicron) for setting up the Art Gallery; Ranae Beyerlein (Beta Xi), who ensured that we had the most delicious hors d'oeuvres on the menu; and to Lynn Mason and Norrie Slater (Sigma) for helping with the setup and take down. I also want to thank chapters and individuals who donated the gift cards for the Mystery Mania Lottery (67 cards were collected) and the beautiful items for the Rockin' Shoppe. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$3,172 during the gala, in addition to \$630 from the ticket sales (\$10 donation per ticket x 63 guests).

As of June 10, the Foundation has \$16,066.48 in its accounts. This number reflects the donations and the disbursements that took place after the gala. A new round of grant applications is currently underway. By the time you receive the summer issue of The Wolverine, we'll know the names of the grant recipients. The next deadline for grant applications is November 30. Application forms are available at www.dkgmichigan.org/ Please spread the word! Once again, thank you, DKG sisters, for your continuing support! With your help, the AIM Educational Foundation will grow and provide more opportunities for Michigan educators.

Submitted by AIM Educational Foundation, Inc. Board Member Dr. Elena Ivanova, Beta Chi



Mu Chapter Moves to the Music! Lee Anne Stringer, Marilyn Hopkins, Cathy Ayers & Dot Sample



Northern Lights Ladies! Beckie Thomson (Alpha Xi), Carol Dean & Alicia Sanford (Phi) and Julie Kowalski (Alpha Xi)



Capital Area Council kids Karen Lessnau-Scott (Alpha Theta) & Anne Wade (Alpha Lambda) get into the spirit!



Elena Ivanova (Beta Chi) Dressed to Impress!



Epsilon Ensemble in the House! Linda Dunn, Sharon Smith, Colleen Retherford and Julee Shelton rockin' out!

State Convention Highlights



What is a 50's-60's Gala without Pink Ladies? Jan Hylland, Peggy Panici (Alpha Kappa), Amy Wright (Alpha Epsilon), Denise Bray, Penny Krepps (Alpha Kappa) and Colleen Parnell (Beta Alpha)



Gamma Alpha & Friends Jam Session!
Back Row: Jackie Smart, Judi Fisher, Amy Wright (Alpha Epsilon), Linda Dobrzeniecki, Colleen Retherford (Epsilon). Front Row: Cindy Dietz and Pam Emerson



Alpha Rho Represents at the AIM Gala!
Lynn Fouchey and Pat Carson pose with "air" guitars.



Colleen Retherford (Epsilon) presides over the Executive Board meeting on Saturday morning.



Laura Ruggles (Sigma) presents a breakout session about Canva in the Classroom.



The Spring Convention Marketplace
Mary Oram (Gamma) converses with Julie Pease (Beta Alpha) as Kathleen Rodak (Beta Omicron) checks out some baskets.



DKG World Fellowship recipient Jimena Alviar from Colombia delivered a well-received presentation on English language teaching.



Pam Olech (Alpha Theta) and Jan Hylland (Alpha Kappa) participate in the Pressed Flower Project session led by Claire Rettenmund (Alpha Omega).



Omega is Open to AIM Gala Fun!
Rhonda and Barbara Souve' pose with Mary Bischoff-Greer.



Pressed Flower Project



Greater Southwest Friends Gather at the Gala
Amy Wright (Alpha Epsilon), Joyce Daglow (Gamma),
Tamara Webster and Libby Owens (Alpha Epsilon)



2026 President's Award

The President's Award is given to those chapters that achieve specific goals related to the State President's biennium theme of Forward Moving Ever. Congratulations to the following:

**GAMMA
EPSILON
MU
PHI
ALPHA ALPHA**

**ALPHA THETA
ALPHA OMEGA
BETA ALPHA
BETA SIGMA
GAMMA ALPHA
GAMMA GAMMA**



Sigma Singing & Dancing!
Laura Ruggles, Norrie Slater, Lynn Mason and Shelbie Ramirez were instrumental in helping to make the AIM Gala a success.

Conference Attendance Award



**EPSILON
GAMMA
MU
PHI
SIGMA
ALPHA KAPPA
ALPHA OMEGA
ALPHA THETA
ALPHA XI
ALPHA ZETA
BETA ALPHA
BETA BETA
BETA CHI
BETA KAPPA
BETA LAMBDA
BETA OMICRON
BETA RHO
BETA TAU
GAMMA ALPHA
GAMMA ETA**

Award of the Rose



The Award of the Rose recognizes chapter achievement and excellence. It encourages chapters to participate in state deadlines and goals. Congratulations to the following:

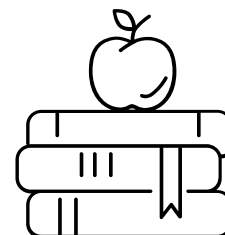
**GAMMA
EPSILON
MU
OMICRON
PHI
SIGMA
ALPHA KAPPA
ALPHA LAMBDA
ALPHA OMEGA
ALPHA RHO
ALPHA THETA
ALPHA ZETA
BETA ALPHA
BETA OMICRON
BETA SIGMA
BETA TAU
GAMMA ALPHA
GAMMA GAMMA**

