



MAINSRING

**News and Information from
Maine State Organization**

Issue 2023.2

September 2023



Message from
Maine State Organization
President

Priscilla McFarland

Reimagine, Shine, and Rebuild!

The theme for my biennium is Reimagine, Shine, and Rebuild! Reimagine can mean re-conceptualize or revisit. I believe it is time that we examine the way Maine State Organization has done some things by tradition or habit. We should ponder whether we can accomplish some of these tasks more efficiently, more effectively, and/or less expensively. An example that comes to mind is the production and dissemination of the Mainspring. After editing and formatting our newsletter and getting it printed, the work is not done. It has become an ordeal to assemble, staple, and address all of the copies and then strategically place 3 stickers on each one to keep it intact through the mail. We spend hundreds of dollars twice a year to print and mail the Mainspring. A minority of members have opted to receive the newsletter by email, but unfortunately, many of those sent bounce back because of incorrect addresses.

At the conference in Detroit, I spoke with several other state presidents who described a simpler and less costly method of newsletter distribution. In those states, the newsletter is emailed to chapter presidents. The presidents then forward it to their members. She or a designee will print out the newsletter for the few who are unable to do so and/or do not have email. Perhaps we could explore the adoption of this method. We could save a significant sum on postage and printing. It would be much quicker to distribute the Mainspring this way. Editor Daina Markella and many of you may have some other ideas to consider. This is just one example of a practice that could be reexamined and perhaps improved. That is what I mean by reimagine.

Reimagine might also apply to our efforts at recruitment, communication, and publicity. What other practices do you think we should reimagine?



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Shine is the next component of my theme. Each of us needs to shine the spotlight on DKG for our colleagues, other educators, and the general public. We need to share what our organization stands for and what it and our chapters do. Chapters should publicize their service projects and activities in the local media (not just on our Facebook page,) and when a member is chosen for a leadership position, it should make the news. We need to draw attention to ourselves to create an interest for prospective members and to gain respect among members of the education community. We need to become a household word. DKG is no longer a secret society. Shine the light on DKG!

Finally, Rebuild is the last facet of my theme. Rebuild means we need to regrow our chapters. In its heyday, my Theta chapter had over 40 members. Today we have 11. We were thrilled to gain a young early career educator last spring, but we need to turn that into an upward trend. In the Fall 2022 Mainspring, Immediate Past State President Mary Hyland shared this sobering statistic; “Since 2012, Maine’s membership has decreased from 599 members to 335 members.” She went on to warn us that if we continue at that rate, our state organization could become extinct in another decade. DKG International has dwindled from over 150,000 members in the 1990s to just 56,000 today. The statistics are shocking, and a very blunt message was repeatedly communicated at officer training and the conference this summer. Our organization is in crisis.

International President Dr. Debbie LeBlanc says that it is the responsibility of every member and every chapter to bring in new members. International can only do so much. International has contracted with a marketing agency called Avenue M. They are doing research to try to find reasons for the decline in DKG’s membership. You may receive a survey from them. Please do your part and complete the survey. The agency will be sharing the results of their investigation and providing recommendations in the coming months. At the international, state, and chapter levels, we can help rebuild DKG. The above explains why the theme for my biennium is Reimagine, Shine, and Rebuild.

On another note, It has been a whirlwind of a summer! In June, we found out that the Hutchinson Center would be permanently closing in August, so we immediately had to pivot and find a new venue, hotel, and catering options for Fall Workshop. We were fortunate to find the Moore Community Center in Ellsworth. The building is a renovated middle school and has facilities that can accommodate our meetings. We are likely to save hundreds of dollars compared to previous years by using this space. The fourteen different presenters at Fall Workshop will be offering topics related to society business, personal growth, and professional



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development. You should have no problem finding a session that appeals to you, but you may have difficulty narrowing the choices down to just one for each time slot!

In July, five of us from the Maine State Organization attended officer training in Irving, Texas. I was joined by Rachele Tome, Teresa Brzustowicz, Kathy Sticht, and Mary Whitten. The 90 degree plus temperatures didn't bother us too much since we were inside with air conditioning the majority of the time. Just two weeks later, Mary Hyland, Mary Whitten, and I traveled to Detroit for the International Conference. Over the five days, I participated in a day-long session on parliamentary procedure and attended numerous workshops on topics such as putting your mental and physical health first, time management, supporting language diversity in the classroom, changing chapter culture, reasons teachers leave the profession, and planning relevant and engaging chapter meetings. There were several inspirational speakers throughout the week. It was a successful conference experience! I was impressed with the beauty of the city of Detroit and all it has to offer!

Throughout the summer, I have been involved with some of the planning for our Cross Border weekend in September, have worked to fill committee chair positions and an officer vacancy, and have recruited presenters for Fall Workshop. My biennium is off to a busy and fulfilling start!

