



# ***MAINSRING***

## **News and Information from Maine State Organization**

***Issue 2024.1***

***March 2024***



Message from  
Maine State Organization  
President  
***Priscilla McFarland***

### ***Reimagine, Shine, and Rebuild!***

My presidency has been a whirlwind of activity thus far, yet it has been both engaging and often fun. August featured the Administrative Board meeting at the Viles estate in Augusta. I always have enjoyed the atmosphere, camaraderie, and wonderful food at those meetings. In September, following a pleasant combined visit and breakfast with Zeta and Sigma Chapters, I attended Omicron's well-structured meeting in which, I am pleased to report, my niece was inducted. Later in the month, Maine hosted a successful cross border event in Columbia Falls. October featured an enlightening meeting and tour with Lambda Chapter at the historic Gates House Museum and then a stimulating Fall Workshop held at a new venue. A November highlight was my visit with Nu Chapter that featured an extraordinary presenter and a delicious lasagna dinner. I am looking forward to my upcoming visits with Kappa and Delta this spring.

Since the fall, I have been making plans for Spring Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bangor on April 26-28. We are fortunate to host DKG International's Executive Director Nita Scott who will update us on the goings-on at headquarters. Highlights will include a session with marketing consultant Jessica Masse, the big reveal of our 2024 APAA (Achievement Award) recipient, recognition of our 40 and 50 year members, a ceremony to honor incoming and outgoing chapter presidents, and a Celebration of Life service for our members who have recently passed. We hope to have representation from all 14 of our chapters.

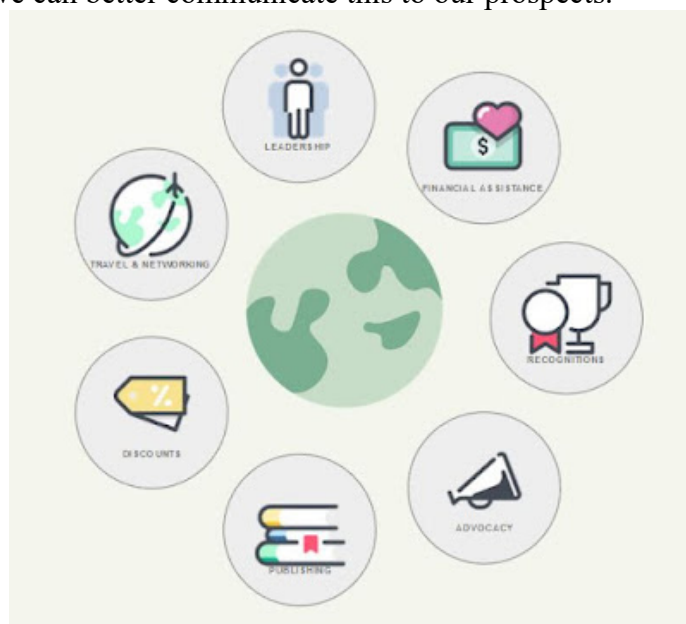
I'm looking forward to attending the annual Stretch Your Teaching workshop at United Technologies Center in Bangor on April 6. The offerings are top notch. Please plan to attend and bring someone with you. Even if you are not currently teaching, your attendance helps keep you

current with what is going on in schools today. Please publicize the workshop with your colleagues and schools in your area. Invite both men and women to attend. Administrators are welcome, too! We need everyone's help to get the word out.

From Carol Herzog, Northeast Regional Director: "The Northeast Region was well, and I mean WELL, represented in the last International Arts Gallery. Arts Gallery submissions are due for the next showing on March 15 and again on September 15." Carol continues, "Convention registration is open on-line for National Harbor, MD July 9-12. Changes for this year's form include a full convention registration fee or daily registrations. The full registration includes all convention meals. A one-day registration includes whatever meals will be served on that day." Let's have a large Maine contingent in attendance!

DKG International is at a crossroads. It is clear that we need to take immediate action, or our organization may not survive. Consulting company Avenue M Group was hired to help get DKG back on track. According to the Avenue M report, "If DKG wishes to recruit, engage, and retain members[,] it must make it a priority to develop and implement a multi-channel strategy for demonstrating the value of membership and the ability to engage without requiring a major time commitment." Over the next 12-18 months, International's Administrative Board plans to implement a number of strategies, laid out in four phases, to accomplish the goals of shining the light on the value of DKG membership and reimagining how members can engage with one another with efficient use of time.

In order to help members and prospective recruits to delve into the benefits of DKG membership, International will be implementing a "Bursting the Bubble" campaign. Twice a month, beginning in March, a different bubble representing an opportunity or perk offered by DKG membership will be highlighted. Be on the lookout for the graphic (seen below) on the International website, on Facebook, and in publications, including the DKGSI Blogspot which can be found on social media and at [dkg.org](http://dkg.org). Before members and chapters can effectively recruit new members, we must have a thorough understanding of all of the benefits of DKG membership so that we can better communicate this to our prospects.



Several initiatives are designed to help members and chapters engage with one another. One example is the Chapter to Chapter Exchange, designed for chapters to connect with other chapters, whether in the same state, in another state, or even in another country. In a recent Northeast State Organization Presidents' Zoom meeting, New Brunswick President Dianne Caron and I were asked to talk about our Cross Border event as an example. You could "visit" via email, Zoom, recorded videos, Facetime, and even in person when possible. According to Carol Herzog, "To begin your personal connection, go to the international website, sign in, go to My DKG, then Communities. A list of all the communities you can join will pop up. Leave a message to get yourself connected."