Chapter Women of Distinction Awards

EPSILON Iris Geik Janice Plair Brown Rena Brooks	ALPHA KAPPA Sue Baranowski	ALPHA ZETA Ellen Burns Leah Hamlin-Morgan	BETA OMICRON Kathleen Rodak
GAMMA Kathryn Drake	ALPHA OMEGA Julie Fizell Kathy O'Neill	BETA ALPHA Joan Dillman	BETA RHO Linda Polter
MU Nancy Lyon	ALPHA TAU Pam Stanaway	BETA CHI Karen Fleming	BETA TAU Rose Lily
PHI Alicia Sanford	ALPHA THETA Brenda Monaster	BETA KAPPA Jean Cousineau	GAMMA ALPHA Cindy Dietz Joanna Elwen
SIGMA Jamie Hansen Hopkins Laura Ruggles	ALPHA XI Lisa Hilberg	BETA LAMBDA Judy Periat	GAMMA ETA Kristine Safford

Friends of Education Awards

- DELTA- Sarah Rehborg, Youth Services Librarian for Peter White Public Library.
- GAMMA- Hillsdale County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council
- PHI- Rebekah Tenbrink, founder and director of Leelanau Investing for Teens (LIFT).
- SIGMA- Deborah Wagner, IM Kids 3rd Meal
- ALPHA RHO- Lucy Ann Lance of Ann Arbor's AM Talk Radio 1290 WLBY. She is a community advocate.
- ALPHA TAU- Soo Theatre Education offers experiences in visual and performing arts in the Eastern UP.
- ALPHA THETA- Jessica Smokovitz and her volunteers of The Ivy Table
- ALPHA XI- The Sunset Project a 501(c)(3) impacting Northeast Michigan through mental health programs
- BETA ALPHA- Tom Batterson of New Story Community Books for supporting literacy throughout Calhoun County.
- BETA KAPPA- Priscilla Fuerst, a supporter of scholarship events which supports new teachers.
- BETA LAMBDA- ELGA Lapeer County Children's Savings LEAF Program
- BETA OMICRON- Hudsonville Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Doug VanderJagt and Director of Transportation, Rob Matthews for assisting stranded drivers in the I-96 pileup on January 19, 2026
- BETA RHO- Rhea Staniszewski of the REA Literacy Center of Adrian for tutoring services
- BETA SIGMA- West Bagley Homemaker Club, A 70-year organization providing positive social and educational opportunities
- BETA SIGMA- John Helfert for sharing his Native American culture for area youth
- BETA TAU- Carolyn Hill for crocheting hats for 6 years for the students in Sanilac county
- GAMMA ALPHA- Zachariah Peterlin of Peterlin's Restaurant for offering job skills training for differently-abled young adults
- GAMMA ALPHA- William Hundley, owner of Tuscan Cafe' who won the SEPAC Award for his work with special needs children
- GAMMA GAMMA- Mary Fritz, Cyndy Gresens, Carol Isackson and Linda Reeves for supporting literacy through donations in their community



Lifetime Service Awards

BETA Barbara Bassett Sharon Burnham Margarita Dirlikov Elizabeth Lipton Deborah Wilbanks	OMICRON Mary Jean Engle Mary Ann White Mayra Ann Perry Anne Rogers	ALPHA ZETA Pamela Naplin Pat Eppley Pat Schattler Margaret Sutton	ALPHA TAU Jo Diane Cornwell Patricia Hunter Betty Jean Struble Penny Belinski Barbara Kauppila Marian Newland Barbara Ogston Kay Powers	BETA KAPPA Karma Bateman	BETA TAU Jan Dral Rose Lily
GAMMA Angela Gautsche JoAnne Miller Barbara Ellen Vallieu Elisbeth Webb	SIGMA Cynthia Ridder	ALPHA THETA Shailla Jehle	ALPHA OMEGA Claire Rettenmund	BETA LAMBDA Sallie Herman Judy Niergarth Judy Periat	BETA CHI Marcy Hardin Dorothy Gustafson
DELTA Donna Barto	PHI Lana Nickels Carol Thorson	ALPHA LAMBDA Marjorie Reep	BETA XI Carole Klein Kathy Heitman Dorothy Goodfellow	BETA OMEGA Carol Koster Carolyn Whittle	GAMMA ALPHA Lynne Bemer
MU Dorothy Colby Cheryl Cyran Patricia Hatch	OMEGA Patricia Andrewes Gretchen Cousino Mary Seiber Barbara Souve' Betty Brogan Beverly Voog-Prima Mary Hartman Gretchen Emerson Linda Strait	ALPHA XI Sylvia Darrt Ilene Larson Beverly Slayden Julie Usher	BETA ALPHA Marilyn Edwards Nancy Hood Janis Ludwig Laurel Riley	BETA OMICRON Jane Bodenmiller Sherry Skridulis Sharon VanDam	GAMMA GAMMA Jan Carney Janis Migyanka Mickey Edell
NU Gloria Richards Karen Yankie Paulene Story Dorothy Perkins	ALPHA RHO Cynthia Caviani Mary Watkins Phyllis Swonk Caryn Beck Mavis Hines Judith Mohr Mary Ann Pierce Anne Kolack Aileen BeMent	BETA BETA Karen Bradner Cecily Savick Julie Garrison	BETA RHO Barbara Lee Plotter Barbara Drown Susan Fleming	GAMMA ETA Marcia Makela Michele Nixon Clemenye Petcher	
		BETA EPSILON Frances Wood Mary Callens Joanne Saucier	BETA SIGMA Patricia Cheski Darlene Salmi Ann Christopherson		



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Shelbie Ramirez: DKG Michigan's 1st Collegiate Member!

