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<https://dkgusforum.org/>

US Forum Connection

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US Forum

Mission

The mission of the US Forum is to serve the interests and concerns of its members.

- a. The emphasis is on sharing information and ideas and exploring solutions to identified issues.
- b. Participating US Forum members can engage with the issues of concern of all members at the US Forum sessions during international conferences and the international convention.

(US Forum Guidelines, 2021)

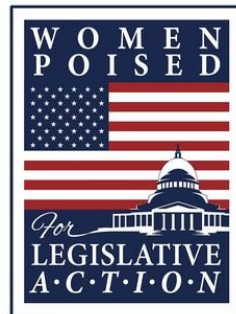
Advocacy Statement

The US Forum is dedicated to being an advocate for women, children, and education by implementing actions which enable change and improvement in social institutions, systems, legislation, and practices that impose hardships or impact negatively on individuals, groups, or families.

**DKG US Forum invites you to the
National Legislative Seminar.**

**March 10-13, 2024
Washington D.C.**

**Learn to make a difference.
Speak up, stand up, soar!**



In this issue, you will find information about the event location and schedule of events, read about the featured speakers, and discover new and exciting ways to experience our nations' capital and seat of government. So, mark your calendar now! The dates for the US Forum 2024 National Legislative Seminar are March 10-13th.

REGISTER NOW!! See pages 5-6 for registration instructions.

Why the National Legislative Seminar, 2024 is a “Do Not Miss” Event!

If you have not yet made plans to attend the US Forum 2024 National Legislative Seminar, (NLS) in Washington, DC, now is the time to do so! This incredible event is designed not only for DKG women who are experienced advocates, but also for members who want to know more about becoming an effective communicator and supporter of causes that are important to women, children, and education.

The US Forum National Legislative Seminar will be held at the centrally located Holiday Inn National Airport /Crystal City. Situated just one mile from Reagan Washington National Airport, and minutes from the monuments, museums, and government buildings of the capital, the hotel is a comfortable and welcoming site for the seminar activities. Room rates are \$129.00/night (king or 2 queens) and can be reserved now!

Call the hotel directly using the following number:

888-294-5059 and identify our group affiliation, DKG U.S. Forum National Legislative Seminar at the time of the reservation,

or

Use the following link provided by the hotel.

[DKG U.S. Forum National Legislative Seminar](#)

Reservations must be received by Tuesday, February 6, 2024 in order

To receive the conference rate.



Tips for Preparing to Meet Your Legislators

One of the most exciting activities of the US Forum National Legislative Seminar is the opportunity to meet with your federal legislators to discuss the issues of importance to DKG members in your state. In order to make your “Day on the Hill” as successful as possible, here are the steps to take now BEFORE you arrive in Washington, DC!

1. Know the names of your state senators and several key members of the House of Representatives from your state. Find them by going to senate.gov and house.gov.
2. Once you know the names of the elected officials you wish to meet with, view their websites to find out a contact phone number for each office.
3. Call the office number to request the email of one of the legislator’s staff who handles the issue you wish to speak about.
4. If you are not able to contact the legislator’s office directly, call the US Capitol switchboard. The number is 202-224-3121. The switchboard operator will connect you directly to the office of your legislator.
5. Research the websites of your elected legislator(s) to find out the names of the committees they serve on or recent legislation they sponsored.
6. Using the email address of the legislator’s staff member, send a personalized message to request an in-person meeting with the elected legislator on Tuesday, March 12th. In this message, explain who you are and that you represent Delta Kappa Gamma Society for Key Women Educators. State the purpose of your visit to Washington, DC, and an issue that you wish to discuss during this meeting.
7. Staff members are also able to schedule tours of the Capitol should your members be interested in doing this for part of the Day on the Hill. You can request this in your email message or by calling them directly to arrange a tour.
8. Once the meeting has been arranged, plan to “follow-up” with the staff member(s) 3 weeks and then 1 week before March 12th to verify that your meeting date and time are still on your legislator’s schedule.

