



## Maine State Organization of DKG

### General Session

October 19, 2019

*Moving Forward, Preserving DKG*

**Welcome:** Sue Stevens welcomed attendees to the general session.

**Call to order:** The General Session was called to order at 1:38 P.M. by President Donna Kennison

**Collect:** Priscilla McFarland led the recitation of the collect

**Thought:** Mary Hyland, First Vice President, who, at the Executive Board meeting the night before, gave clues about the identity of a tenacious Yankee with a winning pitch. At this meeting she revealed the name of the Baseball Hall of Famer, Mariano Rivera. She likened his focus and delivery to DKG members who are often asked about our organization. Our "pitch" about the benefits and enjoyment of DKG should be as practiced and focused as Manny Rivera - and shared freely.

**Roll Call:** Recording Secretary, Mary Gilman called the roll.

State Officers - 9 Past Presidents - 5 Chapter Presidents - 12

Chapter Members: Alpha - 7, Beta - 5, Gamma - 4, Delta - 2, Epsilon - 10

Zeta - 8, Eta - 2, Theta - 2, Kappa - 5, Lambda - 1, Mu - 5, Nu - 4, Xi - 1,

Omicron - 10, Sigma - 3.

**Report of the Registrar:** Registrar Teresa Brzustowicz reported that 71 members were registered for the Saturday workshop. Forty members attended the Executive Board dinner on Friday evening.

**Action on minutes of Executive Board, April 2019:** Corrections to the Executive Board minutes were approved. Susan Stinchfield Plaisted made the motion to approve. Mary Whitten seconded the motion.

**Correspondence:** Corresponding Secretary, Alice Deegan read two pieces of correspondence. A thank you note from International for the contribution to the World Fellowship International Fund. A thank you note from Past President, Elaine Hendrickson for all of the support given to her during her biennium.

**Executive Board Highlights:** Alice Deegan noted highlights of the Executive Board meeting of Friday, October 19, 2019. The meeting was conducted in a timely manner, President Donna's Chapter Challenge and 2nd Vice President, Priscilla MacFarland's reminders about chapter reports were noted.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Kathy Sticht, Treasurer, reported on the state of the treasury accounts as of September 30, 2019. Balances are as follows:

Current balances: Checking - \$12,851.33

Clara Soule - \$3,414.26

Permanent Fund - \$1,529.86

Investment in CD - \$3,000.00

Scholarship Fund - \$12,436.96

Investment in CD - \$10,615.07

Founders' Fund - \$2,191.67

Investment in CD - \$5,000.00

Key Saver - \$12,464.70

Business Service Account/UBS Financial Services - \$219,930.28

The report was filed for final review.

### **Reports of officers and committees:**

**President's Report: New Chapter Challenge** - President Donna proposed a new chapter challenge for chapter presidents. They are as follows:

- Add or reinstate one member,
- Advertise the Stretch Workshop in March, 2020,
- Bring one more member to Stretch Workshop in March,2020,
- Bring one new member to Spring Convention,
- Send out a Chapter newsletter in mid winter to members to maintain a connection. Send a copy to President Donna.

**1st Vice President, Mary Hyland - Achievement Award** - Mary reported that information about this state award will be sent to chapter presidents. All chapters should respond with a nominee. The committee is ready to review the nominees for presentation at the Spring Convention.

**2nd Vice Pres:** Priscilla MacFarland gave a reminder that Form 6, Reporting a Deceased Member, should be filed immediately upon the death of a member, including full name, id number, date of death, any additional information and next of kin if available. International will send a sympathy card to next of kin. A copy of Form 6 should be sent to the 2nd Vice President, (Priscilla), the State Treasurer, International and keep a copy for the Chapter files.

A Necrology report should be filed with Priscilla, even if the chapter has not experienced a death.

Priscilla also asked for names of women who have been members for 40 years and 50 years so they can be recognized at the Spring Convention.

**Past State President report - S-t-r-e-t-c-h Workshop** - Past President Elaine and 1st Vice President Mary Hyland announced that presenters at the S-T-R-E-T-C-H

Workshop, March 21, 2020, will cover grade levels from pre-K to 12. They will continue to add to their list of offerings. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Tom Weld, author of Dear Mr. Weld. Members were encouraged to advertise the workshop at our schools and to check updates on the DKG Facebook page.

**Leadership Development** - Leadership training will be May 30,2020, 9am -2pm in Essex Methodist Church, Bangor

**Goals 2025 session - 1.** To ensure the educational community and general public recognizes DKG as a professional organization of leading women educators , **2.** Twenty percent of State members are actively teaching.

**Bylaws and Standing Rules:** Kathy Wilcox reported that the bylaws and standing rules have been updated online to assist chapters in making changes to chapter documents.

