



Dear Sisters,

First and foremost, let me wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season as we approach the darkest (in terms of sunlight) time of the year. But not all is dark in the Massachusetts State Organization (MASO) of DKG Society International.

Teamwork is one of the most important things about being a member of DKG. No one person can do everything all alone. There are often unseen hands shaping things behind the scenes. Unfortunately, because of Covid 19, not enough members had been stepping up to do the work needed to keep the MASO functioning effectively. The chapter is the heart of our organization. I have been worried about many of our chapters.

But that worry is beginning to turn around. I am indebted to the work of Lynn Howard who is chairing our Revitalization Steering Committee. She will have a report at our Winter Board Meeting (it's a Zoom meeting so no need to worry about the weather) about the Member Survey sent to each of you by an appointed individual in your chapter. It's a 3-minute survey that can be done on your mobile phone, tablet, or computer by simple clicking on the link you were sent and answering the 9 mostly multiple choice questions and hitting submit.

I would also like to acknowledge Jennifer Hoffer of Alpha Theta Chapter for her great work in getting us started on our social media outreach. Please like our Facebook page (Alpha Upsilon MA) and engage with her and other members. Jennifer is a member using her skills to get our name and mission out to a wider audience and looking for potential members. Please share these on your own feeds to spread the word about DKG. And don't forget to hit the "Love" button below each one so that we get further coverage. Jenny, you are a godsend!

Anyone else want to do something to help out? Share best practices, an article that inspired you, or present for 15 minutes at a chapter meeting? Every little thing helps!

Also, Jennifer has had an entry accepted into the next DKG Fine Arts Gallery. You can check it out by going to dkg.org and clicking onto the Art Gallery at the bottom of the home page. Congratulations Jennifer!!! \*\* The picture is in this issue of the Baystater on page 7.

CONTINUED on P. 3

### **ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2021-2023**

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Sharon McArdle G'Tanya Small Marge Burns Diana Grady Beverly Shaw Johnson

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#### EDITOR'S CORNER

#### The Baystater email address is: baystaterma@gmail.com

I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Lynn Howard (Alpha Iota), Carol LaPolice (Alpha), Annette Shaw (Alpha Theta), Kít Dunlap (Alpha Theta), Nancy Carroll (Theta), Gail Pease (Alpha Mu), Irene Falite (Epsilon), Nanci Flaherty (Alpha Iota), and Jill Flanders (Alpha Epsílon). THANK YOU! Gail Saccone



#### **CHAPTER PRESIDENTS 2020-2022**

#### **AREA I**

Kappa	Donna Brown (Contact)
Theta	Peggy Trudell
Alpha Beta	Louise O'Brien
Alpha Theta	Kaaren Harrington

#### **AREA II**

A

Α

lpha Gamma	Tammy Edmonds and
-	Beth Clark
lpha Mu	Susan Apteker and
	Kristine Beaudet

**AREA III** Eta

Zeta Alpha Lambda

**AREA IV** Elaine Karalekas Alpha Alpha Epsilon Lindsay Skelton

**AREA V** Alpha Iota

Nanci Flaherty Gail Saccone

Jo-Anne Butler and

Audrey Smith (Contact)

Tove Bendiksen

Ellen Driscoll

### **AREA VI**

Alpha Zeta

Epsilon Alpha Eta Irene Frangos Falite Diane Swistak (Contact) On a sadder note, we lost two past State Presidents this fall: Beverly Shaw Johnson and Patricia Bologna. Bev always made a space for DKG and encouraged newer members to become involved at the state level. I will never forget her at the DKG International Convention in Minnesota leading a group of us to perform an original song she wrote for DKG's 75th anniversary. She was always there when you needed her. A memorial service for Bev and her husband was held at the Congregational Church in Mashpee.

Pat Bologna was the first to appoint me to a state committee by making me Membership Chair. I held that position for several biennia and through her I came to the attention of International. That led me to serving on two International committees, an experience I will always cherish! Pat had a serenity that helped me find my grounding in DKG at the state level. I will forever be indebted to her. Pat's funeral mass was held on October 6, at St. Bonaventure Church in Manomet, MA.

We have made memorial donations to the DKGIEF in both their memories.