Maine State Organization Officers

2023-2025

President – Priscilla McFarland (Theta)

First Vice President/Educational Excellence Chair - Rachele Tome (Gamma)

Second Vice President/Membership Chair - Teresa Brzustowicz (Omicron)

Treasurer – Kathy Sticht (Epsilon)

Assistant Treasurer - Melanie Ruark (Gamma)

Parliamentarian – Kathy Bartley (Sigma)

Recording Secretary – Venise Philbrick (Mu)

Corresponding Secretary - Daina Markella (Omicron)

Immediate Past State President – Mary Hyland (Epsilon)

Editor – Daina Markella (Omicron)

Thank you for your service to Maine State Organization DKG!



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Message from
Maine State Organization
1st Vice President
Rachelle Tome

Educational Excellence Committee (EEC)

As 1st Vice President, one of my main responsibilities is to serve as chair of the Educational Excellence Committee. Educational Excellence is a core component of our organization. In June, at the Leadership Training in Irving, Texas, I gained a clear understanding of why this committee is considered an umbrella for so much of our work. This includes:

- Programs
- Projects
- SEE (Supporting Early Career Educators)
- UNICEF/USA
- Legislation
- United Nations (UN)/ Committee on Teaching about the UN (CTAUN)
- The Arts
- Leadership Development

That's a pretty comprehensive list, almost overwhelming! But here's the good news- during our training, participants were asked to share activities undertaken in states and chapters to address each element. I was so excited and proud to describe many of the incredible projects our Maine members have accomplished. Many attendees were very interested and wanted to hear more about the great things happening in Maine, such as our World Fellowship baskets, support for educators and schools, and high-quality professional development offerings. In fact, our STRETCH workshop was featured in the April issue of the Collegial Exchange in an article written by Elaine Hendrickson and Mary Whitten. Activities from all attendees were reviewed for each component listed above, then compiled, collected and shared. I have provided the lists to



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your chapter's EEC chairperson. This may help chapters as they develop activities for this year. Throughout the next two years, I hope to highlight the great work happening in your chapters. Let's share the good news and help shine a light on the great work of DKG!

EEC Spotlight: Schools for Africa

Recently, chapters have been asked to collect "Change for Change" to support DKG's first international project and partnership with UNICEF-Schools for Africa. This effort supports one of the core components of Educational Excellence and helps provides access to quality basic education for children in Africa, focusing on girls, orphans and other vulnerable youngsters. With your help and the generosity of many chapter members, our Maine Organization has been able to donate funds to this important project. While contributions are all voluntary, I am hopeful that we can increase the number of chapters participating and increase the total donation. Chapters have shared a variety of measures to collect change over the course of the year, including passing the basket at meetings or having special raffles. One state features a Progressive Potluck which features foods from a designated country and attendees pay for each course as you go and learn more about that country. Another state holds a silent auction. What does your chapter do? Do you have an idea to share? If you would like more information on this vital project, please take a look at Schools for Africa on the International website.



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Thoughts from
Maine State Organization
2nd Vice President

Teresa Brzustowicz

Thoughts on Membership

“Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.” — Chinese Proverb

As educators, we facilitate growth in our students, as we grow ourselves in our profession. As an organization, we are at a critical point in terms of membership. Growth should be our focus: not just in increasing our membership, but within our organization, as well. Members should strive to grow into new roles in DKG. Chapters should show growth as they strive for more meaningful and quality meetings. Maine State Organization should strive to support and encourage chapters, offering resources as well as quality state events. While I don't believe in change for the sake of change, I do believe every individual and organization needs to continually assess where areas of growth will strengthen our purpose, our mission, and ourselves.

I look forward to meeting with many of you at the Fall Workshop in Ellsworth. If you have never attended the workshop, this is an ideal way for you to grow as a member. I challenge you to reach out to members who have left your chapter to see if they might be interested in reinstating their membership. Highlight to them some of the activities and meeting topics of your chapter; invite them to come and speak on a topic in their area of expertise. Find out what projects or topics would be of interest to new members and support and empower them to follow up on that interest. Everyone wants to feel their time and efforts are meaningful. Encourage their growth as a chapter member. We can no longer stand still as an organization, nor should we wish to. DKG members are leaders; leaders are not afraid of growth. Indeed, it is vital to our survival as an organization.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 207-924-5328 or at tjb@roadrunner.com.



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Thoughts from
Maine State Organization
Immediate Past President
Mary Hyland

Detroit Musings

Before I started attending DKG international conventions and conferences, I thought that my money could be better invested, my time better spent, and my priorities better geared to family and summer relaxation. You may feel this way, too. I had some reservations about the Detroit conference; when that last day of school was over, I just wanted to sit on my back porch for the summer. Yet Detroit did not disappoint. I had the opportunity to present at an international conference, the relationships with all types of incredible women blossomed, and the city itself is quite nice! However, my biggest take-away from the Detroit conference is that DKG is at a crossroads, and it will take all of us to preserve this precious organization. Picture your life without DKG; I don't think I can. My chapter, state, and international communities mean too much to me. There are so many opportunities to learn, grow, and make a difference. Imagine the endless possibilities for DKG! I encourage you to make the effort to attend at least one DKG international event so that you can experience the big picture. Yes, it takes time and money, but you are worth it. DKG is worth it. Please start saving and planning for International Convention in National Harbor, Maryland July 9-13, 2024.