How has your chapter reimagined some of its meeting routines, programs, or scheduling? Does your chapter need to revitalize some of the above to keep members interested and engaged? How are you shining the light on the benefits of DKG and of membership in your chapter to prospective members and to current members to keep them in DKG? Do you have marketing and recruitment strategies to help rebuild /increase membership? Attendance at this year's Spring Convention may be of assistance in helping you formulate strategies to Reimagine, Shine, and Rebuild. See you there!

### **Maine State Organization Officers**

2023-2025

President – Priscilla McFarland (Theta)

First Vice President/Educational Excellence Chair - Rachelle 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!**



Message from  
Maine State Organization  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
*Rachelle Tome*

**Educational Excellence Committee (EEC)**

I want to begin this update by extending a sincere thank you to those chapters who are helping to build our organization with your creative, supportive, and impactful projects. I also appreciate those of you who have taken the time to share details of your projects on our State DKG website and have sent details to me, when requested. By sharing our successful efforts with our members, we not only celebrate the good work of our organization but provide ideas for those chapters who may be looking for ideas and inspiration. EEC chairs, please be on the lookout for a Google survey coming your way in early March. You'll have an opportunity to share your progress with the following areas, as we prepare for our Spring Convention. This is your opportunity to brag about activities your chapter has been involved in.

The EEC Umbrella 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

I really want to highlight the great work happening in your chapters. Please help me 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.



Photo Cred: UNICEF/UN0284179/LeMoyné

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Please don't forget to register for our International Convention, held in Maryland July 9-13!  
Information and registration forms are available at <https://www.dkg.org/>



Image Cred: DKG International Website





Thoughts from  
Maine State Organization  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
*Teresa Brzustowicz*

### Thoughts on Membership

As we move towards an increasingly technology-based world, the importance of human interaction becomes vital to us all as human beings. One of the most cited benefits of membership in DKG is the fellowship; gathering with women educators who share common experiences, goals, and motivation feeds our being and provides mutual support.

This support is crucial to us as humans, women, and as educators. Even before the pandemic, 44% of new teachers were leaving the profession within their first five years of teaching. There is a serious lack of teachers to fill open positions nationwide. DKG is facing a similar challenge with membership. In 2015 DKG International had 77,577 members; as of this fall that number is 49,543. Maine State Organization had 599 members in 2012; we now have 310 members.

Both education and DKG membership are at critical junctures. People today join fewer organizations; they put their time and energy where they believe they can make a difference. DKG can be that outlet; we will be that outlet only by remaining vital and providing opportunities for meaningful contributions to education and our communities.

We can increase our membership; we must learn from those chapters that have done just that. Please consider hosting a meaningful meeting and inviting early educators in your area to that meeting. Reimagine what your chapters can offer in terms of support and opportunities to make an impact. I truly believe that through DKG, our leading women educators can not only help our own organization to flourish but also make a difference in keeping early educators in the classroom. Those founders in Texas were vitally impacting education in their state and improving daily life for women educators. We must follow their lead now.

The increasing use of technology is not to be feared; it is up to us to learn how to use it advantageously while maintaining the human element. Jess Masse will join us at Spring Convention to help us learn how to leverage digital marketing tools to our benefit, and keep current in their use. Let's embrace these tools and remember to be Forward Moving Ever!

Now, here are some "housekeeping" items:

- Please send me notifications of the death of members as soon as possible since I will be putting together our Necrology Service for Spring Convention very soon
- I will be sending each chapter an updated form that should be completed and returned to me to honor 40 and 50 year members at Convention; please return those promptly Here is the link to the document: [Form for Info to honor 40 and 50 year members](#)
- Every chapter should have their Second Vice President or another representative at the MSO Officer Training on May 18th; we all need to work together for the future of MS



International Guest  
Executive Director,  
DKG Society International  
*Nita R Scott, CAE*

Nita R. Scott joined DKG International Society Headquarters in August of 2011 – serving first as membership director and now as executive director. Scott, an experienced educator, taught secondary mathematics and business in Tennessee and Arkansas before moving to Texas to work with DKG. During her career in education, she chaired continuous improvement/accreditation teams in two states and worked with the Tennessee State Department of Education as a presenter and instructor, as well as co-chair of the Standards Revision Team for Algebra I. Inducted in 2005 as a member of DKG, Scott has served her Tennessee chapter as president and as the strategic action committee chair. At the state organization level in Tennessee, she was a member of the membership committee and served as financial advisor to the convention steering committee. During her membership, she has conducted workshops at state organization, regional and international conventions and presented as Keynote speaker and panelist in a variety of sessions. As a member in Texas, she has served on the state organization leadership seminar and membership committees.

With a Bachelor of Business Administration (marketing and management) and a Master of Science in Education with a concentration in Educational Leadership, Scott promotes using data as a tool to enable Society leadership in marketing the Society and building membership. Scott, as a Certified Association Executive (CAE), provides Society leaders with insight regarding best practices for non-profit association governance. As corporate secretary-treasurer, she is an ex-officio (without vote) member of the International Administrative Board, Executive Board, and DKG International Educators Foundation Board of Directors. Scott also serves as support for the international president as well as the professional staff who serve as liaisons to the international committees. In addition, she manages the 16 member headquarters staff and oversees Society operations.

Scott is also a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the Texas Society of Association Executives (TSAE). In addition to attending conferences and seminars, she has worked with TSAE as a volunteer mentor for TSAE Leadership, panelist for Learn@Lunch sessions, instructor for CAE Study Courses, and has served on task forces for conference planning and for the association magazine. Scott is currently serving on the Governance Task Force after serving a three-year term as a member of the TSAE Board of Directors and chairing one of the board's four strategic initiatives, "Leveraging Data to Align Priorities with Capacity."