#### **DEADLINE!**

November 15, 2022:	IRS 990 Reports to be filed
December 15, 2022:	Bulletin: Collegial Exchange submissions
February 1, 2023	Scholarship Applications due
February 15, 2023:	Arts & Humanities submissions for Spring Gallery
March 1, 2023:	DKGIEF Project Application
	DKG Bulletin: Journal submissions

Looking forward to see all my DKG Sisters at our Winter Board Meeting! We are *Full STEAM Ahead: Forward Moving Ever!* Your DKG Sister,

CLAIRE <u>cdlabonte@charter.net</u>

# **MA STATE ORGANIZATION REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** Submitted by Lynn Howard, Committee Chair (Alpha Iota)

Now that many chapters are starting to meet in person again it gives us a chance to think about and plan what each of us can do to help revitalize our chapters and our state organization. As you plan your meetings and your programs, think about how you can reactivate your current members and recruit new members.

We need all members to help with marketing our organization and spreading the word about our mission and our activities. If you use social media, especially Facebook please join our State Facebook group if you haven't already and use your personal Facebook page as well to talk about DKG by posting pictures and making comments on posts. Post can include information about your chapter activities, educational articles and ideas that would be interesting to members, and anything else that supports our mission and our seven purposes. Jennifer Maynard Hoffer (Alpha Theta) has taken on the role to be our State Social Media coordinator and we hope that each chapter will designate someone to be the Chapter Social Media coordinator. Let's spread the word far and wide about our amazing organization!

Diana Grady, Literacy Chair, and I have started a MA State Organization Virtual Book Group. We met on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> to make some initial plans. We have decided for now to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Our first meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup>, and we will be discussing the book <u>The Dark Tide</u> by Stephen Puleo. Then on January 9<sup>th</sup> we will be discussing The <u>Giver of Stars</u> by Jojo Moyes. If you're interested in joining us and haven't contacted Diana yet, please send her an email <u>badg2@verizon.net</u>.

Chapter Presidents have been sending out a Chapter Membership Survey that was created by one of our Revitalization Committee working groups. If you received the link to the survey from your Chapter President and haven't taken the survey, please try to do it as soon as you can. It should only take about 5 minutes and you don't need a Google account to take the survey. If you haven't received the link yet, be on the lookout for it and hopefully you'll get it this month.

Some future ideas for Revitalization: First, we have a Zoom account for the rest of this year so I'd like to see if we can create a virtual speaker's series to share ideas and resources on educational practices, legislative topics, personal growth and more. I need people to help present workshops/seminars or to recruit people you know. Please contact me if you'd like to help with this. Next, now that things are open again it's time to reach out to schools at all levels (Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education) and other organizations where people work in education/teaching positions (daycares, hospitals, etc.) to let folks know about DKG and to set up a meeting so we can meet the staff to recruit new members. Please reach out to your Chapter President and Membership Chair to get involved in this. Finally, when you are going to your Chapter events, bring a friend with you that is not a DKG member yet and let her see first-hand what a great organization you belong to and hopefully she'll decide to join!

If you have any other ideas to help our revitalization efforts, please send me an email at <u>lynnphoward4@gmail.com</u> or send a text to 781-901-9120.

# NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Lynn Howard, Committee Chair

It's that time of year again...we are looking for nominations for State Officers, Nominations Committee, and Finance Committee for our next biennium. If you or someone you know would be a good candidate, please complete the form on page 14 and submit it to Lynn Howard.

The names of the consenting nominees will be presented to the Executive Board at its Winter meeting. The proposed slate with individual photos and biographical information will be printed in the Spring issue of the Baystater. The election will take place at the Spring Convention. We ask that you consider placing your name or the name of one of your Massachusetts State Organization DKG sisters in nomination for a statewide position. Perhaps you might discuss potential nominees at your next chapter meeting. The nomination form is included here and has been posted on the Massachusetts State Organization website, <a href="https://alupsma.weebly.com/">https://alupsma.weebly.com/</a>

### **EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE** Submitted by Jill Flanders, EEC Representative

The EEC met in two zoom meetings on November 17 and 19, 2022 facilitated by LaVonne Chaney, Northeast Chair. It was a delight to hear from other state members on their challenges and ideas to support their current members and welcome new members to the society.

