



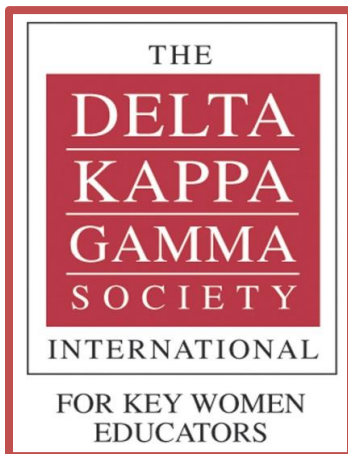
MA STATE ORGANIZATION of
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Baystater

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 64 ISSUE 4

Special Edition -Spring 2022



CLAIRIFYING COMMENTS
FROM CLAIRE

SAVE THE DATE:
SPRING
CONFERENCE
APRIL 29-MAY 1
PLYMOUTH

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
JULY 12-16
NEW ORLEANS

Dear DKG Sisters, **Happy Spring!**

Welcome to this special edition of the Baystater. I have two areas I wish to address today.

1. The **2022 Spring Convention in Plymouth at the Hotel 1620**. This will be our first time gathering together, IN PERSON, as a state organization since 2019! AND we will be celebrating our 80th plus 1 Birthday! We have lots planned: workshops at which some of our newest members are the presenters; Massachusetts Moments to celebrate who we are, what we've done, and where we're going; Celebration of Life Ceremony to commemorate our sisters over the last 3 years; the Executive Board meeting; food; awards; birthday celebrations, etc. It will be a full weekend! Read all about it in this issue and take advantage of the Early Bird registration. Don't forget, if you are a FIRST TIME ATTENDEE to a Massachusetts State DKG meeting, your registration is free!

2. Our **Revitalization meeting**, or as our International liaison Lyn Schmid calls it, our Vitalization Project, took place on March 5. We had 26 sisters attend. After much discussion and note taking, we have divided up into 6 working groups to come up with specific next steps we wish to take as a whole. I will be hearing back from these groups this week as to their recommendations for moving forward. These groups are Structure and Operations, Communications, Program, Membership, Leadership, and Relevance (real world connections). We will choose 2 or 3 objectives which we will pursue over the next few years. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the women (especially for our newer members) who came and contributed so much! See Martha Cotton's article on page 4 for details.

We are **Full STEAM Ahead: Forward Moving Ever**

Your DKG Sister,

CLAIRE cdlabonte@charter.net

ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2021-2023

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*I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Martha Cotton (Alpha Iota) and Carol LaPolice (Alpha).
 THANK YOU! Gail Saccone*



CHAPTER PRESIDENTS 2020-2022

AREA I

Alpha Beta	Louise O'Brien
Alpha Theta	Kaaren Harrington
Kappa	Donna Brown (Contact)
Theta	Nancy Carroll and Janet Wellock

AREA II

Alpha Gamma	Tammy Edmonds and Beth Clark
Alpha Mu	Susan Apteker and Helene Carroll-Pascale

AREA III

Eta	Jo-Anne Butler
Alpha Lambda	Ellen Driscoll
Zeta	Audrey Smith (Acting)

AREA IV

Alpha	Sharon MacDonald
Alpha Epsilon	Lindsay Skelton

AREA V

Alpha Iota	Nanci Flaherty
Alpha Zeta	Deborah Gill
Upsilon	Michele Glynne

AREA VI

Alpha Eta	Diane Pendergast and Deborah Wescott
Epsilon	Irene Frangos Falite

2022 MA DKG SPRING CONVENTION OUTLINE
REGISTRATION FORM: alupsma.weebly.com (Home page-scroll down)

Friday Evening

5:00-7:00 Registration
 Dinner on your own
6:45-8:15 Executive Board Meeting
8:15 Meet and Greet Guests Social
 Crudite/Crackers and Cheese

Saturday Morning

7:30-8:30 Kingston Breakfast Full Buffet
8:45 Massachusetts Moment
9:00-9:45 Workshop: A Teacher's Journey
 Melissa Zeitz
9:45 Massachusetts Moment
10:00-10:45 Workshop: Votes for Women II
 Jessica Lupien
10:45 Massachusetts Moment
11:00-11:45 Workshop: Aging Gracefully: Planning for the Future
 Robin Putnam, MA Department of Consumer Affairs
11:45 Massachusetts Moment
12:00-12:45 Round Table with International Guest
 Phyllis Hickey, Strategic Outreach Director
1:00 Buffet Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

Join us for a walk along the harbor.
Shop to your heart's content.
Enjoy the hotel facilities (pool, exercise, etc.)