Shelbie just graduated from Western Michigan University and is currently looking for a position teaching Art. Ramirez says, "I prefer High School students but all students make my heart happy." Shelbie joined DKG Sigma Chapter in September and has felt so welcomed and loved by all these lovely educators. "I am excited to start my career with such a supportive and wise group of people. I was invited to the group by my High School art teacher, whom you all know as Laura Ruggles. She was my inspiration for wanting to become an art teacher and to guide students through the exploration of art and prepare them for the real world." Shelbie summoned up the courage to attend the state Spring DKG convention and does not regret it. "Between meeting even more amazing people and honoring those members who had passed on, I was thoroughly impressed by the community that has been built by all of you. I cannot wait to be surrounded and further my connections with many more of you all." We are delighted to count Shelbie among us and look forward to what lies ahead!



Submitted by Laura Ruggles, Sigma

What DKG Means to Me

My connection to Delta Kappa Gamma began long before I became a member. In the 1990s, my mom was actively involved in DKG through her school district in Warren. She treasured the camaraderie she found with her colleagues in the Van Dyke schools and developed lasting friendships across Michigan through her involvement at the state level. She presented on how music supports literacy, served as the State Music Chair, and volunteered on numerous committees within her chapter and throughout the state. DKG wasn't simply something she belonged to—it was a community that nurtured her, challenged her, and celebrated her.

Once I became a teacher, Mom was determined that I should join DKG. She tracked down a representative from the Lansing area, who then tracked me down and invited me to become a member. At that point in my life, I was juggling many responsibilities, and I wasn't very active in the local organization. But over time, that changed. I began attending more chapter meetings, traveling with Mom to state conferences, assisting with her presentations, and eventually stepping into leadership roles within my chapter and later at the state level. Looking back, I realize that Mom wasn't just inviting me to join an organization—she was inviting me into a sisterhood.

It was the women of DKG who captured my heart. I remember sitting beside a sister at a state dinner as she shared stories of teaching in her very first classroom—a one-room schoolhouse. I have listened to educators from "lake to shining lake" tell stories of triumphs, challenges, and unwavering dedication to their students. Each conversation reminded me that while our classrooms may look different, our hearts as educators are remarkably the same.

The remarkable women I have met through DKG are the reason I remain deeply committed to our Society. DKG members are supportive, kind, generous, knowledgeable, talented, funny, intelligent, dedicated, and simply wonderful to be around. They inspire me, encourage me, and continually remind me of the power of women lifting one another up. Through DKG, I have found friendship, mentorship, compassion, encouragement, and love.

Today, every time I attend a chapter meeting, a state conference, or an International Convention, I feel my mom beside me. I see her in the music, in the laughter, and in the warm embraces that welcome every sister. I also feel the presence of the remarkable DKG women who came before us—women whose dedication to education and to one another built the foundation we continue to stand upon today. Their legacy reminds me that DKG is more than an organization; it is a living testament to the power of women supporting women.

Delta Kappa Gamma is much more than a professional organization to me. It is a family, a source of lifelong friendships, and a place where women educators are celebrated and empowered. I am forever grateful and deeply honored to be a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society.

Submitted by Anne Wade, Alpha Lambda



Is there a member you would like to Spotlight?
Would you like to share what DKG means to you?
Contact the Wolverine Editor for more information!





White Roses In Memoriam



Eileen Rodak
Zeta
DKG Michigan
President Emerita

Eileen Rodak was a member of Zeta. She was inducted in 1980. She served as the chapter President. At the State level she was the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, State

Second Vice President and State President. On the National level, she was the director for leadership training for two terms held at the University of Texas in Austin.

She received her Bachelor of Arts from Marygrove College, her Master of Education from the University of Michigan and her Educational Specialist degree from Wayne State University. She worked for the Detroit Public Schools for thirty years in various roles: elementary teacher, staff coordinator, assistant principal and principal.

Eileen continued her broad interests in the Detroit community after retirement and volunteered at the Detroit Opera House for many years. She also volunteered at the Detroit Historical Museum where she worked on community trips to local sites and served as a docent. While living in Westland, she was a Commissioner on Aging, appointed by the mayor.

Eileen was a quilter for many years, a skill she learned in classes at Greenfield Village where she was trained in hand-sewing the entire project.

Her greatest joy came from interacting with her five nieces and a nephew who were constantly on the run with her as she introduced them to cultural events and all the fun things that can be done with a loving aunt.

Unknown - April 3, 2026



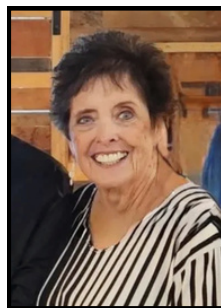
Rena Brooks
Epsilon

Rena Brooks was a member of Epsilon. She was inducted in 1992. Rena served on many committees and actively participated in many functions. Rena was the Chapter Secretary, and Chair of the Scholarship Committee. She was awarded the Chapter Membership Award for her 30 years as a member. Rena also was awarded the Chapter Woman of Distinction in 2010 and 2026.