Image Cred: DKG International Website



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Field Trip to USM

What do a past state president and a then current state president do on a Saturday in May? Why, we hop in the car and head to the big city so we can play in the construction around the University of Southern Maine campus! Seriously, Lorraine Bowdoin and I had been scheming about this field trip for weeks. As some of you may know, Lorraine has a special collection there at the USM library that features her childhood growing up in Portland during World War II. Over the past several years her relationship with special collections coordinator Ms. Susie Bock has grown, and thus Lorraine was granted permission to include personal DKG scrapbooks in that collection. So back on May 20th, Lorraine and I ventured to U.S.M. to deliver those scrapbooks. It was quite a momentous occasion, and Lorraine is thrilled that some of our DKG history is safe and secure. There may be some possibilities at the U.S.M. Archives for DKG material – that remains to be researched. As a bonus, we enjoyed a yummy lunch at the Miss Portland Diner. I'm smiling widely now as I fondly remember that day.

Time to Wake Up and S – T – R – E – T – C – H !!

It's never too early to start thinking about and planning for our "S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching" workshop. This coming year, there is a change in venue to United Technologies Center in Bangor as well as a change in date to April 6th, 2024. Please refer to the "Save the Date" announcement in this Mainspring for the basic information. Better yet, share this "Save the Date" with everyone you know! Over the past several years, I have heard too many comments about members not being involved with "STRETCH" because "It's for active teachers and I'm retired." I am convinced that retired teachers are still passionate about promoting their profession, the education of their grandchildren, and educational trends in general. Leaving the classroom does not mean leaving your passions behind! Elaine Emerson and Mary Whitten wrote a wonderful article in the most recent edition of the Collegial Exchange about "STRETCH." Please refresh your enthusiasm by reading that article and deciding that you will help us promote this event. Please contact me if you have any questions or ideas. Coordinating "STRETCH" is a huge endeavor, and it will not be successful without your commitment. Thanks so much!

https://www.dkg.org/DKGSI/Publications-nonmem/Bulletin_Magazine/DKGSI/Publications/Bulletin-Magazine-Flipbook.aspx?hkey=cab703eb-96f2-457a-8874-2d2a197e9975



**Maine
State Organization**

S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching Workshop

Saturday, April 6th, 2024

United Technologies Center, Bangor
8:30-2:30



Save the Date

Keynote: Jessica Anderson, Executive Director, Count ME In

The mission of Count ME In is to increase student attendance through data-driven strategies so that every child is an engaged and successful learner. Partnerships with schools, businesses, families, youth, state, and community organizations are focused on reducing chronic absenteeism by improving student/family school engagement and school attendance - resulting in improved academic achievement. A graduate of Hamilton College in 2002, Jessica also holds a Master's in Education from Plymouth State University with a specialty in Experiential Learning and Human Development. Jessica is a certified Special Education teacher, Emergency Medical Technician, and Wilderness First Responder. She co-authored *Kindness & Respect: An Experiential Approach to Social Emotional Learning*.

Potential break-out session topics include: math number sense, new teacher survival, outdoor education, partnerships with SRO's, extended learning opportunity, local authors, early childhood development, financial wellness, authentic networking, and more!

A certificate for 5.5 contact hours will be available.

As part of your registration, morning snacks and lunch will be served.

Registration Information will be available no later than mid-January 2024 at:
<https://dkgmaine.weebly.com/>

For more information contact: Mary Hyland at mishyland@gmail.com

S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching workshop is open to ALL educators!

Quotes from previous participants:

Time very well spent. -- Great Speakers, great organization, and great energy! -- Enough to make it worth the drive but not too long for a weekend. -- Have more, the day needs to continue. -- Always a bright moment in a long winter. --The DKG organization made this a very comfortable and knowledgeable event.



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News from
International

Intl Finance Committee Member
and
Past State President
Mary Whitten

Since the International Convention in San Diego (2006), I have attended all but two International conventions and missed one International conference. During my attendance at these events and my state officer training, membership numbers have been discussed. This year at both the State Organization Leadership Training and again at the International conference in Detroit, time was spent discussing the organization. Both Nita Scott (Executive Director) and Dr. Debbie LeBlanc (International President) used the words that our organization is at a “critical juncture.”

When DKG was founded in 1929, there were 12 members and the organization had to be secretive. The DKG Founders expanded the membership in a time when there was no email or social media and phones were probably party lines. By 1991, the organization had grown to the height of 168,000 members. As of July 13 th 2023, the membership was 52,120. That is approximately a 69% decrease in membership since 1991. Members are the heart of our organization and as our membership decreases so does our voice. We don’t have as much impact on education today as we did in 1991.

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton once said “Be progressive. Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. But, don’t cling to the old when its worth has passed. Don’t be a person so set in your ways that nothing can change you.”

Do you want this organization to continue? If so, we all need to become involved.