Before going to Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 12th, you will have an opportunity to learn from experienced advocates tips to ensure a successful meeting with your legislators. Preparation is KEY!

Highlights of the US Forum National Legislative Seminar!

- On Sunday, March 10th, registration opens at 2:00 pm, and the opening session, with special guest Lisa Maatz, begins at 2:30 pm. Following this dynamic presentation, you will have a chance to hone your legislative communication skills by participating in a variety of hands-on activities led by experienced DKG advocates. After a delicious dinner at the hotel, (included in the registration fee), you will be treated to an informative and exciting technology session, (The Role of AI Systems in Today's Classrooms), presented by Rob Weil.
- On Monday, March 11th, following breakfast, (included in the registration fee), you can choose between attending an inspirational Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Ceremony, (transportation provided), or remaining in the hotel to learn more from Patricia Ford Neal about historic sites in the Washington, DC area that are pertinent to women educators.
- Monday's schedule also includes a delicious lunch (included in the registration fee), followed by a series of presentations from experts on the critical issues facing educators today. These presentations are designed to prepare seminar participants with the information they need to discuss the issues identified by DKG members with their legislators. You will not want to miss the panel of experienced educators as they discuss ways to improve the working conditions of teachers and retain effective, experienced educators in our nation's schools! See p. 4 for more information about the speakers who will join us on Monday, March 11th!
- On Tuesday, March 12th, the focus will be on visits to Capitol Hill for meetings with elected representatives. Following breakfast, (Included in the registration fee), transportation will be provided to Capitol Hill, where members are free to tour the legislative buildings or meet with their state elected representatives. Participants should pre-arrange these meetings before coming to the National Legislative Seminar. (See p. 2 for Tips for Preparing to meet Your Legislators)
- A special event, An Evening with the Arts, is planned for Tuesday evening, following dinner (included in the registration fee.) Presented by experienced museum educators, this event is designed to enhance your appreciation for the arts as a tool for managing stress and to promote the importance of the arts as a component of a high-quality education for every child.
- On Wednesday morning, following breakfast, (included in the registration fee), you will have an opportunity to share what you learned from your visit to Capitol Hill with other DKG members, and hear from experienced advocates how to use this information to energize yourself and others to take action. Following these final presentations, you and your fellow DKG advocates from across the country will bid each other farewell and embark on your journey home!

Spotlight on NLS Speakers

Learning from experts about the issues that are most concerning to DKG members is one of the highlights of the National Legislative Seminar! Read below to find out about some of the terrific speakers you will have the pleasure of meeting at NLS, 2024!

- **Rob Weil: “The Role of AI Systems in Today’s Classrooms”**

Mr. Weil is the Director of Field Programs in the Educational Issues Department of the American Federation of Teachers. Previously he was a high school mathematics teacher in Colorado. The focus of his presentation will be on understanding the role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) systems in education and how they will impact teaching and learning in the very near future.

- **Lisa Maatz: Women and Education Issues in the Upcoming Legislative Landscape**

Lisa Maatz, former Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy for the American Association of University Women, spearheaded the campaign that led to the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and other crucial women’s rights and civil rights legislation during her 15 years with the organization. After working on Capitol Hill for Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Lisa represented women’s equity groups on Capitol Hill for almost 25 years. She is a savvy advocate and engaging speaker, with a reputation for her strategic and creative approach to government affairs, grassroots advocacy, and nonprofit management. Currently, she is now an independent consultant working nationwide, specializing in gender equity issues, grassroots advocacy, and nonprofit management. She works primarily with membership organizations and continues her public speaking on a variety of invited topics.

- **Dr. Anita Everett: “Improving Mental Health Services for All Americans”**

Dr. Everett is the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA) in Washington, DC. As Director, she is responsible for overseeing federal efforts to improve the nation’s mental health service systems. Previously, she directed 22 psychology programs under the auspices of The John Hopkins Hospital to provide mental health services to individuals from preschool to older adults. She has also worked on international projects that implemented mental health services to communities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- **Marjorie J. Mitzner: “An Evening with the Arts”**

Along with Tondra Odom, President of the Washington, DC DKG Organization, experienced museum educator, Marjorie Mitzner, will provide a plethora of tools to process the stressors of daily life using works of art. This presentation will be the perfect ending to a busy day of visiting with legislators on Capitol Hill.


