

## Twelve ASO Members Attended the DKG International Convention in New Orleans



### Arkansas State Organization Fall Meeting will be Held on October 22

Make your plans to attend the ASO Fall Meeting! It will be held on the University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech North Little Rock Campus in the same location as the Revitalization meeting in June. Lots of time for interaction, as well as, interesting and important topics have been planned.

The registration fee for this year's meeting will be \$40 and will include lunch. The registration form will be available soon on the ASO website: [dkgarkansas.weebly.com](http://dkgarkansas.weebly.com). (To receive a meal you must register by October 13)

Theme for the Day:  
*"Dream Big"*

*See the schedule and driving directions on page 3...*

*The DKG International Convention was held in News Orleans this summer and ran from July 12-16. Twelve ASO members attended the convention. They are pictured above: (front row) ASO Executive Secretary LaVonne Kirkpatrick, ASO Webmaster Paula Williams, ASO President Sue Cook, DKG Southeast Regional Director and ASO Parliamentarian Candi Martin, Immediate Past ASO President Cathy Toney, ASO Treasurer Linda Vailes and ASO Editor Linda Davidson (2nd row) Past DKG International President Carolyn Pittman, ASO Records & Properties Committee Chair Terri Leins, ASO Educational Legislation Committee Chair Stacy Potter, ASO Technology Committee Chair Heather Dunn and ASO First Vice President Dee Ann Daniel. (more photos starting page 6...)*

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# “ Follow Your Dream With DKG”

## From ASO President Sue Cook

Hello to all of you! I hope the school year is starting off in the best possible way for all our active teachers. For those of you who are retired from teaching, I hope you are enjoying all of your interests and activities as well. Let DKG be an important part of those activities, whether you are retired or an active teacher.

Something important for all members statewide to place on your calendars is the Arkansas State Organization Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 22, 2022. This event will be on the Pulaski Tech Culinary Arts Campus in NLR. This is a great opportunity to get chapter members together and come to the meeting.

Pulaski Tech has a new chef, so I am certain that the food will be delicious and prepared proudly by Chef G. The registration fee will be \$40. There will be an opportunity for each of you to purchase chances for a lovely basket created by the Kappa State Education Foundation to benefit their educational grants.

ASO First Vice President Dee Ann Daniel will be organizing and leading this event. Programing and breakout sessions will include some new ideas presented to help members and chapters by the Technology Committee. Also a variety of other topics will be presented so all members present should find useful and interesting ideas to take home.

Part of the fun of coming to any state meeting is riding together with your chapter sisters and remembering precious teaching experiences with students and telling those classroom stories that still cause laughter or tears. Being together on a trip is a perfect way to discuss what happened in your teaching jobs, to share those treasured memories with each other and to support each other in solving problems that may come up!

When you attend a state meeting, you have an opportunity to stand proudly as your chapter name is called and to support those new officers that each chapter has elected. Having **EVERY** chapter present at our state meetings is vital. Please do your part and mark your calendar now.

On a personal note, one of the best things about being your ASO President is visiting chapters. I would love to come to your chapter this year. My goal is to visit all the chapters that I didn't get to visit last year. I can present a program or just visit. If you would like me to come to your part of the state, email me and we can set up a date. (suecook428@gmail.com)

See you soon!! Sue

*Below center, ASO President Sue Cook stands during the introduction of state presidents at the Southeast Regional Breakfast on Friday, July 15.*