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WORLD FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Maine World Fellowship Chair, Linda Hussey

The World Fellowship Committee began in 1946. In 1952, it formed an alliance with the United Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The program began to take shape as DKG partnered with the Institute of International Education (IIE).

The Society selects recipients of fellowships to study in the United States and Canada. Recipients come from all around the world and their areas of study are very diverse! We can only imagine how many of these recipients and their work have positively impacted people!

Our Basket Raffle at Spring Convention is the fundraiser we use to support our mission of helping to sustain these World Fellowship awards! In the Spring of 2023, our raffle raised \$1,081! Contributions from Maine State Organization (\$100), Alpha Chapter (\$46), and Mu Chapter (\$100), our overall total contribution for 2022-2023 was \$1,327!



DKG members are honoring the fifth of our seven purposes: We ARE Leading Women Educators who are impacting women, their lives and their countries and education worldwide!!

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Education Fund (DKGIEF) awarded World Fellowships totaling \$83,500 for the academic school year 2022-2023.

WE Do Make A DIFFERENCE and should feel PROUD OF WHO WE ARE and WHAT WE DO TOGETHER!!!

I thank each and every one of you for all you DO, ARE, AND GIVE!!



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LEARNING OUTDOORS--- YES! EVEN MATH..... with Anne Stires

**Saturday, September 30 from 8:00 am – 12 noon at the Viles
House, 71 Stone Street, Augusta, ME 04330**

Join Anne Stires, educator of 25 years and an outdoor learning/nature connection specialist, and your colleagues throughout the region, to reconnect with the joy of teaching! After preparing and scaffolding the experience indoors, we will go outside to learn together through the lens of playful elementary math lessons and other outdoor activities.

This workshop is sponsored by Gamma Chapter DKG. Contact dkggamma1@gmail.com for more information. Suggested donation is \$5 for DKG members and students, \$10 for other educators.

Professional contact hours available. Refreshments too!

Please register by **September 25**: to Betty Morrell at dkggamma1@gmail.com, or PO Box 135, Readfield ME 04355.

At-the-door registration also available September 30.

Please share this information with your colleagues. Bring a friend!



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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Alpha

Alpha Sister Sheila Cochrane retired in June after 25 years of teaching. She began her teaching career at RSU 19 as a 4th-grade teacher. Sheila went back to the University of Maine to complete her Master's in Literacy, an additional CAS in writing and is a National Board Certified Teacher. She completed her career in RSU 19 as a Literacy Specialist and Reading Recovery teacher in grades K - 4. One of her favorite joys in teaching was finding the right book for a learner and helping them understand what they need to do next to accelerate their growth. She will miss the students, her teaching partners, and the families in the RSU 19 community. Teaching is a profession where learning never stops!

We enjoyed coming back together on February 6th to celebrate filling Clara Soule bags, making beautiful cards, and putting materials together for recipients to use and enjoy with love from the Alpha Chapter Sisters. Our speaker had to cancel at the last minute due to COVID exposure, and we will be excited to hear about her program on "Habitat for Humanity" in February 2024.

As our MSO Spring Convention loomed closer, the sisters discussed when to work on putting materials together for table favors, setting up tables for luncheon, programs, and the "World fellowship basket." As they say, "It takes a village," and we sure had one!

In May, speaker Donna Dwyer from Bone Builders presents a plethora of information to our sisters. We learned how important it is to take care of our bodies as we age—Donna also shared the programs offered in the area.

We had a wonderful Author and photographer named Roger Stevens Jr. from Lincoln. He shared his experiences and insights on his journey to becoming not only a Wildlife photographer. This Author captures beautiful animals. He also tells a story for young readers to see and learn about wildlife in Maine. Many of us purchased his books.

It is with a heavy heart that we lost our beloved member Hilda Marjorie Wardwell, 99 years young, on April 24, 2023. We were able to place a rose at the Spring Convention this year and will honor Hilda next April in our State Convention Ceremony.



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At our Spring Convention, we honored two extraordinary Alpha ladies: 40-year member Beth Kingsbury and 50-year member Suzanne Gauthier. The ceremony that honored all the recipients was beautifully done.

Our May meeting brought us a “Bouquet” speaker, Kimberly Saucier: Teacher, author/artist. Her presentation was full of wonderful laughter, art, her journey along the way, and the love of sharing what she does.

Some of our other Alpha sisters have been exploring different avenues. Carolee Mountcastle is on the board of the Orono Health Association and volunteers 15 hours a week at the Orono Thrift Shop. Beth Surette went to Cancun, and even though it was beautiful, she came home with a Mexican friend, “COVID”! On a happy note, her second grandchild is on the way. Donna Megquier shares that after retiring from thirty years of teaching in Newport and Hampden, she’s enjoying her three granddaughters and is very busy hosting Airbnb guests on Green Lake. Lisa Sawyer went to Montverde Academy in FL. to watch the Flag twins, Ace and Cooper play five spectacular games. When their games finished, the boys would always give hugs and thank her for coming. This newest picture you see was taken after one of the boys’ games. In “Fifth Grade,” they were only about two inches taller than Lisa. Now look at them!