This is just a selection of many speakers that are expected to be part of the 2024 National Legislative Seminar. We are so pleased to be able to bring them to you this year and know they will be informative and exciting!

I'm Ready to Register, What Do I Do Next?

- A. Go to dkgusforum.org
- B. The home page will state "DKG US FORUM PRESENTS National Legislative Seminar."
- C. Read the "Guideline steps for a successful registration" first.
- D. You can register and pay by check or online using PayPal.
- E. Scroll down to see four product offerings:
 1. 3-day seminar NLS Registration for \$340.00. Click on this link to read about the event.
Click on "Add to Cart" if the 3-day event is what you select.
Click the back arrow (top of page) to return to the main registration page.
OR
 2. 1- day Commuter Registration for \$170.00
Click on this link to read about the 1-day registration. Click on "Add to Cart. "
At checkout you will complete the registration form and will select the one day you plan to attend the seminar.
 3. Holiday Inn National Airport Hotel
DKG special room rate for the seminar is \$129.00 per night.
Please call this number to reserve your room(s). (1-888-294-5059) **DO NOT ADD to the Cart.**
(Booking Code DKG).
Reservations can only be booked using this number.
Click the back arrow (top of page) to return to the main registration page.
 4. Look for Arlington Cemetery: Wreath Laying on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Click to read about the event. If you want to attend this inspiring event on Monday, March 11th, add it to the cart. This is to determine how many members will attend this event.
There is no cost for you to attend the ceremony, and **transportation is provided.**

The only items in your cart will be the 3-day registration for \$340. or the 1-day commuter registration for \$170., and the trip to Arlington Cemetery if you selected this optional event. (If you choose not to attend the Arlington Cemetery event, an alternate program is planned at the seminar hotel).

F. **To pay by check**, look for this link to download and mail the registration form on the main page. You may open or save and fill in the form and send with your check to the Registrar, Linda Perl. (See address on the Registration form).



NLS Registration for those using personal checks, rather than credit cards

G. **To check out using PayPal**, scroll down until you see the blue shopping cart on the screen. Click the cart, and you will be directed to the checkout process. To begin, click Checkout.

H. At the checkout, fill in the information including shipping.

I. You will not receive a shipment but will receive a thank you that your registration has been accepted.

J. After you fill in the shipping information, the registration form will pop up for you to complete. This form will be recorded with the registrar.

K. You will be directed to Pay Pal, where you will receive a code to sign in as a guest and complete payment using your credit card.

For questions regarding registration or hotel arrangements, please contact Linda Perl (602- 363- 4088). Thank you for registering!



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Registration for DKG: US Forum NLS,
March 10-13, 2024

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, State or Other _____

Registration Fee: please mark your choice below

March 10-13, 2024: \$340., (meals included) Date of attendance: _____

One day Commuter fee: \$170., (meals included)

**Holiday Inn National Hotel/Crystal City: \$129/night (group rate), King or 2 Queens; \$20 hotel parking/night
Call the hotel directly (888-294-5059) to make reservations and identify your group affiliation with OKG U.S.
Forum National Legislative Seminar to receive the group rate**

**There is a complimentary shuttle that runs every 30 minutes, from 4:30 am-11:00 pm, between the airport
and the hotel.**

DKG State and Chapter _____

State Officer _____ Chapter Officer _____

How many NLS Events have you attended before this one? _____

Special/Dietary Needs _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone Number _____

Registration form must be received by February 23, 2024

Send the registration form with check made out to *DKG US Forum* to:
Linda Perl, Registrar
5910 N. 52nd Place, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Credit card registrants use this link: <https://dkgusforum.org/nls-wash-dc-registration>