Suggestions that may be of interest for Massachusetts are:

- to recognize "Local Leading Ladies" members or not, as guests to meetings
- to offer small grants, funded by the state organization, to educators, members or not, then follow up with an invitation to speak at a meeting
- prove mentors for new teachers, with classroom assistance, too
- to partner with other associations for meetings and/or PD

Every state is struggling with the challenge of building membership, and are recognizing that not only has the profession changed since the pandemic, but DKG must change, too!

# Fall Conference Follow-Up

Submitted by Jill Flanders, Presenter

At our Fall Conference, Jill Flanders shared a number of books and articles focused on Antiracism and Children's Literature. Most powerful was "Born on the Water" by Nikole Hannah-Jones, author of the 1619 Project. Read aloud, this book provides a context for Black children to hear about their family history before being enslaved, and how before becoming free Americans, they were born on the water.

Antiracist strategies, in combination with social emotional learning strategies, should be the most important experiences being presented and practiced in all of our classrooms now. Students, and adults, must feel safe and supported in their schools before academic progress will effectively occur. Sadly, our Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has only given superficial acknowledgement to these essential skills, and has even raised the passing scores for the 10th grade MCAS.

DKG educators can push back by bringing and reading good books to their classrooms and grandchildren!

Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Embrace Race all carry terrific lists of good books, at every age level for our children. Every teacher should be an Antiracist teacher!

For additional information on Jill's work in this arena, go to www.edimprovement.com .

This is the website for the Center on Educational Improvement, and look to our eNewsletter articles from October 2021 and October 2022.

# U.S FORUM

### Submitted by Carol LaPolice ~MA State US Forum Representative

As reported in the September edition of the *Baystater*, the meeting of the US Forum at the International Convention consisted of a speaker on Food Insecurity, the adoption of a mental health resolution for the well-being of students and educational staff and the election of the new US Forum Steering Committee for 22-24. Congratulations go to Bev Johns, the new Northeast Representative to the U.S. Forum Steering Committee who was nominated from the floor.

With the passage of the mental health resolution DKG members are called to the following actions:

- 1. Educate themselves on the issues and needs related to mental health for educational staff through study, workshops, and other avenues
- 2. Inform Members of current legislation related to mental health services for educators so that they may take appropriate actions;
- 3. Promote destigmatization of mental illness through dissemination of information on successful school-based treatment programs, supports and other resources; and
- 4. Engage in a wide range of activities that demonstrate emotional support for educators

Current issues affecting women, children and education needing attention are many. They include but are not limited to mental health of educators and students, school safety, teacher shortage, preparation of teachers, standardized testing, application of Title IX, and government funding deadline for usage of COVID-19 funds for education, climate change and human trafficking.

You can find updates and the mental health resolution on the <u>www.dkgusfrum.com</u> website and issues on the **dkgusforum group** Facebook page.

The big crunch is here! Time to get your letters out to Congressmen immediately! Chances are best for a compromise on the WEP bills. Total repeal of WEP and GPO (H.R.82) is not a realistic expectation. Please contact Representative Neal, House Ways and Means Chair, to let him know if you are willing to accept a compromise. According to Mass Retirees, he is receiving messages to not compromise on his bill. All bills will be wiped clean with a new session starting in January and Rep Brady will be retiring. Basically, the difference holding up the compromise is that H.R.2337 (Rep. Neal's bill) will be in effect beyond 40 years and Representative Brady's bill is only in effect for 40 years. You can contact Representative Neal's office in DC at 372 Cannon House Office Building: (202) 225-5601. Or to email him: Go to www.congress.gov, use the drop down menu at the left and click on "members"; type in Richard Neal in the search box, click and it will bring you to a hyperlink on his name. Prepare your script and don't forget to state your "ask" twice!!

Mention you are a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and who we are. Just remember you are speaking for yourself, not DKG.

At the Fall Conference workshop there was a working group on the issue of teacher shortage: Are You Leading a **Purposeful Life? The Society's Purposes 4 and 7 may fit the** *bill* for you! Through a real-time survey, this workshop helped us to determine and begin collaboration on some issues of interest to different groups of members. More can be done through the use of Zoom. Please contact me (carol.lapolice@comcast.net) if you wish to join a group. The possibilities of making an impact with our varied talents are real!