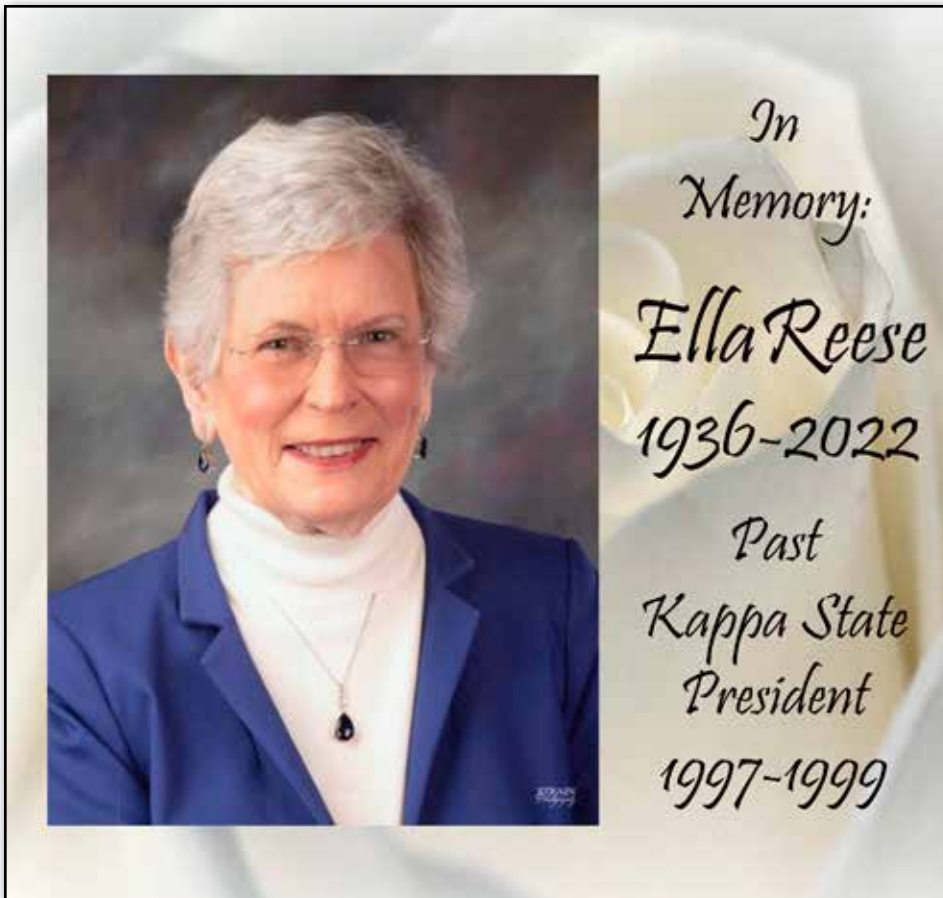
*Sue Cook and Carolyn Pittman talk during the first session of the International Convention on July 12.*



*There was time for fun during the International Convention and Sue Cook shows off the mask she was given on Saturday during the final event.*

*Members of the ASO delegation are shown just before the final event of the Convention on Saturday, July 16.*





Ella Reese, Theta Chapter, was a loyal active member since September 1, 1981. She served in many capacities over her membership in DKG. She is shown at the Ella Reese Leadership Seminar in June. This seminar was named in her honor at the Kappa State (ASO now) Fall Meeting in 2016.



ASO Fall Meeting information continued from page one...

## ASO Fall Meeting Schedule

University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech, North Little Rock Campus

- 8:00-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:30 Business Meeting
- 9:30-10:00 Sheridan Intermediate & East End Intermediate Entrepreneurs
- 10:00-10:15 General Networking
- 10:15-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:15 Revitalization Plan
- 11:15-12:00 Technology Breakout Sessions
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch
  - Introduction of Head Table
  - Inspirational Thoughts
  - Lunch
  - Recognition of Ella Reese Leadership Seminar Participants
  - Words about DKG International Convention
- 1:15-1:30 Networking by Grade Level
- 1:30-2:00 Professional Learning Community, Sheridan Elementary School Leadership Team
- 2:00-2:15 Break
- 2:15-2:45 Committee Meetings or Whole Group Session by Ezra Jack Keats
- 2:45-3:00 Closing

### Driving Directions for the Fall Meeting: 3000 West Scenic Drive North Little Rock, AR

#### From Downtown Little Rock:

Cross the Broadway Bridge northbound into North Little Rock. Turn west (left) onto West Broadway Avenue and continue until road ends at Pike Avenue. Veer right onto Pike Avenue. Continue north on Pike Avenue to the intersection with Pershing Blvd. Turn left (west) on Pershing. Drive 1 mile. The campus entrance will be at the top of the hill on your right.

#### From Interstate 40: Westbound

Drive west on I-40. Take Exit 152-B (MacArthur Drive/Pike Avenue). At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Pike Avenue. Continue on Pike Avenue to the first stoplight. Turn right (west) onto Pershing Boulevard. Drive 1 mile. The campus entrance will be at the top of the hill on your right.

