

ASO Area Meetings Brightened March and April

The Area 1 meeting was on March 9 in Clarksville in the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. LaVonne Kirkpatrick, Candi Martin, Cissie Pendergrass, and Cathy Toney enjoy the "High Tea" theme.

Members enjoy a crafting breakout session at the Area 4 meeting held at Sheridan High School on April 13. The theme for the Area 4 meeting was "Spring into DKG."



Because of deadline constraints coverage of the Area 3 meeting on April 27 in Forrest City will be featured in the July issue of the ASO Newsletter!

"Showers of Blessings" was the theme of the Area 2 meeting. The benefits of DKG membership inspired the theme. The meeting was held in Benton on April 20 at the Sharon Missionary Baptist Church. ASO President Cathy Toney had a spot on the program.

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From ASO President Cathy Toney



• Area Meetings

We have completed all the area meetings and they were a success! The area leaders and their committee members worked hard to offer something for all members, active and retired. Each meeting had its own unique theme. We attended a “High Tea,” “Showers of Blessings,” “Caring for Yourself so You Can Care for Others,” and “Spring into DKG.” Thank you to the area leaders for all their hard work. The area leaders are Anice Tedford, Area 1; Darlene Emmons, Area 2; Ilyse Howard, Area 3; and Lindsey Bohler, Area 4.

• New Chapter Presidents

I had the opportunity to meet some of the new chapter presidents at each of the area meetings. We will have a chapter presidents’ training in June using Zoom. I will give each area a specific evening for training. If you are not able to attend your evening, you may attend another night. I am looking forward to seeing all chapter presidents for our training.

• Ella Reese Leadership Seminar

The deadline for signing up for the Ella Reese Leadership Seminar is May 10. Don’t wait until the last minute! Go ahead and get your applications in now. The seminar will give participants an opportunity to learn about being a leader in education, in the community, and in DKG. Looking forward to seeing you at Ferncliff on June 22-23.

Below center, ASO Webmaster Paula Williams and ASO President Cathy Toney are working on their craft projects during a breakout session at the Area 4 meeting in Sheridan.

Below, ASO President Cathy Toney is shown at the Area 1 meeting in Clarksville.



Above, ASO President Cathy Toney speaks about the “3 Rs” included in her theme for the biennium at the Area 2 meeting.

Left, Several past state presidents attended the Area 1 meeting. Cathy Long, Cissie Pendergrass, Cathy Toney, Candi Martin, and LaVonne Kirkpatrick are shown at the Area 1 meeting on March 9 in Clarksville.



The Deadline to Apply for the Ella Reese Leadership Seminar is May 10

The 2024 Ella Reese Leadership Seminar will be held June 22-23 at the Ferncliff Conference Center in Ferndale.

This is a great opportunity to build leadership skills and bond with DKG sisters from across the state. Participants will experience a wide variety of presentations and activities designed to encourage their growth as leaders in their communities.

The application is now available on the state website:



dkgarkansas.weebly.com. Applicants should send a completed application by USPS in one envelope to: Claudia Smith, 606 Rio Lane, Little Rock, AR 72210 no later than May 10, 2024.

Successful applicants will be notified by May 17, 2024. Fees from unsuccessful applicants will be returned. Interested parties can direct any questions to: cbrantonsmith@yahoo.com.

From the ASO Educational Legislation Committee:

New Grant Opportunities Established Through Legislation

With the passage of the LEARNS Act, Arkansas is doubling down on its commitment to supporting the literacy outcomes of students statewide. The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is launching the Arkansas Literacy Tutoring Grant Program, a new program that will provide thousands of families up to \$500 which can be used towards literacy tutoring services for eligible K-3 students.

Program Overview

Arkansas's Literacy Tutoring Grant Program established under the LEARNS Act provides \$500 grants for grades K-3 public school and open-enrollment public charter students who are at risk of reading difficulties, do not meet the reading standard as determined by the state assessment, or students who were retained in third grade. The grant will help to purchase from an approved provider either literacy tutoring services or digital literacy applications.

Under LEARNS, districts are required to notify families of their student's eligibility for the program. This document includes guidance on how districts should notify families that their children are eligible for this opportunity.

(Committee members: Lindsey Bohler, Tanya Fox, Meghan Ables)



The ASO Awards Committee Wants Your Help!

Nominees for the Carolyn Pittman Achievement Award are known for

- A minimum of six years active, participating membership
- Continually giving distinguished service to Kappa State/ASO
- Promoting the purposes and mission of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Nominees for the Order of the Rose are known for

- A minimum of six years active, participating membership
- Not having received state-level recognition
- Having made outstanding contributions to their chapter
- Having made outstanding contributions to their community

How can YOU help identify these persons?