Scott and husband, James, live in the countryside outside of Austin with six horses, four dogs, a cat, and a small herd of cattle. They enjoy raising cattle and quarter horses, as well as participating in rodeo events.



## Focus on Membership of Working Teachers

Past State President  
*Dawn MacPherson-Allen*

This is asking you all to take a hard look at your chapter and what your goals are for the next four years. If you really take a look at your membership, how many of your members are retired? If the vast majority of your membership is retired, I submit that you are in trouble.

Delta Kappa Gamma was started by women to promote women in education, not in retirement. Retired Teachers does a great job of that. DKG was started to fight for equity, respect, due process, and legislation to help women in the classroom. Times change and reasons to fight change, but we still are an organization to help working women teachers. My question to you all is, what are you doing to help working teachers in your districts? In some of our chapters, you are diligently reaching out to those in the classroom; but for others the honest answer is not much. I maintain that if your chapter is not primarily about your working teachers, you have the wrong focus.

COVID did none of us any good, but I have listened to our MSO second vice-president, Teresa Brzustowicz, say many times, with great sadness, that we missed a golden opportunity to make ourselves visible by not stepping up to mentor during the pandemic. She is absolutely right.

What Omicron did right through that time, and what brought us back from the brink, was LISTEN to our working members. At that point in time, the majority of our chapter was retired. We had no clue as to what the women in the classroom were going through, and if we had kept meeting with arts and crafts, food centered meetings, how to make soap or bath beads, we would have lost everything. Instead, we gave a third of our meetings to mental health checks of our working members. We asked what it was like in the trenches, and in the safety and nurturing of that environment, they opened up. The first time we did this, two of our members were talking through visible tears, and we let them cry. They needed that outlet. It became the most important part of our meetings.

A couple of years ago, in September, I saw a Facebook post from a teacher in one of our districts voicing a frustration about lack of discipline and behavioral issues so early in the year. I knew her as a great teacher with a lot of experience who was hardened in the schools of New York City. I messaged her that she might like to come to our meeting the next week where she would find the support of women teachers sympathetic to her cause. She wrote back that that sounded like just what she needed. She came, she participated in the mental health check, and she asked me who she could pay to join Omicron that night. She didn't even know what we stood for, but she could see we stood for that in which she believed. She has been a member for two years.



This year I was conducting our October meeting, which is a supper meeting that was running late. I skipped the mental health check because of time as most members had a half hour drive to get home. One of our new members came up to me after adjournment and quietly said, “Dawn, you skipped the mental health check.” At that moment I realized I had skipped the wrong thing. Those teachers needed that time out to reflect on how some things were getting better and how some things were still bad. It was still that important.

I personally love this organization, and I have served it in every capacity at both chapter and state levels for almost fifty years. I don’t want us to fail in the purposes for which we were founded. But this is not about retirees; this is about working teachers. I credit Teresa with shifting my focus back to where it belonged, and for Omicron, this has worked. We are now one-third retired and two-thirds working teachers. We defer to our working teachers, we reach out to them, we support them, we cheer their successes, and we hug them in their failures. They, in turn, push the retirees to read books on transgendered kids so we have a feel for the issues with which we really didn’t have to struggle, but which they confront daily. If they are too busy to hold an office, we step in while encouraging them to take another leadership position and lend their voices to the chapter. One of our new members presented at STRETCH last year, and three of our members (two of them new) are presenting this year. LISTEN to their voices. They are young and fresh and, above all, honest.

Maybe just a change of focus is all it will take for your chapter to get a few young, working teachers to join. But once they are in, give them what they need, which is your mentorship and support for what they do. And above all, LISTEN to them. They will bring their cohorts if they find what they need. They are our future.



### **Singers Wanted**

Do you like to sing? Here’s your chance to perform! Volunteers are needed to join the chorus that will perform at the Saturday night banquet during our Spring Convention.

Rehearsal time will be scheduled for earlier that day.

If you are interested, please contact Rena Kearney by email asap. Use [rkearney@ainop.com](mailto:rkearney@ainop.com).

## CROSS-BORDER EVENT

Submitted by Mary Hyland and Priscilla McFarland

“The best DKG event I have attended in years!”

“What a treasure!”

Such were the comments from the weekend of September 23-24, 2023, when DKG members from Maine and New Brunswick gathered in Columbia Falls at the Wreaths Across America headquarters for our “Connecting Across the Border in ‘Sunrise County’ of Downeast Maine” event. And what an event it was!

On Saturday, we met for an orientation lunch, which was followed by tours of the WAA Museum, the Hospitality House, and the Ruggles House Museum. After a few minutes to check into our overnight accommodations, the Flag Pole Cabins, we proceeded out to the Tipland, the vast acreage where the greenery is gathered for making the wreaths. There, many members were able to place dog tags on trees in honor of their loved ones who have served or are currently serving. That tour included a stop at the Chapel and a swing by the wreath factory. Saturday evening brought us together for a traditional Saturday night beans and hot dogs dinner with remarks from our International Speaker/former International Second Vice President Dr. Lace Marie Brogden of Nova Scotia. Members also had a hand in making wreaths.

On Sunday morning, many enjoyed a breakfast at Liberty Kitchen. Morning options included another trip to the Tipland, more time at the WAA museum, or walking around the village. Many members participated in a robust discussion focused on the status of DKG and its future.

