

Maine State Organization, DKG
Spring to Fall Virtual Event
Saturday, October 17, 2020

Welcome:

President Donna Kennison welcomed Zoom meeting attendees to the first Maine State Organization, DKG virtual event. Her theme; *Grow Your Seeds, Share Your Talents*, is reflected in the challenge of learning about new technology for the purpose of gathering members during a global pandemic.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M.

Collect: Second Vice President Priscilla McFarland led the group in the recitation of the Collect.

Roll Call: Recording Secretary Mary Gilman took attendance.

All nine State Officers were in attendance.

These six Past State Presidents were in attendance at some point during the day: Sandra Berry, Rena Kearney, Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted, Georgene Coombs, Melanie Ruark and Elaine Hendrickson.

Chapter Presidents from the following chapters were in attendance: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Epsilon, Zeta, Theta, Nu, and Xi.

Members from the following chapters represented their presidents: Delta, Eta, Omicron and Sigma.

Because of the format of the meeting the total attendance fluctuated but the Zoom screen showed 53 members were logged in at one time, including our International guest, Phyllis Hickey.

Action on Min. of Oct 19, 2019 - Minutes from the Maine State Organization of DKG General Session meeting of October 19, 2019 were accepted with a spelling correction.

Correspondence: Corresponding Secretary, Alice Deegan reported that there was no correspondence received. She sent a sympathy card to one member.

Report of State Treasurer: Treasurer Kathy Sticht presented her report noting that the cost of the Zoom subscription was less than proposed because a promotional fee lessened by 2 months worth of costs. She also highlighted the Business Service Account (the invested fund given by Roberta Rogers) which is still in fair stead given the pandemic.

Other items:

Historian Judy Gilbert made a plea for more participation by chapters in the collection of chapter histories. She will resend the brief form to chapters for whom she has had no response. Judy would like to get the information digitized in order to make adjustments easier in the future. She is welcoming reports from the 2018 through 2020 bienniums. Four chapters out of fifteen have submitted the forms.

Elaine Hendrickson reported that the STRETCH workshop is being planned for March 20, 2021, at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. If we cannot meet in person, we will meet virtually. Tom Wells is still willing to participate and Elaine is inviting all of the presenters who were willing to come last spring. Because events are now so often held virtually, Elaine and others visualize the possibility that MSO-DKG could offer professional and personal growth development monthly given by quality presenters and open to all educators. This would move us forward in the Goals 2025 Challenge. Elaine welcomes ideas for presenters.

Elaine Hendrickson suggested that ideas from state chapters for achieving **Goals 2025** could be shared on the website. Chapters can adopt or adapt them to suit their needs.

President Donna reported that in-person **Spring Convention** plans for 2021 are still being discussed. The Hilton Gardens Inn in Bangor is holding our reservation.

March 1, 2021, is the deadline for the next Mainspring.

Rena Kearney reported that Delta chapter was prepared for the convention last spring and would like the rotation to remain the same as before the pandemic.

The three chapters who were responsible for events last year would be the same for next year. Rena will rework the rotation of chapter responsibilities at MSO events and will also remove Iota Chapter.

Congratulations were given to Rena who has been awarded the Rotary organization's Paul Harris Award this year!

President Donna offered the use of the state's subscription to Zoom to all chapter presidents. She will set up the invitation with the chapter presidents' name as a secondary host. This will help overcome the short time limits usually offered by Zoom for those without a subscription. It was noted that working teachers can also set up unlimited Zoom meetings.

Kathy Wilcox reminded the group that the **Standing Rules and By-Laws** need to be updated for the second year of the biennium. If revisions are recommended they can be highlighted in the document along with rationalizations for the changes and submitted to her. Officers and Committee chairs will review them for changes. Kathy will need these suggestions by the end of the year to ensure that any proposed changes can be posted to the website and Mainspring.

We are encouraged to check both the MSO, DKG and the DKG website frequently as things are posted there before we might hear them in a chapter meeting.