#### Eastbound

Drive east on I-40. Take Exit 152 (Pike Avenue). Veer right off the ramp onto Pike Avenue. At the intersection of Pike Avenue and Pershing Boulevard, turn right (west) onto Pershing. Drive 1 mile. The campus entrance will be at the top of the hill on your right.

## Revitalization Meeting Results: Part Two

The information included in this article is the continuation of discussions held during the revitalization meeting on the UA-Pulaski Technical College Campus on June 4, 2022, under the direction of Past International President Evelyn Barron.

Beginning with strengths that were identified in a previous article in the July, 2022 issue of our state newsletter, the group switched their focus to weaknesses found at the local and state level.

During a brainstorming session, the following weaknesses were identified by the 25 members from across the state attending the meeting:

- Stagnant membership
- No programs in meetings
- Not effective in the community
- Dues being so high \$65- \$80
- In a gap: Talking about it not putting it into action
- Dated communication:
  - Getting the word out, only using dated methods
- Younger blood needed
- We are too selective in our membership: need diversity
- Rediscovering our purpose:
  - relevance to younger and older members
- Communication in chapter
- Not filling teaching positions
- Generational gap: older generation not wanting to change mindset
- Retention: Active members- Reach out
- Set in our ways: inconsistent meeting times
- Refresh bylaws: go to International meetings
- Building Relationships: Zoom, "Miss you" committee
- Complacency: we are not dead yet!
- Continuity: Local and State
- Non education people: what do they get out of it?
- Resources to go into colleges: chapters choose
- Ineffective use of technology: pay online, registration

After considering the results of the brainstorming session the group identified four key areas to work on:

1. Technology
2. Growth mindset
3. Visibility in marketing
4. Diversity of membership: relationships, communications

The 25 attendees were divided into four work teams and each group began to plan how their assigned problem could be addressed.

### Technology Plans

The technology group decided their first priority was to address what is lacking immediately. Logic dictated it was important to educate members about the technology currently being used. The group felt if all our members have knowledge of how the methods currently in use work, it could reduce the feelings of intimidation. For example, teach everyone how to reach, edit and use "my account" on the DKG International website, as well as set up Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. The next step then would be to identify any other technology actually available and make sure that every chapter knows about the possibilities those programs or platforms would provide.

Strategies proposed having YouTube tutorials available on the ASO website and to teach classes at state meetings about basic skills like how to set up a Gmail account and how it could be beneficial. It was suggested to start tutorials during the 2022 Ella Reese Leadership Seminar, but certainly to implement technology throughout the year and maybe even offer a session for each chapter during one of their local meetings.

Surveys in our state publications and/or email could determine the effectiveness of these educational efforts. Chapter presidents could be contacted after watching or experiencing tech videos about what they learned and how the process can be improved.

### Growth Mindset Plans

The growth mindset group focused on ideas that would actually help ASO to grow in membership instead of continuing to dwindle. They began with a familiar quote from Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, founder of DKG, "Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. But don't cling to the old when its worth has passed. Don't be a person so set in your views that nothing can change you."

Why? Because we must grow to survive.

Perhaps DKG needs to learn from other professional organizations. Do we want new members to come in

*continued page 5...*

*...Revitalization Meeting continued from page 4*

and act like us or do we want to act like new members coming in? We need to have a safe place and have open discussions and ask questions like: What's stopping you from coming to meetings? Do you want to be comfortable or reach out? If we closed our chapter today would anyone in our town notice?

The group also asked themselves what they could learn and how they could bring about productive change. They encouraged trying new methods and not to be afraid to fail, rather take the information gleaned and try again. The group wanted to challenge each other and chapters to find one or two new things to learn in a year, and experience life in another's eyes. Overall members and chapters should be adaptive, dedicated, willing to change attitudes and work to enhance education.

**Marketing to Increase Visibility**

The group working on raising our visibility complemented the needs discussed in the technology area. They felt we needed to modernize techniques and methods of communication. By using current electronic methods like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, along with the ASO newsletter, AR Presidents' Update, and the organization's websites we could reach more of the current members and those we would like to have as members. If we want more women to know about DKG, the group felt we have to communicate much more efficiently.