Rena attended Northwestern University, graduating in 1953. She also attended Michigan State University and Western Michigan University for post graduate work.

Rena taught first grade in Illinois. When she moved to Michigan she taught at Milwood Co-op Nursery school in Kalamazoo and then Kindergarten and first grade for Comstock Public Schools. Rena received the Teacher of the Year Award from Comstock Schools.

February 3, 1932 – March 23, 2026



Christine Perry
Beta Lambda

Christine was a member of Beta Lambda. She was inducted in 2007. She often led the chapter in singing the DKG song. She was very helpful with technology and would send out information to the members from the chapter presidents. She donated many beautiful embroidery pieces to the chapter annual fundraising auction.

She dedicated 37 years to Lapeer Community Schools, where she touched the lives of countless students through her kindness, patience, and steady encouragement.

Music was one of her lifelong passions. Chris was a proud member of Sweet Adelines International for 51 years and sang with the Fenton Lakes Chorus. She also worked part-time at the Lapeer District Library and generously volunteered for many years at the Pix Theatre.

A faithful member of Trinity Methodist Church in Lapeer, Chris lived a life devoted to family, faith, and community.

Chris found joy in camping throughout Michigan, walking the Mackinac Bridge, sewing, cooking, and baking for those she loved. Her beautiful embroidery pieces will be cherished keepsakes for family and friends. Above all, she treasured her family and rarely missed a grandchild's sporting event or special moment.

May 11, 1949 – February 18, 2026



Sally Gunderson
Epsilon

Sally was a member of Epsilon. She was inducted in 1975. Sally was a very active member and served as Calling Committee Chairperson for many years. She received the DKG Woman of Distinction Award in 1997 and again in 2015. In 2025, Sally received the Lifetime Service Award for 50 years of being a DKG member.

Sally attended Knox College in Illinois and graduated in 1962, making her the third generation of women to earn a degree from Knox and become teachers. After graduation, she took her first job in Des Plaines, Illinois. She moved to Kalamazoo and taught 4th grade for 30 years at Washington Elementary. Of her many accomplishments, the Washington School Science Fair was very important to her. Sally started it in 1990 and continued to organize and oversee the fair as a volunteer for years after she retired. Sally was the school's teacher-sponsor for collecting stocking stuffers and toys for the Red Cross at Christmas in Kalamazoo. She served as a welcoming, encouraging mentor to teachers who began their careers at Washington. One of the joys of her retirement was reconnecting with students in Kalamazoo and getting to know them again as adults with careers and families.

October 2, 1940 – August 23, 2025



Lana Nickels Phi

Lana was a member of Phi. She was inducted in 2000. Lana was the chapter President from 2006 to 2008 and continued as Co-President until 2014. Lana also served on chapter committees. She was instrumental in developing the chapter's website as well

as the yearbook. She was the chapter Woman Of Distinction in 2016 and 2018. She received the DKG Michigan 2026 Lifetime Service Award. Along with these accomplishments Lana attended many conferences and conventions. She also was a member on state Committees.

Lana graduated from Michigan State University and began her career teaching. The first few years were with the inner-city Lansing schools before joining the Traverse City school system, where she taught elementary school students. She loved the students, and over the years, fourth grade became her favorite grade to teach. She ultimately retired from teaching in 2009.

In her retirement years, Lana enjoyed wintering in Florida and loved the camaraderie of the park where she stayed. Lana was also a devoted member of the Lutheran Church. She enjoyed participating in the services by doing the church readings and could sing just about any hymn by heart with a brilliant smile on her face.

May 28, 1946 - May 7, 2026

Mary Beth Tereschuk Beta Tau

Mary Beth was a member of Beta Tau. She was inducted in 1973. She was the chapter president in 1998 to 2000. Mary Beth received the chapter Woman of Distinction in 2006 and the Lifetime Service Award in 2017.

Mary Beth Tereschuk was a graduate of Central Michigan University. She started her teaching career in Marlette, Michigan in 1958. She later moved to Sandusky Michigan as a part time speech therapist in 1968 and full time in 1974. She retired from Sandusky Community Schools in 1995 with a total of 37 years in education.

November 5, 1935 - May 7, 2026



DKG Memorial Funds

- Kathy Cashen Regional Conference Fund
- Katherine Keeling Professional Development Fund
- Jane Goudreault Memorial Grant Fund
- Betsey Cooper Leadership Development Fund
- Wilma Adams Fund for Emergencies or Projects
- President's International Convention Fund
- AIM Educational Foundation, Inc.*
- DKG International Education Foundation*
- Member Supporting Member Fund
- World Fellowship Fund*
- International Emergency Fund*

**Tax Deductible Contributions can be sent with Form 43 to State Treasurer, Liz VanWestenburg*



Thelma McCrary Zeta

Thelma was a member of Zeta. She was inducted in 1965. She was very involved in many of the chapter's projects and events for 65 years. When it became difficult for her to participate, she maintained contact

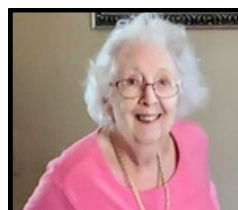
with her Zeta sisters.