Alpha Members assembling
Clara Soule bags



Margaret Wardwell



Lisa Sawyer with
Ace and Cooper Flagg



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Gamma

The ladies in Gamma Chapter have been busy embracing change and working to rebuilding our chapter. We started last spring by shifting some of our “traditions”, beginning with revamping meeting times and locations to address changing preferences. We completed chapter business via Zoom and also while meeting at member’s homes. This had the added benefit of sampling some delicious cooking. (There’s never a shortage of delightful treats when we meet!) April brought an informative excursion to the 1st Amendment Museum. In May, we were “wowed” at our Spring Tea by Jessica Anderson, who joined us to talk about school attendance and absenteeism. You’ll get to meet her at S-T-R-E-T-C-H. We met together in June to plan for 2023-24 and are hoping for a robust year. We hope to start things off with a professional opportunity to experience Learning Outdoors with Anne Stires. Many thanks to Sunny Mullen for getting this off the ground. Please plan to join us on September 30th. We hope you’ll join us and help spread the word. (Check out information page above for more detail!)

Supporting Early Career Educators (ECE)

How many of you remember those first few years of teaching? Most days were overwhelming, filled with a million questions. If you were lucky, you found a mentor who helped guide you through those tough years. Now, all teachers have access to district support, but many new educators have indicated a need for additional assistance. Gamma Chapter is hoping to bridge that gap by creating an online network that meets monthly via Zoom beginning in late September, and shares ideas and strategies focused on the specific needs of early career educators. If you have ideas for topics or other thoughts, we’d love your input. Stay tuned- details are still being worked out, but we hope you’ll share this exciting opportunity with the new educators in your area. When ready, information will be provided to your Educational Excellence Committee chairperson.



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Delta

Delta ended the 2022-2023 year with a bang! Immediate Past State President Mary Hyland joined us for brunch and a slide show of our “Year in Review” in the middle of June at the Francis Malcolm Science Center! Many members and guests were in attendance! Our two Early Educator Grant Awardees spoke briefly about their upcoming projects using the grant money. Our first awardee, Amy Seeley shared with us books she has purchased to begin a middle school book club for students at Limestone Elementary School. Our second awardee, Stacy Hews, third grade teacher in Washburn, purchased books that discuss personal, emotional problems that many of her students experience to help them cope more easily. As we watched the “Year in Review,” we were reminded of previous enjoyable meetings and events. In April, local author, Beverly Knowles talked about her premiere book, *Echoes of Dean Mountain*, based loosely on her childhood growing up near Dean Mountain. Teachers and students from Dawn F. Barnes School in Caswell were honored with platters and individual bags of cookies for our first ever Cookie Day in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. Members Ali Stone, Rena Kearney, and Elaine Hendrickson attended Spring Convention at the Black Bear Inn in Orono.



Treasurer Betsy York presents the check for one of our Early Career Educator Grants to Stacy Hews



Author Beverly Knowles autographs her book, *Echoes of Dean Mountain*, for Linda Hawkins-Pelletier and Janet Wood



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Members had busy summers! Carolyn Phelps and Dottie Martin enjoyed hosting family members this summer. Dottie entertained 60 family members and friends, while Carolyn spent time with her children and grandchildren. Melissa Buck and Casey Johnson vacationed in Maine; Melissa at the Dessert of Maine and Casey in the Moosehead Lake area. Julie Gardner revisited Wrigley Field to cheer on the Red Sox. Sherri Calhoun, Ali Stone, and Elaine Hendrickson pursued educational opportunities. Ali traveled to Denver for the Science in the Rockies Conference. Sherri worked with a team from Stanford University to publish a unit on Climate Change based on the research her eighth graders did. Elaine attended the workshop, Teach ME Outside and facilitated programs at Francis Malcolm Science Center until the end of July. Rena Kearney and Betsy York were involved in local events in Mars Hill. Rena was elected to the Town Council and helped coordinate the Rotary Club Golf Tournament. Betsy worked with another member of the Mars Hill Historical Society to publish a second book of local stories to raise money for the group.

Theta

Theta Chapter has had a busy and fulfilling spring and summer. In February, as part of our Clara Soule project, we distributed candy and Valentines to retired educators in area nursing homes. In March, we held a resource fair for teachers. The purpose was to introduce educators to area organizations that provide in-person and virtual experiences and curriculum materials to students and teachers. Speakers from Woodlawn Museum, Healthy Acadia, and Acadia National Park gave engaging and informative presentations. Theta members had researched additional institutions and provided a resource booklet with information about them to the attendees. Refreshments were served, and contact hour certificates were provided. The evening was a success and paved the way for us to offer more professional development in the future.

In May, we were thrilled to induct a new member who is in her fourth year of teaching. Then we celebrated our chapter's birthday with cake.