We remain very grateful to ALL those who helped to make this idea a reality. In particular, we would like to thank Nancy Willey, Lambda Chapter, the Worcester family, Tiffany Strout, registrar Rena Kearney, catering coordinator Mary Hammond, and all of the participants. All in all, it was a 24-hour absolute whirlwind of activity, emotion, and camaraderie.



Maine State Organization  
President Priscilla McFarland  
and  
New Brunswick's  
Beta Chapter President

## WORLD FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Maine World Fellowship Chair, Linda Hussey

This has been a winter not to remember, but I hope all are well and you have survived our record breaking high winds, inches of rain with extra destructive floods, very high tides, and ice and snow! Yes. Winter in Maine!

Let us now look ahead to a beautiful, sunny spring and our Spring Convention in Bangor! We need to look forward to being together, to sharing friendships and laughter, and to renew our commitment to raise funds for the World Fellowship Program!!

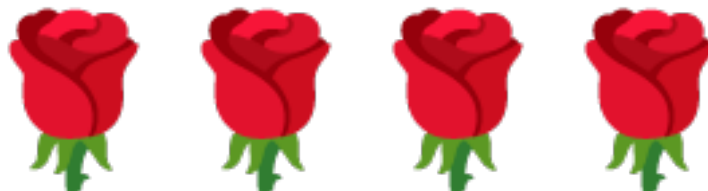
So with renewed energy and the excitement of seeing all the marvelous basket surprises that our Chapters are working hard to create, we will strive to reach our goal and raise funds to help fulfill DKG Society International Purpose #5 - By endowing scholarships that will empower outstanding women to pursue their dream to support the advancement of teaching worldwide – one learner at a time.

As Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world!”

**World Fellowship Scholarships for 2022-2023 totaled \$83,500, supporting 25 women from 23 different countries.**

**Maine State Organization’s overall total contribution for 2022-2023 was \$1,327!**

Thank you for providing educational opportunities worldwide, making a Global impact on women, their lives, and their communities.



## REMINDERS!!

### STRETCH

**S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching**  
Professional Development Workshop

April 6, 2024  
United Technologies Center, Bangor  
9:00-2:30

Keynote Speaker: Jessica Anderson, Attendance Matters: The Basics  
Workshop sessions include: positive behavior management, communication skills, early literacy, school gardens, using AI, designing a STEM project, book banning, the power of music and movement, and helping students prepare for employment, college, and citizenship.

Registration Fee:  
Early Bird: \$35 (before March 8)  
Educator - \$45  
College Student - \$15  
DKG Member = \$25

To register: <https://dkgmaine.weebly.com/pd-opportunities.htm>  
Questions: Mary Hyland, [mhyland@gmail.com](mailto:mhyland@gmail.com)

Sponsored by Maine State Organization of DKG International

**Link to register:** <https://dkgmaine.weebly.com/pd-opportunities.htm>

### Chapter Officer Training

Please save this date for Chapter Officer Training:

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**First United Methodist Church**

**703 Essex St. in Bangor**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**All chapter officers should plan on attending.**

Lunch will be provided for a cost of \$12.00. In the past Maine S. O. has had our officer training at this church, and it is wonderful to be returning there. Please stay tuned for more details that will be coming from Mary Hyland, Immediate Past State President.

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### Alpha

In August, six Alpha sisters took a week trip to Aruba. Linda Hake, Linda McConnell, Lisa Sawyer, Carol Brooks, Judy Dolly, and Thalia Webb. They had a fabulous time on the island! Fun, food, and sun in the sand were all mixed with warm breezes!

After returning from enjoying a week in Aruba with “T” and the ladies, Judy Dolly was fortunate to take a trip to Ireland. She said it was breathtaking! When returning from her second summer adventure, Judy was very happy to go on a Viking River Cruise from Amsterdam to Basel. She was so fortunate to have family and friends to share these trips with.

Once again Fawn Condon enjoyed her annual family trip to Augusta West Kampground in Winthrop, ME. The Malmsten family always makes them comfortable at their Kampground with many enjoyable activities and makes them all feel like family. Fawn added they had eight family campsites, filled with sun and family fun. Always a new adventure when they return.

Rebecca clocked **100** Hours as a volunteer for the Christine B. Foundation. Chris B. provides food for any cancer patient treated at the Lafayette Cancer Center in Brewer. There are no income restrictions- anyone can sign up and pick up food on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12-3. In addition, through partnerships with Ellsworth, Dover-Foxcroft, and Machias hospitals, food is delivered throughout Piscataquis, Hancock, and Washington Counties. The food offered includes frozen meats, eggs, fresh and canned fruits, vegetables, low-sodium syrups, spaghetti sauces, shelf-stable milk, cereals, canned tuna and or chicken, whole wheat pasta, beans, rice, bread, and peanut butter.

Lisa Sawyer invited author Kelley Spencer from Newport, to speak at the September meeting. She is an occupational therapy practitioner, business owner, hiker, nature lover, artist, writer, and gardener, and her most cherished role is a mom. Lisa met Kelley when she had her daughter Savannah in 5th grade. Savannah was a very jubilant, and kind young lady. She was eager to learn and it was easy for her to make and keep friends. Kelley said she learned so much from all her children and hopes to give families one extra tool to help them teach their children more about compassion, kindness, self-love, and creativity: Concepts that seemed to take her decades to truly understand and master. Kelley shared her story about, “Adventuring Savvy,” a series of books she has written to honor her daughter Savannah’s memory. Savannah fell to her death while hiking in Zion National Park where she worked. Kelley has free color pages to download for children to color at: <https://kelleysbookcorner.ac-page.com/adventureing-savy-book>