Thelma attended high school at Northwestern in Detroit and went on to earn both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education from Wayne State University. Thelma devoted more than forty years to Detroit Public Schools as a teacher and principal, leaving a lasting impact on generations of students and educators. After retiring, Thelma embraced a life of travel, exploring the world alongside her beloved husband.

Thelma was a deeply engaged member of her community, which included her work with The Junior Group of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, and as a member of the Friends of Wayne State University School of Medicine. She found immense joy and fellowship in being a long-standing member of her beloved Christ Church Detroit, where she also served on the vestry. She had a lifelong commitment to her Delta Sigma Theta Sorority which she belonged to for 80 years and where she took great pride in becoming a Delta Dear.

Thelma had eyes that sparkled, a gorgeous smile that melted hearts, and a way of doing things entirely her own way. Above all, she was devoted to her family and found her greatest joy in time spent with them. Thelma B. McCrary lived fully, loved deeply, and in every sense, did it her way.

October 16, 1925 - March 26, 2026



Marcia Lukatch Zeta

Marcia was a member of Zeta. She was inducted in 1995. Marcia served as president of Zeta Chapter from 2004-2006 and again in 2006-2008. During those years as president,

Marcia spearheaded wonderful chapter projects which were happily embraced by the chapter. One project involved collecting socks and underwear for the homeless in Detroit. She expanded the project and the chapter collected hygiene products and made care packages for the homeless as well. Marcia was a full of ideas and shared them with Zeta Chapter. She was always present and a happy willing participant in all of DKG and Zeta Chapter activities and events. Marcia was a fully committed DKG, Zeta Chapter member until her death.

Marcia was a religious education teacher in St. Clair Shores for many years. She taught generations of children through the years and kept in touch with many of them. She was loved and cherished by many people

March 4, 1935 - January 16, 2026



*Seeds of knowledge,
flowers of love*



Delia DeMaso Beta Alpha

Delia was a member of Beta Alpha. She was inducted in 1966. She was a member for 60 years and an active participant for over 50. Delia was nominated for DKG's State recognition for developing a lucrative scholarship in Beta Alpha's honor. She served as Chapter President.

Delia graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1950. Continuing her academic pursuits, Dee earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Fine Arts from Western Michigan University, where she received a Spanish recognition award in her senior year. She later obtained her Master's degree in childhood education from WMU in 1961. Over a distinguished 35-year teaching career, she taught at six different schools in Battle Creek. As a supervising teacher, she mentored 15 future educators from Western Michigan University and Michigan State University. She also served as past President and Secretary of the Springfield Faculty Association, always advocating for quality education. Dee's commitment to education was recognized with the prestigious "George Award" in 1985 for her willingness to go above and beyond in her work.

Delia was a charter member of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church. She participated in the St. Frances Women's Guide and numerous church committees.

Dee authored two books during her retirement years: *The Awesome Apple* and *A to Z Cookbook for Kids*.

Throughout her life, Dee championed education, culture, and civic engagement. She believed in dreams and making them happen, echoing her favorite quote from poet Carl Sandburg: "Nothing happens unless first a dream."

January 16, 1932 - June 6, 2026

Louise Rounds Beta Sigma



Louise was inducted into Beta Sigma in 2011. She was very active in the Community Book Sale that her chapter sponsored each year. She was also in charge of the "Funding our Purposes" baskets for the State Convention. Louise was a member of chapter

committees from 2017-2026. She received the Chapter Woman of Distinction Award in 2023.

Louise went to Northern Michigan University in 1965 where she pursued a career in teaching. She then went on to receive a Master of Education from the University of Wisconsin. Louise taught 16 years in a 5th grade classroom and 18 years of Math at junior/middle school level in the Antigo Unified School District in Wisconsin.

Louise was an organ donor and was honored at Aurora Bay Care Medical Center where she was given the walk of honor and a donor flag which was raised in her honor. Louise volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul for several years. Louise and her husband Nelson traveled many places. Louise was always supportive of her chapter, and she will be greatly missed.

October 17, 1947 - May 20, 2026

Constance Miller Omicron



Connie was a member of Omicron. She was inducted in 1984. Connie served as the chapter Second Vice-President and she participated in all projects, such as fundraisers, preparing apple pies for the John George Home residents, problem-solving, and program planning.

Connie attended Michigan State University, graduating with a bachelor's in education. She was a champion for literacy and human rights. Connie, a long-time resident of Jackson, was a formidable presence in whatever circumstance, breaking barriers in women's participation in local government. Connie was a Jackson County Commissioner from 1982-1990 and was chair of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners from 1985-1986. She received an award for her community service. Connie was a fan of the arts and supported the Jackson Shakespeare festivals. Connie possessed a great wit and was a great story-teller. She will be greatly missed.

November 29, 1936 - October 13, 2025



Deborah Maloni Gamma Gamma

Debbie was inducted into Gamma Gamma in 2000. She was a very active and involved member. She made fleece blankets for hospitalized children and served on teams to prepare dinners and lunches for families at Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor. She also participated in

book drives, assisted in the "Making Spirits Bright" foundation, was emcee at our holiday Gala each year, and modeled in our spring fashion show.