In June, some of us took a tour of the Families First transitional house in Ellsworth. Families First has 7 apartments for unhoused families with young children. It provides services and education to help the families live independently as they move forward with their lives. They



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even have a well-equipped daycare for infants and young children. Property manager Mary Thibodeau led us on the informative tour and answered our numerous questions.

Theta collected a set of children's books for each family and for the daycare center and presented them on their visit. They also gifted a copy of the book "How to Talk so Your Little Kids Will Listen" to each family. We may visit the facility during one of their house meetings in the future to discuss the book with the parents. We also will continue to donate books and needed products such as paper towels and detergent for the house.

In July, Theta enjoyed an outing to the Seal Cove Auto Museum in Tremont. The inside displays of antique cars from the early 1900s were impressive. They were enhanced by period artifacts such as fashion, bicycles, motorcycles, and household furnishings. One section of particular interest featured displays showing the link of the suffragist movement to the introduction of cars to the general public. Outside was a sports car rally, featuring many restored domestic and foreign beauties from the 50s and 60s. Following our captivating visit, we savored a tasty lunch, relaxation, and conversation at Thurston's Lobster Pound.

In August, a few of us were able to meet to formulate some preliminary plans for the upcoming year. We will finalize these at our September meeting. The outlook is promising for another great year for Theta!



Theta's new inductee, Nicole Ouellette



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Nu

Nu Chapter has recently initiated two new members who have taught for many years—Teresa Brewster, fourth grade and kindergarten educator in Thomaston, and Libbie Winslow, art educator at Medomak Middle School. Kate Jackson reported that she now has 35 vendors in her Beyond the Moon Gift Shop at the Knox County Airport in Owl's Head. She now also carries some of Susan Vaughan's novels. Susan Jones reached the semi-final round for Lincoln County Teacher of the Year. She said that it would have been additional work if she had gone further in the process (e.g., writing essays, resume writing, securing recommendations and videotaping one of her classes). New member Libbie Winslow's painting, "Sunflower for Ukraine," was picked up by a nonprofit organization that does wellness packets for those in need. The image is on the cover of their packets going to Ukraine. Susan Vaughan attended the Maine Crime Wave, the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance conference for mystery authors, where she took part in a panel discussion about romantic suspense novels. Susan's children's picture storybook has recently been published by Maine Authors Publishing. Sleigh Magic tells the story of how the elves came to the North Pole to help Santa build the toys.

Omicron

Omicron Chapter member Elizabeth Bisson was named the 2021 Outstanding Conservation Educator of the Year by the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District. Elizabeth has taught both special education and pre-kindergarten at the Sedomocha school in Dover-Foxcroft for sixteen years. Although being outdoors has always been a regular part of her instruction, with Covid-19, Elizabeth saw an opportunity to rework her curriculum, and have her students do as much outdoor learning as possible. An integral part of her teaching philosophy is to ... "let students get outside, climb, play, and get dirty, [and] their academics will develop along the way."

PCSWD Board members honored Elizabeth at an outdoor school ceremony in May of 2022. Elizabeth has been an Omicron member since 2008; her mother, Judy Lewis, is also an Omicron member. Elizabeth has also presented several wonderful programs to our chapter! We are very proud of her!

“Ready for Fall Workshop?”

Maine State Organization DKG
October 13-14, 2023 Moore Community Center - Ellsworth

Focus: This year, our Fall Workshop has a mix of sessions that focus on society business, professional development, and personal growth. There is “something for everyone.” Embrace this chance to learn more about your role in our organization, to be informed about programs and opportunities for students, teachers, and volunteers, and to expand your horizons.

Guests: Fall Workshop is an opportunity for all. Registered guests are welcome. Consider inviting dropped members and prospective members. The workshop may encourage them to join or rejoin.

Hotel: Eagle’s Lodge Motel at 278 High St. in Ellsworth will set aside a block of rooms for Friday, Oct. 13 until Sept. 22. A room with 2 queen beds for 1 or 2 people is \$126.65 before tax. A room for 1 or 2 people with 2 double beds is \$118.50 before tax. Each additional person in either type room will be \$10. A free continental breakfast is included, and coffee is available around the clock. Check-in begins at 2:00 P.M. Call 207-667-3311 to reserve your room, and be sure to mention that you are with DKG and that we have a reserved block.

Our Host Chapter’s Charities: Sigma would appreciate it if you would bring gently used children’s books in good shape suitable for an early childhood after school program and for babies. They will be donated to their charities Read to Me and Read to Me, Too.

Things to do in Ellsworth: If you arrive on Friday, you may want to explore downtown Ellsworth (Main St.) with its many interesting shops and fine eateries. Check out John Edwards Market, 2nd to None Thrift and Gift, The Union River Book and Toy Store, Toko, Elizabeth’s, Bliss, Poppy and Polka Dots, Kiddo, The Rock and Art Shop, Trio, The Bud Connection, Sugar Mags, Rooster Brothers, and The Dream Catcher. Restaurants include Finn’s, Flexit, Riverside Cafe, 86 This, Serendib, Margarita’s, and Provender. Momo’s legendary cheesecake shop is open 24/7 and uses an “honor system” for payment. It is located a ways up East Main St. (471 Main St.) Coming from the direction of Bangor just outside of town, you will find IA Relics (antiques, collectibles, crafts, and more) on the right and a flea market on the left. On the outskirts of Ellsworth coming from Bucksport, you will encounter The Big Chicken Barn Antiques on the right. Ellsworth has a candlepin bowling alley located off of the Downeast Highway (Route 1 going towards Hancock.)