Alpha Sisters, Carol Brooks, Sheila Cochrane, Linda Hake, and Lisa Sawyer attended a two-day, “Connecting Across The Border Event in Columbia Falls at Wreaths Across America”. They met and ate at the former Columbia Falls Elementary School. After that they split into groups to tour the school, now being housed by the Wreaths Across America Headquarters and a Military Museum. Next, the sisters toured the Hospitality House used to house the Gold Star Families when they visited. Their last stop was a tour of the Ruggles House. So much wonderful History was learned by all. Later in the day they traveled by school bus and visited Balsam Valley, where



tips are harvested for the wreaths, which is such, a huge operation. Linda and Lisa placed dog tags with their dad's names on them in the trees in section 32. The Chapel and its stained glass windows were absolutely beautiful. Food was in abundance and the head chef outdid herself once again. They stayed at The Flagpole View Cabins, which were beautiful cozy cabins, and had breakfast at the Liberty Kitchen. Linda and Lisa were able to go to the Columbia Falls Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Sunday Morning, while others walked around town or stayed at a meeting. They also visited the gift shop and then headed home. Fun time!

In October the Alpha sisters met again, and enjoyed a wonderful meal, watched a Cross Border Event slide show, and worked to update Bio Sheets/paperwork. Thalia Webb discussed Schools for Africa. The speaker for the evening was exposed to COVID so Lisa Sawyer taught the sisters how to make felted acorns.

Carol Brooks, Judy Dolly, Linda Hake, and Patricia St. Louis were part of a group to participate in Pound the Pavement on Oct. 7th to raise money for research to combat pancreatic cancer. They raised \$500.00 to honor Mickey Dolley-Mickey's Battle Bots.

The Fall Workshop in Ellsworth at the Moore Community Center went very well. Carol Brooks, Shirley Ellis, Linda Hake, Lisa Sawyer, and Thalia Webb attended. They all enjoyed the workshops they attended and their lunch.

Our Dear Sister Brenna Thornton passed on October 23, 2023. Brenna's celebration of life was held at the Old Town United Methodist Church on November 11th. Many people spoke and sang, the ceremony was beautiful. We were served tea in some of Brenna's beautiful China cups from the church ladies, and we were able to reminisce on all that Brenna offered to the Church, Schools, and DKG.

Alpha has a yearly fundraiser in November to raise money for its scholarship program. This year the ladies outdid themselves. The auction raised \$936.00. We are anxious to screen applicants in the spring.

Linda McConnell in November went on a Caribbean Geyser Cruise for a week with her family. A Geyser Cruise has Christian Music groups play at least two concerts a day while they travel. Linda and her family enjoyed their travels to the Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and St. Martian. Linda stated that one of the highlights of her trip was interacting with the Jungle Monkeys.

Carol Brooks traveled on November 25th to New Brunswick, N.J. to attend the 80th Anniversary film event of the Rohna Classified Documentary. Her sister's father had been one of over a thousand U.S. servicemen who lost their lives after the Rhona, (a British cargo tanker) was sunk by the German radio-operated missile. Over 900 military personnel survived, and the U.S. government silenced them. The mission of the Rohna Survivors Memorial Association is to have this loss of lives during WWII included in our history books. There are 3 survivors left, they all live in Florida. Their families also gathered and watched the documentary at the same time that the 450 others were in attendance in N.J. Carol, her

sister, and four nieces heard so many stories from the attendees. There were and still are so many questions to be answered. Why was this so hidden by our government?



Alpha Members



Brenna Thornton



Lisa Sawyer

## Beta

Beta Chapter has been lucky enough to enjoy a beautiful slide show of Finland's International Convention presented by Jeri Fitzpatrick. What an incredible event! Jeri also worked on individual gifts at Christmas for the Women's Shelter.

Helen Morris has been working with her sister, Nancy Flagg, to help individuals in need communicate using visual cues rather than verbal ones.

## Gamma

Gamma Chapter's Autumn to Spring events began with its Outdoor Learning professional development day which was available to area teachers and sited at the Viles House (and grounds) in Augusta. Gamma has provided a high-quality annual workshop program for the past several years.

In November, chapter members were treated to "the cleanest, most-fun program in Kennebec County." It got us up to our elbows in healthy and sweet-smelling substances that we re-created into useful household items. This event was provided thanks to our member, Melanie Ruark, who not only does and teaches lots of other things, also teaches THIS! In a "make-it and take-it" mode, Melanie guided several Gamma members and a guest to the art and science of making three samples from her booklet of several options: homemade hand soap, non-toxic scrub, and shower spray. Melanie shared a few more recipes with attendees and also has made them available to other Maine DKG members on request. After the program, President Rachelle Tome led us off to The Liberal Cup in downtown Hallowell for a dutch-treat lunch.

Gamma's holiday-time meeting occurred nicely nestled between Christmas and New Year's. This gathering was purely social - very pleasant, relaxing, and fun! Several of us found the time to join up for the afternoon at the Ruarks' Augusta home. We shared tea and a variety of

elegant snacks. Besides talk about holiday decor and happenings, a feature of the day was a gift book-swap of recommended reading.

At our February get-together we cycled the books back in preparation for the World Fellowship basket that Gamma is preparing for Spring Convention. Meeting again at the Parish Hall in Hallowell, and after taking care of business (annual review, planning for upcoming events, shaping a plan for effective use of the allocation from the Roberta Rogers Fund), we were treated to a fine lunch prepared by our honored associate, Chef Ted.

Next we are looking forward to our April 17 field trip to the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, followed by lunch at Joshua's Tavern. (Eta Chapter members and others, please join us!) Our annual Celebration Tea is scheduled for 4:30pm on May 16 at Viles House. Our new slate of officers will be inducted.