Debbie graduated from Indiana University and taught elementary school in the Lafayette Indiana school system. She went on to complete her Master's degree from Purdue. Her husband and she moved to Plymouth Michigan where she taught elementary school in the Plymouth/Canton school system for 37 years. She began by teaching art, music, and physical education before taking over a second-grade class for a colleague. Her home became the fifth grade, which she taught for many years. Debbie was a huge supporter of Allen School, its students, and their families, never missing a PTO function. She served on countless committees, always eager to help. She was instrumental in organizing the fifth-grade graduation ceremony. In addition, when her former students graduated from high school, Debbie secured their names and sent each one a card of congratulation. She retired in 2014 and subsequently organized retirees' luncheons twice a year for Allen School teachers.

Not only did she positively impact well over 1,000 young people through her teaching; she was also very active in the Plymouth Community. She was one of the original members of Save the Penn/Friends of the Penn Theater organization and a founding member of Giving Hope/Womans' Giving Circle. Her smile and energy brightened everyone's day.

October 15, 1951 - April 13, 2026

Chapter Presidents & Membership Chairs

There are many members whose deaths are observed at the chapter level.

At the State level, members who have passed are recognized at the Spring Convention during the Celebration of Life. The Necrology Committee also publishes obituaries in *The Wolverine*. However, please realize that the editor of *The Wolverine* **cannot list the death of a member until a FORM 6** is sent to the Necrology Chairperson. The Necrology Chairperson writes the obituary and sends it to the editor. You can find the form on our state website under **FORMS**. It is also on the international website.

A copy of FORM 6 should also be sent to the State Treasurer and to International.

Please send to:

Pamela Olech
2339 Prado Vista Lane
Howell, MI 48843-6820

polech1950@gmail.com (this is the preferred method of receiving the Form 6, but mail is fine too)

Please note: Deceased members **MUST** be current in their membership to be included in *The Wolverine* and in the White Rose Ceremony. Their membership might be in a Michigan chapter or in the State Chapter, and they may be an active or a reserve member. Someone who was once a member, but is no longer, does not qualify for this recognition.

Submitted by Necrology Chair Pam Olech, Alpha Theta

Welcome to Our New and Reinstated Members!

GAMMA

Kathryn Kleo Stebelton
Madisen Sours

DELTA

Maria Flores

ALPHA OMEGA

Deborah Johnson

BETA ALPHA

Linda Hassebrock
Linda Larsen
Carol Zuk

BETA KAPPA

Kimberly Bailey

BETA RHO

Victoria Robinson*

BETA CHI

Sarah Williams
Barbara Winters

BETA OMEGA

Deborah Aschenbrenner
Mary Dye
Sharon VanBuren
Carol Woodhurst

GAMMA ALPHA

Vicki Dwelley
Jennifer Troike

GAMMA GAMMA

Pamela Dean
Delores TenBroeck

DKG Leading Women Educators Impacting Education WorldWide!



Gara Williams
Beta Tau

Gara was selected to participate in DKG's IGNITE Leaders Empowering Leaders training in Austin, Texas July 12-18, 2026. Only 20 women were selected worldwide.



Heather Church
Alpha Tau

Heather was named 2026 Faculty of the Year at Bay Mills Community College. She's the 1st adjunct instructor to receive this honor.



Karen Dawley-Dickelman
Gamma Alpha

Karen was invited by MDE to join a workgroup focused on developing Science Competencies for Michigan's Competency-Based Education Initiative.



Karen Lessnau-Scott
Alpha Theta

Karen was appointed to be the Communications & Marketing Committee Chair for DKG Society International for the 2026-2028 Biennium.



Liz VanWestenburg
Gamma Gamma

Liz was appointed to be the Finance Committee Chair for DKG Society International for the 2026-2028 Biennium.

NEXT WOLVERINE DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 15, 2026



* Means Reinstated



**Congratulations to our DKG Michigan Artists
Featured in KDGSi's Spring Fine Arts Gallery!**

<https://gallery.dkg.org/>



**Watercolor "View of the Mackinac Bridge"
Laura Ruggles (Sigma)**



**AI Art "Peony Dream"
Margaret Meehan (Beta Rho)**



**Photo "Air Plants"
Barbara Drown (Beta Rho)**



**Photo "Chicago at Night"
Margaret Meehan (Beta Rho)**



**Watercolor "Winter Peace"
Kathleen Rodak (Beta Omicron)**



**Watercolor "USS Constituion"
Kathleen Rodak (Beta Omicron)**

DKG Michigan Represented in Colorado



L to R: Dr. Elena Ivanova (Beta Chi), Anne Wade (Alpha Lambda), Dr. Ranae Beyerlein (Beta Xi), Mary Oram (Gamma), President Colleen Retherford (Epsilon), Lissa Sell (Upsilon), Karen Lessnau-Scott (Alpha Theta) and Judi Fisher (Gamma Alpha)



DKG Michigan was well-represented at the International Convention in Colorado earlier in July. Ranae drove four of us across the country, while three of us flew. Karen presented a break-out session where participants could practice using communications and marketing tools. Anne took lots of pictures and learned how to make digital reels. Mary and Judi womaned the sales table for us in the marketplace. Our items were as popular as ever. Colleen voted for our new officers. Lissa was a first time attendee, and Elena enjoyed reconnecting with all of her DKG friends, especially the ones from Texas where she once lived. We all voted on the bylaw changes. It was a great bonding experience. Consider attending in the future. DKG Michigan offers grants to help fund convention costs. Check out our webpage for more information.