It was proposed to implement a weekly "did you know" campaign on all available platforms using short messages with interesting facts about DKG. Topics could include covering our seven purposes and other organizational policies, as well as any programs or any other aspects of DKG that would increase understanding and interest among members and prospective members.

**Creating a More Diverse Membership**

This group had the assignment of considering diversity of membership: relationships and communication. Our current members need to understand who is eligible and how to engage and retain members, including the diverse ones. Attendees at the revitalization meeting felt that members across the organization should understand bylaws for recruitment of members.

All chapter membership committees and the ASO Second Vice President should be the ones to lead the effort to recruit and retain members. Because of the rapid decline in membership and dissolution of chapters, the importance of this effort should be recognized and begun immediately. The group felt the following action steps would help to ramp up the efforts: (1) Reinitiate the "Heart to Heart" Campaign by having ASO personnel send out information to chapters so chapters can highlight the effort at a chapter meeting. In addition, emphasis should be placed on this campaign during the ASO Fall meeting. (2) Focus on distributing information about membership to chapter presidents to clarify who is eligible to become a member and to make sure chapter presidents and members are aware of updated Constitution information. It was also emphasized to use all available forms of media, electronic and otherwise, to communicate the needed information.

*(The notes of the day were organized and sent out by email to those that were registered for the event by Heather Fulmer and Jessica Wright.) The complete document with notes in outline form is available on the ASO website.*



*All three photos feature groups working on the problems identified at the June 4, 2022, Revitalization Meeting sponsored by the ASO Expansion & Revitalization Committee and led by Past International President Evelyn Barron.*

# The DKG International Convention Provided a Variety of Events

Running from July 12-16, DKG International Convention week was filled with a variety of DKG meetings and activities. The always busy city of New Orleans was much more active, especially in the Sheraton Convention Center. There were approximately 900 women registered for the convention, but the actual number of members varied each day as some people only came for part of the convention. The events and story of the week will be told with pictures from each day. There were twelve ASO members that made the trip to the convention.

ASO First Vice President Dee Ann Daniel served as Microphone Monitor for the general sessions. ASO Treasurer Linda Vailes served as a microphone page. The first meeting shown is the International Executive Board Meeting.

Day 1: July 12



The Opening Meeting was at 6:00 pm in the main ballroom and was immediately followed by a spontaneous New Orleans style parade. A band led members to the street from the ballroom.

The opening event ended with a reception at the Sazerac House next door to the hotel.



Immediate Past President Cathy Toney was in charge of the breakout session monitors. ASO Treasurer Linda Vailes was one of the room monitor volunteers. They talk about the breakout sessions assignments for the afternoon.

The Arkansas delegation would grab a table and sit together at the general meetings. In this early session they are instructed on use of the electronic voting devices.

Day 2: July 13



Courtney Clark was the inspiring keynote speaker. Her theme was "It's Not a Dead End...It's a DETOUR!" Courtney had some hard luck in her life but found that most of it led to better things.

Toward the end of the second general meeting members began to go through the changes in the DKG rules. This process involved some discussions, debate and voting!  
The official event for the evening was the DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF) event, which was a tour of some New Orleans sites and included some parade float storage. ASO Parliamentarian and Southeast Regional Director Candi Martin met a character that interested her from a float as part of the fun.

Members get together for the third general meeting. Next was a breakout session, followed by the luncheon as shown below.

The second keynote speaker was Ingvi Hranar Omarsson from Iceland. He is an educator, entrepreneur and speaker.

Day 3: July 14

Stacy Potter runs into an friend at the general meeting.



Dee Ann Daniel, Linda Vailes, and Linda Davidson are enjoying the luncheon on Thursday. Above Heather Dunn volunteered as a tech assistant during the convention. She was also part of a select group called DKGNext. The day concluded with a dinner with most of the Arkansas delegation at a nearby restaurant.



Day 4: July 15

Members assemble for the Southeast Regional Breakfast.



## ASO Editor Linda Davidson was Named Arkansas Star of the Southeast



The award presented by ASO President Sue Cook on Friday morning was a complete surprise to Linda, as you can see from the photo to the left.