The issues that resulted are:

- 1. Education/Staff Mental Health and Wellness (including thoughts on teacher shortage)
- 2. Learning Loss Recovery
- 3. School Violence
- 4. Student Evaluation (MCAS)

Thank you all. The participation made it enjoyable for us. Special thanks to Diana Grady and Linda Stewart who showed us how easy it is to speak to a legislator in 5 minutes when you are prepared and Christine Bonci for tech support. If you are interested in discussing and/or working on any of the issues with these groups on zoom, please let me know. Use your special gifts!



# DKG FINE ARTS GALLERY



Congratulations to Alpha Theta's Jennifer Maynard Hoffer! The DKG International Arts and Humanities Jury accepted her 2-D artwork, 'Perservance', into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery. Jennifer's artwork will be included in the new DKG Fine Arts Gallery by mid-November and will be displayed on the gallery for six months.

# ~~BAYSTATEMENTS~~

#### THETA Submitted by Nancy Carroll in May, 2022 (\*Not in the Spring issue)

Theta End of the Year dinners are always a highlight of the year and this past May was no exception. On May 31st about 25 Theta members gathered together at the Conrad's Restaurant in downtown Walpole. The agenda for the evening was so jam-packed that some of the planned events had to be held over until the fall.

To start the evening, a poem was read by Martha Colamaria. Before reading she explained how when she was young her father had shared this poem and she continues to read it often.

We had several special guests which included State President Claire LaBonte and Marilyn Spedding. Claire was finally able to present Theta member, Peggy Trudell, her Area 1 Achievement Award (which has been held over since COVID!). What a special moment for us all.

After the Area 1 Award presentation, Theta Treasurer, Jean Kenney, presented several members with their Membership Pins. As Claire was on hand she was able to award the 50 year pin to Nancy Bloomfield!

Our sister, Caroline Kiessling (who sadly passed in August), shared a beautiful necrology service for two members who had passed away in the last 2 years, Marilyn Boulais and Marion O'Neill Bowe.

A wonderful buffet dinner which consisted of steak tips, chicken broccoli ziti, stuffed shells and rolls was enjoyed.

Right when COVID hit, Theta had planned a book discussion around Jane Healey's historical fiction book titled, "Beantown Girls". It is about three Boston Girls joining the Red Cross Clubmobile Girls overseas during World War II. That discussion was never had in person. Instead we were lucky enough to have the author attend our End of the Year dinner and discuss her research and book. It was totally fascinating!!

Installation of New Officers was to take place but we just ran out of time, so we have that to look forward to at our September Meeting!

### Theta continued



# ALPHA MU~ Spring Meetings Submitted by Gail Pease

Alpha Mu met in March, 2022 at Williams Restaurant in Gardner MA. It was a History Night with displays, memorabilia and albums of the history of Alpha MU. Tables had "centerpieces" with photographs from years gone by and present displayed. The "purging" of accumulated materials in several large tote bins was accomplished by some of our sisters in preparation for this meeting. We were honored to have our State President, Claire LaBonte join us! We were her first "in person" visit! We had three guests that evening who may turn out to be new members! Two Williams Restaurant Gift Cards were raffled with proceeds going into our High School Senior Award Fund. The restaurant donates one of the Gift Cards every year!!!

We gathered again on April 12th at The Old Mill in Westminster MA. The meeting centered around our membership voting procedure and the prospective member review and vote. The urgent need for Officers was also discussed at length.

Our May meeting found us returning to Williams Restaurant in Gardner MA for the installation of new officers, Sue Hunt Apteker and Kristine Beaudette and initiation of new members, Deb Bergeron and Kelly McMurray Allen and transfer,

Kim Musante. Our high school graduate award was presented to Natalie Apteker who will attend UMass, Amherst in the fall. (in photo: Helene Pascal, Sue Apteker, Natalie Apteker, Linda Robinson)

We continue to supply the Gardner District Court and Valuing Our Children in Athol with books, workbooks, crayons, puzzles and games through our CLIC Program that have been donated by our sisters.

As I write this we are looking forward to our new school year first meeting on September 15 at the Hunt Camp.