Saturday Evening

4:00-4:45 Rejuvenation
4:45 Parade of Presidents Lineup
5:00 Parade of Presidents/Convocation
5:30 Birthday Celebration
6:00 Dinner
 Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Hedrington, MA 2021 Teacher of the Year

Sunday Morning

8:00-8:45 Continental Breakfast
8:45 Celebration of Life Line-Up
9:00 Celebration of Life Ceremony
 Closing Charge

Meet some of our presenters:



Melissa Zeitz

A Teacher's Journey: Melissa Zeitz

Technology has changed teaching in profound ways. Come explore how a teacher evolved to become one who provides students with critical thinking and critical design in technology. Melissa is an award-winning Digital Literacy and Computer Science Teacher and a MassCUE Featured Educator for December 2021.



Jessica Lupien

Votes for Women II: Jessica Lupien

Come join us for Part 2 of Jessica's Presentation on Women's Suffrage where she will lead us in roll play and song. Be sure to wear something white so you can feel the part. Let's hear how our mothers and grandmothers managed to persuade the men to give women the vote over 100 years ago!



Phyllis A. Hickey

International Guest: Phyllis Hickey

Phyllis has held the position of Strategic Outreach Director since Jan. 1, 2020. She previously was the DKG International Business Director from 2007-2020. She is an ex-officio member of the Finance, Golden Gift, Non-Dues-Revenue, and World Fellowship committees.

Phyllis was initiated into Theta Chapter in Connecticut in 1986. She has held positions at the chapter, state and international levels of DKG Society International. She is currently a member of Alpha Chapter in Austin, TX.

Phyllis was born in Malden, MA, is interested in genealogy and travel, and has appeared on *Family Feud* with her brother and sisters!



Jennifer Hedrington
MA 2021 Teacher of the Year

Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Hedrington

Jennifer Hedrington teaches seventh grade mathematics at Ferryway School in Malden, Massachusetts. She holds a Juris Doctorate from the Massachusetts School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Atlantic Union College. Jennifer has taught middle school math to secondary school students since 2004 and has worked in Massachusetts, Texas, and Baltimore. She measures her students' achievement by how they apply their education outside of the classroom.

The Road to Revitalization

Submitted by Martha Cotton, Alpha Iota



On March 5, twenty-six MA State Organization members along with two guests, representing 10 chapters, gathered in Mansfield to take the first steps on the road to revitalization. With the guidance of Past International President and former Northeast Regional Director, Lyn Schmid we identified where we are, where we would like to be, and what obstacles were inhibiting our success.

“What do you do really well in MA?” was the first question Lyn posed. We agreed that before the pandemic, we were a welcoming organization. Most chapters and the state were involved in community outreach. We encouraged all members to participate; we support each other and make time to celebrate. Past workshops have been interesting and informative. The state organization communicates through the Baystater and the website.

Our second question was:

How does a meeting make you feel? Answers varied. Some members felt recognized, and their involvement was making a difference in education and the community. Others felt the organization gave members a sense of purpose, belonging and pride. All responses revealed that the members present had positive feelings about their chapter meetings.

So what is keeping us as an organization from moving forward? That was the gist of Lyn's third question. "This was the time to be painfully honest", she said. The responses reflected what many chapters are experiencing. Not enough active teachers. Members do not take roles and chapters don't delegate so the work of the chapter falls on few hands. The organization is becoming more social than professional. Not changing our focus to meet the times and not focusing on success stories. We have been looking for new members in the same places instead of spreading our search.

From the obstacle list, Lyn helped us identify six core issues. The areas were membership, structure and operation, leadership, communication, program and real world problems. We then broke into six groups and pondered over our assigned issue. After understanding the depth of the issue, each group set forth some specific measurable goals for the chapters and the state. Claire LaBonte, our state president, will be sharing these goals with the membership to help us move forward.

Personally, I felt revitalized. It was refreshing to recognize the problems, but at the same time reflect on the positives. We all joined this organization for a reason and felt a sense of pride to be a member. We need to rejuvenate that spirit and share with other members of our profession as we embark on this road to revitalization.