Linda was initiated into membership in DKG, Mu Chapter, on October 10, 1983. In the early 1990s she served a term as secretary of Mu Chapter. In February 1998, Linda was nominated and elected as 2nd vice president and was again elected in 2000.

In 1998 Linda realized that she could best help her chapter by restarting the Mu Chapter Newsletter. There had been earlier versions, but she became the chapter's editor and started a black and white version in September of 1998. As technology improved it was done in color. Still serving as chapter editor she continues to keep a data base of chapter information and publishes the chapter yearbook each biennium. She has also served Mu Chapter as recording secretary since 2016.

In 2016 Linda was named as the Chairman of the Communications Committee for ASO (then Kappa State). State President Candi Martin asked that she put together a new single page newsletter for chapter presidents to be distributed in the months in between the ASO Newsletter. It is still being published currently in the even numbered months.

In 2017 Kappa State Editor Norma Brown retired from the job and President Candi Martin asked Linda to apply for the position. The State Executive Committee approved her appointment as ASO (Kappa State) Editor. Since July of 2017 Linda has published 6 years of the state newsletter.

At the ASO State Convention in 2019 Linda was given the "Order of the Rose" award for service to her chapter. For Linda, service to Delta Kappa Gamma has been consistent and creative and at the top of her to do list.

...Day 4: July 15 continued

The scenes below left and center page are from the Southeast Regional Breakfast.

Heather Dunn was selected as a member of DKGNext. These "think tank" team members addressed some of the challenges of keeping DKG relevant, vibrant, and vital. Heather's turn to speak was during the afternoon general meeting.



Members of the Arkansas delegation attended the "Celebration of Life" ceremony at 9:00 am.

Above center outgoing Southeast Regional Director Candi Martin was given some gifts and recognized for her service during the biennium.

Linda Vailes was room monitor for another breakout session on finance.

Above the Immediate Past State Presidents were introduced. They also presented a skit during the Southeast Regional Breakfast.

Day 5: July 16

The final day of the International Convention was busy. It started with the last general meeting. The forum meetings followed. The installation of International officers was at 5:00pm. There was a Society reception at 6:00pm. The end of the week and day came at 7:00pm with the final event which was the DKG Society Dinner.



The gavel is passed and Becky Sadowski hands the job of International President to Debbie LaBlanc. Terri Leins was Arkansas's representative in the chorus.

# Arkansas State Organization Officer Nomination Information:

## Did you know...

- ❁ Any DKG member with good standing and 8 years in the organization can run for any state office.
- ❁ Our state officers do not automatically move up.
- ❁ State Officers have a two-year commitment.
- ❁ Becoming an officer helps one develop deeper relationships with other officers and members.
- ❁ Any member may submit a name with the prior approval of the person being nominated. (You can nominate yourself)
- ❁ Application forms will be available to chapter presidents in December.
- ❁ Requirements will be on the nomination form.
- ❁ Please consider nominating a worthy member for one of these offices.



January 15, 2023 will be the submission deadline  
Application forms should be sent to Darlene Emmons,  
email: Darlene Emmons daremmons01@gmail.com

## It's Time to Think about ASO Awards

As we look forward to our next state convention, we need to consider our sisters who have tirelessly served our state organization and our local chapters. We will select recipients of the Carolyn Pittman Achievement Award (state level), as well as induct new members into the Order of the Rose (chapter level).

We encourage you to access the ASO website ([dkgarkansas.weebly.com](http://dkgarkansas.weebly.com)) for the exact requirements for nomination to either of these awards. Nominations can be submitted by chapters or individual members. (The applications forms are also available on the ASO website.)

Nominations are open to ALL members, not just past presidents, but can also be committee members or someone who serves behind the scenes. If the nominee is not in your chapter, contact her chapter for necessary information.

Peruse your chapter rosters to identify those who have exhibited exemplary service to your chapter. When you are in a meeting, look around the room to identify those who would qualify.

Complete a nomination form, include a photo suitable for publication, and email and/or send a hard copy to Cathy Long as soon as possible. **The final deadline will be February 1, 2023.** Contact one of the committee members if you have questions.