Our **International Speaker, Phyllis Hickey**, a member since 1986, spoke to us remotely with a Power Point entitled ***Evolution, Momentum, Transparency***. Points made in this presentation were:

- Covid-19 presented unique challenges to the organization
- An online chapter locator is on the international website to enable relocating members to find a new chapter near them.
- International has merged three committees into one and renamed it the *DKG International Educational Foundation*. Funds from the three former committees would go into this new fund but dispersed to the appropriate needs areas.
- Collaboration is encouraged between Membership and Expansion to help address the loss of members.

- The Emergency Fund has responded to 24 requests for help by members affected by Covid or storms.
- The new dues process has been reviewed and changed to make it work more smoothly.
- The Administrative Board is evaluating the DKG public investments options regarding the future of the properties owned by the Society.
- International staff is still addressing the safety needs of staff during the pandemic. Their services are available to all members on a daily basis.
- The International website has posted the virtual Spring Convention, 2020 for our viewing. Chapters may want to tap into these for meetings.
- A reminder that when we are using Amazon to shop we can choose the Amazon Smile option and choose DKG as a recipient of a percentage of the purchase.
- We can make changes to our own profiles on the International website.
- Many MSO members over the years have taken advantage of or been awarded opportunities for growth and leadership.
- Our organization is quite philanthropic. We need to keep track of our efforts to help others, especially at the chapter level.
- Our organization, as do all organizations, needs to continually Revitalize - get our “zest” back. This takes effort and introspection.

A brief discussion with members was held after Ms. Hickey’s presentation. They included the question, “Does the organization track the usage of the website to evaluate the effectiveness of the tool?” A report may be needed to reveal how members access their information (such as Facebook, print or the website) and determine what works best. Because some members do not have access to the internet, Phyllis offered to forward printed copies of information to them if she’s given their names.

International could make use of Zoom to provide programs and International speakers to be used by chapters as programs and professional development.

Scholarship Recipient:

This year’s Maine State Organization, DKG’s Scholarship recipient is a 21 year teacher, a 12 year member of DKG and a member of Zeta Chapter. She is . . .

CHRISTINA JACKSON! Christina was in attendance and was very pleased to receive this award. She is attending St. Joseph's College and pursuing an administrative certificate.

President Donna encourages applications for the 2021 award to be sent by March 1, 2021.

The Maine State Organization's Achievement Award was "presented" to our Past State President, Elaine Hendrickson! Elaine was moved to tears by this honor. Mary Hyland, First Vice President, enumerated Elaine's many accomplishments and showed her the pendant which she will be wearing soon. A motto that Elaine lives by is, "Excellence is not an act but a habit."

Forty and Fifty Year Members:

Second Vice President Priscilla McFarland did a fantastic job of honoring our 40 year and 50 year plus members. A total of 33 members were recognized with a recap of their teaching and life experiences.

Priscilla then provided us a moving **Celebration of Life** (previously known as the Necrology Service) for members who have passed during the last year.

Following a break for lunch, members enjoyed a presentation by Judy Gilbert, who, along with her husband and other members, joined Elaine and Eric Hendrickson on a wonderful weekend in the **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument**. She took many photos and will share them once they are in a slide show format. Elaine and Eric have worked on the behalf of the monument for years and Eric has authored a book about the park.

Crystal Ward mentioned that the monument could be a great resource for teachers of Maine history, and could also be an opportunity for professional development via videos. Phyllis Hickey noted that DKG has money for these kinds of efforts.

Linda Hussey, **World Fellowship** Chair, announced the winners of the online auction held during the last two weeks. Chapter members were very generous in donating handmade goods and gift cards for this effort. A total of \$750.00 was raised to support educators world-wide.

A discussion of how chapters are staying in contact with members found that through the Fall months groups have met in person outside or in large inside places, on Zoom or in a hybrid method of both. Others have been networking through their phone calling lists.

A check-in with teachers who are active at this strange time revealed that it is exhausting and frustrating for teachers to meet all of the needs of their students whether in person or by remote teaching/learning.

Crystal Ward recognized a need for mental health support for these dedicated workers and encouraged a connection with administration and unions to provide it. Members recounted that in the past they would always feel supported by active and retired members at in-person meetings and miss that support.

Our time together ended at 3:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Gilman

Recording Secretary