U.S. FORUM REPORT

National Legislative Seminar

*Submitted by Carol LaPolice, N.E. Representative
U.S. Forum Steering Committee (Carol attended with Diana Grady and Linda Stewart)*



Carol LaPolice, Diana Grady, Becky Sadowski (Int'l President), and Linda Stewart

The US Forum National Legislative Seminar was recently held in Arlington, VA. It was said to be one of the best with notable speakers on how to advocate, hot topics and a *Monuments by Moonlight* tour, it made up for the cancellation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had 20 first timers in attendance. The kickoff dinner was followed by the well-known keynote speaker, Lisa Maatz from the Ohio Citizen Organization, who talked about advocacy. Her message to us was, “Use the talents you have as educators – challenge yourself. You have opinions.” She encouraged us to write letters to the editors of newspapers, even if it doesn’t get printed it gets the editorial board talking about the issue and they will do more research on it.

Day 2 included DKG Society International President, Becky Sadowski, who participated in the seminar along with Executive Director, Nita Scott. Becky explained why DKG cannot support an issue: “We are an international organization

of 17 countries with different cultures and regions. We cannot speak for members around the world, but DKG believes in advocacy and wants and needs all to be advocates as individuals. You can write, “I am (name) and a member of DKG Society International. I am advocating for ...”

Lucy Gettman, Principal of G&S Consulting, shared bills and issues of interest. The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act includes increasing the amount of time for new mothers to receive benefits and extends eligibility of children from 5 to 6 years of age. For childcare she said look for an alternative proposal in the next few weeks. Universal pre-K education is gaining traction in Congress. Student loan forgiveness, really a payment pause, is set to expire on May 11. Note there is a federal initiative to require teachers to provide one year of lesson plans so parents can opt out. Teacher availability is a challenge and there is a need for well-prepared personnel. Her advice, “Advocate everywhere and with everyone as one-half of the members of Congress held state government positions. One-third of the time with direct contacts, one-third with coalitions such as DKG, and one-third with mentoring and supporting new educators.”

From the League of Women Voters, Alicia Guerri talked about anti-voter tactics including misinformation- wrong information with no intent to harm and disinformation- intentionally sharing false information with intent to harm. Two groups to learn more from are vote411.org for voter mobilization and the Democracy Defense Fund who works to counter voter suppression.

Concerns about mental health were shared by Director of Advocacy, Brandon Graham, from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). He noted that Congress is paying attention as the Surgeon General made a groundbreaking announcement with recommendations on the mental health crisis. Fifty percent of lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, 75% by age 24. The average delay between onset and treatment is 11 years. The 988 number for mental health crises will be nationwide by July 16, 2022. On advocating he said, “Facts support, but stories move.” For more ideas to help see [NAMI | Advocacy Headquarters \(quorum.us\)](https://www.nami.org/About-NAMI/Advocacy-Headquarters)

Brad Fitch, CEO of Congressional Foundation, works with many from Congress. His message was, “Advocacy is relationship building. Show empathy, 45% of Congress suffered anxiety for their safety after January 6, 2022. Their average workweek is 70 hours with 15 meetings per day.” He gave a protocol for speaking to Congressmen and we participated in an interactive exercise. He concluded with my favorite line of the day, “We don’t have a government of the majority, we have a government of those who participate.”

In between the speakers, the Steering Committee made presentations on hot topics including food insecurity, climate change, and WEP/GPO (social security acts).

On our final day, Laura Peralta-Shulte from the Network: Build Anew program spoke on their 4 cornerstone projects for racial justice. They include: dismantle systemic racism focusing on the criminal legal system; cultivate an inclusive community with a focus on immigration; root our economy in solidarity for labor reform; and transform our politics for democracy and voting rights.

Mark Egan, Director of Government Relations for the NEA shared some important statistics: 55% of NEA (73% females) are looking to leave sooner than planned. Also, 41% hold more than 1 job to make ends meet and according to labor statistics teachers are 3 times as likely to hold second jobs as other workers.

After a period of time allowed for zooming with Congressmen as the capitol was closed, we had dinner and a game of NLS Jeopardy, leaving us well equipped to speak to our Congressmen at home, too.

More will be shared about the US Forum at a Fall Conference workshop. Interested in working on the Steering Committee? Applications for the election are due to chairman, Barbara Bostwick-Quinn, by March 22, 2022. The election will be held on Saturday, July 16 at 2:00pm at the International Convention in New Orleans, LA. ###



Front: Carol LaPolice
Back: Daphne Cagle (SW
US Forum Rep), Barbara
Bostwick-Quinn (US Forum
Chair) and Becky Sadowski
(DKG International
President)

NEXT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana (Sheraton) - July 12-16, 2022

The one and only New Orleans, Louisiana!!
Can’t you just taste the gumbo?
More information to follow or go to our
International website:
DKG.org> EVENTS

