

*Save
the
Date!*

Registration details coming soon!



**RETHINK
REVISE
REVITALIZE**

**DKG
ARKANSAS
STATE
ORGANIZATION**

Fall Conference

Pulaski Tech, North Little Rock | 10.14.2023

Key Note by Meghan Ables

For more info visit:
<https://dkgarkansas.weebly.com>



Phoenix, Arizona, was the site of the July 19-22, 2023, DKG International Conference. ASO members attending were Heather Dunn, Linda Vailes, Candi Martin, Cathy Toney, Janie Hickman, Dee Ann Daniel, and Linda Davidson.

**Seven ASO
Members
Attended the
DKG International
Conference in
Phoenix**

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter	2
Phoenix Conference in Photos	3
ASO Fall Conference Plans	4
Updating "My DKG"	5
News from Chapters	6-8
KS Education Foundation	11

From ASO President Cathy Toney:



It is September and school is back in session. I hope for those of you who are back in your classrooms working that your year has started off well! For all the retired members, I hope you are enjoying life!

Here are some items to think about for now and later:

- Fall Conference will be Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock. First Vice President Janie Hickman, along with the Educational Excellence Committee and Fall Conference Committee, are planning some fun and educational sessions. Make plans to attend!

- As you know, my theme for this biennium is “The 3 R’s: Rethink, Revise, and Revitalize.” For our state to revitalize, it will take all of us as members to get us back on track. Your state executive committee has created a goal/plan to start this process. Please plan to attend the ASO Fall Conference and find out how we can work together to revitalize DKG in Arkansas.

- Chapter presidents: As part of your duties as chapter president, you are to represent your chapter on the ASO Executive Board. We will have a short meeting during the Fall Conference that will require you to vote. So please attend.

- DKG International has asked us to encourage members to have an email address that is not a school address. Some districts will block DKG emails.

- Be sure to update your information on the International website under “My DKG.” You must be logged in to update the info. (see related article page 5)

- If you need me, my email is cathytonney54@gmail.com and my phone # is 501-269-5777. Like most people, if I don’t have you in my phone, I may not answer so please leave me a message and I will call you back.

On Friday of the International Conference in Phoenix, ASO President Cathy Toney, along with other presenters, led a breakout session on “Community Circles for Courageous Conversations.”



Members of the ASO delegation are shown as they waited for the last banquet of the Phoenix Conference to begin.

Above center, Janie Hickman, Cathy Toney, and Dee Ann Daniel are shown during the International Conference welcome party on Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Photo Highlights from the DKG International Conference in Phoenix

ASO First Vice President Janie Hickman had a part in the program during the "Lunch & Learn" event on July 21.

ASO members and their guests are shown before they sat down to dinner on Friday night at the Wild Horse Pass Resort.



Dee Ann Daniel, Linda Vailes, Cathy Toney, and Heather Dunn are shown at the beginning of General Session 2 on Friday of the conference.

Above, Candi Martin, along with other members of the Leadership Development and Golden Gift Committee, presented a breakout session entitled "Smooth Sailing Through the Storms of Leadership."

ASO President Cathy Toney, ASO First Vice President Janie Hickman, ASO Treasurer Linda Vailes, and ASO Parliamentarian Candi Martin enjoy the luncheon on Friday of the Phoenix Conference.

Above, ASO President Cathy Toney, along with other presenters, led a breakout session entitled "Community Circles for Courageous Conversations" on Friday.

The final event of the Phoenix Conference was a banquet and dance on Saturday, July 21, 2023.

Above, Immediate Past ASO First Vice President Dee Ann Daniel presented a breakout session on Saturday, July 21 entitled "Growing DKG One Chapter at a Time."

Plans Are Well Underway for the October ASO Fall Conference in Little Rock

Greetings to ALL Arkansas State Organization Delta Kappa Gamma members! Please mark your calendars for our Fall Conference at Pulaski Tech in North Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 14, 2023. Our theme for the conference is Rethink, Revise, Revitalize. Following are some highlights planned for the day:

- **Luncheon speaker** – DKG Member Meghan Ables, former Arkansas Teacher of the Year.
- **Breakout sessions:**
 - Misti Coker, creator of “Pass on Joy,” a support organization for cancer patients and survivors. If you or someone you know has ever been affected by cancer, you will not want to miss this session.
 - Ways to grow your chapter by Dee Ann Daniel
 - Revitalization
 - More information and other offerings to come

It is important for each chapter to send at least one representative and bring a small door prize.