Lunch: To receive lunch, registration must be received by September 29, 2023.

Attention, Chapter Officers: Refresher sessions have been set up for chapter presidents, first vice presidents (and/or EEC chairs,) second vice presidents (and/or membership chairs,) and treasurers first thing in the morning. Please plan to attend your respective sessions. Try to have a representative from your chapter at each refresher session.

Attention Members of the Mainspring, Website, and Communication/Publicity Committees: Daina Markella would like to meet with you during the first session. Please plan to be there.

Payment: If you send your registration electronically, please be prepared to pay the balance when you arrive. In the future, Maine S.O. is hoping for an electronic registration/payment option.

Directions to the Gen. Bryant E. Moore Community Center

The Center is located at 125 State Street in Ellsworth. To reach State Street, go down Main Street and turn right at the intersection with the light at the bottom. Camden National Bank will be on your right. That will put you on State St. Then drive for 0.4 miles until you come to the Seaport Village/Gen. Bryant E. Moore Community Center sign (pictured) on the right. Turn into the driveway by the sign. Go straight, a little past the brick portion of the building. The entryway, painted blue with white doors, is on the right. (See photo.)

Parking is directly across from the entrance and around the corner from the entrance, in front of the brick portion of the building that you passed when you drove in. Please do not park near the Seaport Village facility.



**Maine State Organization DKG 2023 Fall Workshop Session Descriptions
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Codes:

S – Society Business PD – Professional Development PG – Personal Growth

“Zipping Through Costa Rica with Teens!” Rena Kearney (PG)

Come and see what it is like to go with a group of six teenage girls to the beautiful country of Costa Rica!! See the different parts of the tropics, narrow roads, children at a small school as they entertained, visits to plantations and farms, and the beauty of nature. What an experience you will have!

“GOT STRESS?” Judith Hanscom (PG) (PD)

Whether you're currently in the classroom or not, we're all dealing with stress on different levels. Come join Judy Hanscom for an engaging, fun-filled workshop on different tips and tricks to handle stress that you can incorporate into your lives and then share with others.

Judy is a first grade teacher, a Responsive Classroom Consulting Teacher, and a yoga teacher.

“Photography Tips” Teresa Brzustowicz and Kathy Sticht (PG)

Don't just “take” a picture; learn how to “make” a picture. In this session, learn basic tips to improve your photos with no prior experience. You'll be amazed at what you can create with just your cell phone camera!

“Fire of 1947 Documentary Video” (PG) (PD) Directed by Peter Logue

“In late October 1947, more than 200 fires in southern and coastal Maine burned [over 206] acres, leveling nine towns and destroying more than 1,200 homes and seasonal cottages. It was the worst natural disaster in Maine history.” (<https://www.bates.edu>) This video, featuring actual news footage and interviews with people who lived through it, tells the story of the devastating fire that destroyed much of Bar Harbor and Mount Desert Island during that time period.

“Acadia National Park – Opportunities for Students and Teachers” (PD) Ranger Kate Petrie, ANP Education Coordinator

Ranger Kate will do a presentation on the in-person and virtual experiences that are available to students and teachers through Acadia. These include field trips, classroom visits, residential programs, videos, virtual programs, and educational materials. You and your students do not have to live close to Acadia to benefit from all of the Acadia resources and experiences that are available. Expect an engaging and informative presentation!

“Joint Meeting of Mainspring, Website, and Communication/Publicity Committees”

Daina Markella (S) If you are a member of any of these committees, please attend.

“Refresher for Chapter Presidents” Priscilla McFarland (S)

Get the second year of your biennium off to a good start. Review your responsibilities and learn the latest from International.

“Refresher for Chapter First Vice Presidents” Rachelle Tome (S)

Get the second year of your biennium off to a good start. Review your responsibilities and learn the latest from International.

“Refresher for Chapter Second Vice Presidents” Teresa Brzustowicz (S)

Get the second year of your biennium off to a good start. Review your responsibilities and learn the latest from International.

“Refresher for Chapter Treasurers” Kathy Sticht (S)

Get the second year of your biennium off to a good start. Review your responsibilities and learn the latest from International.

“Stories of Self-Discovery! The SpiritCorps Formula for Robust Engagement, SEL, and Academics” (PD) (PG) Christina O’Neal and Kent Pierce

Join us to learn about SpiritCorps, our project-based personal narrative writing and video storytelling initiative for Grades 7-10. SpiritCorps authentically engages students, increases connection, and builds foundational skills that help students succeed in school and life. With help from our partnership with the Maine DOE, we are reaching middle school and high school students throughout the state.