It will be a pleasure seeing everyone at State Convention April 26 to 28.

### ***Explore the Arctic with Gamma***

Looking for an interesting way to expand your mind during April vacation? Then join members of Gamma Chapter on Wednesday, April 17th as we visit the Peary–MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College, located on 10 Polar Loop, Brunswick. The museum has moved to a new building, and we're excited to see the new facilities and exhibits. We plan to meet at the museum at 10:00 am, and for those interested, embark on a guided tour at 10:30. (You're also welcome to explore the museum on your own.) We gather for lunch at Joshua's Tavern on Maine St. Brunswick at 12:30 pm. Brave souls who are interested may want to return to the college for a visit to the Bowdoin College Art Museum, which is open until 5:00 pm. Admission to both museums is free. Please contact Rachelle Tome at [rachellemtome@gmail.com](mailto:rachellemtome@gmail.com) by March 27 so we can plan for our tour make restaurant reservations. We hope you'll join us!

## **Delta**

Central Aroostook County falls directly in the path of the totality during the Great North American Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Around 3:30 PM much of Central Aroostook will go dark while the moon passes in front of the sun. What an opportunity for our students and their families in Aroostook County! The Francis Malcolm Science Center (FMSC) in Easton with the monetary help and backing of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) in Portland, along with members of Delta chapter stepped forward to help equip area traditional and non-traditional educators with a better understanding of what a total solar eclipse is and to provide hands-on materials that can be used to help students of all ages learn what causes a solar eclipse, what will happen during the eclipse, and how to protect their eyes. As a result of these three partnerships, Trek to Totality: Train the Trainer Professional Development Workshop was held on January 30, 2024 with a capacity crowd. Elaine Hendrickson, the Volunteer Education Director at FMSC and Delta member, along with volunteer FMSC educator, Mary Jo Badger, and volunteer Jim Stepp, an amateur astronomer, put together this four-hour workshop that was divided into two sessions. Area educators and organization leaders, such as Boy Scouts and 4-H, watched the full dome show, Totality, during one session while the others spent time roaming from table to table that held informational hand-outs and make-and-take items that

can be used with their learners. These included models of a solar eclipse, chalk art of the corona during totality, solar beaded key chains, Oreo Solar Eclipse cookies, a collection of eclipse-related books and much more. Door prizes were won, 4 contact hours were awarded, and participants earned a \$75 stipend for attending provided by a large grant from GMRI.

Trek to Totality was so popular that Trek to Totality 2 was offered on February 13. This time we had five attendees traveling to Aroostook County from southern and coastal Maine, as well as New Brunswick. Between the two workshops, we had 71 educators and 24 volunteers in attendance. GMRI wanted us to offer Trek 3, but we declined!



Delta Members  
Debbie Wright, Rena Kearney,  
Dottie Martin



Trek to Totality presenters and volunteers

Delta members who worked at the registration table both times included Rena Kearney, Debbie Wright, and Carolyn Phelps. Dottie Martin assisted with the registration table at the first workshop. She and Debbie arranged for the dinner to be catered at Trek 1 and asked area businesses and clubs to donate money to pay for it. Dottie also solicited area business for Door Prizes. Linda Hawkins-Pelletier designed and made the name tags for both workshops. Melissa Buck and Jennifer York came as participants for Trek 1. Jennifer volunteered to help with registration for Trek 2 and Sherri Calhoun agreed to cover one of the Make-and-Take tables for Trek 2 after the FMSC volunteer was not able to come the second time. Ali Stone designed a flyer to go in the folders to promote Delta and DKG International.

After reading the Exit Tickets, it appears we met our goals, plus more. The Exit Tickets confirmed this. One attendee wrote: "This workshop was truly amazing! The stations of Make and Takes were awesome. I really got some wonderful ideas for my students." Another wrote that he enjoyed getting together with friends from other schools, making activities, and looking at books that we will go back to us at our schools.

## Zeta

Zeta Chapter hosted a joint meeting in September with Sigma Chapter and invited Priscilla McFarland. This was a wonderful meeting with Priscilla giving highlights of upcoming events for the state organization. We also received an update on Robert's Rules. Brunch was very tasty and it was great to socialize and meet with another chapter.

Zeta members are contributing to the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School's Personal Pantry for students at each meeting. Supplying students with personal products is an ongoing project for the chapter and much greatly needed.

Zeta used the November meeting to create Christmas Cards for residents of the Maine Veterans Home located in South Paris, Maine. The cards are delivered before the Christmas holidays to veterans that could use more cheer.

The Zeta Scholarship Committee spent time reading and scoring student essays for the Christopher Branch Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to graduating seniors that swim in the high school state championship meet. This has become an annual event for Zeta. It is rewarding to read the student essays and know that we are contributing to today's students' efforts and scholarship.

## Theta

Theta has been busy this year. Our September meeting was held at the brand-new Sumner Memorial High School in Sullivan. Julie Burr and Ines Weaver led us on a tour of the two story building. We were impressed with the modern facility that features a state of the art theater, an atrium/garden, a maker space with 3D printers and lots of other equipment, a cafeteria with booths and tables, and various rooms for meetings and working on projects. We were fortunate to be able to talk to the teacher of the alternative education program, Pathways, to learn about expectations for the students and opportunities available to them.

In October we assembled 28 new teacher mugs to distribute to schools in our area. They contained gift cards, treats, and information about DKG and our chapter. We also purchased four \$25 gift cards for families at a transitional housing facility, Families First, to purchase school supplies for their children. Theta members were heavily involved in setting up the Moore Center for the Fall Workshop and spent hours afterwards cleaning up.