Location: Pulaski Tech, North Little Rock
 Date: October 14
 Time: Check-in: 9:00 am – 9:30 am
 Conference: 9:30 – 3:00 pm

We're looking forward to seeing everyone in the cool fall weather!

Janie Hickman,
 ASO First Vice President

The last event of the final evening of the DKG Phoenix Conference was a dance recital of sorts. After attending a line dancing breakout session, Heather Dunn and others showed their new skills.



After the Phoenix Conference several ASO members and their guests did some extra sightseeing. Shown in Winslow “Standing on the Corner” on Monday, July 24, are Janie Hickman, Dee Ann Daniel, Heather Dunn, Rayvon Vailes, Linda Vailes, Susan Davidson, and Linda Davidson.



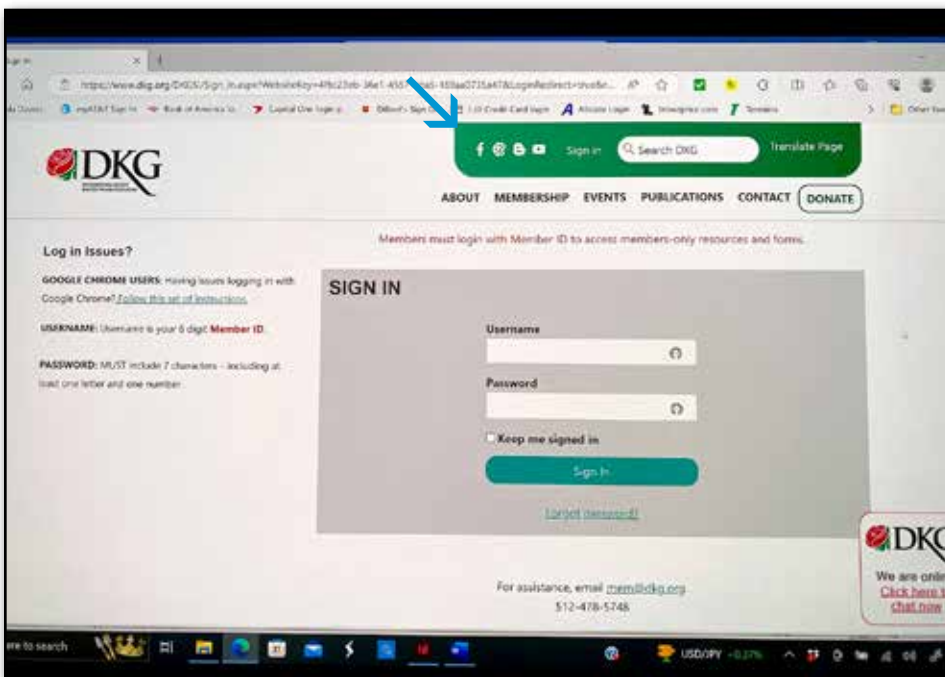
Remember to Keep Your “My DKG” Information Updated!

DKG International has recently asked all members to be sure to use a personal email address to receive communications from DKG International. This is also important for your state and chapter communications. (Some school servers tend to block communications from groups outside the school district.) To be sure to receive all important messages from DKG make sure you have this information updated on the International website. (dkg.org)

If you have never logged into the International website, go to dkg.org on a computer or your cell phone and look for the green area at the top of the page. Click on the words “sign in.” A sign in box will pop up. The user name for the International Website is your six-digit member ID number. This number can be found on your member card or the first six digits on any DKG publication mailing label or a chapter roster. The default password is dkg2014society. After logging in the first time, change the password to one you select that you can easily remember.

Once you have successfully logged in, you can easily update or fill in your member information. Simply click on “MYDKG” then “my account.” (In the lower left corner there are videos you can watch if you are unsure about the process.) If you want to edit any of your information, simply click on the edit icon next to the section you want to correct.

Be sure to save after you edit!



Top right, Janie Hickman and Dee Ann Daniel are shown visiting the Grand Canyon on Sunday following the Phoenix Conference.

Center, Immediate International Past President Becky Sadowski was named the International Achievement Award winner for 2023 in Phoenix.

Dee Ann Daniel introduces Heather Dunn as a member of her chapter at the beginning of her break-out session in Phoenix.

Epsilon Gamma Chapter

Shown in both pictures below is the July meeting of Epsilon Gamma Chapter. The chapter had a welcome shower for the new teachers in their schools. Members filled baskets with teacher goodies for them and their classrooms. Young teachers need all the support they can get so this was a time of fun and fellowship.





Beta Sigma Chapter

Mary Mae Jones, Charter Member of Sigma Chapter, Passed Away Recently

Mary Mae Jones was a charter member of the Beta Sigma Chapter, Kappa State (now ASO) Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The chapter was chartered in 1974.