- Complete the interactive Word nomination form on the website.
- Scan a printable photo.
- E-mail both to the chair of the Awards Committee by February 1, 2025.
- Send only two nominees per biennium.
- Keep a secret! Recipients are not to be revealed until awards are made.

Highlights from Area 1

Area 1 had a lovely time at their "High Tea with DKG" on March 9 in Clarksville at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. There were 35 members who attended the meeting. The keynote speaker was from the Royal Kids Camp, which is a free week-long summer camp for children in the foster care system. The day also included breakout sessions on chair yoga, a make-and-take craft project, and group presentations/discussions for chapter officers.

During the business meeting Amy White from Epsilon Gamma was elected to the ASO Nominations Committee and Karen Kordsmeier from Beta Nu was elected Area 1 Leader for the 2024-2026 biennium.

High tea was served by members of the Clarksville Middle School Beta Club.



Amy White was elected to serve on the ASO Nominations Committee and Karen Kordsmeier was voted to be the new Area 1 Leader for 2024-2026.



Area 1 continued...



The photos featured on this page are from the Area 1 meeting.

Left are the members of the Clarksville Middle School Beta Club who served the "High Tea with DKG" to the Area 1 members.

Highlights from Area 2

The Area 2 meeting was held on April 20 at the Sharon Missionary Baptist Church in Benton. The theme for the day was "Showers of Blessings," which was inspired by all the benefits of DKG membership. There were 34 members present for the meeting. The keynote speaker for the event was physician and author Dr. Sam Taggart. Also during the day 10 different presentations in a variety of subjects were offered during the three breakout sessions. Adding to the meeting's atmosphere was an art display of DKG members' work done with a variety of media that ranged from photographs, paintings, and needlework.

During the business portion of the meeting Jenny Chism, Theta Chapter, was elected as the Area 2 Leader for the 2024-2026 biennium. Pat Lovell of Mu Chapter was elected to serve on the ASO Nominations Committee and Mable Donaldson from Alpha Mu Chapter was chosen to serve on the Personnel Committee.



Area 2 continued...



Pat Lovell of Mu Chapter was elected as the Area 2 Representative on the ASO Nominations Committee. She is shown with Jeannie Villines during a breakout session.

Mable Donaldson, Alpha Mu, was voted to represent Area 2 on the ASO Personnel Committee during the business meeting.

Jenny Chism from Theta Chapter was selected as the new Area 2 Leader for the next biennium. Jenny was also on the program to talk about the importance of the Ella Reese Leadership Seminar.

Highlights from Area 4

The Area 4 meeting was on Saturday, April 13, at Sheridan High School in Sheridan, Arkansas. Grant County Beta Epsilon provided breakfast for the 27 attendees. Guest speakers included Master Gardener Susan Rose and Brooke Bridges with Arkansas Imagination Library.

Members had the option of creating a spring door hanger or doormat during a breakout session. The activity was led by Taylor Thomas and Christian Ramsey.

During the business portion of the meeting Jessica Wright, Lambda Chapter, was elected as the 2024-2026 Area 4 Leader. The Area 4 representative selected for the ASO Nominations Committee is Tanya Clayton, Alpha Delta Chapter. The ASO Personnel Committee member elected from Area 4 is Jalyn Lee, Grant County Beta Epsilon.



Area 4 continued...



Alpha Beta Chapter

The Alpha Beta Chapter welcomed five potential collegiate members at their March meeting. The meeting's program was presented by Dr. Neelie Dobbins, Teacher Education Department Chair, who spoke about SAU's Teacher Residency Program.



Gamma Rho Chapter



In March, Gamma Rho Chapter held an event at the First Community Bank Community Room in Jonesboro to provide information about the April 8 solar eclipse. The program guest speaker was Sam Hummelstein, who is the son, grandson, and son-in-law of Delta Kappa Gamma members. He shared his photos of the 2017 eclipse, gave facts and information on how to best view and photograph the upcoming eclipse, and passed out glasses to everyone for safe viewing.



Chi Chapter



Left, the Chi Chapter officers for the 2024-2026 biennium were installed during the April meeting. The new officers are President Hannah Rosson, First Vice President Anne Milburn, Second Vice President Suzanne Grant, Secretary Becky Brasel, and Treasurer Tammy Ward.

Left and below Chi Chapter inducted two new members during the April meeting. Hannah Herrera and Julie Lunsford are the new members. (Photos were borrowed from Facebook.)