**We need your help. Let's not let another biennium pass with no recipients.**

Cathy Long, Gamma Eta, Chairman ([cslong@suddenlink.net](mailto:cslong@suddenlink.net) or 870-404-1279); Linda Morrow, Gamma Iota; Melinda Bittle, Beta Xi; Kathryn Dickinson, Alpha Delta; and Elizabeth Waldrup, Mu

## Apply for a \$500 Kappa State Education Foundation Grant

Teachers, do you need some extra supplies for a special project? Are the budgets tight in your district this year for supplies? Chapter members, do you have a special project that needs some extra funding? The Kappa State Education Foundation may have an answer for those needs!

Every year in October the Foundation awards seven \$500 grants to teachers or chapters to help with a project for classrooms or community. Some of the projects funded this past October included children receiving books when they go to their local county health unit for their immunizations, incorporating arts into the classroom to help students to heal and learn how to use art-based experiences in everyday life, extending the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to more pre-school children, purchasing Breakout Boxes for Gifted & Talented Students, and purchasing audio and video equipment for a county library.

If you do have some classroom or community projects that Kappa State Education Foundation can help you with, **the deadline to submit your application is October 1.** Applications can be found on the Arkansas DKG website. ([dkgarkansas.weebly.com](http://dkgarkansas.weebly.com)) Please be thinking about how Kappa State Education Foundation can help with those projects.

The Foundation Board funds its projects by donations, memorials, and special fundraisers that the board supports. We will have a fundraiser at the ASO Fall Meeting which will be held on Saturday, October 22. You will definitely want to bring your extra cash to buy your chances to win! If we can answer any questions about the projects or the application process, please contact one of the board members.

Kappa State Education Foundation Board





To find the ASO page, go to Facebook and type **DKG Arkansas State Organization** into the search box.

The Non-Dues Revenue Committee has red, short-sleeved DKG t-shirts for sale for \$20. If you would like a t-shirt, please contact ASO President Sue Cook or she can bring them to your meeting when she visits. They also are available at other DKG events.

Sue's email is:  
[suecook428@gmail.com](mailto:suecook428@gmail.com)

**Arkansas State Organization News** is published online the first of each odd numbered month at [dkgarkansas.weebly.com](http://dkgarkansas.weebly.com)

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

## Kappa State Education Foundation

### Memorials:

**Bonnie Estes**

by Audrey Powell, Mu Chapter

**Bill Hickman**

by Kathryn Dickinson, Alpha Delta Chapter

**Bea Robey**, Epsilon Beta Chapter

by Epsilon Beta Chapter

**Bea Robey**, Epsilon Beta

by Audrey Powell, Mu Chapter

**Peggy McCall, Past Georgia State President (2011-2013)**

by Cathy Long, Gamma Eta

**Ella Reese, Past Kappa State President\***, Theta Chapter

by Cissie Pendergrass, Alpha Theta

**Ella Reese, Past KS President**, Theta Chapter

by Cathy Long, Gamma Eta

**Ella Reese, Past KS President**, Theta Chapter

by Terri Leins, Alpha Pi

**Ella Reese, Past KS President**, Theta Chapter

by Deborah Merritt

**Ella Reese, Past KS President**, Theta Chapter

by Kathryn Dickinson, Alpha Delta

**Alta Burns**

by Terri Leins, Alpha Pi

**Dr. Rosemary Vance**, Beta Xi

by Beta Xi Chapter

\*Kappa State is now Arkansas State Organization

### Honorariums:

**Sue Cook**, ASO President, Beta Xi Chapter

by Gamma Eta Chapter

### Dates to Remember and Deadlines:

- \* **September 1, February 1, May 1** Applications for Cornet Professional Development Award deadlines ([dkgef.org](http://dkgef.org))
- \* **October 1 2022** Deadline for Kappa State Education Foundation project grant applications
- \* **October 22, 2022** ASO Fall Meeting, UA-Pulaski Technical College, 3000 West Scenic Drive, 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
- \* **January 15, 2023** Deadline for Nominations for ASO Officers, Forms available in December (email Darlene Emmons [daremmons01@gmail.com](mailto:daremmons01@gmail.com))
- \* **February 1, 2023** Final deadline for applications for ASO award nominees for the 2021-2023 biennium