Mary Mae Jones passed away on March 17, 2023. She was born on Christmas Day, 1923, to R.H. and Lora Morton. She lived a full and rewarding life for 99 years and three months. Mary was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Jodie Jones; beloved grandson, Garret Jones; parents, R.H. and Lora Morton; her brothers, Orb, Floyd and Shorty Morton; and sister, Maxine Morton-Otey. Mary is survived by her daughters Kathy Jones of Bentonville, AR and Lorri Jones-Daniels of Fayetteville, AR; her son, Jerry Jones and wife, Judy of Little Rock, AR; and her beloved caregiver and friend, Tammy Watkins of Rogers, AR. She is also survived by three grandchildren: Jason Daniels (Laura), Jamie Daniels-Reynolds (Justin), and Grant Jones (Martha); six great-grandchildren.

Mary was born on a farm outside Pottsville, AR. She completed all 12 grades in Pottsville while helping her siblings assist their father chopping and picking cotton and harvesting peanuts. She enjoyed farming but loved school. After graduating from high school, Mary went to Arkansas Tech with two dresses, high hopes, and a positive attitude. She began her teaching career at age 19 in the Dumas School District. She also taught in Pine Bluff, Watson Chapel, and Mountain Home School Districts before her 40-year tenure in Bentonville.

Mary earned a Bachelor of Science in Education, Master of Science in Education, and Reading Specialist degrees from the University of Arkansas. She and her husband Jodie received their Bachelor's degrees together in 1951. In 1980, Mary received her Master's degree on the same day her son Jerry received his law degree from the University of Arkansas. Her daughters continued Mary's tradition of pursuing a career in education. Lorri taught in Springdale and Fayetteville, AR, for 38 years. Kathy spent 40 years in public and higher education in Oklahoma. Mary was proud to say her immediate family held nine degrees from the University of Arkansas.

Mary received several awards from the Bentonville School System. She was most honored to have an elementary school named for her. After retiring, she loved to go to Mary Mae Jones Elementary on the first day of school to meet the students and parents. Also, she made it a point to meet and welcome all the new teachers to the district. She attended countless school board meetings and with the help of her husband sponsored the lunch for new teachers each fall and gave scholarships to graduating Bentonville High School seniors. Mary was known as the Bentonville Schools' Cheerleader.

Her legacy lives on in the lives of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the thousands of students and educators whose lives she touched.

In the words of Mary Mae, "Have a great day every day and continue to share it with others."

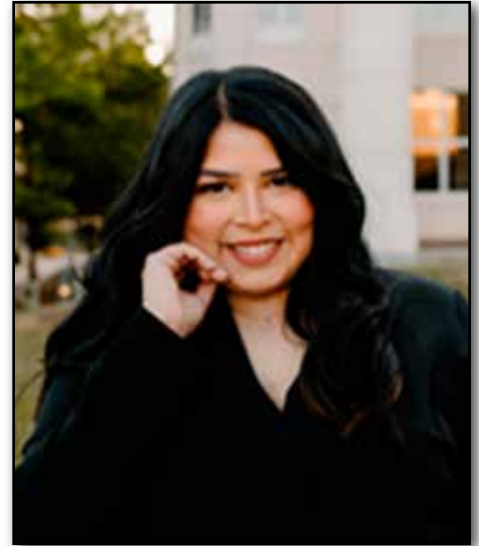
Gamma Iota Chapter

Gamma Iota News

At the May meeting Gamma Iota honored Wendy Orellana Gonzalez as the chapter's 2022-23 scholarship recipient. Wendy earned her B.S.E. in Elementary Education from the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) in May 2022 and her M.A.T. in May 2023. She has accepted a position as first-grade teacher at Russell Jones Elementary School in Rogers. She is especially excited about this opportunity since she will be teaching in the same school that she attended. As part of the celebration, we "showered" Wendy with items that she can use in her classroom.

During the 2022-23 year, Gamma Iota participated in a DKG Box Exchange organized by Beta Omicron (Georgia). Other participating chapters were Gamma Nu (Virginia), Zeta Gamma (Texas), and Alpha Kappa (Minnesota). The purpose of the exchange was to learn more about each chapter and state. Each chapter sent a box with newsletters, brochures, promotional items, and a letter explaining the significance of each item. Gamma Iota's box included an ASO Newsletter, numerous brochures from the tourism office, and seven promotional items including Riceland rice, University of Arkansas cups, Cavender's Greek Seasoning, KYVA Chocolates, Hill City popcorn, Tyson canned white chicken, and Little Debbie cakes. We had such fun learning about the other four chapters that we decided to include the food items in the basket for the ASO Convention in June. The theme of the basket was "Eating Your Way Across the Country with DKG." We hope that the other chapters also enjoyed learning more about Gamma Iota and Arkansas!