In November we worked on the first phase of our Clara Soule project. We filled out holiday cards for former educators who reside in local nursing homes. We also assembled packets of reading materials, including a Farmer's almanac, a newsletter, and a magnifier for reading small print to give to each person. Our group was very small in December due to several members who were out of town or otherwise unavailable. We enjoyed some holiday treats and fellowship. Participants went home with gingerbread house kits to assemble later.

In early February, we worked on Phase 2 of our Clara Soule Project. We filled out valentines and assembled treat bags for former educators in nursing homes. We finalized plans for offering



grants to teachers and decided on our basket raffle theme for Convention. Plans for upcoming meetings were discussed.

Each March Theta collaborates with several other organizations on a program and potluck supper. We usually have a speaker whose topic relates to Women's History. Retired Teachers, AAUW (American Association of University Women,) and BPW (Business and Professional Women) meet with us. Members of the public are invited. These events have been very successful. We are looking forward to this annual event.

Here is some news about some of Theta's members. Julie Burr, previously a science teacher, is now the assistant principal at Sumner Memorial High School. Ines Weaver, a Spanish teacher at Sumner, is working on her doctorate through the University of Maine in Orono. Jeanne Ott, a speech and language therapist, is semi-retired. She continues to work with young children who need consistent in-person instruction.

Some of our members are seasoned travelers. Judy Bragg frequently travels to Colorado and other places around the country. Diane Bonney traveled to Williamsburg before Christmas and frequently travels to New Hampshire to help care for her grandchildren. Priscilla McFarland isn't able to get away often, but she did have a fun-filled weekend in Boston in November. Donna Ingalls is a snowbird, spending time on Florida's west coast from December to April.

## Kappa

At our opening meeting of the 23/24 year, we held our annual September auction to support our general fund. There were many home-baked and homemade items that were perfect for the autumn season. In addition to the auction, we had two speakers from the University of Maine at Farmington. Jaime O'Connor, Betty Jane Meader, Director of Alumni Relations and Advancement, and Christine Wilson, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, talked about the scholarship programs at UMF, including the history. Kappa provides a \$500 scholarship from funds we raise at our December auction, the name of which is, "Maine State Organization, Kappa Chapter Carolyn A. Stone Scholarship." We are happy to report we raised enough money again this year to support the awarding of another scholarship. The newly revised criteria we've set for awarding one is that it must be given to a student from Maine majoring in education, and to a rising junior or senior, with a preference it be given to a female. In addition to the scholarship, we will provide a DKG Collegial Membership for one year to the recipient.

Lisa Dalrymple defended her dissertation last May and after many years of hard work has completed her doctoral program! Surprising to no one that knows her, Dr. Dalrymple was back at school taking a class in the fall while teaching on the Mt. Blue campus and helping her son Zack with his new food venture, "Mama Licha's - Mainely a Taco Truck."



L-R Christine Wilson, Kathie Choate, Martha Norris, June Nickerson Hovey, Nancy Gordon, Mary Whitten, Jaime O'Connor, Linda MacKenzie and Barbara Robbins.

## Mu

Due to circumstances beyond our control, our Teddy Bear Fair was cancelled; however, during our November and December meetings, our members came out in full force and brought items for sale along with selling more raffle tickets that were chosen at the December banquet. We raised more than \$1000 for our scholarship.

28 members participated at our Christmas banquet at Marco's Restaurant in Lewiston. We donated gift cards and gifts to needy families in the area. We had a cookie swap, sang Christmas carols and picked our raffle winners of which many were our own members.

Sue Conklin crocheted lap blankets for Androscoggin Hospice patients.

Mary Buzzell and Mary Rider knitted mittens for kindergarten students.

Anita Miles trains veterans service dogs.

Lin Prescott has been donating items to the homeless in the area. She keeps granola and protein bars, wipes, toothbrushes and paste, etc. in her car for when the situation arises.

Thanks to Joyce Bucciantini, we have a new donation program, Books for Break, that focuses on books for older children to read over February vacation. This is through the Boys and Girls Club in New Auburn. They have a strong literacy program to help develop reading skills and their love of reading.

## Nu

This past June, **Teresa Brewster** retired from teaching after 38 years in the RSU 13/SAD 50 school system. For most of her career she taught second grade, with the last four years in kindergarten. Teaching kindergarten was challenging and rewarding. It was a joy to watch the children learn, grow, and gain confidence, but second grade will always hold a special place in her heart. She was fortunate to return to her school this year as an educational technician in the Title One program. She enjoys the change of pace and working with students one on one and in small groups. Fifth grade math is her new challenge. "So far so good! It's kind of like riding a bike!"

On December 22, Nu Chapter delivered eight large bags of new toys to the Salvation Army in Rockland. We owe a big thank you to our generous members. Pictured with Nu member **Beth Chamberlin** are Lt. Zachary Lyle-Delong and Lt. Caitlin Lyle-Delong accepting the toys.

**Kate Jackson**'s husband, Dean, retired in August after thirty-four years from the state Health Inspection Program. He received a state commendation from the governor.

In September, **Susan Vaughan** and her husband enjoyed a Viking River Cruise in France, from Paris to Normandy. They toured Paris, seeing among other sights the ongoing repairs to Notre Dame Cathedral. Subsequent excursions included the old city of Rouen, artist Claude Monet's home and gardens in Giverny, and memorials, beaches, and the American Cemetery of the WWII Allied invasion in Normandy. Susan is over the moon that her first children's picture book, *Sleigh Magic*, was a big seller for Maine Authors Publishing during the holiday season.