Frostbite- Susan K. Seidl - (Beta Sigma)

Amid
a universal blizzard
lies but one snowflake
not drifting downward
but rather on the catch
of a free-fall breeze.

Crystallizing times:
it witnesses
atmospheric cold
flint-hearted
morphing toward frigid destruction.

Gentle maternal human caress
scalloped
with environmental embrace
in waiting... essential seeds
to heal global wounds.

Aflight again alas
a stationary blink
observed in a child's eye
sets the tipping
mid-snow-angel
sparkle of hope
to melt an icicle
in a wink.

Susan K. Seidl

We see snow as a blanket but it expands with but one flake covering the eyesores
and producing a-thing-of-innocent-beauty.



Photo "The Fruit Basket"
Barbara Drown (Beta Rho)



2026-2028 INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Connie Rensink, TX
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	Carol Herzog, IN
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	Dr. Teresa Cowan, NC
NE Regional Director	Linda Adcock, IL
NE Nominations	Dr. Margaret Trybus, IL
US Forum Chair	Dr. April Coleman, AZ
US Forum NE Rep.	Sharon Scheidegger, OH

*"If your actions inspire others to
dream more, you are a leader."*
~Dolly Parton

When I Grow Old- Susan K. Seidl (Beta Sigma)

I want to be a child
humming every minute
bubbling full-in attitude.
Yes, natural, simple sincere,
life a trifle: an inner ear.
To hold suspension in surprise
hopeful, anticipating
tomorrow's jump rope
as nothing is too much.
Discerning no end—
beginnings bend.

To be a child
all heart and give
of airless laughter
creatively unafraid
to step...
to be 8.

A child doesn't
need money
for she can see the stars
and find treasures in the sand.
Humble
to not know and want to know
what one lacks:
life confidence
with marbles, balls and jacks.
Naturally a little one
knows when a bird is nestless
to lift it up.

A child
doesn't recognize age-lines,
deformities, limitations,
style or status
nor desire,
hate.
She plays with others,
eyes the dance.
I, as child,
awake or asleep
shall endlessly radiate sunshine. Susan K. Seidl



Happy 75th Birthday, Omega Chapter!



DKG Omega Chapter is 75 years old this year, and there are plenty of reasons to celebrate. In 2011, Omega stepped up its presence in our community. By reaching out to others, we have gathered many supporters. With organizations, businesses, friends and family, we have created something much bigger than our chapter. We have created a Community of Givers in a variety of ways:

- **Macomb ISD Homeless Education Project:** We hosted 2 golf outings and 9 restaurant fundraisers to support this project. We have also generated donations from 100 Women Who Care, Eastpointe Rotary, and individual donations.
- **Merry Berry Christmas Luncheon:** This event raises funds for teacher grants for program, education and classroom supplies. Over 400 children's books were donated to Pregnancy Aid Detroit as well as the Mount Clemens Library to support their summer reading program.

Over the past 15 years, our Community of Givers has raised \$87,000.

Submitted by Patricia Andrewes, Omega

Gamma Gamma Supports United Way School Supply Drive

Gamma Gamma Chapter knows how to shop, and Plymouth Community United Way knows how to distribute! Sixty-eight items valued at \$115 but purchased for \$70 were donated to the United Way 2026 School Supply Drive.



Linda Young (Gamma Gamma)

Items included: two backpacks, markers, pens, pencils, highlighters, scissors, composition books, folders, colored pencils, glue sticks, and crayons. Members may always donate to the school of their choice. This Lunch Box Project to support local students was given in memory of our creative member shopper, Debbie Maloni. DKG is blessed with very giving members.

Submitted by Liz VanWestenburg, Gamma Gamm

Gamma Honors Friend of Education in Hillsdale County



L to R: Barbara Balbo, Gamma Chapter Treasurer, Samantha Meyer, HCCF Program Officer, Eve Goodlife YAC President, Brandy Neill YAC Secretary.

The Gamma Chapter is proud to recognize the Hillsdale County Community Foundation Y.O.U.T.H. Advisory Council as the 2026 Friend of Education Award recipient. Made up of student representatives from across Hillsdale County, the Y.O.U.T.H. Advisory Council (YAC) is a student-led group dedicated to strengthening their community through service, leadership, and philanthropy. This year, under the leadership of President Eve Goodlife, Secretary Brandy Neill, and Co-Advisors Samantha Meyer and Mindy Eggleston, the council placed a strong focus on youth mental health and safety.

Their efforts included raising awareness for Suicide Awareness Month, promoting digital safety, and assembling 500 wellness kits for students. They also led a "New Year – New You" campaign and partnered with Domestic Harmony to highlight Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

In addition, the YAC supported literacy by restocking Little Free Libraries with hundreds of books and continued their annual "Fill-The-Freezer" initiative to help local families in need.

The Gamma Chapter is proud to honor this dedicated group of young leaders, whose work reflects the true spirit of the Friend of Education Award.