# ALPHA MU~ September Meeting Submitted by Gail Pease



Alpha MU met in September at Hunt's Place at North Spec Pond in New Salem. Our guest speakers were from Dress For Success in Springfield MA. The photo shows the donations collected at our recent October meeting at The Black Crow in Athol, MA. Sue Hunt Apteker recently delivered the donations which we will continue to collect items for. We were also given the opportunity to sign up for continuing support for our sisters who are currently teaching through our "Fairy Godmother" program. Our retired members show support and appreciation to those who are actively involved in a school setting with simple gifts, notes/ cards of appreciation and encouragement or similar ways to say "Good job! Thank you"! Some choose to include the teaching sister's staff as well!

# **EPSILON** Submitted by Irene Falite

Happy Autumn and Happy Veteran's Day! Thanking all of our Veterans for their dedicated service!

We were very excited to start our year off with a lovely Dinner Meeting at the Sylvan Street Grille in Peabody, MA. on September 22nd. Suggestions for fundraising, Socials and our Scholarship were discussed for the months ahead. Very exciting!

Two long-standing and active Members were celebrated on their recent Birthdays. Meg Kerber and Anne Manneheim both recently turned 91 years young. We wish them many years of happiness and good health! Meg Kerber is our dedicated Treasurer too!

Three Sisters are to be recognized this year for their Membership and Service to our Epsilon Chapter, State and DKG International Sister Kathleen Remmes was recognized for 40 years at our September dinner meeting. Sister Maureen Falite (40 years) and Mary Barrows (10 years) will be recognized at our next event. We thank them for their continued dedication and participation in our Society.

Our Winter Sock, Hat, Gloves, Mittens, and Scarf drive will once again take place this month. The items will be delivered to My Brother's Table in Lynn at the beginning of December. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Our Holiday Celebration will be on Sunday, December 4th at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem. We look forward to this festive venue with our Sisters.

Happy Blessed Thanksgiving to your families and friends. Enjoy the holiday season with love, peace and good health!



# ALPHA THETA Submitted by Annette Shaw

#### An open invitation to all our DKG sisters:

Alpha Theta Chapter has planned a series of programs and events that could be of interest to all, and you are invited to attend and participate:

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 1: pm, at Fitzy's Pub in Plainville, MA

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION: Bring an item for a silent auction and coloring books, crayons, workbooks for children at Sturdy Memorial Hospital.

Tuesday, January 30, 2023 at noon, La Familia Restaurant, Taunton, MA WINTER RETIREES' LUNCHEON Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 1: pm, at Bailey's Surf N Turf, East Wareham, MA "SHOW ME A STORY" by author Linda Williams and luncheon
Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 5: pm, at West Congregational Church Hall, Taunton, MA SLAVERY IN COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND by Local Historian Lorrie Renker Pot Luck Supper
Tuesday, May 15, 2023 at 5:30 pm, at Morin's Restaurant, Attleboro, MA DINNER AND YEAR END REFLECTION
If you and your chapter members wish to participate and attend any of our events, please contact me by phone or email at least 2 weeks in advance of the event for space and meal planning and payment.
Annette Shaw, Alpha Theta Chapter
508-339-8262 seventymill@yahoo.com

# ALPHA THETA Submitted by Kit Dunlap

November 15<sup>th</sup>, Alpha Theta Members popped down the rabbit hole for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, the brainchild of Jennifer Hoffer and Jessica Lupien. Jennifer, aka White Rabbit, and a Sipologist brewed several different teas while Jessica, aka the Knave of Hearts, led us in the singing of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Bat" and several readings. During "The Carpenter and the Walrus," those not in costumes were doomed as the unfortunate oysters. Members provided delicacies galore including the traditional cucumber sandwiches, scones and jam. Lewis Carroll would have been pleased and would probably have joined in the laughter and conversation. *Twas brillig, and the slithy toyes*....