Wendy Orellana Gonzalez



Mu Chapter

Mu Chapter in Saline County had a summer paint party on June 20 at Art 101 in Bryant.



Editor's Note: In this issue and upcoming issues of the *AR News* and the *AR Presidents' UpDate* the officer and committee reports for the 2021-2023 biennium that were in the ASO June Convention program will be shared so that those not at the convention may read them.

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ASO Non-dues Revenue Committee 2021-2023 Report:

Committee Members:

Committee Chair Cissie Pendergrass, Alpha Theta, Franklin and Logan Counties
 Kathryn Dickinson, Alpha Delta, Hope
 Tad White, Alpha Theta, Charleston
 Sandra McElroy, Gamma Sigma, Ashdown

Funds for International Emergency Funds came from individual donations at ASO meetings and donations from various chapters.

Ella Reese Leadership Training funds were generated through various raffles at state Area meetings. At State Convention we plan to have Baskets donated again to raise Non-Dues Revenue. Kappa State Foundation will have a raffle to raise funds. We are also having a bug sale! We will be selling leftover favors from various Delta Kappa Gamma Events. T-shirts were ordered by Sue Cook to sell at various events.

At the end of each state meeting we give a report to the president and secretary, and those attending how much was made. This was Emergency Fund, Sale of leftover favors, Baskets, 50/50.

The committee also notifies members about Kappa State Foundation earnings.

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ASO Rules Committee Report 2021-2023:

Rules Committee Members:

Chairman: Karen Kordsmeier, Beta Nu, Russellville,
 karen.kordsmeier@russellvilleschools.net
 Cathy Toney, Theta, Conway, cathytony54@gmail.com
 Jessica Wright, Lambda, Arkadelphia, jessicamwright2018@gmail.com
 Lindsey Bohler, Grant County Beta Epsilon, Sheridan, lrgbohler@gmail.com
 Martha Milam, At Large, Cherry Valley, marthamilam@att.net

Goals:

1. To become familiar with the International Bylaws and Standing Rules and the ASO Bylaws and Standing Rules and work with the committee to assure both are in compliance.
2. To work as a committee to accept and process requested changes in the ASO Bylaws and Standing Rules and report to required entities in an accurate and timely manner.

Accomplishments:

- The committee established a timeline for submissions to the ASO Newsletter.
- We published a call for proposed amendments, and accepted requests, which were compiled and submitted for approval at ASO State Convention.
- Changes to the Constitution and International Standing Rules, which were approved at the International Convention were also included in our report, and may require amendments to State Organization Bylaws.

Our plans for the remainder of 2023 are to submit the revised ASO Bylaws to the International Constitution Committee for review.

We will also submit the revised ASO Bylaws to the ASO Records and Properties Committee Chair.

ASO Leadership Development Committee 2021-2023:

Committee Members: Sue Cook, Beta Xi; Heather Dunn, Grant County Beta Epsilon; Joy Graham, Gamma Beta; Candace Martin, Chi; Ella Reese, Theta; Linda Vailes, Grant County Beta Epsilon; Claudia Smith, Gamma Omicron; Cathy Toney, Theta; and Chair Pam Posey, Alpha Rho

Our Goals:

1. Make the following arrangements for a leadership seminar to be held during the 2021-2023 biennium and available to all ASO members:

- a. Set the date and select the site;
- b. Determine fees for participants;
- c. Publicize the event in ASO newsletter and at ASO events;
- d. Accept applications and select participants;
- e. Notify of acceptance or non-acceptance; send a letter to accepted applicants with information about the seminar, what to bring, etc.
- f. Seek out engaging presenters who provide training for enriching both professional and personal lives;
- g. Plan the program and include presentations, team-building activities, meals, snacks, etc.
- h. Communicate with ASO treasurer regarding budget, funds available, monies received from applicants' fees, etc.
- i. Prepare name tags, tote bags, gifts for presenters, room assignments and other detailed tasks.

Our Accomplishments:

2) Our committee successfully collaborated and planned the Ella Reese Leadership Seminar 2022. Planning took place through one in-person meeting, a few zoom meetings and several emails.