Submitted by Mindy Eggleston, Gamma

Alpha Xi Chapter Officers 2026-2028



Co-Secretaries Sara Jayne Winter & Allison Woods, Treasurer Carol Kindt, and Co-Presidents Melissa LaCombe & Beckie Thomson

President Visits Gamma at Birthday Meeting

It was a rewarding experience as Colleen Retherford and I joined Gamma Chapter at their Birthday Luncheon. They were so welcoming to us.

During our time there we were fortunate enough to witness Gamma Chapter as they inducted an active teacher member, presented The Friend of Education Award, and gave a Woman of Distinction Award. Two chapter members shared some inspiring messages. They were original pieces written by them. It was heart-warming to witness such community and such an example of a thriving chapter.

*Submitted by
Visitation Chair Toni Behrendt, Beta Alpha*



Beta Sigma Recognizes a Friend of Education



Beta Sigma President Marilyn Pfister, Katherine Murwin and recipient John Helfert. John is a museum volunteer who has worked with area youth in sharing his Native American culture in a variety of ways.

Metro Coordinating Council Highlights and FYI's

Despite Michigan construction traffic and a fashionably late speaker, 27 attendees enjoyed great food and service at The Sports Den, including two "evolved spouses" who survived the afternoon beautifully. Two Gamma Alpha members also earned SCECH credit.

After lunch, Kevin Adkisson, the curator of preservation, interpretation, and programming across the many buildings and treasures of Cranbrook, presented Cranbrook's Women of Design: Weaving an Idea into a Campus, highlighting influential women such as Ellen Scripps Booth, Loja Saarinen, Florence Knoll, Marianne Strengell, Ruth Adler Schnee, and Ray Kaiser Eames. His engaging presentation gave attendees a deeper appreciation for the women who shaped Cranbrook's design legacy.



Kevin Adkisson and Dr. Elena Ivanova (Beta Chi)

Submitted by Jackie Smart, Gamma Alpha



Gamma Gamma Finds "Lost Voices"

In April, Gamma Gamma welcomed speaker Mike Ball, from the organization, "Lost Voices". Lost Voices is a group of professional musicians who use music, poetry and songwriting to offer hope and a path forward to young victims of abuse, neglect, violence, addiction and human trafficking. Since 2006, the program has helped over 2500 young people with recovery and healing.

The presentation was inspiring and fascinating. Mike's passion to help people feel valued, nurtured and connected was evident, as was his belief in the power of music.

Mike is an excellent speaker and an award-winning writer. He is the author of the book "Banjos, Boats and Butt Dialing". More information on the program may be found on the website, lostvoices.org. Mike is based in Plymouth, Michigan and welcomes the opportunity to share the message of Lost Voices.

*Submitted by
Liz VanWestenburg, Gamma Gamma*



Joanna Eiwen, Gamma Alpha Grant Chair with awardee Anna Morgan



Gamma Alpha Grant-in-Aid Presentation

Each year, Gamma Alpha Chapter awards a \$1,000 Grant-in-Aid to support working women educators pursuing professional growth, innovative classroom projects, and educational enrichment. Recipients receive \$500 at the Chapter's Birthday Dinner, with the remaining balance awarded after sharing how the grant has impacted their students or professional journey.

This year, Grant-in-Aid Chairperson Joanna Eiwen proudly presented the award to Anna Morgan of the Wayne-Westland Community School District. Anna's dedication to her students, passion for lifelong learning, and commitment to education truly reflect the spirit of this award. Gamma Alpha Chapter is honored to support educators like Anna, whose work continues to inspire future generations.

Submitted by Jackie Smart, Gamma Alpha

Gamma Alpha Inducts 2 New Members



L-R: Retired educator Vicki Dwelley, VP/Membership Chair Carole Lower, and Jen Troike

Gamma Alpha warmly welcomed two new members into DKG during a special birthday dinner celebration. Jen Troike, a POHI teacher from Wayne-Westland Community Schools, and Vicki Dwelley, a retired educator, join a sisterhood rooted in fellowship, excellence in education, and a shared commitment to service, learning, and compassion.

DKG is more than an organization. It is a community of women who support one another, lead with integrity, and believe in the power of education to transform lives. As members are inducted, they become part of a lasting legacy of educators and lifelong learners.

We are delighted to welcome our new members and look forward to the friendships, growth, and contributions they will bring. Congratulations on this meaningful milestone.

Submitted by Jackie Smart, Gamma Alpha

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement"
~Helen Keller



**THE
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Karen Lessnau-Scott, Editor
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Dates to Remember

WHO IS THE DKG KEY WOMAN EDUCATOR?

Adaptable

Able to bring out
the best in others

Authentic

Results
oriented

A potential
leader

A conceptual
thinker

Responsive to
feedback

Motivated to make
a difference



August 22, 2026
PAC Meeting
10 am. - 2 pm.

First United Methodist Church Hall
Howell, Michigan

August 29, 2026
Chapter Officers Training
10 am. - 12 pm.
Zoom

September 19, 2026
Fall Executive Board Meeting
10 am.
Zoom

October 17, 2026
UP Fall Conference
Bay Mills Community College
Brimley, Michigan

October 23-25, 2026
Women in the Arts Retreat
Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center
Roscommon, Michigan

April 23-25, 2027
Spring Convention/Executive Board Meeting
T.B.A.