In late September, **Irene Hawes** and her friend Hazel embarked on a bus trip to Gettysburg, the borough and town, the museums, and the battlefields. Having ancestors who were Civil war soldiers made the trip even more interesting. Her Burns forebearers' names are engraved on Union, Maine's, Civil War Monument. Her husband, Ron's, Hawes/Norwood greats are there, too. They toured the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center, which displays Civil war artifacts, and Gettysburg National Cemetery, where a memorial marks the site of Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Gettysburg Address. On the last day of the trip, the bus took the travelers to shop at a local mall. After shopping a bit, Irene and her friend spotted a little antique shop near the parked bus. Since Irene collects Union, Maine, postcards, they looked for Maine cards. The very first card she picked out of the Maine box was signed by her grandfather, Lennie Burns, from Union, Maine, the grandson of Nelson A. Burns, who fought in the Civil War. What were the chances? Serendipity in Gettysburg, PA!



Beth Chamberlin with students



Susan Vaughan

## Omicron

When Past State President Rena Kearney shared her trip to Costa Rica last year at the October Workshop, she also shared her visit to a school there with an internet hook-up but no computers for their students. Rena was so impressed with the teacher and her plight that she made it her mission to provide sixteen chrome books to that school this February. My co-president Judy Gilbert heard the presentation, and when I called Rena for something unrelated, I got her story for myself. Everyone in Omicron who had heard about the project was impressed and interested and encouraged by Rena's persistence and enthusiasm in fund-raising. Judy and I brought it up as a topic at our November meeting. We asked if Omicron could sponsor one chrome book for \$240 through individual donations with the rest coming from our Omicron treasury. We raised half the money through donations and the other half from the treasury and sent Rena a check for one chrome book. We dubbed it our giving project for the year, and we are so happy to support Rena in such a wonderful endeavor.

Omicron has inducted five new members in the last two years and has regained a position in the school systems of Greenville and Guilford. Last year we inducted Robyn Rich, a middle school teacher in Guilford, and Hannah Farrar, a second year Art Education teacher in Dexter. Hannah and her mother, Teresa Brzustowicz, make the third mother-daughter team Omicron has right now! In September, President Priscilla traveled to Dover to help induct her niece, Justina Dill, a fourth-grade teacher in Guilford. In October we inducted Sarah Wentworth, librarian and language arts teacher in Greenville. We have 4 more potential members we are having to induct next fall. You can do it too!!

On Saturday, February 3, at the Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft, the Omicron chapter held a book discussion on what it means to be transgender. The chapter's members could choose between three books: *She's Not There* by Jennifer Finney Boylan, *Mad Honey* by Jody Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan, and *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of the American Family* by Amy Ellis Nutt. We chose this book topic because this would be a relevant issue for any teacher, let alone any transgender teacher, and we want to support all women educators. The discussion revolved around what we knew before reading the novels, our own experiences with the topic at hand, and scenes from the novels that stood out to us. By the end of the conversation, the chapter agreed that it was a long overdue discussion that is definitely impacting our profession. As a result, we plan on continuing these book discussions to cover such topics as homosexuality and people of color.

## Sigma

On March 20 we met to put together the invitations for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for all of our former and current members. We also discussed the next steps we needed to organize this event. Our April 10 meeting centered on putting together our favors, splitting up our duties, and also work on the invitation for Fall Workshop. Four of our members were able to attend Spring Convention and had a great time visiting with our fellow members. We also got lots of great hints and offers of help from Omicron as we plan for Fall Workshop.

May 8 was the day we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Science Center of Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton. We had a presentation from Mary Jewett (a former

student of many of the attendees, and LEA educator) about the 3 educational sites in the area that LEA operates and are available to the general public. We had about a dozen former members join us. Many of them expressed what a great idea it was to get together to celebrate a joyous occasion and would like to do it again.

On June 10 we ventured off to the Bowdoin Museum of Art and then went to Peppermill for lunch and our yearly planning meeting. August 7<sup>th</sup> we met to finalize our yearly plan and go over our responsibilities for Fall Workshop and make some decisions. In September, Sigma and Zeta held our yearly joint breakfast meeting. President Priscilla McFarland was able to join us and talked to us about QR codes and how we could use them for meetings, etc. More info to come at our Fall Workshop. In October we held many impromptu meetings as we were the hostess chapter for Fall workshop. We took care of registrations, name cards, printing of reports, filling folders and taking care of hospitality and food. In December we met at local restaurant for dinner and afterward addressed Christmas cards for district women retired teachers.



Bonnie Wetmore, Susan  
Stinchfield-Plaisted, Marilyn Hill



Randa Viitale and  
Heather Stewart



Karen Knox, Donna  
Bullerwell, Kathy Bartley

## FROM THE EDITOR:

Please make sure to collect Chapter News for publishing in the Fall Issue, due out in September 2024! The DEADLINE will be mid-August so be on the lookout for reminders as we move toward the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

As printing costs continue to rise, we will be moving toward an electronic version of the Mainspring. While we realize there are members who no longer use computers and may not be able to access the Mainspring this way, the majority of our members are able to receive and open a PDF document. As such, I will be asking for updates to your Chapter Rosters each fall so that I can maintain an accurate database for both email and print copies. Please continue to push for members to elect to receive the Mainspring electronically so that we can keep our costs down while still providing valuable information and resources through this important communication tool! Thanks to everyone for understanding and thinking outside the box as we navigate our transformation as a Chapter and an International Organization that remains viable, visible, and vibrant!