**U.S. Forum/Leg. Report:** Crystal Ward included a Legislative Report in our registration folder. She highlighted the following items: a 1.6% COLA; the Social Security Offset continues to be stalled in Washington; we must continue to watch for changes in Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid; the Hearing Aid Bill under MEABT will take effect when the plan is renewed in July, 2020. Call your insurance company before buying a device to be sure you are covered; MEABT is planning changes to the Companion Plan to an Advantage Plan; restrictions on retired teachers returning to the classroom have been lifted; do your homework on candidates; and contacting your legislators, Federal or State makes a difference.

**Scholarship:** Brenda Sturdivant included a scholarship report in the registration folder. Highlighted items included: a \$500.00 award for a “First-Timer to International Convention”; funds through the Founders Fund for active members pursuing graduate studies; funds from the International Scholarship for active members working on a master’s or doctoral degree; funds are also available for development opportunities or seminars. Go to [dkgef.org/](http://dkgef.org/) for more information and due dates.

**World Fellowship** - Linda Hussey included a report in the registration folder. Contributions from the annual raffle plus donations from 4 chapters totaled \$1,375.00. World Fellowship International contributions totaled \$4,070,416.47. Linda is looking forward to another very successful Spring Convention raffle.

**UN Forum** - Nancy Grover included information in our registration folder on the CTAUN Conference at the UN in February. The title of the conference will be “War No More”.

**Finance Committee Update** - Mary Whitten reported that the committee will meet in the winter. Form 40 from International has been removed. Mary will follow up.

**International Conference, CT** - Joan Wenzel, Mainspring editor related her experiences at the Conference in Connecticut. She attended many workshops and sessions including The Sandy Hook Promise, Sustainable Goals, The Body Keeps Score and initiative called Money for Ghana for 1 room schoolhouses to add rooms.

**Stepping Back in Time, Fredericton, NB** - Members who attended the Cross-Border meeting and events gave positive recollections of the event. Attendees hope that these meetings will continue after a hiatus of some years.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee** - Elaine Hendrickson will chair this committee which President Donna has reestablished for her biennium. Committee members are welcome to contact Elaine.

**Reestablish the Ad Hoc Archives Committee** - President Donna will reestablish this committee, which needed to be dissolved at the end of President Elaine's biennium. Elaine and Donna agreed that the task was not yet complete. Volunteers for the committee's work are Lorraine Bowden, Judy Gilbert, Suzanne Gauthier and Kathy Wilcox.

**Clara Soule Presentation** - Dawn MacPherson-Allen, Debbie Hillman, Teresa Brzustowicz gave a presentation about Clara Soule, a teacher and activist in Portland, Maine who gained national recognition for her work with immigrants. She arranged educational classes and social services, particularly for women, to help them move forward in their new home. Ms. Soule also was a supporter of retired teachers who were living on meager retirement funds.

The report proposed that Ms. Soule's legacy has been lost to us over the years, even though we have continued to keep her name alive through committee work in our local chapters and the state organization.

This fund is used for members who may be suffering from illness or other difficulties and may need monetary support. Limited amounts of funds make it difficult to award meaningful help. The committee recommends that a.) chapters continue the work they are doing on behalf of Clara Soule at the local level and b.) that the guidelines for using state funds be revamped. Some kind of chapter fundraising may be needed to increase this fund. One suggestion was a "bakeless bake sale". Instead of baking, members would donate toward the fund.

The goal is to increase the fund in order that members in great need would be able to request help.

**Discussion:** Crystal Ward suggested that the State Organization has access to the Roberta Rogers Fund and that 15% - 20% could be moved to the Clara Soule

account. Dawn MacPherson-Allen said that the committee would consider this proposal, but she feels that the funds can be raised another way.

**Announcements:** Gamma Chapter's professional development offering will be *Authors Among Us*, a discussion of the writing process. It will be held at the Viles Center in Augusta, Maine on October 26, 2019.

**Mainspring Articles** are due on March 1, 2020. Articles may be sent to Joan Wentzel before the deadline. Articles should be no longer than 200 words whenever possible, however longer articles should be no more than 500 words. Chapters should send information about chapter happenings. Mainspring email is:

[mainspringdkg@gmail.com](mailto:mainspringdkg@gmail.com).

**S-T-R-E-T-C-H Your Teaching Workshop**, March 21, 2020 will be held at the Hutchinson Center, Belfast, Maine. Information was provided in the registration folder.

**Spring Convention** will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor on May 1-3, 2020. A May date is needed to avoid the April school vacation week.

**Leadership Training** will be held in Bangor, Maine, on May 30, 2020. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Immediate Past President, Elaine Hendrickson will be in charge.

**International Convention** will be held in Philadelphia, PA, July 7 - 11, 2020. A First Timers Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00, is available to a member who has not attended this convention before.

**Invitation to Spring Convention:** On the behalf of Delta Chapter, Rena Kearney and Elaine Hendrickson invited all to the Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor for Spring Convention, May 1 -3, 2020. They performed a skit and gave members a reminder in the shape of a potato and a Maine potato pin.

The meeting was adjourned and the Delta Kappa Gamma song was sung.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Gilman

Recording Secretary  
Donna Kennison  
President Maine State Organization, DKG