Front: Gail Brookings Back Row: Kathy Fox, Cindy Bliss, Pauline Madenjian, Jennifer Hoffer (White Rabbit), Diana Grady, Kit Dunlap, Connie Kelly, Jessica Lupien (Knave of Hearts)

# ALPHA Submitted by Carol LaPolice

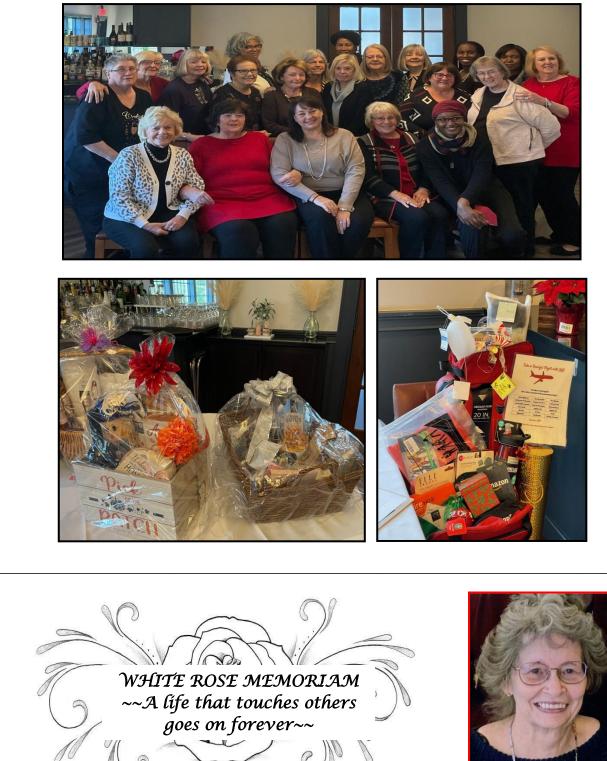
Gena Rotas, LICSW and Mindful Life Coach, was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of Alpha Chapter of MA, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at the Agawam Senior Center. Gena trained the educators to help students and educators with stress and anxiety, one of the top needs in education today. The techniques of the "tapping" method also known as EFT or Emotional Freedom Technique were learned. Gena is the author of two books *Love You: Small Changes to Quiet the Gremlins and Tame Those Unhealthy Habits, Behaviors and Addictions* and *Love Your Slim Self*.



## ALPHA IOTA Submitted by Nanci Flaherty

Alpha Iota held their Holiday Boutique recently. Great fun was had by all! The Holiday Boutique is our combined fall meeting / fundraiser. Funds in excess of one thousand dollars were raised at the Holiday Boutique through bake sales, raffle baskets, donations and silent auction. The funds raised support the Amelia G Armstrong Grant-in-Aid, which is awarded yearly to a college-bound senior whose primary focus area is education. Each year, applications are reviewed by the Grant-in-Aid committee, who take on the difficult task of choosing one applicant. We are proud to honor Amelia G Armstrong's memory by offering this annual assistance. Thank you to all who attended, donated items to the silent auction, or purchased tickets to this wonderful cause. Congratulations to raffle basket winners Lynn Howard, Alma Wright and Judy Waterhouse. We would be remiss not to mention the heartbreaking loss of two of our cherished members this year. Please keep the friends and families of Mary Gaughan and Sandy Carle in your thoughts.

### Alpha Iota continued



Sandy Carle passed away on November 16, 2022. Sandy was Treasurer of the South Shore Branch of AAUW, State Treasurer of Alpha Upsilon, Treasurer of her chapter Alpha Iota, member of the Retired Teachers Chapter of the Boston Teachers Union, President of the Weymouth Educational Foundation, and former registrar of the Weymouth Democratic Town Committee. In so many ways, Sandy touched the lives of her friends and her community. She will be sadly missed.

(00) EY-SA tattoos-and-doodles.blogspot.com

### DKG MASSACHUSETTS STATE ORGANIZATION

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR NOMINATIONS**

2023-2025 State Officers, Finance and Nominations Committees

<b>SEND TO:</b> Lynn Howard				
4 Judson Road				
Weymouth MA 02188				
lynnphoward4@gmail.com				
Nominee's Name				
Address				
Cell phone #	Home phone #			
Chapter	Nominated by			
(self-nominations are accepted)				
For which position are you nominating the candidate? (Circle One)				
State President State First	Vice President	State Second Vice President		
State Recording Secretary	State Recording Secretary State Corresponding Secretary			
Finance Committee*	Nominations Com	Nominations Committee		
Chapter, State, and International Experience				
Present Professional Position				
*Must be current 2022-2024 Chapter President				