Mu Chapter



Above, Mary Crawford from Mu Chapter was voted 2023-2024 Bryant Elementary's Teacher of the Year in March.



Above, Mu Chapter held their annual non-dues scholarship auction in March. Natalie Tanner, co-chair of the committee, models one of the items for sale.

Above right, Pat Lovell places the item she brought for the auction on the table at La Hacienda in Benton. The auction raised \$694 toward Mu Chapter's annual student scholarship.

Right, Sarah Shamburger, Melissa VanCleave, and Jennifer White pass out box lunches at the Area 2 meeting at Sharon Missionary Baptist Church on April 20.



*Congratulations
to
Kristina M.
Howlett,
Iota Chapter*

“Peace and Love”



*“Marvelous
Murmurations”*



Kristina (Tina) Howlett, Ph.D., of Iota Chapter recently had two photographs accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery. The artwork will be on display in the Spring Gallery and the DKG International Arts & Humanities Jury anticipates the unveiling of the new Fine Arts Gallery by mid-April. Tina’s work will be displayed in the gallery for six months, after which it will be archived for two years. The DKG Gallery of Fine Arts is an online gallery of works of art and letters at www.dkg.org.

Tina is a children’s book writer/illustrator. She is also Northwest Arkansas Connect Coordinator and a member of OK/AR Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Congratulations, Tina! We are proud of you.



*Congratulations
to
Candace Martin
for being Nominated for
the Position of
International
First Vice-President
for the
2024-2026
Biennium*

ASO and Chi Chapter are proud of Candi Martin. In this photo borrowed from Facebook, Candi Martin is recognized by Chi Chapter at a recent meeting.



The 2024 International Convention will be held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, U.S.A. The Gaylord National Resort overlooks the Potomac River with waterfront terraces at its back door and the bustling town of National Harbor at its front. From malls to boutiques, live entertainment to casinos, wine bars to restaurants, and ferry terminals to Ferris Wheels, National Harbor has whatever might be your interest. And, if you desire, take the short trip over the river to Washington D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia.

Of course, the convention will also offer all the excitement you have come to expect and more: enjoying keynote speakers, engaging in breakout sessions, networking with members, connecting with old friends, and using your member voice when you vote on proposed amendments to the Society's governing documents.

Save the date! July 9 – 13, 2024.

Explore much more information about this convention on the International website: www.dkg.org!

Be aware of the upcoming deadlines:

HOTEL: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD 20745, USA (301) 965-4000 Reserve your room with the group discounted rate!

**The discounted group rate cut-off is June 17, 2024, so reserve today!
(Conference group rates cannot be guaranteed after June 17.)**

Due to the new fee structure in place for this convention, there will be no convention registrations sold after July 2, 2024.

(Information borrowed from the International Website)

More Photos From the Area Meetings!



DKGIEF Dueling Pianos Event



DKG
International
Educators
Foundation



Looking for a fun night out? Well, toss in your dancing shoes and tune up your vocal cords for an evening spent at Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar on Wednesday, July 10, from 6 to 11 pm, sponsored by DKGIEF. World-class musicians will play all your requests and favorites while weaving in improvisational humor. Heavy appetizers, desserts, and soda/water will be included with your ticket purchase, and the venue is just steps away from the convention center. A portion of the \$150 ticket price will be tax deductible as a contribution to DKGIEF. Tickets are limited to 300, so join your DKG sisters as you'll sing and laugh the night away while making incredible memories at the International Convention.

Kappa State Education Foundation

Memorials:

Jane Phillips, Alpha Chapter
by Cathy Long, Gamma Eta Chapter

Nada Desalvo, Omega Chapter
by Elizabeth Waldrip, Mu Chapter

JoAnn Williamson
by Beta Psi Chapter

Helen Ruth Teague
by Beta Psi Chapter

Kathryn Kelly
by Beta Psi Chapter

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Dates to Remember and Deadlines:

- * **April 27, 2024** Area 3 Meeting, 1st Assembly of God Church, 1705 S. Washington, Forrest City, AR
- * **May 1, September 1, February 1** Applications for Cornetet Professional Development Award deadlines (dkgief.org)
- * **May 10** Deadline for applications to the 2024 Ella Reese Leadership Seminar (June 22-23)
- * **June 22 and 23**, The Ella Reese Leadership Seminar, Ferncliff Center outside Little Rock
- * **June 30, December 1** Annual deadlines for submitting applications for the Arkansas State Organization Scholarship
- * **July 9-13** 2024 DKG International Convention, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD
- * **November 1, April 1** Annual deadlines for submitting applications for the Agatha Prator Grant