* We decided to use the site intended for the 2020 Leadership Seminar, Red Apple Inn in Heber Springs. The decision was made to have the seminar June 20-21, 2022. (a)

* Most of our committee members met at the Red Apple Inn for lunch in January, 2022. The beautiful atmosphere and the delicious food set the stage for purposeful planning. Using a brochure provided by the inn, we selected meals, snacks, and meeting rooms. We also viewed one of the guest rooms. The committee was very impressed with the beautiful scenery, cozy rooms, and the ease of making arrangements for meals and accommodations. We also discussed possible presenters for the program. (f, g)

*During one of our Zoom meetings, we decided on the fee for participants, with half of the fee being paid by participant's chapter. The deadline for accepting applications was May 1, 2022. (b)

*Nine applications were received, scanned and sent out to all committee members. The committee accepted and approved all applicants to be participants of the Ella Reese Leadership Seminar 2022. **Participants included Jenny Chism, Theta; Dana Flowers Cox, Alpha Delta; Dee Ann Daniel, Grant County Beta Epsilon; Laura Gray, Alpha Delta; Linda Griffith, Beta Xi; Sue Hull, Alpha; Jackie Phillips, Alpha; Paula Williams, Zeta; and Jessica Wright, Lambda. (d,e)**

*Acceptance letters were sent to each participant with information regarding the seminar. (d)

*Possible presenters were contacted and invited to provide a program for the seminar. Those who accepted invitations were:

- Heather Dunn, ASO Technology Chair, and middle school science teacher**
- Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent, Bentonville Public Schools**
- Dr. Sharlene McGowan, mental health therapist, crisis counselor, and lecturer**
- Candance Martin, former ASO president, DKG SE Regional Director Dr. Teri Cox-Meadows, founder, Cox Consulting, international education consultant, and communications trainer**
- Dr. Judy Merz, editor of DKG Bulletin**
- Carolyn Pittman, 2016-2018 DKG International President, former ASO President, and recipient of Arkansas Achievement Award**

*During the seminar Cathy Toney led a team-building activity for participants, and all members attending enjoyed a book talk, "The Art of Influence", by Chris Widener. (f, g)

* Chair Pam Posey kept in contact with committee members and ASO Treasurer Linda Vailes with questions about the budget, guidelines, etc. All monies received were turned in to Linda, and seminar expenses stayed within the provided budget for ERLS. (h)

*One goal that needed improvement was publicizing the seminar. Heather Dunn did a fantastic job making a flyer that helped publicize the seminar. Possible solutions could have been to make a presentation at each of the area meetings and publish an article in the ASO newsletters.

Overall, the ERLS 2022 was a great success. Participants, as well as, all who attended (virtually and in person), experienced an intensive two-day training experience. The dedication of the participants, the fellowship, training, food, accommodations, and beautiful surroundings all contributed to the success of the seminar, not to mention the committee members' commitment to excellence.

Leadership Seminar namesake Ella Reese inspired us all when she joined us for part of the seminar. Her legacy and contributions to our organization will continue to be part of ASO's strong foundation.

Kappa State Education Foundation

Memorials:

Clifton Earl Lang

brother of Earlene Hankins, Beta Xi Chapter
by Beta Xi Chapter

Clifton Earl Lang

brother of Earlene Hankins, Beta Xi Chapter
by Cathy Long, Gamma Eta

Clifton Earl Lang

brother of Earlene Hankins, Beta Xi Chapter
by Sue West, Beta Xi

Mary Mae Jones, Beta Sigma

by Beta Sigma

Esther Cook, Chi Chapter

by Elizabeth Waldrip, Mu Chapter

ASO Treasurer Linda Vailes attended the Phoenix DKG International Conference in July.



Chapter Treasurers

Form 990N **MUST BE**
FILED BY
NOVEMBER 15

Chapter treasurers with questions should contact ASO Treasurer Linda Vailes by email or phone: linda5662@windstream.net or 870-941-8702

Arkansas State Organization News

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Send articles, pictures, comments, and questions to:
Linda Davidson at lindavidson@comcast.net
or 618 LaSalle Drive
Little Rock, AR 72211
or text to (501) 580-4309

Dates to Remember and Deadlines:

- * **June 30** Deadline to pay dues for the 2023-2024 DKG year -- If you forgot contact your chapter treasurer
- * **September 1, February 1, May 1** Applications for Cornetet Professional Development Award deadlines (dkgef.org)
- * **October 1** Annual deadline for submitting a Kappa State Education Foundation Project Application form
- * **October 14** ASO Fall Conference, Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock
- * **November 1, April 1** Annual deadlines for submitting applications for the Agatha Prator Grant
- * **December 1, June 30** Annual deadlines for submitting applications for the Arkansas State Organization Scholarship