Attendees will learn about the inspirational journey of self-discovery students take during the program and about a key piece of support – our adult volunteer Story Coaches. This interactive session will provide an opportunity to participate as a ‘peer audience’ in a SpiritCorps engagement finale.

“Free Curriculum Resources from Wreaths Across America” (PD) Karen Worcester, Pam Campbell, and Nancy Willey

Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America, and two of the museum’s volunteers will introduce you to the free, downloadable, grade-specific lesson plans that WAA offers to teachers. At least 15 different lesson plans are available for each K-12 grade level. Topics include the various patriotic holidays, women’s history, symbols of our country, veterans, Native Americans, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., elections, and more. There is also information about a Youth Service Project that encourages young people to get involved in community service.

“Supporting the Next Generation of Teachers” Hannah Farrar and a panel of young teachers (S) (PG)

Hear from early career educators about their experiences and needs. How can DKG and our Maine State Organization support and work with young teachers as we navigate unprecedented challenges in education?

“A Conversation with a State Legislator” Rep. Jan Dodge (S) (PG)

Rep. Dodge will discuss education, labor, and retiree issues related to education. She hopes to make this an interactive session with input from attendees and time at the end for questions. Jan is well-equipped to discuss these topics since she serves on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and has been involved with MEA’s Government Relations Committee and MEA-Retired positions.

Maine State Organization DKG 2023 Fall Workshop Schedule October 13-14, 2023 - Moore Community Center – Ellsworth

Friday, October 13, 2023

6:00 – 8:30 P.M. Executive Board Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, October 14, 2023

7:30 – 10:00 A.M. Registration

Atrium

7:30 – 11:00 A.M. Hospitality

Cafe

Please use the bottom of the one page registration form to indicate your first and second choices for each workshop session. Please sign up for and attend each of the 3 sessions. Let's show respect to our presenters who have invested their time and effort to prepare their presentations for us.

8:30 – 9:20 A.M. Session I

- A. Refresher for Chapter Presidents
- B. Refresher for Chapter First Vice Presidents
- C. Refresher for Chapter Second Vice Presidents
- D. Refresher for Chapter Treasurers
- E. Joint Meeting for Mainspring, Website, and Communication/Publicity Committees
- F. Video - Documentary of the Fire of 1947

9:35 – 10:25 A.M. Session II

- A. Travels with Rena: Zipping through Costa Rica with Teens
- B. Acadia National Park – Opportunities for Students and Educators
- C. Photography Tips
- D. Got Stress?
- E. Video - Documentary of the Fire of 1947

10:40 – 11:30 A.M. Session III

- A. A Conversation with a Legislator
- B. Supporting the Next Generation of Educators
- C. Free Curriculum Resources from Wreaths Across America
- D. Stories of Self-Discovery! The SpiritCorps Formula for Robust Engagement, SEL, and Academics
- E. Travels with Rena: Zipping Through Costa Rica with Teens

11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Luncheon

Keynote Speakers – Christina O'Neal and Kent Pierce from SpiritCorps

1:15 – 3:00 P.M. General Session

Agenda TBA

2023 Fall Workshop Registration Form
October 13-14, 2023 Moore Community Center, Ellsworth
“Reimagine, Shine, and Rebuild”

For needed workshop session details, please refer to the article “Ready for Fall Workshop?”

Name _____ Chapter _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

Please check all that apply:

_____ Maine State Officer _____ Chapter Officer*
_____ Maine State Committee Chair *Which office do you hold? _____
_____ First Timer to Fall Workshop (Lunch is free.)
_____ Presenter (Registration is free.)
_____ Guest (Will need to pay for lunch/registration)

The executive board will meet via Zoom on Friday, October 13, beginning at 6:00 P.M. The link will be sent in October.

Registration Fee **\$25.00** _____

Luncheon – The lunch buffet will include assorted sandwiches and wraps, coleslaw, chips, assorted cookies, and beverages. Lunch **\$18.00** _____

Total Registration \$ _____

Tax and gratuity for all meals are being paid through the Roberta Rogers Fund. If you have any food allergies, please contact Priscilla McFarland by Sept. 29, 2023. pmcfarland1227@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: Sept. 29, 2023 - Please make check payable to Maine S.O. DKG and mail/email registration to Kathy Bartley, 141 Leach Hill Rd., Casco, ME 04015-3230. You may email her at kathyfbartley@gmail.com.

Sessions will be filled on a first-come basis. Presenters have invested considerable time and effort into planning for your participation. Please be sure to sign up and show up. We need to show our respect towards the presenters by providing an enthusiastic, sizable audience for each session.

Please indicate your first and second choices for each session by entering the letter that corresponds to each session you want to attend. **Submit this page only to the registrar**, and keep the other pages for reference.

Session I – First Choice _____ Second Choice _____
Session II – First Choice _____ Second Choice _____
Session III – First Choice _____ Second Choice _____

Please send registrations to Kathy Bartley, 141 Leach Hill Rd., Casco, ME 04015-3230. You may also email her at kathyfbartley@gmail.com.